



# St Mary's



## Remembrance

At St Mary's, we commemorate Remembrance Day in many ways. There is a 'Field of Remembrance' display in the Atrium and Remembrance Services are held for every year group. Students lead prayers and readings, sing and play in the choir and orchestra, and take part in a two-minute silence following the 'Last Post'. Students who belong to different uniformed groups such as the Cadets, also wear their uniform and participate in the laying of wreaths.

We feel it is very important for our students and staff team to come together as a school community to remember the sacrifices made for our freedoms today. It is an opportunity for us to reflect on the human cost of war, from the First World War through to more recent and current conflicts and to keep all involved in our thoughts and prayers.

## NEWSLETTER

<https://twitter.com/StMarysNewc>



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## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our students continue to contribute brilliantly to the wider life of the school. This includes wonderful participation in our Remembrance Services today. It was wonderful to see students from Years 7 to 13 involved in all aspects of the services. A huge well done to all involved for providing such a memorable occasion for our St Mary's school community.

We also enjoyed our Year 7 and Year 12 'Meet the Tutor' Evening this week and it was fantastic to see so many parents and carers in school, meeting with Form Tutors.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Very best wishes,  
Miss Patterson, Headteacher.

## International footballer!

Niamh Boothroyd in Year 12 made her international football debut for the Northern Ireland Under 17s last weekend (playing against England).

She is only one of two players in the North-east to be playing international football in her age group and, therefore, this really is an incredible achievement. Huge congratulations to Niamh!



## Dutch School Visit

Before the half-term break in October, 63 students and 5 teachers from the Het Schoter School in Haarlem, Netherlands, visited St Mary's. Year 8 students in History and English warmly welcomed our Dutch visitors in the Activity Studio during lunchtime. As soon as the Dutch students arrived, there was a buzz of excitement as the two sets of students mingled and chatted to each other without any prompting. The noise of talking and laughter filled the room for a full hour. It was the highlight of the day.

In the afternoon, the Dutch students paired up with St Mary's students and joined timetabled Maths lessons. For the final period of the day, the Dutch teachers volunteered to deliver a lesson on the Netherlands, sharing general knowledge with our students about their country.

The visit was a huge success. It was a positive experience for everyone involved, not least the students from the two schools. We are already looking forward to next year's visit.

## Pope John Paul II Award

We are delighted that a group of Year 12 students are completing the Pope John Paul II Award this year. To complete the award, students will be supporting local places of worship and working towards raising social awareness. Students keep a record of all their activities and at the end of the year, reflect on the impact they have made.





## **Entrepreneurial Insights Event**

***This article was written by Haris Ilyas in Year 12***

On Friday 20th October, our Sixth Form Business class took a trip to the NEI CAN event focused on entrepreneurial insights in the Catalyst Building, Newcastle University. Four amazing speakers presented to us about their business journeys and how they got to where they are today. Anna Hedworth is the owner of two successful restaurants, Charlie Hoult runs several businesses including Hoult's Yard in Byker, Michaela Reaney is the co-founder of Opportunity Global and Caroline Crawford operates and owns Moody Haulage and Logistics. I found their stories extremely fascinating and insightful and thought their advice was very useful in helping my career choices for the future. It was very inspiring to hear the real-life stories and experiences that these entrepreneurs have gone through and I found it very interesting that some of them had no intention of starting a business but ended up with lots of success. Overall, it was a great experience and it really broadened my understanding of business.



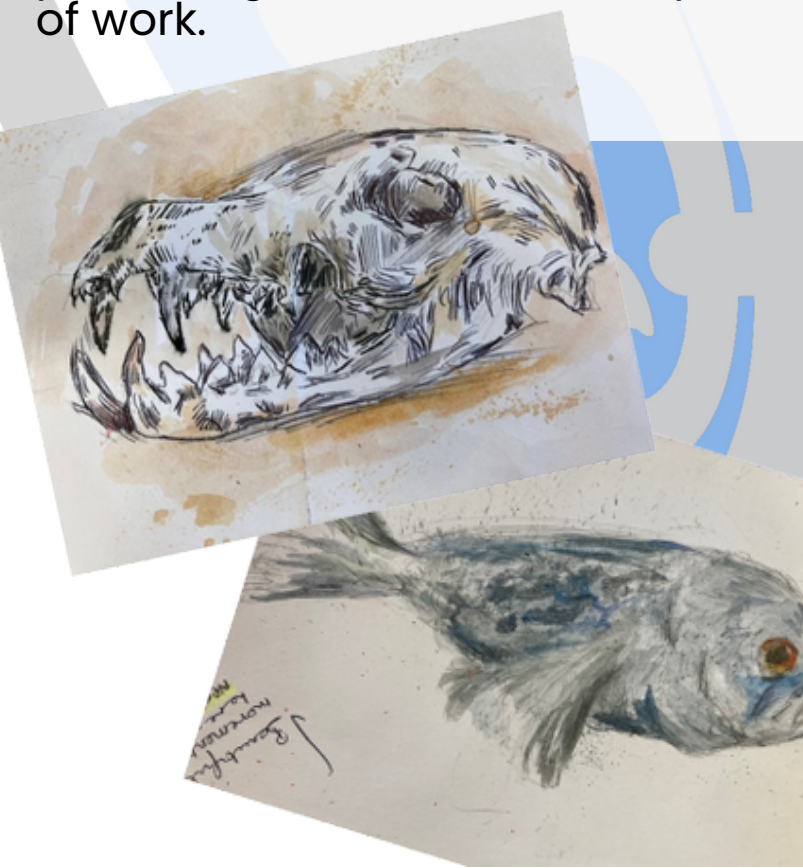
# Metacognition and more ...

Teachers at St Mary's are always keen to reflect on their practice and develop their knowledge of different teaching strategies. This year we have already had a number of workshops and whole staff sessions in which we look at the most recent research findings on effective teaching and learning strategies.

One strand we are focusing on this year is metacognition, which involves asking students to think about their own thinking in order to better plan, monitor and evaluate their learning. Evidence shows that this can have a really positive impact on a student's progress and can help them become more independent in their learning.

## Focusing on ..... DT

In Design & Technology, students this term have been focusing on developing their skills across a wide range of areas. This has included Year 8 students researching Morag Myerscough, a British artist, who focusses on bold and distinctive designs. Students have presented their work in her iconic styles producing brilliant and bold pieces of work.



## Focusing on ..... Art

In Art, students have been exploring the work of Duncan Cameron and developing their use of watercolour, ink, and pen. This has involved students creating observational drawings of leaves, shells, and bones. Students have thoroughly enjoyed this topic and have created fantastic observations of their own.



## Mindfulness Club

A welcome addition to the wider life of the school this year has been our Mindfulness Club.

This weekly activity, run by Year 12 students as part of their Student Leadership Scheme, allows students the chance to participate in different activities to help their mental health. This week, the students have been doing some colouring in!



## Upcoming dates and events ...

**Friday 17th November:** Year 11 Mock Exams start and last until Tuesday 28th November

**Friday 24th November:** This is an INSET day for the staff team, therefore, no students are in school

**Wednesday 29th November:** Year 13 Mock Exams start and last until Tuesday 12th December

**Monday 11th December:** Year 12/13 Parents' Evening (in school)