



St Mary's

NEWSLETTER

Year 7 and 8 Netball

Every Wednesday after school, the Year 7 and 8 netball team meets in the Sports Hall. At the moment, the students are getting ready for the start of the new season, with matches against other schools starting next week. The emphasis during training and matches is always to enjoy playing the game, improve your skills and make new friends. Anyone is welcome to come along.



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Headteacher Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you had a lovely summer break with your families and friends.

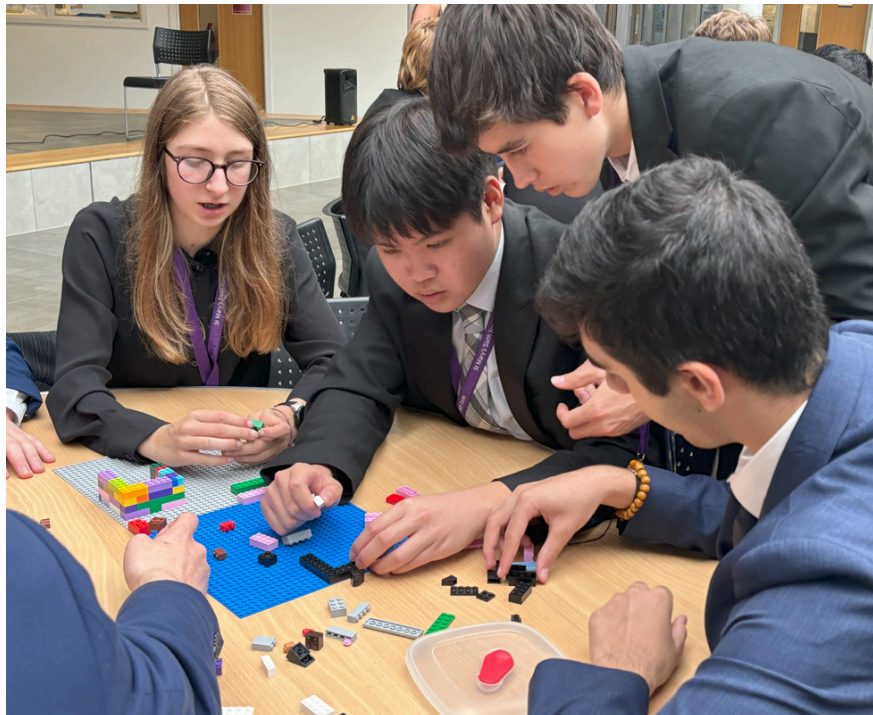
It has been fantastic to welcome our students back to school in September, including our new Year 7 and Year 12. Our students have settled into the new school term very well and their behaviour, both inside and outside of the classroom, has been excellent.

Furthermore, it is wonderful to see our students already participating in so many activities and clubs here in school, as well as demonstrating superb effort in lessons.

We also enjoyed welcoming many prospective new parents, carers and students to our 'Year 6 Open Evening' last week. It was a really lovely evening.

We are looking forward to the rest of the term ahead.

Very best wishes,
Miss Patterson, Headteacher.



Year 12 Day of Aspiration

As our Year 12 students begin their time with us in the Sixth Form, we held our annual Year 12 Day of Aspiration. This included our students working together in many different activities, including building a free standing structure from only sticks and tape, writing a letter to their future selves and choosing which people inspire them. All activities helped develop team working skills, self-confidence and aspiration in the students.

Wider reading in Personal Development



We are always looking at ways of improving our Personal Development Curriculum, as we know what an important aspect of school it is for our students as they prepare for adulthood.

This year we have worked with the school librarian Dr Richardson to ensure that the themes we explore in Personal Development are complemented by books we have in stock in our library, so that students can explore the theme further through reading. Each Key Stage has a PD reading list and all the books on each list are in stock in the school library.



Lunchtime activities in the Inclusion Suite

We are delighted to have relaunched our lunchtime programme of activities in the Inclusion Suite. On Mondays we meet for Mindfulness Club, Tuesday sees our students getting creative at Lego Club with Social Club taking place on a Wednesday. We end the week with Resilience Club on a Thursday and Cinema Club on a Friday. All are welcome and it's a great place to make friends, learn new skills and challenge yourself. In our recent Social Club sessions our students have been teaching each other new card games.

Employer Experience

Over their time with us in the Sixth Form, we aim to develop our student's understanding of the working world and their aspiration to work in different fields. This year, we have launched our Employer Experience programme, where every Friday, a different employer runs a session with Year 12 students. So far, this has included visits from our former students, Ayomide, a quantity surveyor from Currie Brown, and Owen, a data analyst at Oliver Wyman, along with Robert Forrester, CEO of Bristol Street Motors.



Preparation for Next Steps

Even though the school year has just begun, our Year 13 students are already making preparations for their next steps in life after St Mary's. Many of our students are considering applying for high level courses at many different universities. To support with this, students have had many sessions with providers such as the University of Cambridge to look at applications to Oxbridge, including a talk from one of our ex-students, Isaac, and the University of Sheffield looking at how students can apply for medicine.



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Presentations

Our Year 13 students have been hard at work completing their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. The students completed their expeditions in the summer and recently produced their presentations detailing what they have learned in their completion of the Award. There was such a variety in presentations which documented the highs and the lows of the Award.



Stand-up Star!

Congratulations to Year 10 student Pablo Cervantes who recently performed at the Whitley Bay Playhouse in the 'Smile for a Night Variety Show', organised by the children's charity Smile for Life, which aims to support disabled and disadvantaged children across the North East.

Pablo shared the stage with local pantomime star Danny Adams, and the 2018 Britain's Got Talent Winner Lee Ridley, also known as Lost Voice Guy, as well as many other talented performers. Pablo has always had a long standing interest in theatre, and supports our whole school performances, offering his expertise with technical aspects such as sound and lighting, but this time, it was his turn to take to the stage himself with a brilliant stand up routine! Well done Pablo!





League Game with a Difference

With boys football in Year 8 proving to be so popular, we have enough players to form two teams this year. On Thursday 3rd October, both Year 8 teams played Gosforth, before facing each other in a three-team round robin event. This is possibly the first time that two St Mary's teams have played each other. As you can imagine, the match was fiercely contested. More importantly, it was played in the right spirit. The game was incredibly close, with one solitary goal separating the two teams. It was an excellent effort all round and the players should feel very proud of themselves for representing the school so well.



Languages Club

At Languages Club, which meets every Wednesday lunchtime, we have lots of fun learning about different languages and different cultures. Each week, we focus on a specific country and we find out different things about that country, playing games and being really creative.

Mass with Bishop Stephen



In September, Mass was celebrated by Bishop Stephen at Ushaw, Durham.

The purpose of the Mass was to recommission Chaplains in their work and to say thank you to the young people who contribute to this important area of school life.

We are very blessed to have a vibrant spiritual life at St Mary's, for both our students and staff team, and it was wonderful for some of our students to take part in such a special occasion.

Wilding Group

Our Wilding Group in school has been using wildlife cameras to see what activities are taking place on our school grounds at night and over the weekend.

We have seen Squirrels, a Fox and Hedgehogs and we even have Hedgehog boxes to encourage the wildlife.

The group will continue to collect footage to see what other wildlife can be found and share their findings with other students.



Year 8 Boys Football

One of the Year 8 boys football teams played their first match of the season and were drawn against Walker in the preliminary round of the City Cup. We now have two Year 8 teams due to extremely high participation levels at the after-school club and the boys were very excited to represent the school. They played extremely well throughout the match, with chances from both teams to win the game. The match finished 0-0 at full time, meaning the game would be decided on penalties. In a tense end to the game, St Mary's won the penalty shoot-out, with goalkeeper Sebby Szcypka making two saves to send the team through to the next round. Well done boys!



SEND Cross Country

Seven of our students enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at a SEND Cross Country event in South Shields. The girls picked up silver medals in the team event and Isaac Hennegan finished 3rd in the Under 16 event. A huge well done to Isaac, Tilly, Julia, Maddie, Liam, Daniel, Ava Mae and Selina.

Upcoming dates and events ...

Monday 14th October:

Year 11 Parents' Evening (in school), 2.45pm-6.00pm

Wednesday 13th November:

Year 7 and Year 12 Tutor Evening (in school), 3.25pm-5.25pm

Wednesday 27th November:

Sixth Form Open Evening (in school), 5.00pm-7.00pm

Friday 29th November:

School Holiday

Monday 9th December:

Year 12/13 Parents' Evening (in school), 2.45pm-6.00pm

Friday 20th December:

Final day of school before the Christmas Break