



# NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2 2023

**Merry  
Christmas!**

**From all the Staff, Governors  
and Pupils. We wish you the  
very best for a happy and  
prosperous 2024**

## MESSAGE FROM MR THOMPSON

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our newsletter. There have been plenty of activities for our pupils to enjoy in this half-term, and the contents within give you a flavour of what they have been up to.

It is our aim to enrich the school lives of all pupils with a supplementary range of additional experiences, beyond their regular lessons, and the snippets below show just how varied extra-curricular life is here at St Mary's. Please take the time to view the newsletter, including our feature of introducing members of staff who are new to the school - this time it's the turn of Miss Joyce and Mrs Petit-Price!

Enjoy the read and, to you all, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## PRESENTATION EVENING 2023

On Thursday 16th November, we had a wonderful evening celebrating the fantastic achievements of both current pupils and our Year 11 pupils who left in the summer. The support and encouragement from parents attending this evening adds value to this celebration of achievement and dedication in their academic journey.

We extend our gratitude to our Guest Speaker, Nick Burnham, Principal of Cardinal Newman Catholic College. Mr Burnham presented all our pupils with their certificates and special awards.

Any Year 11 leavers who were unable to attend the evening are encouraged to collect their certificates from school as soon as possible.





## SO...WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING DURING THIS HALF TERM?



### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Our Head Boy and Head Girl, Tom & Izzy, were privileged to be invited to lay a wreath at the Leyland Cenotaph during the Leyland Remembrance Sunday service. It was such an honour to be part of this service, to remember and pray for those who sacrificed so much.

### ANTI BULLYING WEEK 13th-17th NOV

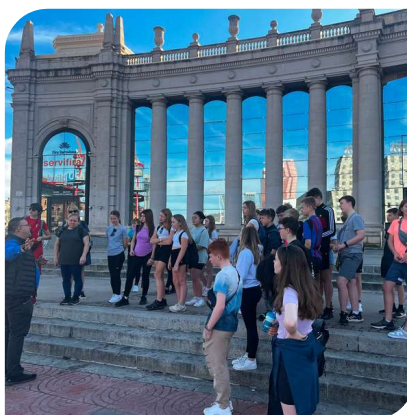
St Mary's stance has always been very clear when discussing or dealing with bullying; we unfortunately acknowledge that some pupils may experience bullying in school, however we have, and always will continue to have a zero tolerance approach to all forms of bullying.

In acknowledgement of this pledge, we support the national Anti Bullying week in November. Alongside assemblies, we invited pupils to come into school on Friday 17th November wearing odd socks!



### BARCELONA TRIP 2023

During half term 32 students in Years 8-11 visited Barcelona to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the design technology and art curriculums. The students had a wonderful time and visited Parc Guell, La Sagrada Familia, Montjuic, the Olympic Stadium, rode on the Funicular, enjoyed an afternoon on the beach.



In addition, there was plenty of time for pupils to capture their memories with sketching activities.



### CAREERS FAIR 2023

On Wednesday 22nd November Mrs McVey hosted our annual Careers Fair at All Hallows Catholic High School.

It was great to see so many pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 attend to see what options they have available following their journey here at St Mary's. Professionals from the NHS, Leyland Trucks, Lancashire Constabulary and many other local companies were present to offer support and answer any questions our pupils had.





## SPOT LIGHT ON: GEOGRAPHY

**KNOW THE PAST, LIVE FOR THE NOW, PROTECT THE FUTURE!**

### YEAR 10 TRAVEL & TOURISM VISIT TO BLACKPOOL PLEASURE BEACH

Our Year 10 Travel and Tourism pupils visited Blackpool Pleasure Beach for a bespoke presentation by their education team. The team presented to the pupils on how the company uses technology within the park and also how they work with other businesses to attract more tourists to visit. The pupils were outstanding on the day and were a credit to the school.

### YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK VISIT TO HOUGH LANE

As part of the departments drive on fieldwork within the Geography curriculum, the whole of Year 8 visited Hough Lane to answer the question "Is Leyland a Clone Town?". The pupils completed a land use survey on Hough Lane, analysed the data and began to develop Geographical conclusions.

### YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK VISIT TO LIVERPOOL ONE & ALBERT DOCK

Year 10 Geography students visited Liverpool One and the Albert Dock in November to investigate the economic and environmental benefits from the regeneration of the area. The pupils conducted interviews, land use surveys, environmental quality surveys and pedestrian counts to as part of their Geographical Enquiry.

### YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY RESIDENTIAL TO AMBLESIDE (LAKE DISTRICT)

On Friday 16th November, Year 11 Geography students visited Ambleside for a weekend residential to focus on enhancing their fieldwork skills and whilst also preparing for their forthcoming mock examinations. The students conducted different Geographical enquiries within Ambleside, focusing on the key aspects of a Geographical fieldwork study.

### GREEN CAREERS WEEK

In early November, the school and in particular the Geography department promoted Green Careers Week. Staff within the school promoted sustainability advice (via excellent work by the Eco team) around school. Whilst within Geography lessons, pupils investigated careers which promotes protecting our earth from structural engineers to a garden designer. Sustainability plays a major role in our school and there is more exciting news to come.....

## meet our geographers



**Mrs Taylor**  
Assistant  
Curriculum Leader  
for Humanities



**Mr Weaver**  
Assistant  
Headteacher



**Miss Joyce**  
Teacher of  
Geography &  
Travel & Tourism



## GEOGRAPHY AT ST MARY'S

### **Know the past, live for the now, protect the future!**

There has never been a better, or more important time to study geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant subjects a young person can choose to study. The Geography Department tries to develop pupils' passion for the world. Studying geography provides knowledge and transferable skills that reward them personally and advance them professionally. Geography at St Mary's involves a variety of IT, field and classroom analytical approaches including techniques such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and fieldwork, which are an integral part to most courses.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer term
Y7	An Introduction to Geography (Our Regional Area)	Risky Rivers & The World of Work (Exploring Great Britain)	Wacky Weather & Introducing Fieldwork
Y8	Chaotic coasts & The UK's place in the World (HICs)	Asia & Tectonic Hazards (Volcanoes) and South America & Tropical Rainforests	Middle East & China (HIC or not?)
Y9	Global issues: Extreme Hazards (tropical storms & earthquakes)	Global Issues: Ecosystems under threat (Tropical Rainforests & Hot deserts)	Global Issues: Wasteful World





## CHAPLAINCY

### CHARITY AMBASSADOR

Dedicated to her role, our Charity Ambassador took it upon herself to raise money for a charity close to her heart, the Little Princess trust. Mollie donated a large portion of hair to the charity so that it can be made into a wig. Well done Mollie for your continued hard work and commitment!

Furthermore, Mollie organised a fund raising activity for CAFOD. A Staff vs Students 'spelling and general knowledge' quiz. A great time was had by all, with lots of comedy and laughter and importantly, raised the awareness of CAFOD.



### DEMENTIA CAFE

On Monday 4th December we opened our doors once again to host our Dementia Café. We had a wonderful Christmas theme with many of our patrons joining in with various Christmas carols. We were further blessed with a visit from the Mayor of South Ribble, Councillor Chris Lomax and his wife, Mayoress Kim Lomax. Special thanks to all who attended!



### FAITH IN ACTION TEAM

The faith in action teams have been busy designing and colouring-in Christmas cards which will be sent to our local care homes. At this time of year, it is important to spread God's love to everyone, especially those in our local community.



### CHAPLAINCY PREFECT

Special thanks go to our Chaplaincy Prefect who often organises our weekly prayer games! The sessions are always based on Sundays Gospel and conclude with a prayer! Well done Tom and thank you for your ongoing commitment!



### PRAYER CORNER

Special thanks go to members of our Year 10 Chaplaincy Team who update the prayer corner in reception. The month of November is a special month, as it is the Month of Holy Souls as well as a time to remember those who served in World War 1 & World War 2.



## SPORTING SUCCESS AT ST MARY'S

### SPORTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

All of our Year 9 Sports Leadership Academy members are working extremely hard, completing their Lead2Employability award. Under guidance from our Head Boy / Sports Ambassador Tom, they are working superbly behind the scenes, completing lunch duties, supporting lunch clubs, helping run extra-curricular activities in and out of school, including supporting a number of recent Primary School Tag Rugby and Football tournaments as well as refereeing a number of Secondary School girls football matches and tournaments. The aim is for all the pupils to complete 200 hours of volunteering by the end of the academic year, in order to earn the 'Gold Award'. They have all made a great start!



The Year 9 Sports Leadership Academy

J. Privett, E. Duckworth, H. Clarke, H. Jeffs, T. Berry, L. Harvey, J. Rogers, J. South  
A. Robinson, M. Watson, E. Nyogeri, K. Bellamy, N. Kusnierek, E. Bradley, L. Anderson, T. Chesworth.

Being part of the Sports Leadership Academy is also a fantastic opportunity to 'stand out from the rest', which could lead to further pupil positions of responsibility in the future. Keep up the great work!



### SPORTS TOUR

The flight times and provisional itinerary have been confirmed for the Sports Tour to Lisbon (Portugal) at Easter. Pupils and staff will fly out on Friday 29th March and return in the early hours of Wednesday 3rd April 2024. It is hoped that the group will be able to watch a professional game on the Saturday or Sunday of the tour, as SL Benfica play at home to GD Chaves; more details to follow in due course. A gentle reminder; the Parents Information Evening will take place on **Thursday 8th February 2024, from 5-6pm in the Drama Theatre.**

## SPORTING SUCCESS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

**H. Winstanley** and **N. Winstanley** have been selected to represent Lancashire U12's in Hockey, on top of their Hockey talent they have both been selected into Burnley Emerging Talent Centre for Football

**I. Green** recently won her Cheer Dance competition in Blackpool

**M. Gohil** came first in a European Gymnastics competition

**A. Judd** has started with the development squad at Burnley FC.

**M. Gradwell** and **S. Winstanley** have been selected to be part of the Lancashire Hockey team.

**E. Fraser** came first in a Acro Dance competition and now will go to the UK championships

**J. Privett** has been selected to represent Lancashire U14's at cricket.

**L. Baker, B. Derbyshire** and **P. Harris** picked up first position in Street Dance competition in Blackpool.

**H. Clarke** has been selected to play for Lancashire U14's football squad.

**I. Sutton** has been selected to represent Lancashire U13's at cricket.

**E. Kelly** has been selected to be part of the U13's Lancashire hockey team.





## IN OTHER NEWS...

### COP28 CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

St Mary's were once again flying the flag for change when they attended the climate conference with 16 other Catholic High School's. They looked very closely at what they could do to address climate change on a local and national level. One pupil commented 'This conference is important as it will give people a voice to allow the world to grow like a plant.'

The pupils presented beautifully and were extremely assertive in their points and need for a positive change.



### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Earlier in November, Year 10 and 11 were treated to a performance of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' performed by Quantum Theatre. What a performance!

The show had everyone in fits of laughter and singing Christmas carols. The students were thoroughly engaged throughout and it has enabled our pupils to deepen their knowledge on the text for GCSE.

### POETRY SLAM

Year 7 pupils have been studying the concept of identity, looking at autobiographies and poetry that explored individuals identity and how they present this. Pupils were guided to write their own poem and so began our poetry slam. With support from Blackpool-born spoken word artist Nathan Parker a small group were selected to take part in a further workshop where they shared ideas and created a poem and together. Every student performed their poem in front of their class and each class selected their top 3 students and submitted them to the final.

The runners up were Evie F, Riley M and Grace J and the overall winner was Matthew K (7I) whose poem touched many hearts with its content but ultimately won given his outstanding performance of the poem.

Congratulations to all the finalists and winners.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

'Tis the season to spread joy and cheer! On Wednesday 13th December, led by Mrs Watson & Miss Collins, our wonderful pupils in Years 7 to 11 provided a symphony of carols, festive tunes and poetry to parents, governors and the local community. It was fantastic to celebrate the spirit of Christmas and support the amazing talents of our pupils.



### CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY BINGO

'WOW! What a turn out we had from our families and members of our local community for our annual Christmas Bingo evening on the 7th December. This was supported by our incredible Hospitality Ambassadors who supported ticket sales, the raffle, refreshments and checking numbers for our lucky winners! Make sure you make a note in the diary for the Easter Bingo evening taking place on the 21st March 2024!





## Meet the Staff



**NAME:** Miss Joyce

**SUBJECT:** Geography & Travel & Tourism

**HOBBIES:** Swimming, running, Preston North End

**INTERESTING FACT:** Before studying Geography at university, I originally did German and Spanish but switched to Geography because that's where my passion lay.

**ADVICE FOR STUDENTS AT ST MARY'S:** Always choose to pursue something you enjoy doing and always put 100% effort into everything you do!

**NAME:** Mrs Petit-Price

**SUBJECT:** French and Spanish

**HOBBIES:** I love music and especially live music so I go to concerts as often as possible. I love languages : I studied German at school and carried it on at University. And I did a short course in Japanese when I was a student. I also love running.

**INTERESTING FACT:** I am French and Irish and grew up in France but spent most summers as a child in Ireland visiting my family. As a result I love traveling and languages. I lived in Dublin for a year, spent a summer in Berlin and I also studied in Australia for a year.

**ADVICE FOR STUDENTS AT ST MARY'S:** I have a real passion for learning languages and it truly has opened so many doors to me on a personal and professional level. So I love this quote : "One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages opens every door along the way." (Frank Smith)



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.

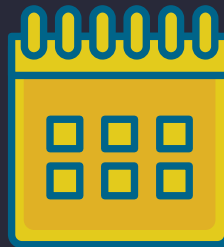
Unfortunately, a number of students missed a recent educational visit due to incorrect medical information

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

All parents/carers have now 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 [edudadmin@lsmchs.com](mailto:edudadmin@lsmchs.com)



## IMPORTANT DATES



**Monday 08/01/24 - School reopens after the Christmas break**

**Thursday 11/01/24 - Hamilton Visit**

**Wednesday 17/01/24 - Y11 Cold War Bunker Visit**

**Wednesday 24/01/24 - Y11 Parents Evening**

**Monday 05/02/24 - Dementia Cafe**

**Tuesday 06/02/24 - Y10 Mock Interviews**

**Wednesday 07/02/24 - Band Night**

**Thursday 08/02/24 - Sports Tour Parents Meeting**

**Friday 09/02/24 - Whole School Rewards Trip**

**Friday 09/02/24 - School breaks up for Spring half term at 3pm**

**Monday 19/02/24 - School reopens after the half term break**

### Year 10 Work Experience:

**Monday 18th March - Friday 22nd March 2024**

Students should be currently researching their work placement.



## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DIARY

### BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS TO LET OUR LIGHT SHINE

At St. Mary's Catholic High School, it is our mission to educate young people in the Catholic, Christian way to become students 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".

#### Personal Development Lessons

Staff are allocated to year groups and specific lessons according to their areas of expertise, based on the three themes of Living in the Wider World, Relationships and Healthy Living. Each theme has been sequenced, designed and taught in line with our Catholic Values. Within our 'Living in the Wider World' Unit each pupil will receive careers guidance using our online Morrisby Careers platform. The St Mary's curriculum also includes a unique and bespoke module for each year group designated especially for our pupils, for example more recently Year 7 received a performance by "Streetwise" for Road Safety and Year 11, external visitors to encourage positive mental wellbeing in preparation for their mock examinations.



#### Career's Corner



Well what a busy half term it has been in the careers education department!!

We started November off with visits from Oxford University to discuss future studies, this followed presentations from all our local colleges to our Year 11 Students. Local colleges have also conducted lunchtime drop ins to support with pupils with their applications and personal statements. Pupils this term have also visited "The National Apprenticeship Show" in Liverpool, BAE systems and not to mention our very own careers fair. Next term we have some more exciting visits planned with Leyland Trucks and Runshaw college to name a few..... Not to mention support from our dedicated careers advisor Mrs. McVey and regular careers education lesson within our Personal Development curriculum.

#### Introducing Mrs McVey (Careers Advisor)

My name is Mrs McVey and I am the Careers Advisor here at St Mary's. I meet with all pupils prior to them leaving in Year 11 to discuss what their future plans may be and I really enjoy hearing about all the plans that pupils have for their future. I am also responsible for organising the events we have in school such as our careers fair, work experience, careers trips, mock interviews and inviting colleges and training providers into school. In my previous role I have been a teacher and a head of 6th form so I understand the difficulties of having to make choices at 16 in preparation for the next steps, whether that be going to college, getting an apprenticeship or going in to the world of work and that sometimes choices can change. I look forward to meeting with you all and supporting you with your next steps after leaving St Mary's.

