

# St Mary's



NEWSLETTER

<https://twitter.com/StMarysNewc>  
ISSUE 11 - 8TH MARCH 2024

## Wilding Project

It is an exciting time of year for the Wilding Project as we focus our attention on our school grounds as they move into Spring. Currently, the group are looking at what provision we have for birds, insects and arachnids before turning their attention to creating a vision of what our grounds could resemble to ensure that we are a welcoming community for all.

## Fundraising for Zambia





## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the latest edition of our St Mary's Newsletter. I hope you had a lovely half-term break.

It is wonderful to see our students continuing to be so enthusiastically involved in all areas of school life and I hope you enjoy reading about many of the activities taking place in this newsletter.

As we move through Lent, we have a wealth of opportunities on offer for our students and we look forward to our Lenten Fayres and Liturgies at the end of this term.

Very best wishes,  
Miss Patterson, Headteacher.



## Mindfulness Club

The Mindfulness Club meets every Monday. The club gives students the opportunity to take a step back from the busyness of the day and think about other things. Each week at the Mindfulness Club, we do different activities, such as playing various board games or going to the chapel to do some colouring or drawing. Mindfulness is a wonderful activity that allows students to focus on their own wellbeing.





## Binfluencers!

Simone Ilao, Tristan Allan and Maya Iwan are delighted to have won 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the "Binfluencers" competition. Aluminium company Alupro asked students to design a recycling bin conveying a strong message about looking after our planet. There were over 200 entries from schools around the country. Simone, the overall winner, won an IPAD and £500 for supplies for the Art Department, with the others receiving Amazon vouchers. The students loved taking part. Well done to everyone involved!

## County Rugby Trio!

Congratulations to Annie, Ruth and Anna from Year 11 who recently represented the region, playing for Northumberland U16s against Cumbria and Durham. As well as playing for local team, Northern U16s, they've been part of the England Rugby Development Player Programme all season. We wish them the best of luck in their final County game against Lancashire in March!





## Nursing Event

Recently, our Health and Social Care department took our Year 12 students to a local event looking at a career in nursing and working for the different NHS hospitals in the region. The students loved the event as they considered the characteristics needed for different nurses in health care and the varied roles and responsibilities they hold.

## Year 7 Girls Football

In February, the Year 7 Girls' Football Team competed in their league games, playing three matches at Benfield School. The girls won all three games 5-0, 1-0 and 2-0, with some excellent performances individually and as a team collectively. The students sit at the top of the league and have a huge chance of going to the finals night later on this month. Goal scorers were Emily 3, Ella 3, Savannah 1. Well done!



## Work experience at Freeman Hospital

In preparation for starting the NHS Choices College supported internship programme, one of our Year 11 students, Vicki, has been doing work experience at the Freeman Hospital's Sterile Services Department. Vicki has had the opportunity to work alongside supportive staff and has fully immersed herself in the meticulous process of cleaning, sterilising and repackaging medical equipment. Vicki has found this a really enjoyable and educational experience and this has given her ambitions to pursue a career as a decontamination technician upon successful completion of her internship which she hopes to begin in September.





## Year 7 Boys Football

The Year 7 Boys' Football Team recently competed in the County Cup. The team played very well collectively and showed outstanding determination and resilience to come from behind 1-2 at half time, to score four goals in the second half to win 5-2. Goal scorers were Leo, Isaac, Sean, John and Emmanuel. Excellent effort!

## National Careers Week

This week has been National Careers Week, and plenty of activities have taken place in school to mark this. As well as students completing bespoke activities in Form Time, we have had a variety of workshops from local employers.

These have included representatives from the law firm Womble Bond Dickinson speaking about careers in the law sector, outreach offices from Accenture, focusing on how to apply for jobs and respected sports and fashion journalists talking to students about working in journalism.



# Parents and Carers Safeguarding Briefing

As a school, we continue to support you all as parents and carers with regards to safeguarding and support for your children. As such, we offer all parents and carers the opportunity to attend our 'Parental Safeguarding Briefings'. These termly sessions are remote and last around 30 minutes.

Our latest session took place this week, and looked at the themes of trauma, mental health and cyber crime. A recording of the session can be found on the school website.



## Parental Safeguarding Session

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

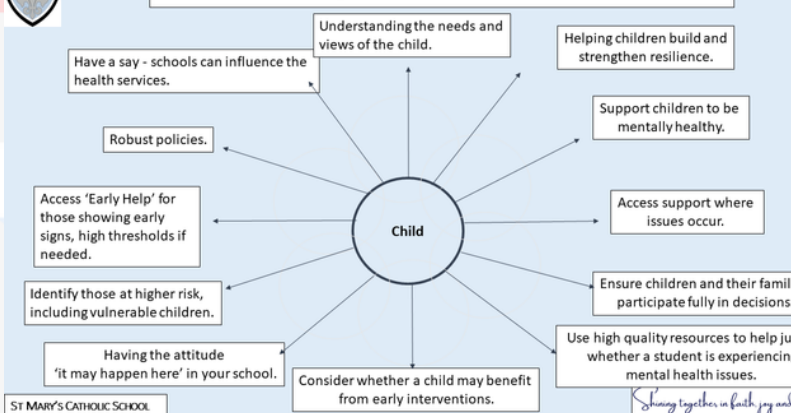


ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Shining together in faith, joy and...



## Schools Responsibilities Include...



## English Workshop

This week, lecturers from the English department of Newcastle University came into the Sixth Form to run a workshop on Shakespeare's theatre and King Lear. Students were asked to move around in the way actors would have moved around on Shakespeare's stage.



## Youth Council Elections

Our students are participating in the upcoming Youth Council elections in Newcastle and recently enjoyed a manifesto writing session delivered by Newcastle City Council.





## World Book Day

This Thursday, 7th March was World Book Day and the occasion was marked by a number of events and competitions in school run by both the English Department and the Library. All students will receive a book token which they can spend on special £1 editions of books created especially for the occasion. In Personal Development, students discussed the importance of reading for pleasure and some of the common barriers to reading for pleasure and how to overcome these. We also held the Big Book Vote which which reveal a lot about our reading tastes here at St Mary's. Look out for the latest episode of our St Mary's Podcast which will also focus on reading and which will feature teachers and students discussing their top reads!

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

7 MARCH 2024

### Upcoming dates and events ...

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

**Thursday 28th March:** Year 7-13 students break up for Easter holidays

**Monday 15th April:** Year 7-13 students return to school after the Easter break