

St Mary's News

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland
Newsletter July 2023



A note from Mr Thompson:

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter.

I hope that you are able to see from the many stories below just how busy our summer term has been for pupils. We said goodbye to our Year 11 cohort, who celebrated their time with us at their prom in June. For those still in school, many pupils enjoyed the Rewards Trip to Blackpool – the wet and windy weather did little to deter their enthusiasm! Our Sport's Day was a wonderful success, with school records being broken and fabulous effort from all participants, and our second Annual Arts Festival celebrated the artwork, singing and drama skills of so many youngsters, all ably supported by an enthusiastic and vocal audience!

Beyond whole-school events such as these, we have been able to celebrate some fantastic individual and team successes, from local football cup winners, to a nationally recognised coding champion, and on to world success in gymnastics. This newsletter is our opportunity to share with you the many wonderful gifts your children possess, and perhaps act as inspiration for others to take part and let their light shine. Of course, none of this would be possible without your support and the tireless dedication of all staff here at St Mary's, and for that I give grateful thanks.

Hopefully the summer break will bring rest and relaxation to you and your families, and we look forwards to the new term and sharing with you once again the many activities we promote.

Mr P Thompson

Mr Riley modelling the new Food Shack which will be open on the main school yard from September to provide a third refreshment outlet for pupils.



And The BAFTA Goes To...

It's not every day that you wake up to find that you have been nominated for a BAFTA... unless you're Joshua A. in Year 9!



The annual BAFTA Young Games Competition once again opened its doors to our games developers of the future. Computer Scientists in years seven and nine were asked to come up with an original idea which, whilst being engaging and entertaining, also had an underlying educational or social message. From mental health to healthy eating to raising awareness about recycling and endangered animals, we were blown away by some of the ideas and efforts which went into the challenge.

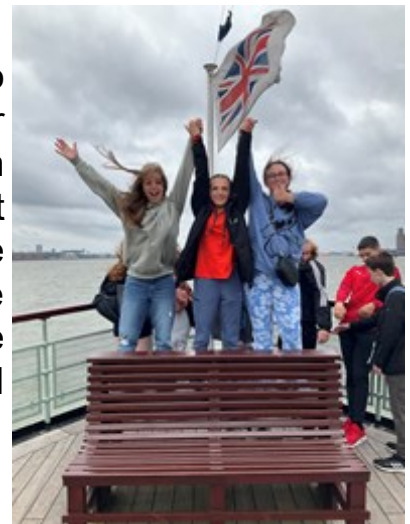
Joshua's entry, Bird Alliance, was spotted by the BAFTA judges and he was selected as one of 10 finalists in the Young Games Designer (ages 10-14) category. Earlier this month, Joshua and his family travelled down to BAFTA HQ in London for the finalist showcase. He was able to meet industry professionals and discuss his idea and games concept.

What an amazing achievement for a budding games designer in the making. Well done, Joshua we are very proud.



Y8 Pilgrimage

A great time was had by all during our Y8 pilgrimage to Liverpool. Focusing on where we can find God in our every day lives, we celebrated Mass in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Liverpool, visited Anfield, played games at Crosby beach, enjoyed a 2 course meal and a movie night! Phew!! The next day, fully refreshed, we continued our pilgrimage viewing Merseyside from the ferry and a quick trip to Liverpool One. God is love and can be found everywhere! Well done everyone!



Careers

Year 10 Masterclass Day

At the end of April, a selection of our Year 10 pupils visited Runshaw for a Master Class Day. Pupils were given a choice of A-level subjects to choose from to sample for the day and then experience what a college day would be like attending timetabled lessons. This provided pupils with information to help them make future decisions about what post –16 pathways they may want to choose.

RUNSHAW
COLLEGE

Year 10 Sampling Days

On the 28th June and the 4th July our Year 10 pupils went on their sampling days to local colleges. Prior to selecting the colleges and the subjects they wanted to sample, our three local providers came into school to deliver an assembly to provide information about what their colleges had to offer. All of our pupils went on a visit to Cardinal Newman College as part of our catholic partnership that we have with them. For the other sampling day pupils went to either Preston or Runshaw College. For both of the days, pupils were able to choose the subjects that they would like to sample. Pupils then spent the day at the college, experiencing college life and the format of lessons. As pupils have the opportunity to visit different colleges, it enables them to compare the post –16 providers in the area and helps them to make a more informed decision when making their college applications. Once we are back in September, we will be starting the process of applying with assemblies from the local providers and ASK apprenticeships.



PRESTON
COLLEGE

Year 9 Super Learning Day

This term our Year 9 pupils were involved in a Careers Super Learning Day. Pupils

4 SCHOOLS

had sessions delivered by external organisations. One of these was Channel 4 Schools, who provided information about all the careers in Media that pupils may not have been aware of existed! We also had a session from The Environment Agency, where pupils found out about the different job roles and also listened to one of our alumni's career journey progression. It is always beneficial to have a local employer for our Super Learning Days. This time APC Overnight delivered sessions about Employability skills in preparation for Year 10 Work Experience. Pupils also found out about post –16 options in their sessions delivered by Preston College. This provided pupils with possible post –16 pathways they may want to follow providing information about T-Levels, BTEC's, A-levels and apprenticeships. This is always such an informative experience for pupils to find out from employers and providers about what careers and options of study are available to them in the future.



Summer Arts Festival!

On Wednesday night a sell-out audience was treated to a showcase of work from our amazing students, as we celebrated our Summer Arts Festival. Our KS3 pupils got to see their art work on display in our art gallery, before over 50 students performed in our Drama Theatre. Performances ranged from musicals including Dear Evan, Hansen, Matilda, Six and Hamilton, to our rock bands and instrumental soloists. We could not be prouder of the efforts and dedication of our students, and cannot wait for the next show!



During the Summer Arts Festival evening there was a beautiful display of Art work by Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils. The variety of media and techniques on show was amazing. Pupils have worked extremely hard to reach this high standard. The focal point of the show was the 'Giant Junk Food projects' by Year 7. Once again, the pupil's creativity with materials was superb. Well done!



The Year 11 Prom was held on 29 June, and was a wonderful occasion which allowed staff to say 'Goodbye and Good Luck' to our leavers. The venue this year was the Legends Lounge at PNE's Deepdale stadium. The lounge provided panoramic views of the pitch and catered fantastically well for us all on the night. Onlookers were treated to a spectacular array of vehicles on their arrival whilst, as ever, the boys and girls looked stunning in their smart suits and beautiful dresses. As the Prom began, members from all 6 form groups paid tribute to their form tutors, as well as special mentions to Mr Riley and Mrs Stearstree, their Pastoral Leader and Assistant. Then once the food had been served and the tables cleared away, the dancefloor was full for the rest of the evening. Overall, it was a celebration event to remember as Year 11 marked the end of their time at St Mary's.



Chaplaincy News



Beach Clean

Inspired by Laudato Si, the Faith in Action team promoted a 'beach clean' event after school. Many students from both KS3 and KS4 volunteered to participate in this after school activity. Names were placed in a box and we randomly selected 15 students that travelled in the school minibus to sunny Southport to make a difference by cleaning part of the beach. 2 large bin bags of rubbish were

collected in under 20 minutes! (Students used 'grabbers' and did not physically touch the rubbish). Well done to all involved!

Ampleforth Retreat

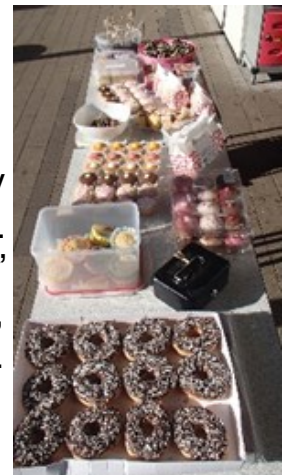
Two groups of Year 10 students enjoyed a retreat to Ampleforth. Students spent time with one of the Benedictine Monks, Fr. Bede, exploring prayer and how to find God in daily life. All students enjoyed the opportunity to take part



in Compline, along with participating in various spiritual group activities as well as having fun with friends. All the students 'let their light shine'. Well done Year 10, we had an excellent week! Pictured is a group of Y10 with Fr. Paul, a Priest from St Mary's Leyland Church.

Charity Events

Committed to living out the Gospel values, various charity events have taken place, especially the numerous 'cake sales'. This term, we look forward to the traditional 'Soak the Teacher' event which will raise funds for the Archdiocese Charity, NUGENT. This event is always good fun for all involved. Pictures to follow next term!



Sports News



Boys Football

Boys football has come to an end and it has been a really successful season for the Year 9, who completed a famous treble, by winning the South Ribble League and Cup and now finally getting their hands on the schoolboy equivalent of the Champions League, the Lancashire Cup. They beat Clitheroe Grammar school 3-1 in the final at AFC Darwen's ground, to win the competition for the first time since 2010 and are only the third St Mary's team to win the competition, since the school was established in 1957.

Although the team dominated the game from start to finish, they had to come from 1-0 down, to eventually win 3-1. The team were outstanding to a boy however, special mention to Captain Levi B. who scored two goals and was quite rightly named player of the match. The team will be looking to win all three competitions again next year and see if they can go further in the English School's Cup competition.

The teams and associated managers from September 2023, are as follows:

Year 7- Mr Walsh

Year 8- Mr McCann

Year 9- Mr Booth

Year 10- Mr Riley

Year 11- Mr Gill



The Year 9 football team and PE staff, after beating Clitheroe Grammar School in the final of the Lancashire Cup

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 tournaments, all in all over 30 girls will have represented school for their year group, with well over 50 girls turning up for training each week... competition for team places was tough! The Year 10 girls completed their tournament in fine spirits with other members of staff from opposing school commentating on how polite and lovely our girls are – a real credit to the school. Year 9 played



magnificently, coming a very close 2nd with only ½ a rounder behind first place! Well played girls! Year 8 unfortunately could not participate in their tournament as it was on the same day as the rewards trip however this has not stopped their commitment to training – real dedication and St Mary's spirit! At the time of print Year 7s tournament has yet to be played so we wish the girls luck! 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'.

Cricket

Extra-Curricular Cricket has been well attended every Thursday, with Mr Booth and Mr Barnes. Both PE lessons have been focussed on Cricket too, where pupils have been refining their fielding, bowling and batting skills. We have some talented players in school, some of whom are representing the district and Lancashire!

PE Inter house – Super Learning Day

On 28th 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 cricket and the girls took part in dance and 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 the final day of term 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 Day

Wednesday 21st 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 and Triple Jump were on the agenda for the morning. In the afternoon the entire school were out to cheer on and celebrate their house achievements, in the track events. The weather was better than anticipated too, with very warm conditions from 1pm onwards.

The overall winners of the day were House Josephine Bakhita. A special mention must go to S. Lomax, breaking the Year 7 Girls Javelin record with a throw of 14.60 metres and to R. Dixon, breaking the Year 8 Boys Long Jump record with a jump of 4.96 metres. An excellent achievement for both pupils.



Mr Thompson presenting the Sports Day Trophy to our Year 10 House Captains from the winning House Josephine

Rugby League

On Monday 19th June, the U13 rugby team played their first ever school game v Balshaws away. Despite a 28-14 loss, the pupils were excellent and will certainly be better for the experience moving forwards. H. Jeffs was named player of the match. Rugby practice has continued to take place after school every Tuesday; there has been a good core turn out from both Year 7 and 8 pupils. A special mention to R. Courtney- Densham and W. Reay for their leadership qualities both during practices and before and during the game v Balshaws.

Sports Tour

Mr Walsh and Mr Riley undertook a Sports Inspection visit to Lisbon (Portugal), from Saturday 8th-Monday 10th July. Plenty of pictures were shared on the school PE's Social Media platforms, of the hotel accommodation. Pictures were also taken of the football and netball facilities that the pupils will be training on and also pictures of the stadium tour of S.L. Benfica, the biggest and most famous football club in Portugal.

A reminder that the Sports Tour dates for Easter 2024 are Thursday 28th March (Maundy Thursday)- Monday 1st April (Easter Monday), 2023.

“Let Your Light Shine!” St. Matthew 5:16

Athletics

Athletics practice has been 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 16th 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



8 boys coming first in their category, for the second year in a row, which also included winning the 4x100m relay for the second year in a row too. Congratulations and well done to all the pupils who took part.

Sports Studies / GCSE PE Update

We said goodbye to our Year 11 GCSE PE / 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 completing and submitting their first of three units to OCR the GCSE PE pupils have just completed their end of year exam.

Gymnastics

A huge congratulations to D. Halliwell who has returned from Florida with a brilliant collection of medals and an overall title of 2nd in the World, finishing as Runner-Up of the World Gymnastics Championships. Amongst her superb achievement includes a Gold in Beam and Bronze in both Floor and Bars.





THE RSPCA YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER AWARDS 2023



WIN

- ▶ TROPHIES
- ▶ AMAZON VOUCHERS
- ▶ AN EPIC TRIP!

If you're 18 or under, an animal lover, and you can take great photos, this is the competition for you! Send us your animal images by **15 August 2023**. Finalists are invited to our Tower of London awards ceremony with TV's Chris Packham.



Hugo Skidmore - winner of 12-15 Mobile Phone and Devices category.

ENTER NOW!



FOR MORE INFO:
rspca.org.uk/ypa

Summer Fun



at The British Commercial Vehicle Museum



Wednesday 26th July:
Curious Critters Workshop

Friday 4th August: Ruby
& Blu Slime Workshop



Wednesday 9th August:
Vehicle Craft Session

Ruby & Blu
to you

Wednesday 16th August:
Fun Science Workshop



Fun Science

Friday 18th August: Vehicle
Craft Session

Wednesday 23rd August:
Curious Critters Workshop



Fun Science

Thursday 24th August:
Vehicle Craft Session

Thursday 31st August: Fun
Science Workshop



Please note **pre-booking is required for all** workshops & activities! To book, please give us a call on 01772 451011.

For prices please see our Facebook page @bcvmt

British Commercial Vehicle Museum, King Street, Leyland, Lancashire, PR25 2LE
Registered Charity Number: 328539