



St Mary's Catholic School

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where everyone can succeed



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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are safe and well.

Thank you very much for your continued, excellent support this term.

We are very proud of our students across all year groups and, despite the ongoing disruption caused to many families by the COVID-19 pandemic, students continue to work hard in lessons, demonstrating superb commitment and effort to their studies. Additionally, our Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to work very hard in preparing for their planned summer examinations.

Our students also demonstrate impressive commitment to a wide variety of extra-curricular and spiritual development opportunities and during the spring-term, there have been some incredible achievements. Our first school production since the pandemic began took place, with a hugely successful production of the **'Sound of Music'**. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers and other friends of the school, coming along to support our students during the 4 evening performances. Both the students performing in the musical, as well as the students in our school orchestra, were an absolute credit to the school and the standard of their performances were truly outstanding. It was a delight to see the students' joy and enthusiasm each night and we look forward to many more musical performances in the future.

We have also enjoyed some wonderful competitive success within our enrichment programme. In the prestigious **National Schools Chess Championships**, St Mary's 'A' team won against the Royal Grammar School, to claim a place in the national final. St Mary's will represent the entire north-east region in the final in July. This will be the first time in over 40 years that a state school has represented the NE in this final and we understand that we are the only state school amongst the 16 finalists. The final is likely to be held at Eton College or Uppingham School. Further to this, we also recently won the regional heat of the **National Schools Team Chess Challenge** and therefore we will compete in the national finals of this competition at Imperial College, London in September. Last week, we also had amazing success in boys and girls football. Our **Year 11 boys' football team won the City Cup** against St Cuthbert's and our **Year 10 girls' football team won the City Cup** against Benfield School. A huge well done to all of the students involved in these amazing achievements.

There continues to be a wealth of opportunities for our students in the wider life of the school and it is lovely to see so many students participating in these activities. Over the next week or two we will be publishing our latest Shine Bulletin and the spring-term St Mary's Newsletter on our school website and so please do peruse these updates. They share just a small sample of the many wonderful accomplishments of our students during the spring term. Please do also follow the school twitter account at **@StMarysNewc**, where we share daily posts to celebrate our students' achievements.

Thank you also to our dedicated staff team who have continued to provide excellent support and care for our students throughout this term, including leading all of the extra-curricular opportunities in school.

I wish you a wonderful and restful Easter break with your friends and families.

Very best wishes,

Miss Patterson
Headteacher