



November 2024

Chorley St Mary's News

Special Edition



Order, order!

St Mary's shines during UK Parliament Week



Speaker hails student debaters for future-proofing democracy

The Speaker of the House of Commons said he was reassured that 'democracy is in safe hands' after he visited St Mary's as part of UK Parliament Week activities.

Sir Lindsay Hoyle was in school for the latest sitting of our 'Pupil Parliament' as our elected school MPs addressed the current political topics at St Mary's.

The year 6 classroom was transformed into our own version of the Commons Chamber, with the children demonstrating how they take on the roles of MPs, clerks, Speaker and Ministers.



I was so impressed by the children's behaviour, but also their debating skills, the way they talk to each other to get their point across, and how quickly they get through votes.

Whether they end up pursuing a career in politics or not – these are skills that are transferable into the workplace.

Their enthusiasm, respect for each other and interest, reassures me that democracy is in safe hands.

Sir Lindsay



A few words from our MPs !

Some reflections from our Pupil Parliament.

Year 2

"To be in the Pupil Parliament has been amazing. When I got voted in I was amazed."

Noah

Year 6

"I had the best experience of my life seeing my friends and myself on TV."

Marnie

Year 5

"Never would I have thought that Sky TV and ITV would be in our school and it was so exciting meeting Sir Lindsay Hoyle."

Jacob

"Being on the Pupil Parliament has always been my dream. It feels so good to be able to make a difference in our school and to know that I can really be a help."

Ellie

"It is great to be in the Pupil Parliament this year and to help all my friends in school. It is a good feeling when you know you are making a difference."

Jacob

"I am really excited to be in the one-of-a-kind Pupil Parliament that can definitely make changes."

Joseph

Media Spotlight:

The Speaker's visit generated plenty of media interest, with both ITV and Sky news visiting school to cover the event.

"It was nerve wracking being in front of the cameras but it was exciting too. I really enjoyed it."

Ellie

About our Pupil Parliament

All our MPs were elected by their respective classes after putting themselves forward, holding hustings and presenting why they were the best candidate for the position.

Children not involved directly in the pupil parliament meetings are encouraged to raise any issues they feel passionately about with their class MPs or by putting a note in the suggestion box, which will be picked up in a pupil parliament meeting.

The next round of elections will take place in the summer term to allow the new MPs time to shadow the current cabinet and learn how the Pupil Parliament runs.

"Pupil Parliament has given the children their own voice in school and has empowered them to put forward ideas that make real changes for the benefit of themselves and others. It is great to see how passionately they take part in the democratic process."

Mr Cahalin



Our MPs this year are:

Primary Minister

Eliza Y6

Deputy Primary Minister

Felix Y6

Speakers of the House

Sophia Y6

Alice Y6

Hansard (official record keepers)

Ellie Y6

Victoria Y6

Minister for Education

Marnie Y6

Department of Education

Matilda Y1

Noah Y2

Clara Y3

Sophia Y6

Minister for the Environment

Winter Y6

Department of the Environment

Lilah Y3

Nathaniel Y4,

Alice Y6

Felix Y6

Minister for Catholic Life

Joseph Y6

Department of Catholic Life

Annie Y1

Olivia Y4

Jacob Y5

Eliza Y6

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Patch Y6

Department of Health and Wellbeing

Harper Y2

Erin Y5

Ellie Y6

Victoria Y6

"The Pupil Parliament enables the children of St Mary's to experience democracy in action, to know that their voices are heard and to understand that they can bring about change."

Mr Smyth





Watch again:

Politicians of the future?

If you missed the school featuring on ITV news on Monday – or just want to watch it again – then it's available on the ITV website.





Other ways to get involved

As we aim to give all our children a rich experience whilst at St Mary's there are plenty of other ways for pupils to get involved in school activities.

This includes:

- a wide range of sporting activities, clubs and competitions (athletics, fencing, judo, cross-country running, football, netball)
- regular fund-raising activities such as the Good Shepherd appeal during lent and CAFOD Live Simply
- clubs and groups, including science club and choir

If there are other things children would like to see made available then that would be a perfect item to pursue through the Pupil Parliament.

Upcoming

The school will feature across Sky News' social media channels today and will feature in Sky Kids FYI weekly news show from tomorrow.



St Mary's on socials

The school features on the Speaker's Instagram and X accounts this week.

Click the icons below to view Sir Lindsay's posts.



And in other political news...

Purr Minister

It's not just our children recreating parliament!

Coinciding with UK Parliament Week, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home are poised to announce the winner of their 2024 Purr Minister campaign.

Sir Lindsay's cat Attlee is one of the lead cat-didates, with a very strong Manifursto.

In support of his campaign, a bespoke, specially crafted St Mary's toy was crocheted by Alice L and presented to Sir Lindsay during his visit. We're assured his politically ambitious feline friend Attlee loves it!

With Christ we live, we love, we learn and we grow

chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk | office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk

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