

St Mary's

NEWSLETTER



Expedition Excitement

As we move through the summer term and the weather is warming up, many of our students are participating in different expeditions as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The scheme is attracting record numbers of students and recently Year 10 DofE students completed their Silver Award expedition, camping and hiking in the countryside near Blanchland. It is a great opportunity for students to develop resilience by carrying their own equipment, pitching their tents and cooking for themselves. Well done to all students and staff involved!

<https://twitter.com/StMarysNewc>

The Good Shepherd Mass

On Wednesday some of our school choir led the music for The Good Shepherd Mass at St Mary's Cathedral which was organised by St Cuthbert's Care. Many thanks to Mr Richardson and the students for all their work and for leading such uplifting music. Everyone at the Mass was very impressed.



Headteacher's welcome

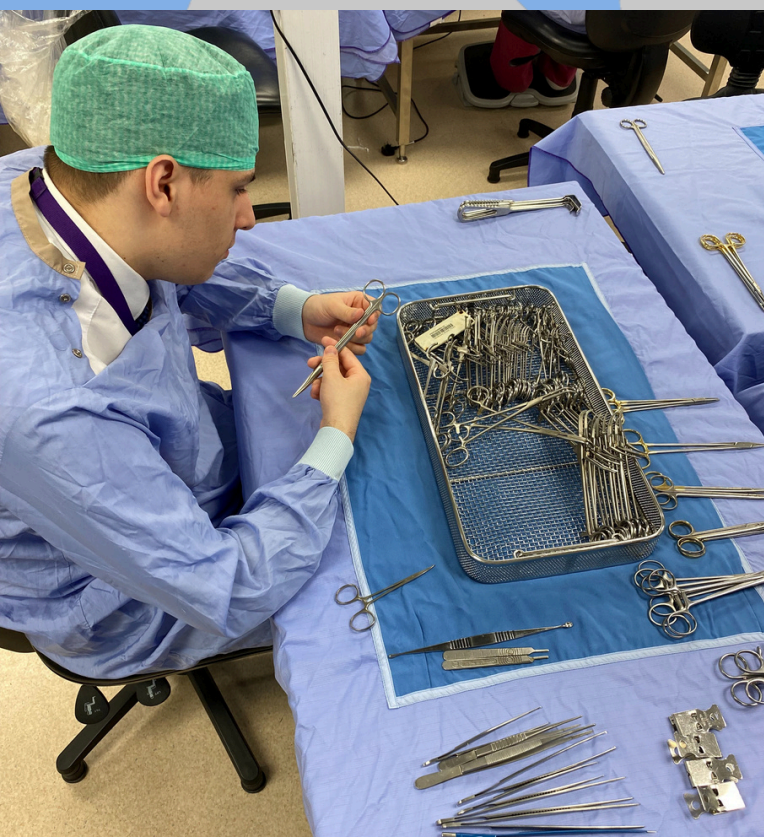
Dear Parents and Carers

Our students continue to work hard and contribute widely to all areas of school life. We are very proud of them. Over the last fortnight, our sports teams have enjoyed further success and many students have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme, including our Year 12 students completing a Gold Award expedition.

Next week, we have our Year 13 Leavers' celebrations, followed by our celebrations for Year 11 in a couple of weeks time. We wish all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students every possible success with their examinations.

I hope you enjoy the bank holiday weekend with your families.

Very best wishes,
Miss Patterson, Headteacher.



Work Experience

One of our Year 13 students, James Watson, has been making excellent progress on his NHS work experience. James attends this placement every Wednesday morning and he is based at the Freeman Hospital working as a Sterile Services Technician. James is really enjoying this varied and rewarding role which supports such important work at the hospital. James hopes to pursue this role next year when he leaves St Mary's.

Literary Success

Well done to Roshan Nnaji in Year 10 who recently took part in the Classics Fest event at the Lit and Phil Library in Newcastle upon Tyne. Roshan was praised by the organisers of the event for her creative contribution.



Medicine and Dentistry Society

Our Medicine and Dentistry Society recently welcomed two doctors currently working in local hospitals. The doctors discussed their experiences in healthcare with the students and gave them an insight into how to work in a multi-disciplinary team.



Cooking up a storm!

Of the many extra curricular clubs we offer at St Mary's, one that is proving increasingly popular is Cookery Club, run by Mrs Lawson in the Design and Technology department. So far this year, members of cookery club have been trying to cook increasingly challenging dishes as their culinary skills progress, and have developed from making simple meals such as poached eggs and pancakes to more complex dishes, including homemade ravioli and profiteroles. Students have discovered a love for cooking and are more confident when cooking at home. A special Sixth Form cookery club focuses on preparing for university life as the students learn to make quick but enjoyable meals such as gyros with their own fresh flatbreads and fun recipes like mug cakes and crinkle cookies.



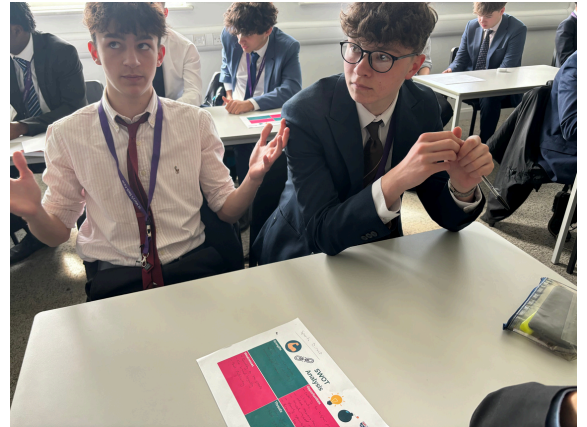
Engineers of the Future

Engineering is always a popular career destination to many of our students. So, we were delighted to welcome engineers from Equinor to discuss jobs in the renewable energy industry at Dogger Bank into the Sixth Form. In addition, the Engineering School at Newcastle University have also spoken to students about both the graduate and apprenticeship route into a career.



Subject Taster Sessions

As students in Year 12 come to decide on future career paths when they leave the Sixth Form. We have been able to host various subject taster sessions and workshops over the past few weeks including Criminology, Law and Marketing. These sessions give an insight into studying these subjects post-18.



Student Leadership Scheme

The Student Leadership Scheme completed by our Sixth Form students continues to go from strength to strength. One of the main programmes currently being run is the mentoring scheme where Sixth Form students provide advice and guidance to students both in KS4 and KS3 about how to thrive in school.

Another aspect of the scheme, is the Student Leadership Team, where students are given a responsibility for driving a change in different areas of school life close to their heart, such as mental health, academics, extra-curriculars, diversity and inclusion, and the environment. Recently, 30 student leaders were appointed in Year 12 ahead of the summer term. In the latest team meeting, Year 13 student leaders gave advice to their new colleagues about what programmes to lead over the next 12 months.





New Life Skills Group

Our LSAs have launched a new Life Skills Group which will meet every Wednesday lunchtime to learn a new practical skill and build our students' independence. This week the focus was on learning how to do the laundry.



Upcoming dates and events ...

Monday 6th May: Bank Holiday Monday

Friday 10th May: Year 13 students begin study leave

Friday 24th May: Year 11 students begin study leave (and half-term break begins)

Monday 3rd June: Year 8 Parents' Evening (online)

Monday 24th June: Year 7 Parents' Evening (in school)