

St Mary's



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NEWSLETTER

School Musical

An amazing cast and orchestra of 90 students have given an exceptional performance this week in our production of Grease. They have wowed audiences and there has been a sell-out crowd every evening. The talent on display was simply astounding and the joyous performance from students was wonderful.

Many other students and staff also contributed to preparations for the musical, as well as helping behind the scenes. Almost £600 was also raised for Macmillan Cancer Support via fundraising. A huge well done and thank you to everyone involved, including the St Mary's Drama and Music departments.



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Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another busy and successful half-term with so much going on in school.

There have been a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities for students, including many clubs, retreats, field trips and educational visits.

We have also had our whole school musical this week and this was a tremendous success. We are so proud of all of the students involved in the performance, as well as those who contributed behind the scenes.

We also had our very successful Catholic Schools Inspection. I hope you enjoyed reading the final report that I sent home yesterday. Furthermore, we launched our new mission statement, 'Shining together in faith, joy and love'. We look forward to our students and staff team continuing to shine together after the break. Have a wonderful half-term holiday.

Very best wishes,
Miss Patterson, Headteacher.

Why Oxbridge?

This week, representatives from Corpus Christi College, the University of Cambridge, came into school to speak to students in Year 10 about life at university and applying for either the University of Cambridge or Oxford.



Calvert Kielder

Our students in Year 12 have been given the opportunity through the Duke of Edinburgh Award to run the Great North Run this year for the Calvert Kielder charity. Students had an introduction to the charity this week and applications are now open for this exciting opportunity.



Year 7 Retreat

Last week Year 7 students attended a two-night retreat at the Youth Village, Consett. The theme of the retreat was 'Lost and Found' and this was explored through a variety of workshops. Bracelets were made as gifts for others, students designed a campaign for build a better Newcastle and the themes of Catholic Social Teaching were explored.



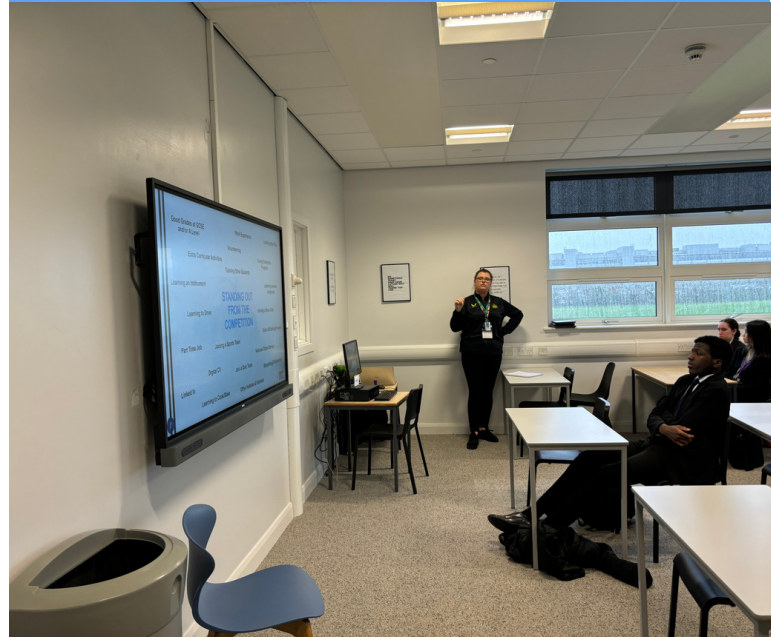
Law Society

This week in the Sixth Form, we were fortunate to have a law lecturer, Tony Storey, from Northumbria University lead a workshop with the Law Society on criminal law and various criminal cases that have taken place in the past 12 months. The students enjoyed the ability to discuss these key cases.



NU Foundation

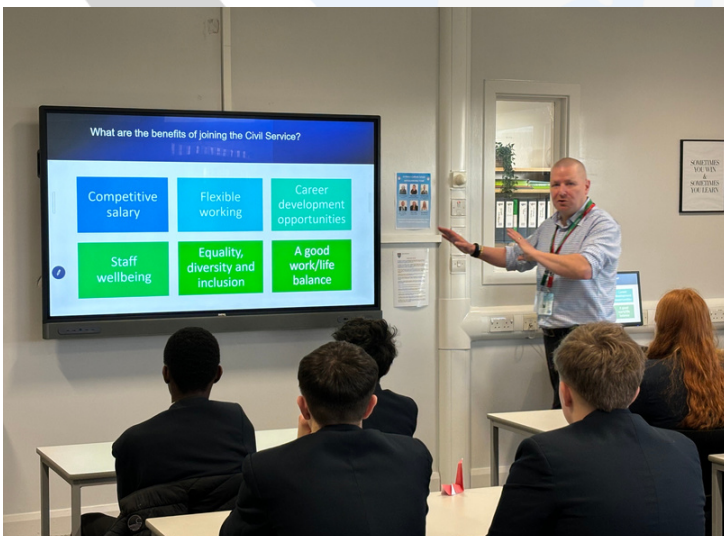
Our partnership with the Newcastle United Foundation continues to go from strength to strength. This week, the NU Foundation have been working with students in Year 12 looking at how to develop their CV and employability skills.



National Apprenticeship Week

Last week was National Apprenticeship Week, and this was marked at St Mary's in a number of ways. Students completed activities in Tutor Time to look at apprenticeships and the opportunities they bring. In addition, a number of sessions took place with local apprenticeship providers such as the Department of Work and Pensions, and WSP Engineering.

Our students loved the opportunity to speak to current apprentices in the working world and it sparked thoughts about what paths to take in the future.





Maths Challenge Success!

Recently a number of students took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge run by the UK Maths Trust.

The challenge involves 25 multiple choice questions which students have an hour to complete, and encourages mathematical reasoning and precision of thought to make students think.

Excellent results were achieved throughout many year groups with lots of students gaining Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates.

Hyunwoo Lee in Year 11 gained the best result in the school and in Year 11 and qualifies for the next round, as do Ruwaid Kokrees and Joshua Shields, also in Year 11. Jennifer Whittaker achieved the best score in Year 10, whilst Year 9 student Grace Young achieved the highest score in her year group.



Upcoming dates and events ...

Monday 26th February: All students return after the half-term break

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

Monday 26th February - Friday 15th March: Year 11 Mock Exams

Monday 11th March - Friday 22nd March: Year 13 Mock Exams

Monday 18th March - Friday 22nd March: Lenten Liturgies

Tuesday 19th March - Friday 22nd March: Battlefields Trip to France and Belgium