



# NEWSLETTER

Summer Term (2) 2024

## MESSAGE FROM MR THOMPSON

Welcome to our final newsletter of this academic year. We hope you have enjoyed these regular updates on life at St Mary's. As we break for the summer holidays, it is both a time to look back on our achievements over the last 12 months, and also forward to a new start in September. You will see how we said 'goodbye' to our Year 11 leavers at the prom, and also 'hello' to our future pupils on Transition Day.

As ever, the final few weeks of term were as busy as they always are, with plenty of activities packed in for the pupils. Whilst the summer hopefully brings a rest for us all, our attention will turn towards the Paris Olympics, where past pupil Patrick Dever, will be competing. Patrick left St Mary's in 2013, no doubt inspired by the London Olympics the year before. We wish Patrick all the very best in his quest for gold, and hope that his exploits inspire the current generation of St Mary's pupils to aim for the very top!



### **PAST PUPIL SUCCESS!**

St Mary's past pupil, Patrick Dever has recently qualified for Team GB in the 2024 Paris Olympics for running the 5000m. We wish Patrick the very best of luck on a fantastic achievement. Well done!

## **INTRODUCING OUR HEAD AND DEPUTY BOYS & GIRLS FOR 2024/25!**

We are delighted to introduce our Head Boy, Harry and Head Girl, Maisie. Supported by Seb and Lily as their deputies to lead the Pupil Leadership Team for 2024/25.

Hats off to all our Y11 pupils who applied for this role and were involved in the rigorous application process. It was a tough decision to make, however we are confident our KS3 & 4 leadership team will excel during the next academic year.

Best of luck to all our successful ambassadors!





## LETS ROUND UP AN AMAZING YEAR!

### SCHOOL TRIPS

This year, as a whole school, we have tried to increase and promote enrichment including school trips. During this summer term we have given pupils opportunities to visit:

- Lancashire Farm Centre
- North West Computer Museum
- Rewards trip to Blackpool
- Pilgrimage trip to Liverpool
- Ampleforth
- Geography Fieldwork (Ainsdale)



### CLEAN UP DAY!

A number of pupils attended the Wade Hall 'Clean Up Day' within the local community in June. The pupils were actively involved helping to pick litter in the surrounding areas - filling a whopping 36 bags of waste! Thank you to all the pupils involved, alongside South Ribble Borough Council and Progress Housing Group who organised this event.



### SPORTS DAY 2024!

A huge well done to everyone that took part in this years Sports Day. We were blessed with fantastic weather, combined with plenty of determination, resilience and sporting etiquette on show. This year has been one of the closest sports days witnessed, with only 4 points separating the top 3 houses.

Congratulations again to the overall winners, House Benedict. The results are as follows:

- 1st Benedict
- Joint 2nd John/Josephine
- 4th Peter
- 5th Thomas
- 6th Anselm





## TRANSITION FOR OUR YEAR 7, 2024 STARTERS

Throughout this last term, we were delighted to welcome our future Year 7's who will be joining us in September. We welcomed parents and pupils to our "new intake evening" where parents got the chance to meet key staff whilst the pupils got to meet their form tutors and complete some transition activities.

In July, we hosted our Year 6 taster day where we invited our future pupils where they experienced their first taste of St Mary's Catholic High School with a variety of lessons from Maths, RE and Science. Year 6 concluded the day with Anthony in Drama Theatre. We were delighted to see so many smiling faces throughout the day and cant wait to welcome them through our gates in September...



## SUSTAINABILITY AT ST MARY'S - SCHOOLS ECO TEAM

Our Eco & Sustainability team have made a head-start on their Wilding Schools plans as part of the 'Students Organising for Sustaining UK' our Green Schools Revolution programme!

We have chosen insects as our focus group for increasing biodiversity. We planted brightly coloured flowers to help local pollinators. These grounds changes also form part of their school Climate Action Plan.

Mr Riley said: "A brilliant start to the gardens being developed here at St Mary's with the Eco/Sustainability team fully embracing the change in our school and watching the growth of our flowers in their natural surroundings. We are looking forward to this developing even further and changing the landscape to our front entrance. A huge thanks to SOS-UK for helping support the young people in our school to make the changes."





## YEAR 11 - CLASS OF 2024

We are immensely proud of our Year 11 pupils. They have worked extremely hard over the years at St Mary's, especially this last term whilst completing their GCSE's. We hope they continue to follow their dreams in whatever their next steps may be.

### LEAVERS PROM

What a night was had! Our Year 11 pupils knocked the socks off 'dress to impress' with some fabulous dresses and dapper suits. They all had a wonderful time at their prom celebrated at PNE followed by some late night after parties we are sure! They all behaved wonderfully and are a credit to their parents.



### SENIOR LEADERSHIP MEAL

We have had fantastic support from our Yr 11 Senior Leadership Team throughout this academic year. Some of our Sports Leaders even returned to support our Sports Day...what a great example to set meal at Papa Luigis, Euxton

**DON'T FORGET!**

**GCSE results day this year is on Thursday 22nd August, and the school will be open from 9am-12pm. Please remember that if a parent is collecting their child's results, they must have photo ID with them and also a letter of permission from the pupil.**

**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE**



## THANK A TEACHER DAY 2024



On the 19th June it was National 'Thank a Teacher Day'. We asked our past and present pupils and families to pass on messages of thanks to current teaching staff. It was lovely to read such praise, here are just a few messages we received...

Mrs Lowe has supported and guided my daughter through some tricky times (and is continuing to do so) so Thankful to her for being there for her and just reassurance for me as a Mum that my girl has someone she can go to and talk to if needed. Thank you

Mrs Shelley is a very kind and funny teacher who always helps you whenever you ask.

Mrs Watson has helped me in so many ways I can not even find the words to describe it. If it wasn't for her I would not be who I am today and have the friends I have now. I am so grateful for Mrs Watson and I wouldn't believe in myself if it wasn't for her ❤️

Mrs Doran never fails to put a smile on my face in the morning even if it is only for a second. She will always brighten up my day, I couldn't think of a better form tutor.

Mr Riley is everything a teacher should be, he sees a positive with every child's ability, he is engaged with his pupils, encouraging and is a great role model.

Miss Wilson, thank you for always supporting me throughout my time at St Mary's, there was lots of days I felt like I had no more to give but you picked me up each time and got me through it. I'm not sure you realise how much you did for me in a really difficult time of my life.

## GRANDPARENTS APPRECIATION DAY

We finished off the summer term with the return of our Grandparents Appreciation Day. A day to give thanks to God for the love, support and wisdom that our grandparents give to families every single day.

Our Year 7 pupils Grandparents were treated to a 'High Afternoon Tea' complemented by a series of wonderful musical performances by our Expressive Arts team. We hope to continue this with other year groups during the next academic year.

What a wonderful way to finish off a fantastic year!





## PE UPDATE

### 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 21st 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 9 boys coming first in their category, for the third year in a row, which also included winning the 4x100m relay for the third year in a row too. A special mention also goes to S. Lomax who set a new Year 8 Girls South Ribble Javelin record.



Congratulations and well done to all the pupils who took part.

### 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 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 despite some last minute team changes. The tournament was played at a high standard and with only ½ rounder between schools in 1st and 2nd place! We finished in 4th place in the tournament. Year 9 also played extremely well in their closely fought tournament and were Runners – Up with only ½ rounder between first and second place! Year 8 also played a great tournament and showed real team spirit. They too finished in 4th place. At the time of print Year 7s tournament has yet to be played but we wish the girls luck! Congratulations to all involved in such a fabulous traditional summer sport...long may this continue in the St. Mary's way of 'Letting Our Light Shine'.





## PE UPDATE

### RUGBY LEAGUE



On Tuesday 3rd July, the U13 rugby team played their first ever school games in tournament held by Leyland Warriors. The games were extremely competitive and our pupils showed true grit and determination in the matches and will certainly be better for the experience moving forwards. It was fantastic to see that some of our Year 7 pupils were an integral part of the team and stepped up alongside our Year 8 pupils.

On Thursday 5th July, the U15 rugby league team, won a tournament at Leyland Warriors today. All the pupils were fantastic and demonstrated the true meaning of teamwork. Special mention to captain J Winn and P Cardie pictured, who was the player of the tournament.



### CRICKET

On Thursday 13th June, our U13 cricket team played in a competition at Hutton High School. The team finished 2nd overall, with some great individual performances. H French took five wickets in six overs during one match and J Heyes hit an unbeaten 21 not out v Worden in another match. A big well done to everyone who took part.





## CHAPLAINCY NEWS



### YEAR 8 PILGRIMAGE

Our annual pilgrimage to Liverpool was a memorable experience for our Year 8 pupils. They traveled to Liverpool to enjoy a tour of Anfield, attend Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral, explore the Liverpool Cathedral, and visited Crosby Beach. It was a 'jam packed' two day experience allowing pupils to get to know each other better and deepen their relationship with God.

### AMPLEFORTH RETREAT

Our annual Year 10 retreat to Ampleforth was again, well attended. Pupils 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. Bede.



### LOURDES

Several of our students, both past and present embarked on the Archdiocese annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. It is a brilliant opportunity for them to join the thousands of pilgrims that attend Lourdes every year. They will pray together, work together, eat together, sing together, laugh together and come away with some of the best friendships





## FAREWELL TO STAFF

At the end of this academic year we say goodbye to 4 members of staff, one of whom has spent nearly 2 decades working here at St Mary's!

**Mrs Moss** (TA) says farewell after 17 years of dedication for our SEND department. She has always put the needs of others before her own, we will miss her tremendously! Mrs Moss retires ready to spend time with her family and impending first grandchild!

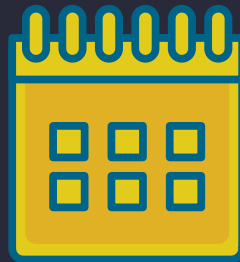
**Mr Barnes** (Maths Teacher) departs us for a promotion in his career. We cannot thank Mr Barnes for all his support, not only in the Maths department but for extra curricular competitions and school trips. We wish him the very best of luck!

**Dr Batty** (Maths Teacher) is taking a jump into the non teaching sector of charity work! Her compassion both in and out of school is a huge loss to our pupils and staff. However we hope her next adventure is as exciting as all the others she embarks on.

**Miss Collins** (Music Teacher) has obtained a full time position teaching in Blackpool. Our pupils will miss her love of musicals which became infectious with whom she shared her passion with. We wish her every success for the future.



## IMPORTANT DATES



**Monday 02/09/24 - School Closed for Pupils - INSET DAY**

**Tuesday 03/09/24 - School Closed for Pupils - INSET DAY**

Wednesday 04/09/24 - School reopens

Friday 06/09/24 - School Photographs for Year 7/9/11

Tuesday 10/09/24 - Parents Information Evening, 6pm

Thursday 12/09/24 - Humanities Y10 Parents Evening (details to follow)

Friday 13/09/24 - Roald Dahl Day

Wednesday 18/09/24 - Careers Parental Support Evening, 5pm

Thursday 19/09/24 - Y7 Friendship Day & Y7 Welcome Mass

Friday 20/09/24 - Y7 SEND Coffee Morning (details to follow)

**Wednesday 25/09/24 - Early Closure, 1.30pm**

Monday 07/10/24 - Dementia Cafe, 2.30-4pm

Wednesday 16/10/24 - Y7 Progress Meetings, 3.30-6pm

**Friday 18/10/24 - School breaks up for October half term, school reopens on Monday 28/10/24.**

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. As a school we have introduced Edulink One for parents to easily update this whenever they wish. Edulink also allows parents to report absences easily and securely.

During this academic year, there have been a few occasions where pupils have been unable to attend an educational visit due to outdated medical information on file and/or pupils not bringing prescribed medication for the visits (Epi pens, Inhalers etc..)

All parents/carers have received an email with instructions on creating your account and accessing the platform. If you have any questions or difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact [eduadmin@lsmchs.com](mailto:eduadmin@lsmchs.com)





## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS TO LET OUR LIGHT SHINE



### Career's Corner



#### **ELECTION DAY AT ST MARY'S**

This term we created bespoke Personal Development sessions and assemblies investigating the General Election, democracy and how government works.

The St Mary's community (staff and pupils) came together to vote in our very own St Mary's election. The pupils really engaged in the process debating various political parties before making their choices.

The winning party was Labour with the majority votes.



#### **CONSTRUCTION BASED CAREERS**

In June a selection of our Year 9 pupils visited Eric Wright Construction and Preston College to provide more information about construction-based careers they could do in the future.

Pupils visited the construction site for the new cricket ground in Farrington and then went onto Preston College to take part in construction based challenges competing with other local schools.

Our pupils excelled in bricklaying and went on to win the T-level Architecture Challenge trophy





## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DIARY

### BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS TO LET OUR LIGHT SHINE

We are delighted to share our “draft” Personal Development curriculum for 2024/25 for the pupils at St Mary’s Catholic High School. We have adapted last years curriculum based on the feedback from parents, pupils and staff and introduced further new modules to support your child to truly “let their light shine” during their time at St Mary’s and when they leave.

YEAR	<u>WIDER WORLD (1)</u>	<u>WIDER WORLD (2)</u>	<u>RELATIONSHIPS Ten Ten, (RSHE For Catholic Schools)</u>	<u>HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING (1)</u>	<u>HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING (2)</u>	<u>Additional Module</u>	<u>LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE (Bespoke Module)</u>
7	<u>Careers Curriculum (Yr7)</u> An introduction to Careers, teamwork and enterprise skills, and raising aspirations <u>(Morrisby Careers Platform)</u>	<u>Financial decision</u> making Saving, borrowing, budgeting and making financial choices	<u>Life Live To The Full</u> Our core <u>identity</u> , changing bodies, healthy inside and out, changing bodies, where we come from, family and friends, my life on screen and living responsibly.	<u>Religion and Belief: Christ at the Centre &amp; First Aid</u> Engage with the Catholic ethos and values of St. Mary’s	<u>St Mary’s &amp; Me (Key Values Of Being A St Mary’s Pupil)</u> The role pupils play within school. Contribution towards school, our school history.	<u>Year 7 British Citizenship</u> Democracy, parliament, liberties and improving communities.	<u>Welcome to St Mary’s</u> Expectations and standards at St Mary’s.
8	<u>Careers Curriculum (Yr8)</u> Equality of opportunity in careers and life choices, and different types and patterns of work <u>(Morrisby Careers Platform)</u>	<u>Digital literacy</u> Online safety, digital literacy, media reliability, and gambling hooks	<u>Life Live To The Full</u> Created and chosen, appreciating differences, feelings, before I was born, tough relationships, think before you share and the wider world.	<u>Drugs and alcohol</u> Alcohol and drug misuse and pressures relating to drug use	<u>Emotional wellbeing</u> Mental health and emotional wellbeing, including body image and coping strategies	<u>Protected Characteristics &amp; Extremism</u>	<u>St Mary’s &amp; Me (Protecting Our School)</u> What can you do to support the greater community at St Mary’s (Sustainability)
9	<u>Careers Curriculum (Yr9)</u> Learning strengths, career options and goal setting. <u>(Morrisby Careers Platform)</u>	<u>Employability skills</u> Employability and online presence	<u>Life Live To The Full</u> The search for love, love people & use things, in control of my choices, fertility and contraception, marriage, one hundred percent and knowing my rights & responsibilities.	<u>Peer influence, substance use and gangs</u> Healthy and unhealthy friendships, assertiveness, substance misuse, and gang exploitation	<u>Healthy lifestyle</u> Diet, exercise, lifestyle balance and healthy choices, and first aid	<u>Functional IT Skills In Employment</u>	<u>Options (Preparing for KS4)</u> Discussion of options and pathways at KS4.
10	<u>Financial decision making</u> The impact of financial decisions, debt, gambling and the impact of advertising on financial choices	<u>Careers Curriculum (Yr10)</u> Preparing For Employment Personal Statement Writing (Morrisby Careers Platform)	<u>Life Live To The Full</u> Authentic freedom, self-image, beliefs, values & attitudes, parenthood, pregnancy & abortion, abuse and solidarity	<u>Mental health</u> Mental health and ill health, stigma, safeguarding health, including during periods of transition or change	<u>Exploring Influence</u> The influence and impact of drugs, gangs, role models and the media	<u>Year 10 British Citizenship</u> The power of government, legislation, free press, human rights, international law.	<u>Work Experience</u> Preparing, completing and evaluating work experience placements.
11	<u>Moving Forward</u> Revision techniques/strategies and future opportunities	<u>Careers Curriculum (Yr 11)</u> Next Steps (Morrisby Careers Platform) CV Writing & Preparing for KSS	<u>Life Live To The Full</u> Self-worth, addiction, eating disorders, birth control, pornography, STIs and coercive control.	<u>Building for the future</u> Self-efficacy, stress management, and future opportunities	<u>Independence</u> Responsible health choices, and safety in independent contexts	<u>Budgeting For Later Life</u> Budgeting for a college/university pupil, what are taxes and how do mortgages work?	<u>Options (Preparing for Exams &amp; KSS)</u> Pupil wellbeing, stress management and supporting applications at KSS.

### Parent Voice Summary

As a school we believe it is vital that parents can contribute and support Mary’s Catholic High School. For the academic year 2024/25, we hope to create a parent panel, where we can have more in-depth discussions with parents regarding the school. More information regarding this will be released in September. Throughout our parent voice programme this year, it was identified that 80% of parents would be interested in a series of parental support evenings. These support evening starting in September will discuss a variety of key issues including careers, vaping and bullying. A timetable of these sessions will be released in September.

### Key Summary From 2023/24 Parent Voice:

- 96% of parents stated their child was happy at St Mary’s Catholic High School.
- 97% of parents stated their child felt safe at St Mary’s Catholic High School.
- 98% of parents stated they felt their child was “doing well” at St Mary’s Catholic High School.
- 97% of parents stated the school has high expectations of their child.
- 97% of parents would recommend this school to another parent.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for contributed to our parent voice and supporting the school this academic year.