

St Mary's News

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland
Newsletter July 2022



A note from Mr Thompson:

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter.

Our summer term has very much had a 'pre-Covid' feel about it this year. All our traditional events have managed to go ahead and be enjoyed by the pupils. From the Year 11 Leaver's Mass and Prom, to the Blackpool rewards trip, and from Sport's Day to our Summer Art's Festival, St Mary's has enjoyed a number of enriching experiences since Easter.

I hope that this newsletter gives you a flavour of what has been going-on here over the last few weeks and months. I'd like to pay special tribute to our wonderful staff body who have devoted a great deal of time and effort into ensuring these events can go ahead. In addition, we must say 'well done' to all our pupils who have taken part, pushed themselves perhaps beyond their natural comfort zones, and really relished their experiences as a result.

As we approach the summer holidays, I hope that the break brings for you and your families, time to enjoy together, ready to recharge and refresh for the new school year in September! Many thanks for your ongoing support of the school.

Mr P Thompson
Headteacher

	Website	www.lsmchs.com
	Twitter	@LeylandStMarys
	Facebook	@StMarysLeyland

AMAZING ARTS ACHIEVEMENTS

On Wednesday, 13th July we celebrated all things the Arts with our end of year Summer Arts Festival. It gave both staff and pupils the opportunity to showcase some of the incredible work that has been taking place in lessons and in our broad range of extracurricular activities. We heard an exceptional range of musical performances from our Year 9 rock band; guitar, ukulele and vocal soloists; percussionists; and a range of exciting exerts from the musicals Matilda and Hamilton. We also witnessed fantastic devised drama performances from our Drama club, I'm sure those present would I agree we definitely have a few comedians on our hands! The KS3 art gallery went down a storm with audience members getting the opportunity to see the talent and hard work happening with Mrs Edwards in Art!



It was fantastic to see every year group represented within the event, taking centre stage and expressing their love and passion for all things the arts! Even our previous Year 11 pupils Ruby T and Grace H returned to St Mary's for their final performance with us.

For us the festival was a much needed step back to normality – a chance to celebrate the gifts of our pupils and helping them to let their light shine and to see the joy and excitement felt by both performers and audience members was an added bonus!

Finally, a massive thank you to all those that helped along the way; Mrs Watson for her incredible vision, direction and musical abilities; Mr Elliott for all things tech and sound; Miss Donnelly for the joy and madness of Drama; Mrs Edwards for the incredible artistic flair!



Well.... what a Year in the Geography and Travel departments!!!!

Our current Year 7 students were quickly introduced to Geographical Fieldwork investigating the environmental quality of the school grounds. Year 8 students visited Hough Lane to test whether "Leyland could be classed as a Clone town" whilst the Year 10 students investigated the regeneration of Liverpool 1 and how the Ainsdale Sand Dunes change as they move inland. During fieldwork, the students were outstanding and a credit to the school.

In June 2022 we introduced our "Inter-House competition" to the Year 9 pupils to create a model to best represent Climate Change, looking at either the causes or the solutions to this global issue.

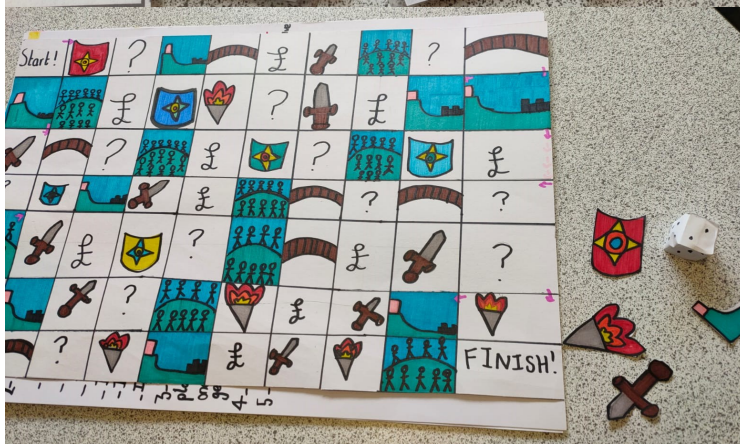
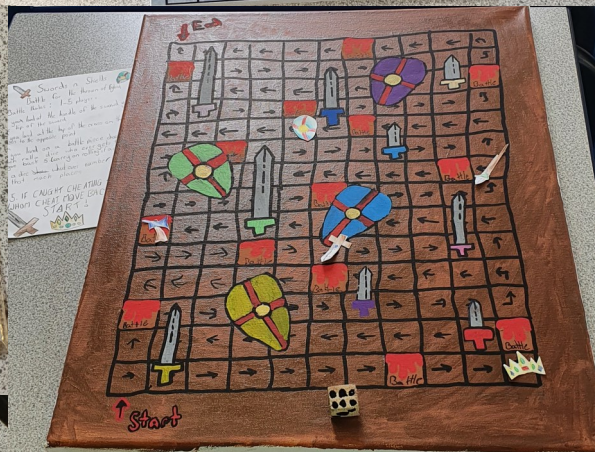
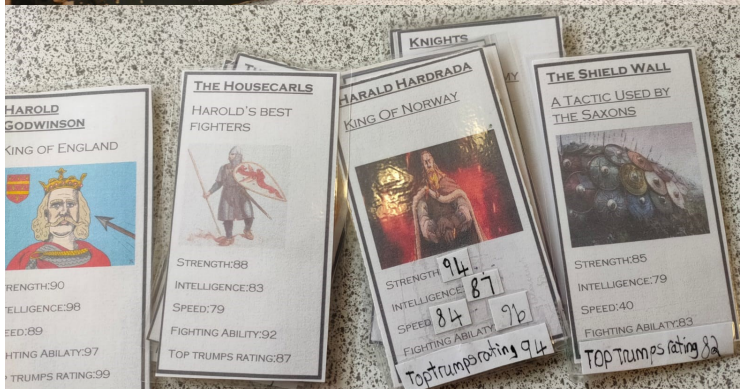
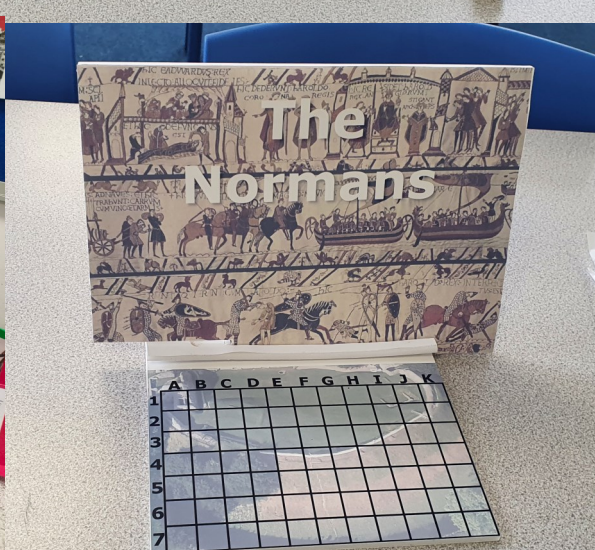
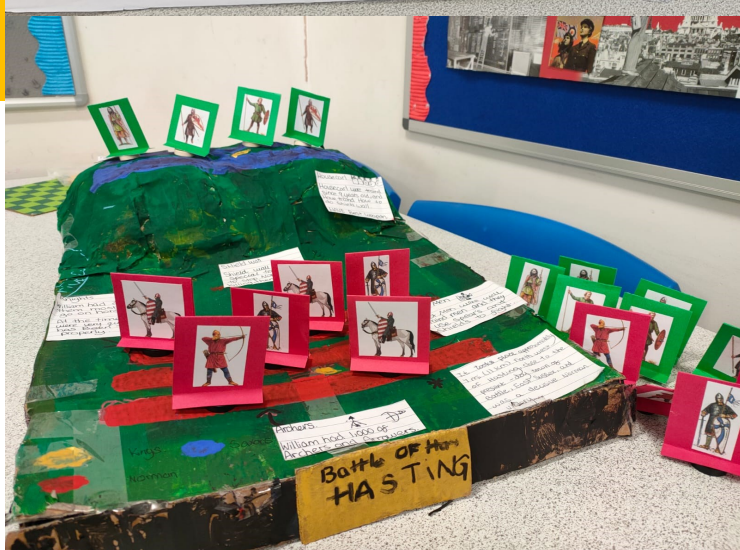
The quality of the entries was out of this world!!! We would like to congratulate Thomas Brewer who created a recycled wind turbine on his 3D printer. Outstanding work Thomas!!!!



Visit to Parliament:

Our School Council, and other students who have shown leadership skills this year visited London on Tuesday 12th July with Mr Thompson and Miss Jones. The students had a great day walking around London site seeing landmarks such as the London Eye, Big Ben, Downing street and many more! The students had a tour of the Houses of Parliament and got to see the House of Commons and the House of Lords both in action from the viewing galleries. Students also received a workshop on representation and voting and ran their own mock election. Katherine Fletcher, the MP for South Ribble, kindly came to visit the students and they got the opportunity to ask her several questions. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and were a credit to the school.

Year 7 have been making wonderful project homework's all year in Humanities. Here is a selection of some of their most recent Norman topic boardgames. Well done Year 7!



Year 10 Cathedral and Synagogue visit:

At the start of July, a group of Year 10's visited Liverpool's Catholic Cathedral and Princes road Synagogue, along with Mrs Conway, Miss Jones and Anthony.

The purpose of the trip was to explore the design and decoration of the different places of worship studied at GCSE; along with looking at the key features of the building which allow both Christians and Jews to improve their relationship with God.

As we arrived at the Synagogue and were welcomed by the community, very few pupils expected to see what they did when the main doors were opened. The gasps of wonder were clearly heard at the magnificent design and opulence seen within the Synagogue. We were given an in depth talk and a opportunity to ask questions; and the boys even experienced the wearing of a 'kippah' during their visit as a sign of their respect to God.

We then travelled across to the Catholic cathedral and attended lunchtime Mass in the Crypt, before having our lunch. The afternoon then gave pupils the opportunity to see the contrast in design of the Cathedral to the Synagogue but also to the usual typical design of many churches. Again, pupils were spoken to about the main features of the Cathedral, before exploring themselves and completing a task sheet before we left for home.

A short, whistle stop tour but one the pupils enjoyed and will hopefully reap the benefit of when they sit their GCSE's next year.



Invitation to



Your child(ren) attending

St Mary's Catholic High School and is
eligible for Free School Meals

is entitled to a free place on the
Holiday Activity and Food Programme in your area

To find out what fun activities your child can attend over the Summer holidays, including when and where they are taking place, visit Lancashire County Council's [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) website](#).

From there, you will be able to follow a link that will take that will take you to the site for your district, telling you how to book a place for your child.

If you want to ask someone about the HAF programme and what activities are available for your child, get in touch with us at [Talkzone](#).

You can speak to a [Talkzone](#) advisor by calling 0800 511111, text on 07786 511111, or email talkzone@lancashire.gov.uk

Book sensible – please only book a place if you intend to use it – a booked place for your child may mean that another can't attend – thank you.

Chaplaincy News



Year 8 Pilgrimage: It was a great joy to be able to accompany our Year 8 students on their annual pilgrimage to Liverpool. We visited many of the usual tourist attractions, (Anfield stadium, Liverpool Cathedral and the ferries to name but a few!) and

celebrated Mass in our Metropolitan Cathedral. It was a very humbling experience, and our students received lots of praise from members of the public and the clergy for their outstanding manners and behaviour! A great time was had by all!

Foodbank:

As Christians and people of Good Will, we are driven to show Gods love through our words and actions. Throughout the year, our Year 9 students have volunteered their time after school to learn more about our local foodbank at St Mary's Church. Inspired by the amazing work that the foodbank provides, our students have collected various non perishable foods to support our local community. Well done to all involved!



Sports News



Boys Football

Boys football has come to an end and it has been a really successful season for the Year 7,8 and 10 teams, who have all won the South Ribble League. The Year 8 team also completed the 'League and Cup double', by beating Lostock Hall in the final of the South Ribble Cup, at Lostock St Gerrard's. The Year 8 and 10 teams will also be hoping to go 'deep into' the Lancashire Cup next year and certainly have the strength in depth to do so.

The teams and associated managers from September 2022, are as follows:

Year 7- Mr Walsh

Year 8- Mr Booth / Mr Riley / Mr Walsh

Year 9- Mr Riley

Year 10- Mr Gill / Mr Diffley

Year 11- Mr Booth



The Year 8 Football Team after beating Lostock Hall in the final of the South Ribble Cup

Sports Tour

There were an exceptionally high number of Year 7-9 pupils, who were interested in the forthcoming Sports Tour to Lisbon at Easter 2024, which was fantastic news and very humbling to see. In total, 98 pupils have been accepted on a place on tour, with a number of other pupils placed on the reserve list. On Tuesday, 14th June, an initial Parents Information Evening took place in school, which gave pupils and their parents / carers the opportunity to listen to Mr Walsh and an Inspiresport Rep. discuss the tour in more depth. To secure their child's place on the sports tour, the first payments were due to be paid, on or before Monday, 4th July.

Rugby League

U13 rugby practice has continued to take place after school every Thursday; there has been a good turn out from both Year 7 and 8 pupils and there are some very talented players in each year group.

Unfortunately, due to the continued 'back drop' linked to COVID 19, U13 and U15 rugby league matches have not taken place this academic year, between the Leyland schools. It is hoped that they will resume again during the next academic year.

Table Tennis

Extra-curricular table tennis has been growing in popularity over recent weeks and especially at KS4, where the Sports Studies and GCSE PE pupils are also undertaking this in their core PE lessons. In May, we entered a team into the Under 16's South Ribble Table Tennis Competition hosted at Balshaws. The four boys who took part played magnificently. The standard of play throughout was excellent. The boys ended up finishing in 3rd place. Great Achievement!

Cricket

Extra-Curricular Cricket has been well attended every Tuesday from both KS3 & KS4 which we hope continues to grow. Both key stages have been focusing on Cricket during the core PE lessons, refining their fielding, bowling and batting skills. We have some talented players in both KS3 & KS4!

Basketball

We re-introduced Basketball back into the PE curriculum at the start of this academic year and it's been a huge success both in core PE and extra-curricular. On average, we have had 20+ pupils attending extra-curricular Basketball every week. We potentially have a Year 7 Basketball tournament coming up on Thursday, 14th July where six pupils will represent school and compete against other schools in the district.

Girls Rounders

This term has seen an abundance of extra-curricular rounders. Years 7 – 10 have been down in their droves sharpening up their skills ready for their tournaments, all in all over 40 girls have represented school for their year group with well over 70 girls turning up for training each week...competition for team places was tough! Each team however has participated magnificently in their respective tournaments demonstrating excellent communication skills, superb team work and a vast array of practical skills! Congratulations to all involved in such a fabulous traditional summer sport...long may this continue in the St. Marys way of 'Letting Our Light Shine'.

PE Inter house – Super Learning Day

On 29th June, our final PE Interhouse competition took place, with Year 7. The focus of this was for our pupils to show core values through sporting activities (Respect, sportsmanship, fair play and many other core principles). The boys took part in football and the girls took part in rounders. The day went superbly with all pupils taking part. We ended with a presentation whereby our pupils received certificates and prizes for their contribution during the day.

The overall winners of the day were house Josephine Bakhita. We will have to wait until Church to find out how this affects the overall Inter house total for the year. Well Done to **all** pupils who have contributed to their teams throughout the year in all events.

Sports Studies/GCSE PE Update

We said goodbye to our Year 11 Sports Studies pupils at the end of May. The pupils have worked really hard, especially over the last few months. Let's hope that their hard work will have paid off when they get their results in August. The Year 10 pupils are continuing to work hard, with Sports Studies pupils continuing to meet deadlines and the GCSE PE pupils have just completed their end of year exam. As a way of thanking most of them for their

dedication to either course, a celebratory meal took place at the Halfway House Chorley Pub & Restaurant on Tuesday, 10th May. After the meal a number of trophies were given out, to celebrate outstanding individual achievements.



**From left to right:
A Geldard; M Orme & B Coxhead.
Outstanding contribution to their PE course**

Sports Day

Wednesday, 22nd June saw this year's sports day and wow, what an event! Mass pupil numbers participating in a number of events across the entire day! Javelin, Shot Put, Discus, Long / Triple Jump were on the agenda for the morning. In the afternoon the entire school were out to cheer on and celebrate their houses achievements! The sun was shining with plenty of hats and sun cream to be seen.

The overall winners of the day were House John. A special mention must go to A. Tucker, breaking the Year 7 Boys Javelin record with a throw of 24.83m and to C. McCrone, breaking the Year 10 Girls 800m record with a time of 2.54. An excellent achievement for both pupils.



Athletics

Athletics practice has been incredibly well participated in over this term, with over 30 pupils staying behind after school to run, jump and throw to their hearts content. Year 7 and 8 in particular have been down practicing ready for Sports day and the South Ribble Athletics Championships at Stanley Park in Blackpool.

The South Ribble Athletics Championships took place at Stanley Park, Blackpool on Friday, 24th June this year and saw Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils participate across the South Ribble District. There were a number of excellent individual and team performances and the St Mary's spirit was well and truly out in full force! Overall, as a school we came 4th, with the Year 7 boys coming first in their category. Congratulations and well done to all the pupils who took part.

From top to bottom: S Boylan—winner of the Year 7 Boys 200m & 300m

R Ashton—winner of the Year 8 Boys Long Jump

A Adlington—winner of the Year 9 Boys 200m



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St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland
HOLIDAY LIST
2022 / 2023

Autumn Term 2022

<i>Staff Inset Day</i>	:	<i>Thursday 1 September 2022</i>
<i>Staff Inset Day</i>	:	<i>Friday 2 September 2022</i>
<i>Re-open on</i>		<i>Monday 5 September 2022</i>
<i>Staff Inset Day</i>	:	<i>Friday 21 October 2022</i>
<i>Mid Term Closure</i>	:	<i>Monday 24 – Friday 28 October 2022 (incl)</i>
<i>Closure after school on</i>	:	<i>Friday 16 December 2022</i>

No. of Openings: 69 + 3 INSET days

Spring Term 2023

<i>Staff Inset Day</i>	:	<i>Tuesday 3 January 2023</i>
<i>Re-open on</i>	:	<i>Wednesday 4 January 2023</i>
<i>Mid Term Closure</i>	:	<i>Monday 13 – Friday 17 Feb 2023 (incl)</i>
<i>Closure after school on</i>	:	<i>Thursday 6 April 2023</i>
<i>Staff Inset Day</i>	:	<i>Friday 21 April 2023 (as twilights)</i>

No. of Openings: 62 + 2 INSET days

Summer Term 2023

<i>Re-open on</i>	:	<i>Monday 24 April 2023</i>
<i>May Day Closure</i>	:	<i>Monday 1 May 2023</i>
<i>Mid Term Closure</i>	:	<i>Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June 2023 (incl)</i>
<i>Closure after school on</i>	:	<i>Friday 21 July 2023</i>

No. of Openings: 59

Total No. of Openings: 190 + 5 INSET days