

# St Mary's

NEWSLETTER



## Prayers and Wishes Tree

To get ready for the festive period, students in the Inclusion Suite have set up a 'Prayers and Wishes Tree'.

Anyone who visits the Inclusion Suite is encouraged to write a prayer or a wish for a friend or loved one and hang it on the tree.

<https://twitter.com/StMarysNewc>





# Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well. Students and staff are very much enjoying the Advent season in school and we look forward to our Advent Fayres and Advent Liturgies, as well as the Christmas Music Concert. It is wonderful to see students enthusiastically collecting hampers for those in need, as well as raising funds for next year's Zambia Expedition by making and selling Christmas Wreaths.

The letter below came into school earlier this term from His Majesty's Chief Inspector at Ofsted. It is to congratulate the entire school community for our 'Outstanding' judgement. Many thanks for all of your support in helping St Mary's to achieve this.

Very best wishes,  
Miss Patterson,  
Headteacher.

## Registration Reading

This week has seen the launch of our Registration Reading intervention programme.

Our Sixth Form Reading Mentors have been meeting with some year 7 and 8 students to support them with this important skill. They will meet once a week to read a book together over the rest of the school year.

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6 November 2023

Ms Emma Patterson  
Headteacher  
St Mary's Catholic School  
Benton Park Road  
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**Amanda Spielman**  
His Majesty's Chief Inspector

Our ref: 499810

*Dear Ms. Patterson*

I am writing to say how pleased I am that St Mary's Catholic School has received an outstanding judgement following its most recent Ofsted inspection.

The inspection framework sets a high bar for being judged outstanding, which makes it a challenging and exacting standard to achieve. I would therefore like to commend you and your team on your exceptional work. I hope that you and your whole school community are very proud.

I wish you every success in the months and years ahead.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

*Amanda Spielman*

**Amanda Spielman**  
His Majesty's Chief Inspector



## Aspiring Writers visit Newcastle's Lit and Phil Library

Recently a group of aspiring young writers from St Mary's visited the Literary and Philosophical Society in Newcastle. Located near Central Station and known as the "Lit & Phil", the independent library has been a hub for learning and enlightenment for hundreds of years. Some of our students were very excited to find a 1920s copy of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, a novel they are studying in school.

After exploring the library, students took part in a writing workshop, in preparation for entering the library's young writers' competition which we had huge success in last year. Staff at the library who ran the workshops were very impressed with our students, describing them as "such a talented and keen group"!

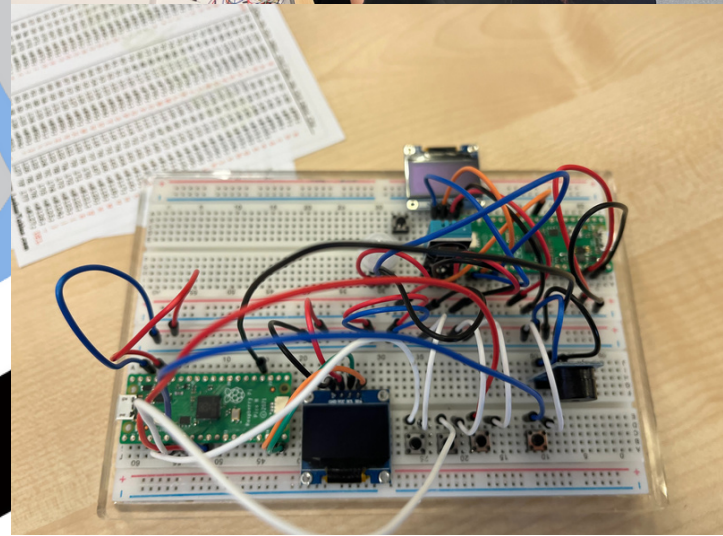
We can't wait to read some of their creative writing!

## Computer Science Taster Session

Our Year 12 Computer Science and IT students recently had the chance to experience life studying Computer Science at university.

Academics from the University of Sunderland came into the Sixth Form to deliver a taster workshop of the kind of workshop students would have at university.

The students really enjoyed themselves as they had the chance to build and code a weather station.





## St Mary's Running Club

### Making big strides, no matter the weather

There is no better a way to end the week than running club. Every Friday evening after school, a group of St Mary's students go on a run with Miss Gardiner and Miss Curran. Rain and storms have not stopped us from being out in the fresh air. We do a range of training sessions on and off site.

Anyone and everyone is always welcome to join in the fun at running club. No prior experience of running is required and any ability is welcome. Just turn up on a Friday evening at the PE changing rooms with a pair of trainers and sportswear and get ready to meet new people from a range of year groups.



## Senior Maths Challenge

Recently our Year 13 maths students completed the Senior Maths Challenge being awarded prizes of Gold, Silver and Bronze.

Well done to all students who entered the challenge.





## Sir Charles Parsons School Visit

Some of our Year 12 students have visited the Sir Charles Parsons School to see some of the Year 7 students who will be coming to St Mary's for their Christmas party in a few weeks time.

The students have also been fundraising in school over the past few weeks, raising over £120 to purchase Christmas gifts for the students.

## Sixth Form Open Evening

The Sixth Form Open Evening took place on Thursday 23rd November. We were delighted to welcome so many of our Year 11 students and parents, as well as many students from other schools. There were hundreds of visitors during the evening.

Mr Turnbull, Assistant Headteacher Sixth Form, shared information about all aspects of Sixth Form life and two of our Year 12 and 13 students, Molly and Bryle also gave speeches.

Students and parents were also able to visit all of the different subject areas in Key Stage 5.



Students currently in Year 11 will get a chance to select their KS5 course choices in January 2024 when they return after the Christmas break. Further information on the different areas of Sixth Form life can be found on the school website.



## Physics Trip

Last week some of our Year 12 Science students visited Northumbria University.

The students had a tour of the Maths, Engineering and Physics Department and got to build their own amplifier and speaker system!



## Upcoming dates and events ...

**Monday 11th December:** Year 12/13 Parents' Evening (in school) - all students finish early at 2.00pm or 2.10pm

**Tuesday 12th December:** Some Y11 students are visiting a local synagogue

**Tuesday 12th December - Wednesday 20th December:** Advent Fayres in school raising money for local charities

**Wednesday 13th December - Monday 18th December:** Each year group will attend an Advent Liturgy in school

**Friday 15th December:** Some students are visiting a local foodbank

**Tuesday 19th December:** Charles Parsons Christmas Party

**Thursday 21st December:** Afternoon tea for local parishes 1.30pm-3.00pm

Christmas Music Concert at 6.00pm

**Friday 22nd December:** End of term- Year 12/13 students will leave at 12.15pm, other students will be dismissed from 1.30pm

**Years 9 - 13 Achievement 1 Reports:** These will be emailed to parents/carers before the end of term