

St Mary's



NEWSLETTER

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Bonjour La France!

50 Year 8 students have spent the week in the north of France immersing themselves in French culture. They have explored the sights of Paris, spoken French at a local market and sampled French cuisine including snails and frogs legs. They have completed scavenger hunts, team games and visited the local village of Montdidier. The students have had a fantastic time and have been a credit to the school.



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Headteacher's welcome

Welcome to our latest St Mary's newsletter. We have had another really enjoyable and busy fortnight in school, with a wide range of activities and enrichment taking place.

Some of our Year 8 students have travelled to Normandy in France, our Year 12 students have enjoyed a 'Day of Aspiration' and many of our Year 11 and 13 students have completed presentations for their Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We also had a very successful Year 6 Open Evening, for prospective parents and students. We welcomed about 1,000 visitors to St Mary's and feedback was exceptionally positive. Thank you so much to our staff team and students who supported at the evening.

Have a lovely week.

Very best wishes,
Miss Patterson, Headteacher.

Reading for Pleasure

We place great emphasis on the importance of reading, not only because it is important in terms of academic achievement, but also because we know the lifelong pleasure which a love of reading can bring.

There are many things we do within school to engender a love of reading, including our Form Time reading programme. Students read a fantastic selection of fiction as part of this programme. From Phil Earl's WWII novel "When the Sky Falls" in Y8 to Andrea Levy's critically acclaimed account of post War Britain "Small Island" in Y12, each text has been carefully chosen so that students hear from a diverse range of voices.

Dr Richardson, our Librarian, has also selected titles linked to our Form Class reading books which are on display in the library, so that students can try similar books and continue their reading journey. Throughout the year, there will be many more events and opportunities linked to reading for pleasure.

Crochet Club

As part of their Student Leadership Scheme, some of our Year 13 students have started to run a Crochet Club to dispel myths around crocheting.



Outstanding Basketballers



Congratulations to Abigail Stempczyk (Year 8), Jaiden Ncube (Year 11) and Nick Armstrong (Year 11) who are all incredible Basketball players! Abigail has been chosen for the Newcastle Eagles U14 Academy Basketball Team, Jaiden has been accepted onto the 5STARUK Basketball Camp, which is based in Valencia, and Nick has been selected to play for the Newcastle Eagles Basketball Academy. Well done to all 3 students!

Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentations

On 21st September, Year 13 students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award gave presentations to parents, teachers and fellow participants in the main hall. It was great to hear each group talking about their different experiences during the four-day expedition in North Yorkshire last July. Well done to everyone who took part!



Anne Frank Ambassador

Many congratulations to Jan Siemens in Year 10. He has been selected to become an Anne Frank Ambassador as part of their Youth Empowerment Programme. This is a wonderful achievement and the Trust were very impressed by Jan's application and praised him for showing commitment and passion in developing his voice in challenging prejudice and discrimination. Well done Jan!



Year 12 Day of Aspiration

Last week, all of our Year 12 participated in our annual Year 12 Day of Aspiration. The group tasks throughout the day allowed our students to develop their team-working skills whilst also allowed them to set goals for the future.



Sunderland AFC star!

Niamh Boothroyd in Year 12 signed a contract with Sunderland AFC Women's Team in the summer and is now playing for both their Under-21 and Under-23 teams, despite only being 16! Niamh has scored 5 goals in 6 matches for the teams. An incredible achievement! Well done Niamh!



England Handball Talent Pathway

Oliver Cass, Brendan Fisher, Joseph Meachery and Zach Barbieri (Year 11) have been selected for the England Handball Talent Pathway.

The boys will be part of the England Handball Regional Academy and will have access to the following: Performance sessions, Academy tournaments, Sport Science support, Performance camps, Coach Reviews and goal setting support.

A superb achievement- well done!

Upcoming dates and events ...

Monday 9th Oct- Wed 11th Oct: Year 12 Biology visit to Ambleside

Tuesday 10th October: Year 7 Cross Country Competition

Wednesday 18th October: Visit from Dutch Students

Friday 20th October: Duke of Edinburgh Sixth Form Conference

Monday 16th October: Year 11 Parents' Evening (in school)

Wednesday 8th November: Year 7/12 Meet the Tutor Evening (in school)