

St Mary's

NEWSLETTER

LEAN INTO THE LIGHT



St Mary's Christmas Music Concert

On Wednesday evening, we were thrilled to welcome parents, carers, governors, families and friends to St Mary's for our Christmas Music Concert. The evening was a tremendous success! Our sincerest appreciation and congratulations go out to all students and staff who participated in making this event such a memorable one.

The concert showcased an array of beautiful festive music that left us feeling inspired and uplifted. The quality of singing and music was wonderful. Over 140 students participated, and every ensemble, choir, band, and orchestra played brilliantly. All the students had prepared and practised thoroughly and produced the most beautiful music. It was a truly magical occasion which left everyone in a festive mood.



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2023. A huge well done to our students and staff team for all of their incredible efforts this term.

Also, a huge thank you to all of the students, teachers and support staff who have contributed so brilliantly to our Advent Fayres, Advent Liturgies, Christmas Services and Christmas Music Concert. We have enjoyed a wonderful Advent at St Mary's.

May I wish all students, staff, parents and carers a very peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Very best wishes,
Miss Patterson, Headteacher.

Advent Liturgies

As we move through Advent, one of the most important points in our liturgical calendar is our Advent Liturgies. The theme for our liturgies and Advent this year is 'Lean into the light'.

The liturgies this year have been planned and led by our Sixth Form Spirituality Team and they were an excellent opportunity for our students to fully reflect on Advent.

Well done to everyone involved in these services.



Fun at the Advent Fayre

This week, Year 12 have been getting into the festive spirit by running their Advent Fayre during lunchtime. There were many activities on offer, such as ring toss and darts, as well as items to buy. Over £100 was raised for CAFOD in just under 30 minutes. Well done Year 12!



Visit to the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art

Last month, Year 12 and 13 art students visited the Baltic Centre to carry out contextual research for their portfolios. Students looked at a range of works in the gallery's archives and library, which they then used to inform their own personal projects. We also found time to look at the art works currently on display in the touring exhibitions. This led to lots of interesting discussions. A great day all round!



Merry Mathsmas!

On 5th December, all of Year 7 took part in a Virtual workshop entitled "Merry Mathsmas" with the team from Think Maths. They spent two hours doing festive maths activities, including learning how to read someone's mind with a number card trick, working out how any shape with straight sides can be cut out with a single straight cut, and how many crackers are optimal for Christmas Dinner. The students all had a great time and left with lots of ideas to try out with their families.

Year 10 and Year 11 also took part in a virtual maths quiz with the Advanced Maths Support Programme.



Student Alumni Visit

Recently, the students in the Sixth Form were visited by one of our ex-students, Lucas. Lucas, who is currently studying Philosophy and Computer Science at the University of Oxford, came back to St Mary's to discuss what life is like at an Oxbridge university and he gave some helpful hints and tips on how to successfully apply to these institutions. It was also great for members of staff to catch-up on how Lucas is getting on at university and life after St Mary's.



Zambia Fundraising

With their expedition to Zambia only 6 months away, fundraising for this expedition has been taking place in the school.

Year 12 students have been making bespoke Christmas wreaths in workshops and during whole school events. More fundraising will take place in the new year.



Podcast Club

Please head to our school website to listen to the most recent instalment of our Podcast series. In this episode, students make their predictions about what they think the world will look like in 50 years! A huge well done to all of the fantastic students involved: Clement Brophy, Alice Bailey, Liam Organ, Adam Allen, Daniel Hogarth and Gilson Vieira Ribeiro.

Christmas Services

In the last week of the term, students have been gathering together in our Christmas Services. This has given the students time together to sing carols, reflect on their time in Advent and spread a bit of festive joy.



Christmas Jumper Day

This week the Sixth Form have been getting into the Christmas spirit and raising money for the charity 'Save the Children' by wearing their best (and worst) Christmas jumpers. Both students and staff raised over £250 for charity.



Sir Charles Parsons School Party

This week students in Year 12 hosted a Christmas party for Year 7 students from the local Sir Charles Parsons School. The students have spent weeks fundraising for festive items for the party and put on a lovely party all afternoon. This included fun party activities like pass the parcel and karaoke. All students, big and small, loved the party and left feeling very festive. Well done to all involved.



Child Learning and Development Taster Session

Recently the University of Sunderland came into the Sixth Form to run a taster session on what it would be like to study Child Learning, Play and Development at university. It was on the festive theme of children's books.



Upcoming dates and events ...

Tuesday 9th January 2024: All students in Years 7-13 return to school following the Christmas break.