



NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2026



MESSAGE FROM MR THOMPSON

Welcome to the latest edition of the St Mary's newsletter. I'd like to begin by wishing you and your family a happy and Holy Easter. This is always a special time in the school year, and we have spent time in the last week reflecting on the importance of this festival. As you will see in the following pages, this term has seen many activities for our pupils. Whilst there are too many events to mention individually, highlights that stand-out are the cultural trip to London for Year 7 pupils, the Work Experience week for those in Year 10 and the, at times, hard-hitting mental health awareness talk delivered to all pupils by ex-professional footballer Clarke Carlisle. As ever, grateful thanks to those staff members who have devoted their time and energy to providing the best possible opportunities for your children and, of course, to you, for supporting all we do here at St Mary's. Thank you and enjoyed the Easter holidays!

YEAR 7 LONDON TRIP

In January, we took 94 Year 7 pupils to visit the nation's capital. Our two coaches set off early on the Friday morning, to ensure we met our meal reservation at the Hard Rock Cafe. Once the pupils were fed and watered, pupils set off for the Cambridge Theatre to watch Matilda. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance with other attendee's praising the pupils behaviour to the staff members. Following a nights sleep, the pupils awoke to a full English breakfast before hopping aboard the London Eye for a better look at the city of London. The pupils on the trip were a credit to the school, and we now look forward to taking Year 9 in June. Well done Year 7!



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



SO...WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THIS TERM?



EASTER BINGO

Our annual Easter Bingo turned out to be a real treat for our school community with a wide variety of prizes available via the Bingo and the Raffle. Thank you to everyone who attended, it is really appreciated and all the money raised will go towards the "Cotton Fund".

DEMOCRACY DAY

What a fantastic day our pupils had at the Civic Centre in February, where they met with local Councillors and the Worshipful Mayor, Paul Wharton-Hardman, as part of South Ribble Borough Council's "Democracy Day."

During the visit, pupils gained a valuable insight into the work undertaken by the council and experienced what it is like to manage a budget and make decisions within a local authority.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone involved in organising the event and making it possible. It provided our pupils with a wonderful opportunity to visit the council chambers and learn more about how democracy works in practice.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Our annual celebrations for World Book Day took place in March. Pupils had assemblies about the fun of reading, taken part in lunchtime activities in the library and the standard for the form "Decorate Your Door" competition has never been higher. Seen here is just a small selection of the designs that participated.

Winners

Year 7 - 7I (The Hungry Caterpillar)

Year 8 - 8A (Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy)

Year 9 - 9T (Harry Potter)

Year 10 - 10N (Alice In Wonderland)

Year 11 - 11S (George's Marvellous Medicine)

Offices - PGU (Alice in Wonderland)

Best form door: 7I

Congratulations to 7I and well done to everyone who has taken part in any way!





SO...WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THIS TERM?



YEAR 7 MATHS CHALLENGE

Year 7 celebrated number day by getting involved in various activities arranged by the Maths department across Friday 6th & Monday 9th February.

For those not on the London trip, the remaining Year 7s competed against each other in a Maths Challenge with various rounds, testing their problem-solving skills. Congratulations to the winners (photographed).

Last term, forms competed in a 1% club quiz in which three forms finished with maximum points. The tie break was eventually won by 7N represented by Isabel H. Additionally, pupils had a maths lesson with the theme "Trophy Thief" whereby pupils worked in teams to solve the mystery by completing various mathematical questions.

Well done to Year 7 for conducting yourselves very well, we hope you enjoyed it. Also, a huge thank you for all the donations for CAFOD
Team Maths



BIRD BOXES FOR WORDEN PARK

Over the last half term, pupils in Years 7 to 10 have been busy after school designing and building bird boxes for @southribblecouncil

Once finished, these boxes will be put up in Worden Park.

A special thank you to the pupils giving up their time after school, and to Mrs Sales and Mr Craig for their support

We will soon have the best housed birds in South Ribble!



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE

Pictured is Our Head Boy and Head Girl, together with the Mayor of South Ribble, Cllr Paul Wharton-Hardman.

They attended the Holocaust Memorial Service, marking the 81st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz- Birkenau. The theme this year was 'Bridging Generations'.



SPOTLIGHT ON EXPRESSIVE ARTS



THE NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

Our Drama Club enjoyed a fantastic evening of live theatre as we brought the magic of the National Theatre Live directly into our school. Pupils were fully immersed in a world-class performance, experiencing the excitement, emotion, and artistry of professional theatre without leaving our own hall. The production captivated everyone, sparking thoughtful discussion and inspiring our young performers. It was a wonderful opportunity to deepen their appreciation of drama and see the power of storytelling in action. A great time was had by all, and we look forward to many more shared theatrical experiences that continue to ignite creativity and passion.

CONCERTS & BAND NIGHT

Our concerts and band nights proved to be a joyful celebration of music, talent, and spirit. With sell-out audiences filling the hall, pupils from across all age groups took to the stage, performing a wonderfully varied programme—from traditional hymns to contemporary seasonal pieces. Their enthusiasm, hard work, and dedication shone through every note, creating an atmosphere full of warmth and cheer. Each performance reflected the commitment pupils have shown throughout the term, and their efforts truly made the evenings magical. A huge thank-you to all involved for sharing their talents and helping create great memories for all that attended.



WESTHOME VISIT

Our Year 10 Drama and Music pupils had the wonderful opportunity to visit Westholme School, Blackburn to watch the dress rehearsal of their current show Miss Saigon. It was a fantastic showcase of acting, singing, dancing and musical talent from the pupils (and staff) and allowed the Year 10 to get a glimpse of what a whole school production looks like in the run up to an opening night. We congratulated the cast and crew at the end and wished them well for each show night. St Mary's is now very excited to plan for a school production of our own next year - we hope you might all come and watch!





CHAPLAINCY

CAFOD LENTON CHALLENGE

Following the events in Iran, Israel and Middle East regions, Pope Leo XIV appealed powerfully to all world leaders for stability and peace, which can only be achieved through reasonable, sincere dialogue.

Based on the words of Pope Leo, as a Catholic school, we participated in a sponsored 'colourful walk for peace' event to raise money for CAFOD. Well done to all pupils that took part in this charity appeal and special thanks for the generous sponsorships received!



NUGENT CAKE SALE

Our Chaplaincy and Faith in Action teams came together to raise money for Nugent, the Liverpool Archdiocese nominated charity. This charity supports vulnerable children, young people, adults, and older people through a wide range of social care services. Its work includes residential care, education and community programmes, with a focus on helping those affected by poverty, disability, homelessness, and other challenges. Pupils baked and donated cakes to raise money for this special charity. Special thanks to all who supported this charity event!

LENTON STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross is a traditional Christian devotion that reflects on the journey of Jesus from his condemnation to his crucifixion, burial and resurrection. It is made up of a series of "stations," each representing a key moment along the way, and is often prayed during Lent as a way of deepening faith and understanding of Jesus' sacrifice.

Our Faith in Action team wrote their own reflections, linking the Stations of the Cross to issues in the modern world. They were invited by Fr. Joe to lead the Stations of the Cross for the family of parishes. Many parishioners and priests attended and praised our pupils for their thoughtful and meaningful reflections, which helped make the service a prayerful and reflective experience for all who attended. Well done team!



CAFOD

Several of our Chaplaincy team members organised a bag-packing event at Tesco to support our Year 11 pupils travelling to Lourdes. Pupils had a great time helping shoppers pack their bags, enjoying friendly conversations and sharing information about the pilgrimage. The Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage takes place each year attracting many young people across the Archdiocese to grow in faith, support others, and build friendships. Pilgrims take part in prayer and Mass, while also helping care for sick and elderly visitors, making it a meaningful experience of service, community, and spirituality.





FOCUS ON.....GUEST SPEAKERS



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WITH CLARKE CARLISLE

In March, we welcomed ex-Premier League footballer Clarke Carlisle to St Mary's, delivering a presentation on Mental Health Awareness to all year groups. It was an incredibly empowering presentation where Clarke discussed his life, career highlights, and the difficulties he has encountered on his journey. We cannot thank Clarke enough for attending this morning and he was full of praise for attitudes and behaviours of the St Mary's pupils.

LAURA AND JERMAINE BECKFORD

In January, we were delighted to invite Laura and Jermaine Beckford to St Mary's Catholic High School as part of our Careers Enrichment morning.

They both talked about all things inspiration and how their career paths have now led to running a successful wellness company, @supernova.living

The pupils led a 40 minute question and answer session asking Laura and Jermaine some really thought provoking questions, from where their success started, who inspired them and what drives them to run such a successful business.

Laura always knew the career path she wanted, at 21 she set up @ologyuk casting agency and with setbacks along the way, this hasn't prevented her to get to where she is today.

Jermaine talked about how he always wanted to be a professional footballer, but knew he had to work hard. His focus was always football whilst he continued to work in factories, bars and McDonalds!

Their inspirational discussions have really resonated with some of our pupils – especially our life long PNE fans who were extremely fan struck! Not to mention Mr Weaver & Mr Cane getting to meet one of their favourite ex Leeds United players.





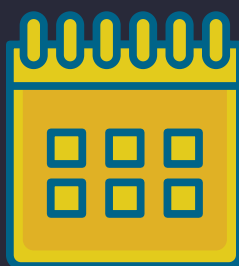
If you interested in becoming a teacher? Do you want to start making enquiries? Train to teach with us!

Email: CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

Telephone: 01772 326931

Website: catholic-teaching-alliance.org

IMPORTANT DATES



Monday 20/03/26 - School reopens after the Easter break

Wednesday 29/04/26 - GCSE Performance Evening

Friday 01/05/26 - Year 11 exams start.

Wednesday 06/05/26 - Year 10 Parents Evening

Thursday 07/05/26 - Y11 Thanksgiving Mass & 1.00pm finish for Yr7-10

Friday 22/05/26 - School breaks up for May half term at 3pm

Monday 01/06/26 - School reopens after the half term break

Monday 01/06/26 - Year 10 mock exams start.

Friday 05/06/26 - Year 9 Cultural Visit to London.

Wednesday 10/06/26 - Year 7 Parents Evening

Thursday 11/06/26 & Friday 12/06/26 - Y10 Geography Fieldwork

Tuesday 16/06/26 Computer Science Trip

Friday 19/06/26 - Sports Day

Wednesday 24/06/26 - Preston/Runshaw Year 10 College Taster Day

Friday 26/06/26 - Year 11 Leavers Prom

WC: 29/06/26 - School Production - Mary Poppins

Friday 03/07/26 - Whole School Rewards Trip

Tuesday 07/07/26 - Yr 8 Pilgrimage - Liverpool

Tuesday 07/07/26 - Cardinal Newman Year 10 College Taster Day

Wednesday 08/07/26 - Friday 10/07/26 - Year 10 Ampleforth Visit.

Friday 17/07/26 - Celebration Mass at church & school breaks up for the summer break.



With so many exciting enrichment opportunities being visited outside the classroom, we must remind all parents that all medical information needs to be updated on a regular basis. This can be done via Arbor.

Moving forward all, parental consent for all educational visits is provided through Arbor via the website or the app. We hope this should make life easier for parents/teachers.

Unfortunately, a number of pupils missed a recent educational visit due to incorrect medical information

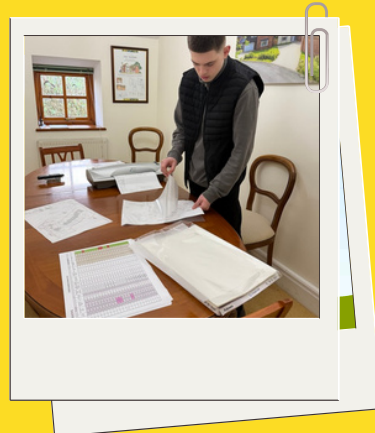
It is essential that you sign up for Arbor as soon as possible, if you haven't done so already.

If you have any questions or difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.





Year 10 Work Experience

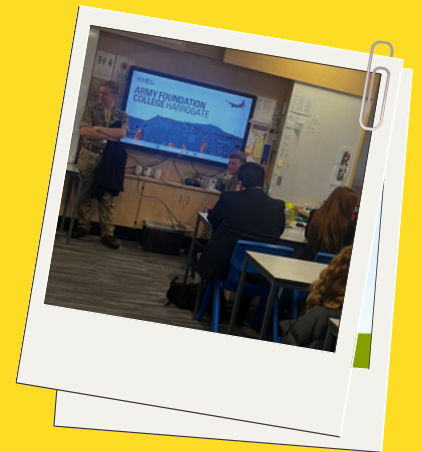


Our Personal Development is constantly evolving and changing to meet the needs of our pupils. As parents/carers, if you believe there is something that we should address in our lessons, please contact Mr Weaver at PD@ismchs.com

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



Careers Enrichment Morning's



Careers Education At St Mary's Catholic High School

What a busy term we have had within the Careers department here at St Mary's. Building on our careers fair before Christmas, this term saw Year 8-11 complete careers enrichment mornings exploring a variety of employers and colleges to support pupils once they leave us in Year 11. These encounters also allowed pupils to ask key questions regarding employers career pathways, job descriptions and also to find out key information about potential college courses.

In March, Year 10 year group completed their work experience. The feedback we have received from employers has been incredible with a many of them being offered part time jobs. Following a recent parent voice we are delighted to find out that this experience has caused pupils to think more clearly about their future career plans! The above pictures, are just a small selection of the photographs we received from parents and employers.

Our Personal Development programme is constantly evolving and changing to meet the needs of our pupils. As parents/carers, if you believe there is something that we should address in our lessons, please contact Mr Weaver at PD@lsmchs.com

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

SOUTHPORT FOOTBALL CLUB WILDCATS

RECRUITING FOR 2026/2027 GIRLS TEAMS



AGE 5-11



EVERY SATURDAY

10:30-11:30

AT LARKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

£3 PER SESSION PAYABLE ON THE DAY

CONTACT: MARK - 07850411901



ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOL

AWARDED TO:



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL

In recognition
of meeting the
prescribed standards
in support of children
with asthma.



NHS

Lancashire and
South Cumbria
Integrated Care Board