

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday, 24th September 2025



Welcome and Subject Guide

Guides, prefects and staff will be available
to help direct you around school

Welcome to

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland

I am delighted to welcome you to our Open Evening here at St Mary's Catholic High School. We are a school that continues to thrive and build on the successes of recent years. At St Mary's, we unashamedly set high standards and expect the very best of our pupils. In so doing, every child is given the opportunity to flourish and fulfil their God-given potential.

Our Open Evening will allow you to experience activities in every department. Please feel free to ask questions of both staff and pupils alike. We want you to leave tonight with as full a picture as possible of what life is like at St Mary's.

We have a calm and purposeful working environment, within modern, well-equipped buildings, and a rich extra-curricular provision. All of this combines to allow pupils the opportunity to excel. They are wonderfully supported by staff who are hard-working, caring and committed. In short, we are a community where all members are valued and respected.

The inspiration for all we do comes from our Catholic faith and is based on the Gospel values of love, honesty, respect and forgiveness. In so doing, we believe our Mission, which is to 'Let your Light Shine', comes alive, allowing pupils to feel safe and have the confidence to develop their talents.

Thank you for considering St Mary's Catholic High School for your child's education. I hope tonight gives you an insight into why we are so proud of our school and the work we do here. In addition to our Open Evening, any parents considering St Mary's are more than welcome to book an appointment and visit us during our Open Day sessions on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th of September, we would be delighted for you to see the school in action.

Phil Thompson
Headteacher

Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy plays an important role here at St Mary's, providing spiritual support and guidance, supporting the outstanding pastoral team, and working in unity with the RS faculty. The purpose of Chaplaincy is to support staff and pupils, who form the school family, through encouragement, friendship, prayer and a listening ear. Pupils at St Marys' have a variety of opportunities to explore what it means to be of faith, with a strong emphasis on exploring what it means to put faith into action. Through words, actions and relationships the whole school community is nurtured in its response to God's call and challenged to celebrate it joyfully in life and liturgy.

We believe that school is a holy place because Christ is at the heart of all we do and are and strive for here at St Mary's. Our belief that God has created every person shapes our attitude to all, so that we recognise each person has been created with a purpose, is valuable and has gifts and talents, which they can use in everyday life. As well as teaching the Catholic faith and values through the curriculum, we also strive to help pupils grow spiritually and foster in them the realisation that they are loved by God. Through our school Masses, assemblies, prayer and liturgy, services of Reconciliation, retreat and pilgrimage programs, we come together as a school family. These experiences serve to remind us all of our duty to care for others as members of the Body of Christ in the world today.



Religious Studies

Rooms 3 to 6 and Chapel

The report from the Commission on Religious Education in September 2018 stated “RE should be enacted to ensure that learning in this area remains academically rigorous and a knowledge rich preparation for life in a world of great religion and belief diversity.”

Taught by five teachers, Religious Studies at St Mary’s will teach your child the necessary skills for academic success, and prepare them for life beyond school.

At KS3, pupils follow the new RED firmly exploring Catholic beliefs and practices; along with related life issues. Pupils are also given an opportunity in each year to study a World Religion; adding depth and diversity to their knowledge. All of which are essential in the changing world in which we live.

At KS4, pupils follow the AQA B GCSE course of Catholic Christianity; along with Judaism and two ethical themes. This syllabus provides a greater depth of knowledge and more rigour for every pupil.

Religious Studies is at the heart of the curriculum at St Mary’s, providing a foundation for your child’s future. Many skills are gained through Religious Studies, challenging your child to apply their knowledge; remember key facts; apply their beliefs to everyday life situations and have the ability to evaluate contrasting views. Religious Studies addresses fundamental human questions and allows discourse to occur. In

providing these opportunities in Religious Studies, your child will have the ability to think deeply about complex issues, and inspire them to live out the Gospel values both in and out of school.



English

Rooms 101 to 106

Welcome to the English department where we have an interleaved curriculum waiting for you to explore the world around us, learn and develop your critical thinking skills, and expand your knowledge of the written and spoken form. We believe every pupil should have a broad, balanced, engaging and inspirational curriculum which provides not only knowledge and appreciation of literature from around the globe, but one that develops cultural capital and builds life skills.

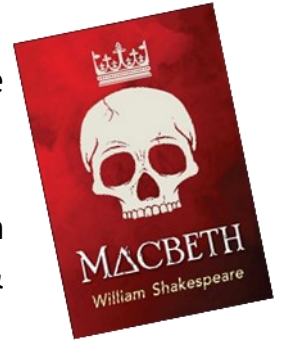
At KS3 you will study a variety of topics that fall under one big concept in each year; Year 7: Identity, Year 8: War and Conflict, Year 9: Power & Class. Each topic covers all aspects of English from reading new and exciting literature, analysing and considering the poetic form, develop writing skills and using rhetoric effectively, and developing oracy skills through discussion and debate.

At KS4 you begin your GCSE journey working towards two GCSE's: English Language and English Literature. These are graded from 1-9 with a 4 being considered a standard pass. On this course you will study for two exams in literature focusing on a 19th Century text, a modern play, Shakespeare and an anthology of poems across several themes including war, place and nature. You will also sit two language exams covering 20th century fiction and creative writing and 19th and 21st century non-fiction and transactional writing. The interleaved topics at KS3 will serve to prepare pupils for the demands of the GCSE and life after school.

The English department also host several competitions and events throughout the year including a poetry day with external speakers, author visits, poetry writing competitions with the Young Writers' Club, debate club and speaking competitions, links with local colleges and entrance into English challenges. We also have regular theatre visits and trip for all year groups.

We look forward to your starting your English journey with us at St Mary's!

"Reading is the gateway that makes learning possible"



Mathematics

Rooms 8 to 10, 109 and 111 to 113

Imagine trying to cope in the 21st century with no maths skills. From telling the time and working out change, to designing the next new roller-coaster or calculating the trajectory of a space shuttle – maths is intrinsic to all facets of life. The speed at which technology is developing, shows that our youngsters will need that number knowledge and problem solving skills if they are to succeed. The jobs that they will aspire to do probably don't even exist yet and we at St Mary's need to prepare them for that.

During Years 7 to 9, pupils follow the White Rose maths programme, a maths curriculum that will support them whatever their starting point. During those valuable three years they will not only develop and build a solid numerical foundation started in primary school, but also come to appreciate where that knowledge fits in the wider world be it in working out the best deal at the supermarket or how the Egyptians armed only with a piece of string created exact right angles. We will help pupils to understand that their unique approach to solving a problem is not wrong and foster an environment in which they are willing to attempt a question, even though they are not quite sure and that in turn will develop their confidence and resilience to attempt questions that aren't quite as straightforward as those they've dealt with in the past.

In Years 10 and 11, all pupils will study for their GCSE mathematics qualification. They will be split according to their results and abilities, again following the White Rose Maths programme of study. They will continue to develop their problem solving ability to help them find solutions to not only maths questions but will also learn to transfer those skills to solve numerical based questions in other subjects. The final exam will consist of three 1½ hour papers, equally weighted, with one of the exam papers covering wholly non calculator skills.

Homework for all years is set using a mixture of worksheets, exam material, independent study and online using SPARX Maths. Help and support will always be given if needed. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the maths team.



Science

Rooms 11 to 17

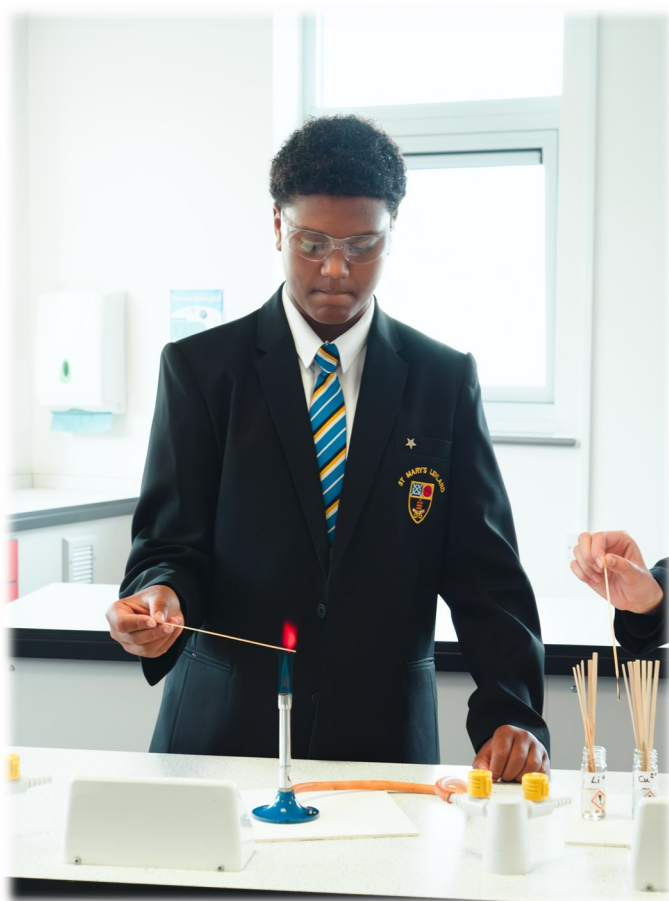
All science students at St Mary's Catholic High School Leyland experience a rich and balanced diet of study in both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. In our school we have seven state of the art laboratories, each fully equipped with gas, water and

electricity to allow access to all three science areas. Each lab also has an interactive whiteboard and Wi-Fi to allow the latest technology to be utilised. The department makes full use of the excellent resources and practical lessons feature highly throughout the curriculum.

We believe that engaging young people through active science education develops inquisitive minds and fosters a love of science and an appreciation of science in the world around us.

At GCSE we offer two pathways through Science. The first is Combined Science where students study for two Science GCSE's over a two year program. Most students

complete this programme of study, providing them with an excellent foundation in science for further educational choices such as apprenticeships and academic study including A-levels. Alternatively, if our students have a very keen interest in science and aspire to complete further scientific qualifications such as A-Levels and a BSc university degree, we offer Separate Sciences which is an ideal choice for pupils aiming to enter any scientific based career. This course also runs over two years and the student is awarded separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



Technology

Room 20T & 22T

Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject which prepares all young people to live and work in the designed and made world. At St Mary's we are very proud of our 'state of the art' facilities that offer all our students access to the very best teaching and learning resources.

Design and Technology builds on the skills and knowledge students have already learnt at primary school. As students' progress through Key Stage 3, they are given the opportunity to focus on specific aspects of the subject and produce a range of products which they have designed, developed and produced themselves. Pupils have access to specialist software, tools and machinery including: laser cutters; 3D printing; sewing machines; brazing hearth and lathes.

All students are encouraged to work independently in a variety of contexts. Each subject offers unique challenges that encourage individual, peer, team and whole class participation whilst having an awareness of safety for themselves and others. Students enjoy practical lessons that encourage participation and gain a satisfaction in producing their own unique product. Students develop a confidence with tools and equipment and share new skills with others while continually applying their ever growing knowledge.

Key skills help to develop a growing confidence in problem solving, researching and evaluating in preparation for students choosing to opt for a GCSE in Design Technology during Year 9.



Computer Science

Room 7i

"Our aim is to equip our learners with the skills to live and work both competently and safely in the digital world"



Pupils have access to a wide range of digital learning resources aiding the quality of teaching and learning throughout school. They are given access to Microsoft 365 providing a personal email account, cloud storage and online applications for those who perhaps do not have standard software on their personal devices at home. The use of Microsoft 365 develops digital literacy skills, but also bridges the gap between home/school learning as it allows for resources and project work to be shared between pupil and teacher. The school ensures that there is also a provision and opportunity for pupils to access IT resources should they not have facilities at home.

In Years 7-9 the computing curriculum is delivered in two ways:

Computer Science lessons cover theory and technical aspects of computing such as how computers work, binary representation, networks, algorithms, programming and spreadsheets. Pupils are introduced to block programming before progressing to high level programming languages such as Python.

Creative iMedia lessons form part of the technology carousel and focus more on the digital literacy and creative media aspects of the subject. Topics include sound recording, animation, video production, graphics and website development. An underlying theme throughout all units of work is digital safety.

At Key Stage 4 pupils can choose to further study the subject. Options include:

GCSE Computer Science: In a digital world the skills acquired within this topic provide an excellent grounding for further education or employment. Pupils learn the theory of computers systems and how they work. Practically, pupils will become confident programmers and are required to design, develop, test and evaluate their programmed solutions for a range of given scenarios.

Cambridge National in Creative iMedia: Whilst media production is one of the main skills which you will develop, the course also allows learners to develop in other areas e.g. problem solving and thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. These are all desirable skills which today's employers are looking for!

Plenty of enrichment activities are on offer including: Creative Club (Games design and 3D printing); competitions (Farraday, Bafta games designer); trips and visits (TeenTech, NW Computer Science Museum).

Food & Nutrition

Rooms 26T and 27T

Food and Nutrition is taught throughout both key stages. Our pupils enjoy and succeed in this subject, with our GCSE students achieving some of the best results in school.

Pupils will be taught the scientific principles behind food and nutrition. They will learn how to use a variety of cooking techniques to prepare and cook food, as well as being able to make informed choices about their own diet.

Throughout KS3 pupils will learn how to cook healthy dishes and develop their culinary skills by acquiring a knowledge of the main commodities: Meat, Fish, Eggs, Milk, Cheese, Bread, Pastry, Fruit and Vegetables. Scientific principles will be investigated to allow pupils to fully understand the functional properties of food. For example; experimenting with the pH levels of food and preventing enzymic browning, to analysing the chemical properties of raising agents.

Throughout KS4, there are 3 assessments to be completed, which will build on pupils' individual strengths. There is a written examination (50% of final GCSE), a food investigation task (15% of final GCSE) to focus on scientific principles and then a food preparation task (35% of final GCSE) which is a 3 hour practical examination to showcase and demonstrate cookery skills and a variety of techniques that have been learned.

Cross Curricular and Enrichment Activities: We aim to provide our pupils with additional opportunities to extend their understanding and skills in the subject. During the spring we will be running a wonderful enrichment class after school.



Photography

Room 22T

Pupils in photography will be introduced to various images types before moving on to create and edit images using industry standard software such as Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop. Should pupils discover an interest or natural talent in the subject, they are able to choose GCSE Photography as one of their option subjects.

The course enables pupils to develop their technical knowledge of photography and use of various equipment e.g. lighting, but also allows them to explore and develop their God given creative talents. They will be given the opportunities to look at a range of photographic styles including; studio, landscape, photo-journalism, documentary and fashion photography to name a but a few.

We have full use of Digital cameras, lighting equipment and the possible use of pupils' phone cameras where appropriate (although pupils do not need to have their own phone or camera to study the course). Adobe Cloud Creative gives pupils access to industry standard software in order to edit and manipulate their work.

Assessment is made up of Component 1 which is a portfolio contributing 60% to the mark, and component two which is an externally set assignment and accounts for 40% of the final mark.

Cross Curricular and Enrichment Activities: As a subject there are plenty of competitions we encourage pupils to become involved in, both local and international.



Trips out will be available, where possible, to take images for current projects. We also have links with colleges and universities to help with development and future planning.



Art & Design

Room 117 and 118

Our well established Art Department is a vibrant part of St Mary's Catholic High School. We pride ourselves on making Art meaningful, enjoyable and accessible to all students.



Art lessons are creative, practical and engaging. The schemes of work are designed to complement the students' practical work and independent learning, in order to encourage creative thinking, self-expression, and problem solving. We recognise the importance of adopting a pupil centred approach to teaching and learning and we ensure that skills learnt in Art and Design are transferable across other curriculum areas.

Key stage 3 Art is carefully planned to support children who wish to continue their Art education at GCSE level and beyond. The department is collectively led by Mrs Edwards and Miss Williams, who have a strong subject knowledge and breadth of experience.

GCSE Art and Design is a very popular subject. We currently offer the AQA 'Fine Art' syllabus which allows children to fully explore a range of techniques and interests.

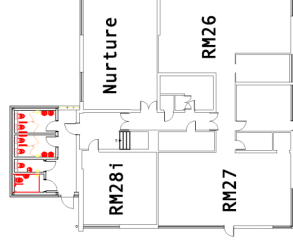
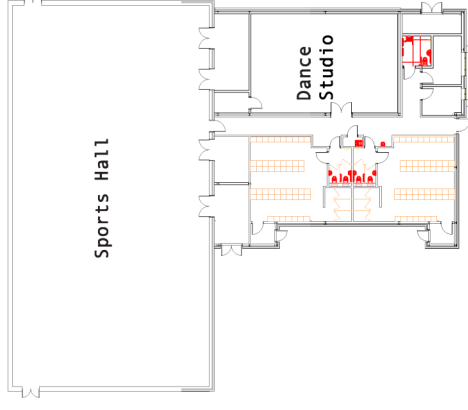
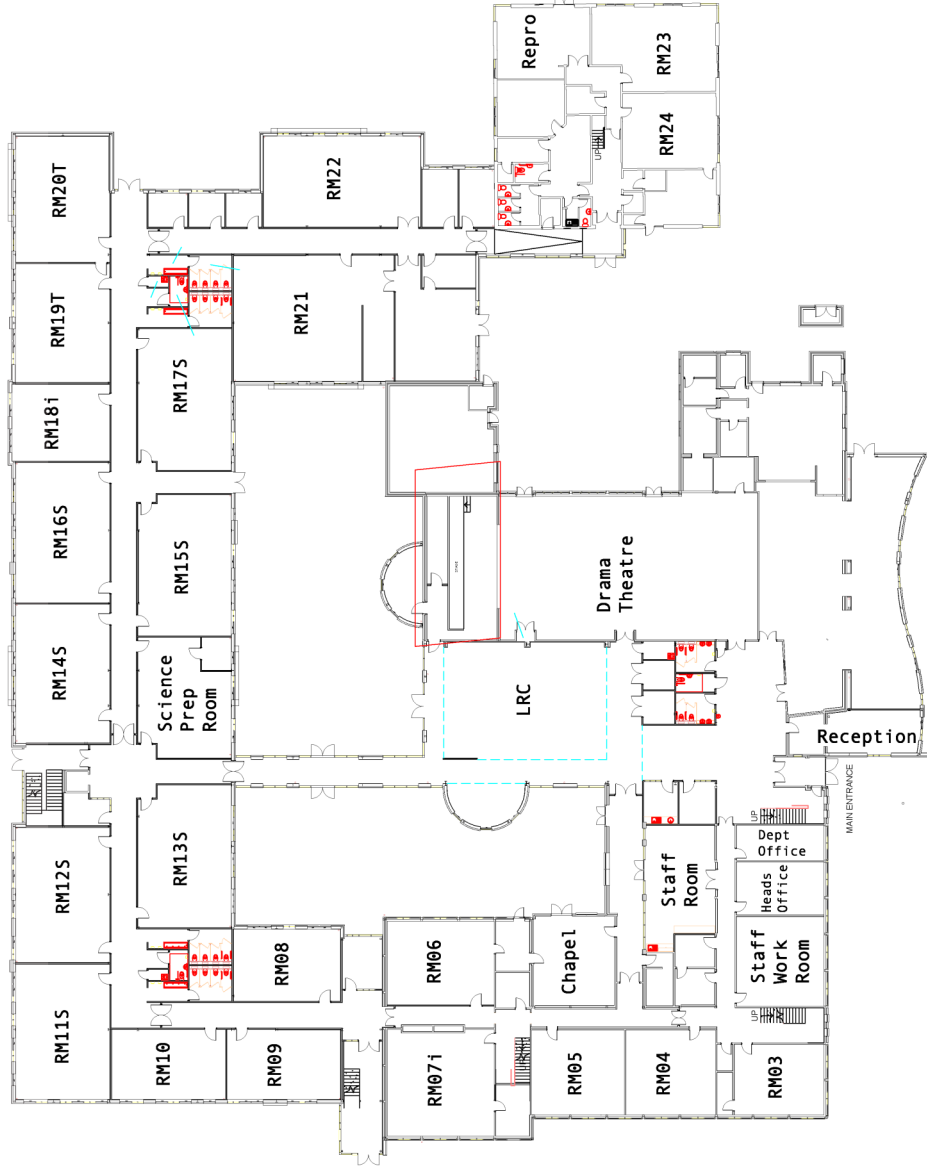
The Art department runs regular Art clubs, competitions and exhibits children's artwork at every opportunity in school or in the wider community.





ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

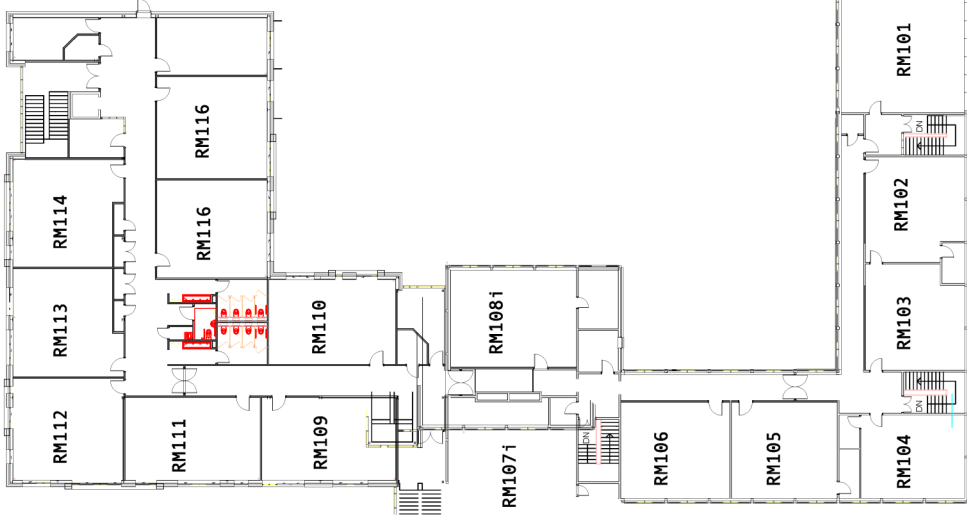
Main School Building Ground Floor



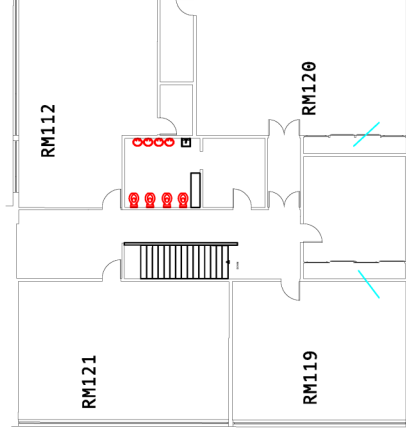
Pastoral Building Ground floor



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Main School Building
First Floor



Pastoral Building
First Floor

Music

Room 23M

The music department here at St Mary's is vibrant and engaging, challenging all students to develop as performers. We are very fortunate to have outstanding facilities and resources in our new purpose built Music suite, comprising of the main classroom, a second classroom and additional practice room. The

department takes a practical approach to music making, with all students being provided with the opportunity to learn to play a wide range of instruments including piano, guitar, ukulele and drums, and this in addition to the solo instrumental lessons which are available with our own team of instrumental teachers. All students are able to learn how technology is utilised in music from Year 7 through workshops and class based activities, and are trained on software including Sibelius.

At GCSE students follow the GCSE Eduqas specification and this is an increasingly popular option. Extracurricular life at St Mary's is designed around the students passions in performance, and to this end we currently have a full school choir, Year 7 choir, rock bands and ukulele club. Opportunities to become involved in Music clubs are open to all and highly encouraged, and suggestions for extra clubs are always

welcome and will be accommodated where possible.



Students are given opportunities to perform in school concerts, school productions and band nights. Music is also an integral part of our ethos and students are frequently given the opportunity to contribute musically to masses and services.

If you require further information please contact Mrs Watson, Curriculum Leader for Expressive Arts who will be happy to help.



Drama

Drama here at St Marys is a subject which encourages expression, develops confidence and promotes creativity and confidence. Time and time again we see students flourish through the opportunities provided to develop their performance skills and we are incredibly proud of how our students let their light shine.



Drama is taught in our impressive Drama Theatre, and we are fortunate to have a purpose built stage with lighting and sound on which performances can take place. Additionally we have a dance studio with barre and mirrors to allow for group and individual practice. Drama as a subject is currently taught at KS4 with students following Eduqas GCSE Drama. This course allows students not only to perform but to engage with the design aspect of Drama by focusing on costume, lighting or set design.

Each year we offer a range of enrichment clubs based around the performing arts and put on a variety of performance to allow students to showcase their work and talents.

Please contact Mrs Watson, Curriculum Leader for Expressive Arts for further information.



History

Room 120

We teach history at St Mary's to engage students to develop a love, passion and desire for the subject. As a history department, the curriculum is structured to encourage resilience and an aspiration in the pupils to *let their light shine*, becoming a tolerant independent thinker, who can use their knowledge of the past to understand the issues of the present and how they can shape the future.

Our new Key Stage Three has been developed in such a way as to ensure that learning about the past is a fascinating part of your child's timetable. We have three distinct themes for KS3—'A Changing Britain', 'A Changing World' and 'The 20th Century—a depth study.'

To ensure History is as memorable as possible for pupils we endeavour to challenge pupils outside the classroom by offering exciting homework projects such as: castle building, media production and cake trenches. In class we have a strong focus on academic excellence. We take every opportunity to help all of our pupils to celebrate their successes, whilst building time into the curriculum for reflection and review. This has led to many successful pupils continuing their History studies at A Level and beyond.

At Key Stage 4 we study the Edexcel exam board. This exam syllabus allows pupils to gain a diverse knowledge of history and includes topics such as; Early Elizabethan England, Medicine through time with a focus on the Western Front, Cold War and Germany 1918—1945.

At St Mary's we have excellent facilities and the ability to use a wide range of materials in reaching our goals. History is taught at St Mary's by our experienced team of Humanities teachers.

We feel it is vital that pupils are allowed to see history in action therefore we are excited to offer the following educational visits: The Battlefields of WWI, the Trans—Atlantic Slavery Museum in Liverpool and Auschwitz Concentration Camp.



Geography

Rooms 121

Here at St Mary's Catholic High School, geography is a hugely popular subject situated in its own suite of rooms, and taught by enthusiastic, dedicated and passionate geographers.



Geography builds on young people's own experiences, helping them to formulate questions, develop their intellectual skills and find answers to issues affecting their lives. It introduces them to distinctive investigative tools such as maps, fieldwork and the use of powerful digital communication technologies. It opens their eyes to the beauty and wonder around them and acts as a source of inspiration and creativity. More than this, it ensures that they appreciate the complexity of attitudes and values which shape the way we use and misuse the environment. Through geography, people learn to value and care for the planet and all its inhabitants.

We live in a world of amazing beauty, infinite complexity and rigorous challenge. Geography is the subject which opens the door to this dynamic world and prepares each one of us for the role of global citizen in the 21st century. Through studying geography, people of all ages begin to appreciate how places and landscapes are formed, how people and environments interact, what consequences arise from our everyday decisions, and what a diverse range of cultures and societies exist and interconnect.

Fieldwork is a key component of geography and visits have included locations as far away as Iceland and Italy, as well as some destinations a little closer to home, like the Lake District National Park, Liverpool and Sefton coast; proving that geography is all around us.



Modern Foreign Languages

Rooms 114 to 116

The Modern Foreign Languages department at St Mary's consists of a team of 3 dedicated staff who are passionate about promoting an enthusiasm for language learning and cultural understanding.



We offer Spanish and French in a bright and welcoming environment, with modern facilities and resources. We subscribe to the Linguascope website, which allows students to further explore their language aspirations at home.

At GCSE we now follow the new Edexcel syllabus in French and Spanish. Pupils who are competent in other foreign languages are supported in gaining further qualifications and in recent years, pupils have achieved GCSE success in Polish and Mandarin.

The department regularly runs enrichment activities. These projects aim to enhance cultural understanding and practise language skills in a real-life context.

The MFL department is proud to promote qualities of tolerance, diversity, resilience and independence in a positive learning environment.

'If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.'

Nelson Mandela



Physical Education

In Physical Education we are committed to providing a curriculum that is broad, balanced, challenging and fosters a love of learning. We match our curriculum to the abilities, interests and aspirations of our pupils, to give every child the opportunity to strive for personal excellence. We aim to open doors for every pupil, and we therefore value the contribution that creative, practical and vocational learning brings to a child's development. Our hope is that every child who leaves St Mary's Catholic High School has the skills, knowledge and character to access opportunities and to lead a healthy active lifestyle that fosters positive relationships, resilience and independence.



In order to fulfil these ideals our Curriculum requires pupils to engage with different learning models in sports in KS3 and then provides a more bespoke approach through our 'options routes' at KS4. At KS3 pupils are taught a number of activities throughout the year and are put into single sex or mixed groups, based on their ability. This allows them to make progress, whilst also allowing them to feel comfortable and challenged within their learning environment. At KS4, GCSE PE & Sports Studies pupils are placed together to improve their overall practical grades in a wide range of activities. The focus for pupils who choose not to take one of the alternative pathways in sport will shift from learning a variety of skills to developing a healthy, active lifestyle, preparing our pupils for life post St Mary's.

During extra-curricular activities, pupils are given the opportunity to practise activities at lunchtime and after school, with a variety of activities on offer including: football, netball, table tennis, rugby, handball, basketball and badminton. Pupils can also represent their House in interhouse competitions. School teams are entered in all the South Ribble Schools' tournaments and competitions. Excellent behaviour, pride in appearance and a very committed approach underpins all teams along with fair play and sportsmanship.

At St Mary's, we believe that educational visits form a significant role in the overall development of a young person. Visits provide opportunities to participate in, and benefit from, a range of activities and experiences that serve to extend and consolidate pupils' academic learning as well as promoting their social and emotional development. We offer sports tours every two years with a specific sporting focus. Our next tour embarks in Easter 2026 on a Netball and Football tour to Valencia.

PE facilities are outstanding allowing pupils to achieve their potential, in a vibrant and purposeful environment. The Department has a PE based classroom, with ICT facilities that are used for theory based lessons.

St Mary's Sports Leadership Academy is also available here. This is an excellent way for pupils to enhance their leadership skills, encouraging other pupils to take part in sport whilst also completing and achieving National recognition through the YST Lead2Employability programme.

Personal Development

At St Mary's Catholic High School, it is our mission to educate young people in the Catholic, Christian way to become pupils of the modern world. Through our Personal Development programme, we instil the values of Love, Peace and Forgiveness, to allow our children to "Let Their Light Shine". From the moment our pupils transition from Primary school into Year 6, we strive to create resilient, confident and knowledgeable pupils to flourish, achieving their full potential.

To provide pupils with the "foundations" to let their light shine, we believe as Catholic educators,

it is fundamental that we provide opportunities for all pupils within our care. Our curriculum seeks to promote a passion for Personal Development ensuring pupils are exposed to a rigorous and research led model which is guided by our Catholic Values with the use of external organisations such as Morrisby Careers, PSHE Association, Ten Ten, Lancashire Police and Smokefree Lancashire

It is vital that our pupils become citizens of the world, developing character, and are alert to current affairs whilst providing an understanding of fundamental British values; democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law and mutual respect and tolerance to allow our pupils to contribute positively to society.

Our Personal Development curriculum embodies various aspects of our school community including:

- CIAEG (Careers Education)
- Timetabled Lessons.
- Pupil Leadership Opportunities
- Enrichment (Educational Visits & Extra-Curricular)
- Transition (KS2-KS3 & KS4-KS5)
- Sustainability

Our Personal Development curriculum intends to build pupils confidence and resilience, as well as preparing pupils for their adult lives, teaching them to understand how to engage with society, make good decisions, and become effective citizens who flourish and contribute positively. It directly develops and deepens pupils' understanding of the fundamental British values of democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law and mutual respect and tolerance. In all topics, pupils are encouraged to understand that difference is positive and that individual characteristics make people unique.

This curriculum provides an inclusive environment which meets the needs of all pupils, through a detailed knowledge and understanding of the pupils we teach and close liaison with the pastoral team. The Personal Development units of study, delivered by identified and specific



specialist staff, facilitate the development of pupils' character, encouraging them to reflect wisely, learn eagerly, behave with integrity and cooperate consistently well with others.

We are especially proud of our Personal Development curriculum at St Mary's; it extends far beyond the academic, technical and vocational. We support pupils to grow in many diverse aspects of life and we take our responsibility to develop the whole child, very seriously.

Building the foundations to "Let our light shine"

Special Educational Needs

Pupils with SEND are welcome at St Mary's. We run a very inclusive school and do all we can within the provision we have to accommodate every child's need, whilst ensuring all pupils have the chance to achieve their potential, to enjoy all the curriculum has to offer and to take part in extra-curricular activities.

Our school is a safe and welcoming environment with wide, bright corridors, lift access for those with access needs and disabled toilet facilities. Each day our nurture facility is open for breakfast, break and lunch for KS3 pupils. This area gives pupils the chance to make and grow friendships in a safe, secure and supervised environment whilst enjoying activities such as 'book and brew', film club and Christmas craft club.

Our team of TAs are dedicated and experienced and support many pupils in class or through small group interventions. However, our ultimate goal is make St Mary's pupils independent and successful and this is always at the heart of the support we give. If you require any further information please speak to Miss Tumelty (SENDCO) or a member of the TA team.



Special Educational Needs
& Disabilities

**SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS
SECONDARY**

APPLY NOW!
at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2026

You must apply if your child is in their last year of primary school (year 6) from September 2025.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school.

If you're a non-Lancashire resident apply through your own local authority.

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

CLOSING DATE
31 October 2025

School transport



If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.



lancashire.gov.uk



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APPLY ONLINE <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools>

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, LEYLAND ADMISSION POLICY 2026 - 2027

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland, is a Catholic School under the trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Its purpose is to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and instrument of government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for, and be admitted to a place at the school, in accordance with these admission arrangements.

The governing body is the admission authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round. The admission authority has set the school's Published Admissions Number ("PAN") at 166 pupils to year 7 in the school year which begins in September 2026.

You must complete the County Admissions Form online by 31/10/25.

Oversubscription Criteria

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority.

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children.
2. Catholic children who are resident in the parish of St Mary's, Leyland; St Catherine's, Farington; St Agnes', Eccleston; St Mary's, Euxton and Ss Peter & Paul, Mawdesley. (see notes 3 & 10)
3. Other Catholic children. (see note 3)
4. Children attending one of the following Catholic Partner Primary Schools in the parishes or former parishes named in criterion 2 above:

St Anne's, Leyland	St Mary's, Leyland
St Catherine's, Farington	Ss Peter & Paul, Mawdesley
St Mary's, Euxton	
5. Members of an Eastern Christian Church **not** in full communion with Rome. (see note 4)
6. Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion. (see note 5)
7. Children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a religious leader. (see note 6)
8. Any other children.

Notes (these notes form part of the oversubscription criteria)

1. An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.
2. A 'looked after child' has the same meaning as in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 and means any child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by them in the exercise of their social services functions (e.g. children with foster parents) at the time of making an application to the school. A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after but ceased to be so because he or she was adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order. Included in this definition are those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and who ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
3. 'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child living with a family where at least one of the parents is Catholic. For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest who, after consulting with the Diocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.
4. 'Eastern Christian Church' **not** in full communion with Rome includes Orthodox Churches and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.
5. "Children of other Christian Ecclesial Communities" means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above. All members of Churches Together in England and CYTŪN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis. A Certificate of Baptism or equivalent would be required.
6. "Children of other faiths" means children who are members of a religious community that does not fall within the definition of 'other Christian Ecclesial Communities' at 6 above and which falls within the definition of a religion for the purposes of charity law. The Charities Act 2011 defines religion to include:
 - A religion which involves belief in more than one God, and
 - A religion which does not involve belief in a God.Case law has identified certain characteristics which describe the meaning of religion for the purposes of charity law, which are characterised by a belief in a supreme being and an expression of belief in that supreme being through worship.
7. 'Brother or sister' includes all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and
8. A 'parent' means all natural parents, any person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility for a child, and any person who has care of a child.
9. To demonstrate an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child which can be most appropriately met at this school, the admission authority will require compelling written evidence from an appropriate professional, such as a social worker, doctor or priest. (Please see Guidance Handbook for further information).
10. For the purposes of this policy, parish boundaries can be confirmed on an individual basis from the School Office.
11. A child's "home address" refers to the address where the child usually lives with a parent or carer and will be the address provided in the Common Application Form ("CAF"). Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, the home address will be the address given in the CAF, provided that the child resides at that address for any part of the school week.



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or via

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Closing date for secondary applications for September 2026

31 October 2025