

St Mary's



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Diocesan Inter-Faith Holocaust Memorial Evening

On Tuesday 23rd January, we were honoured to host the Diocesan Inter-Faith Holocaust Memorial Evening, attended by Bishop Stephen, Rabbi Aaron and many other distinguished guests.

We were delighted to welcome guest speaker, Deanna Van Der Velde, who shared her parents' story as part of this annual Holocaust Commemoration.

St Mary's students provided the music and choir for the evening, as well as leading some of the readings, and they were wonderful ambassadors for the school. An immense thank you to everyone involved in such a memorable evening (photos overleaf).



Diocesan Inter-Faith Holocaust Memorial Evening, Tuesday 23rd January 2024



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

We were delighted to see so many strengths being celebrated during the Catholic School Inspection last week and we look forward to sharing the report with parents, once finalised. As always, our students and staff were an absolute credit to the school.

We were also pleased to welcome home safely our students and staff from the Ski trip! They had a brilliant time. Furthermore, we were very honoured to host the Diocesan Inter-Faith Holocaust Memorial Evening last week. Thank you so much to those who were able to come along.

Finally, we are looking forward to our school musical production of Grease in the final week of this half-term.

Very best wishes,
Miss Patterson, Headteacher.





Year 9 Ski Trip

On Saturday 13th January, 49 Year 9 students and 5 staff jetted off to Les Menuires in the French Alps for a week long skiing adventure.

For many of the students this was their first experience of not only a skiing holiday, but also the first time away on an international school trip, so the excitement was understandably high. Following touch down at Geneva airport and a picturesque coach transfer, we arrived at the Hotel Skilt which would be our home for the next 7 days. The hotel was perfectly positioned on the edge of the piste which the students all agreed was a real benefit.

Everything about the hotel was perfect, from the staff to the food served and to the evening activities that the students participated in – a great time was had by all. The skiing was also superb. The runs were varied and catered to all abilities and we were even lucky enough to have some beautiful sunny days. Every single student was amazing and, with the help and support of the French Ski School, improved their skiing ability. Most importantly, everyone had a great time and many of the students can't wait to go back.

Sixth Form Football Tournament

The first edition of the Sixth Form five-a-side tournament was hosted by the PE department recently.

The tournament, which will run every half term, was a big hit with the students as they got to compete against each other.



Crazy for Coding

In a world which is increasingly reliant upon digital technologies and advanced computing systems, coding is a vital skill, and many of our students are proving to be experts at it.

Recently, students from across Years 9-11 took part in the Perse Coding Challenge. Working in teams, they battled against the clock to complete a range of programming challenges. All students are hopeful of securing a place in the next round which takes place in March.

We have also recently launched a Girl's Coding club. The club aims to challenge some of the perceptions and stereotypes typically associated with coding. Year 12 student Samantha Bernasol said "The club will really help to encourage girls into the Computer Science side of STEM".

Preparing For Next Steps

Recently, Dr Jackie Watson from the University of Oxford came into the Sixth Form to run workshops with our Year 12 students. This included looking at how to make a competitive application to universities including Oxford and Cambridge, as well as completing a critical thinking session with students to give them a taste of the university experience. Dr Watson also introduced the University of Oxford residential trip which will be open to Sixth Form students in the summer. Dr Watson will be returning after Easter to work with KS4 students and we look forward to these sessions.



Key Stage 5 STEM Club

2024 has seen the relaunch of the Key Stage 5 STEM Club with sessions already being held on the 'the Future of Farming', where students had the chance to learn about modern farming methods, and 'Re-Wilding Nature', where students debated the concept and had the chance to win their own re-wilding seeds. In addition, Newcastle City Council ran a session looking at STEM based jobs open to people in its organisation. We look forward to more events in the upcoming weeks with the Sixth Form students.





Year 10/11 Drama Workshop

Ahead of seeing a performance of Blood Brothers, Year 10 and 11 Drama students attended a workshop in school with actor Joe Sleight who is currently playing Edward Lyons in the GCSE set text.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and the amazing performance.



Upcoming dates and events ...

Monday 12th–Thursday 15th February: School Musical Production of Grease

Friday 16th February: Final day of school before our half-term break.

Monday 26th February: All students return to school following half-term break.

Monday 11th March: Year 9 Parents' Evening (in school)