



St Mary's

NEWSLETTER

Talented Tennis Players

After a successful tennis season, our Year 7 students qualified to play a County Final match against Ponteland High School. The boys played incredibly well but, unfortunately, lost the match to a strong Ponteland side. Well done to all students involved this season. You demonstrated amazing talent!

Best wishes from all of the students and staff team at St Mary's for a wonderful summer break!

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2023-2024. It has been an amazing year for St Mary's, with our students continuing to thrive, fulfilling their God-given gifts and talents in lessons and beyond.

Our students have also flourished in their service and fundraising for others. It was also lovely to see our excellent standards in all areas of school life- pastoral care, spiritual development, teaching and learning, behaviour, curriculum and Sixth Form- being recognised with 'Outstanding' judgements from both Ofsted and the Catholic Schools Inspection team.

We now look forward to our final two weeks of term and the summer holiday ahead. Have a wonderful summer break and thank you for your continued support this year.

Very best wishes,
Miss Patterson, Headteacher.



English Schools' Athletics

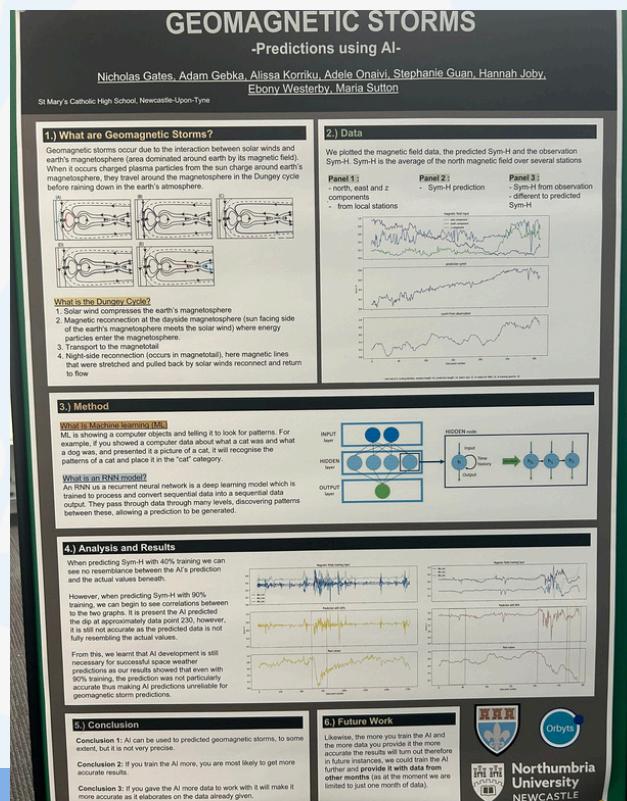
Congratulations to Olivia Spurr in Year 9 who competed in the Northumberland Schools Track and Field event at Hexham on Saturday 8th June. Olivia took part in both the 100m and 200m events. Olivia won the 100m final with a time of 12.8s and was so close to equaling the county record of 12.7s which has stood since 1996! Olivia also won the 200m final with a time of 27.0s which is a fantastic achievement. Olivia qualified for the Inter-County Championship, which took place at Gateshead Stadium on Saturday 15th June. Olivia competed for Northumberland Schools against athletes from North Yorkshire, Cumbria, Durham and Cleveland. She finished 3rd in the 100m and 2nd in the 200m. In both races, Olivia posted ES (Entry Standard) times, which is the minimum performance level required to be selected for a County Team. Olivia is now 1 of 24 athletes who will now represent the County at the English Schools AA Track and Field Championships at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. This is a fabulous achievement. Well done Olivia!



Flare to be different – Year 10 Scientists light up the ORBYTS project!

Year 10 students Nicholas Gates, Adam Gebka, Stephanie Guan, Alissa Korriku, Hannah Joby, Adele Onaivi, Maria Sutton, and Ebony Westerby have been carrying out research on predicting geomagnetic storms and solar flares using artificial intelligence technology, in order to predict the impact on our technological infrastructure. This work formed part of the ORBYTS Science project, an award winning initiative which aims to partner scientists with schools in order to empower students to undertake research and improve inclusivity in Science.

Last Tuesday the students visited Northumbria University in order to present their research via a presentation and research poster to a large audience, where it was very well received. This is a huge achievement as most of the other schools were represented by Sixth Form students. Well done to all students and thanks to Mr Elliott in the Science department for leading the project!





Spotlight on Maths

On Monday 1st July, some of our gifted Year 8 mathematicians visited Northumbria University to attend two workshops from senior lecturers on Fields of Numbers and Population Growth. They also had a tour of the facilities and spoke to current university students. The University staff were very impressed with their mathematical thinking and problem solving skills.

In other news from the Maths department, students from Year 4 and Year 6 from some of our feeder primary schools recently came into school for two enrichment mornings. They worked in teams on a range of different mathematical activities, including relays and group activities, culminating in some tricky Maths' challenges!

Year 4 students were supported by some of our Year 7 and Year 10 students for their event and the students were excellent ambassadors for St Mary's, demonstrating the collaborative spirit and enthusiasm for learning that we value here in school. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for these young mathematicians!



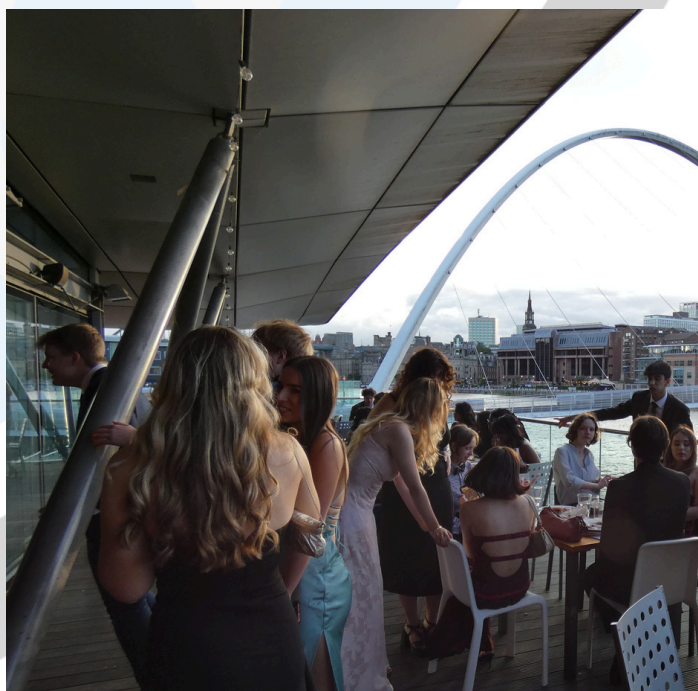
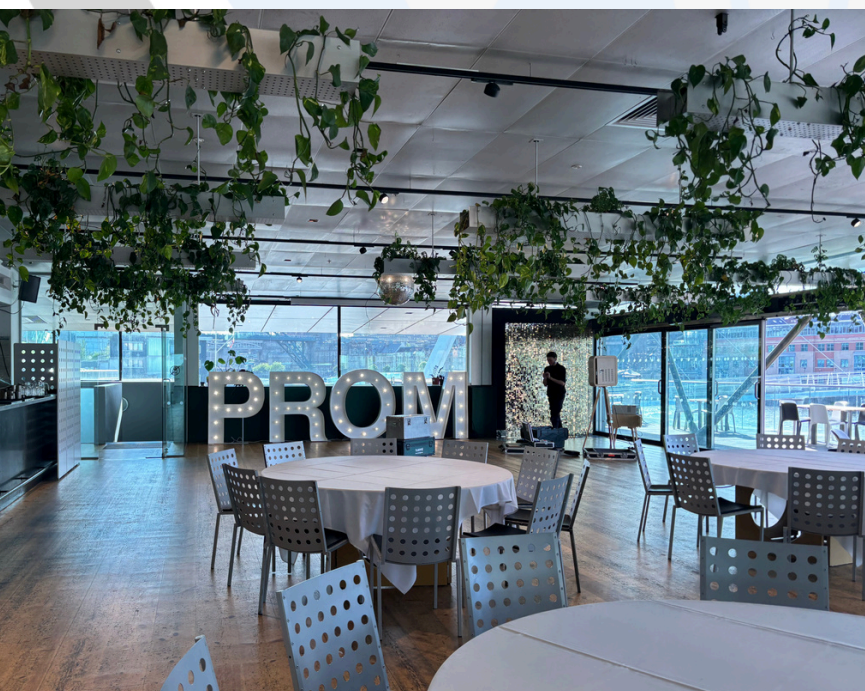


Year 13 Prom

On Thursday 27th June, we held the Year 13 Prom at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art. The event was a great success, and the students enjoyed the evening immensely. The event was a lovely opportunity to celebrate the seven years the students have spent with us at St Mary's. The Prom included a barbeque meal for the students, a photo booth and shimmer wall, disco, and the students even received the letters they wrote to themselves on their first day of Sixth Form. It was also great that the weather held out and the students were able to take some excellent pictures looking out over the Tyne.

The students were a real credit to the school and there was a lovely atmosphere in the room all night. The staff at the Baltic passed on some lovely comments throughout the night about the student's conduct, which was really pleasing to hear.

As we bid farewell to Year 13, we look forward to hearing what they will do in their next steps after leaving St Mary's. Best wishes to Year 13!





Sixth Form Transition Day

An important day in our school calendar is our Year 11 into Year 12 Transition Day where our current Year 11 students are given a flavour of Sixth Form life and are given preparatory resources ahead of their start to Year 12 in September.

This year, Transition Day took place on Tuesday 2nd July and activities included students completing tasks such as our Personal and Social Development activities, completing subject sessions in different departments, and having the opportunity to attend our Aspire to Oxbridge Club and Enrichment sessions.

The day was very well received by the students. They shared that they felt they had gained a good understanding of Sixth Form life and its vibrancy, as well as what to expect in each of their subjects for the next academic year.

The students were very positive regarding their subject choices for Key Stage 5 and are looking forward to starting in the Sixth Form in September!





La segunda visita a España

Last week, the second Year 8 visit to Barcelona took place. The trip was a great success, with students visiting the main attractions of Spain's second city, including Las Ramblas, the famous street in the heart of the city, and La Sagrada Familia, the iconic church which has become a symbol of Barcelona. There were many highlights during their five-day stay, not least the visit to the town of Vilanova, where the students were given the opportunity to practise their Spanish skills with some local people. The students were so enthusiastic about speaking Spanish. It was great to see. The visit to the Aqualeón water park, with its brilliant slides, was definitely another highlight. Just like the first group 'lo pasamos bomba' - the students and staff had a fabulous time.



Heaton Art Festival

Our Art students have been working extremely hard in Art club and at home to create some fantastic work which they sold at this year's Heaton Festival. Our students ran the St Mary's stall, selling cards and posters, and all money raised was donated to CAFOD.



Bank of England Session

We were delighted to welcome into school the Bank of England to speak to our students in Year 12 about working in the financial world and the skills required to work in a corporate environment.

Newcastle Achievement Awards

Alesha Briganti (Year 8), Ines Fragata (Year 10) and Ashley Antony (Year 12) won Newcastle Schools Achievement Awards earlier this term. These awards are for an amazing personal achievement over the past academic year.

The 3 students are very deserving winners. Ines and Ashley attended the Awards ceremony and they are pictured with Cath McEvoy-Carr, the Director for Children, Education and Skills at the Local Authority.





Boys' Cricket

The U13's Cricket Team competed in a match against Ponteland this week on a beautiful summers evening with perfect Cricket Conditions. The boys all played very well with St Mary's Fielding first. The boys fielded and bowled very well and conceded 69 runs to Ponteland. St Mary's then batted very well and also scored 69 runs, meaning the match needed to go to a Super Over with the score tied at 69-69. St Mary's came out as winners winning 9-7 on the Super Over and they were all absolutely delighted. Well done boys!

Upcoming dates and events ...

Monday 15th July: Normal lessons and uniform with adjusted timings (students finish at 2.00pm/2.10pm).

Tuesday 16th July: Sports Activity Day- PE kit and normal timings.

Wednesday 17th July: Activity Day- Non-Uniform and normal timings.

Thursday 18th July: Equality and Diversity Day- uniform and normal timings.

Friday 19th July: Normal day/uniform with early finish- Year 12 leave by lunchtime, Years 7-10 leave from 1.20pm. Summer break begins!