



Year 8 Students enjoy authentic Spanish Tapas!

Over the course of 3 exciting afternoons, more than 200 of our Year 8 students had the opportunity to visit El Torero, a traditional Spanish Tapas restaurant in Newcastle upon Tyne. The students were treated to a delicious selection of authentic Spanish dishes, including albóndigas, patatas bravas and croquetas de queso.

Not only did the students enjoy the tasty food, but they also had the chance to practice their Spanish skills, engaging with the staff in the language. It was a fantastic cultural experience that brought the Spanish language to life outside the classroom. All students had a memorable time and the event was a great success!



Headteacher's welcome

Dear Parent and Carers

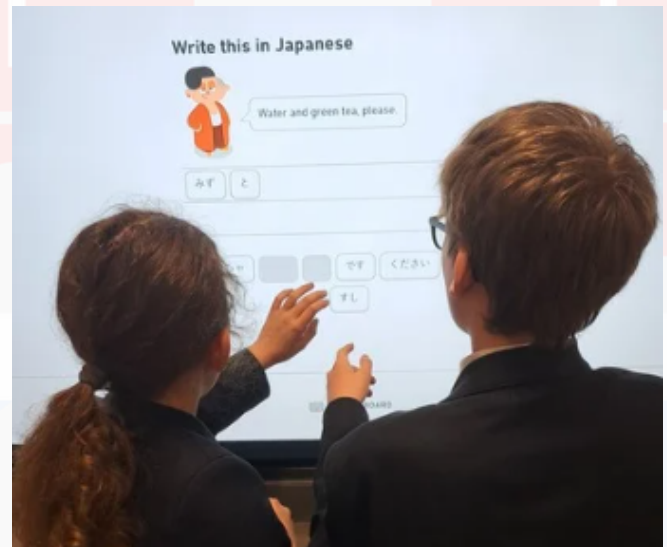
I hope you had a wonderful half-term break. We are looking forward to our many Lenten activities in school over this half-term. The build up to Year 11 and Year 13 summer examinations is also in full swing, with students working very hard in preparation for their exams.

As this newsletter demonstrates, the wider life of the school continues to provide a range of wonderful opportunities for our students. A huge thank you to our staff team for all of their hard work and efforts in providing these opportunities.

Very best wishes,
Miss Patterson, Headteacher.

Japanese Club

The club introduces students to elements of Japanese language and culture. Students really enjoy learning about Japan and discussing their own passion for aspects of the culture, ranging from anime and manga to sushi and karate. Here are two students keeping up knowledge of the language.



Under 13 Girls Football

The Under 13 girls football team kicked off the new half-term with a hard-fought victory over Kenton in the semi-final of the City Cup. In an exciting and fiercely contested encounter, St Mary's just edged it, winning 5-4. An excellent achievement! We are all looking forward to seeing how the girls fare in the final later this month.



Exploring Sociology

Year 12 Sociology students had a very informative talk from Jem from Newcastle University. Jem outlined what Newcastle has to offer in the Humanities department, including degrees majoring in Politics, Geography and Sociology.

Our Year 12 students had the opportunity to ask many questions such as what skills you gain from a Sociology degree and the wide variety of extra-curricular activities on offer to them, including clubs and social activities. Our students behaved impeccably throughout and gained great insight into what life beyond our Sixth Form has to offer.

Orbyts 2025 Project

Orbyts is a project that pairs researchers with schools to empower school students and researchers through inspirational science research projects.

Since January this year, a group of Year 10 students have been working with researchers from Northumbria University's Solar and Space Physics Research Group on the future of space weather forecasting. To do this the students are using electrons in the Earth's outer radiation belt to explore what controls the wave-particle interactions and how this varies throughout the inner magnetosphere.

They are using AI and machine learning to help them perform statistical tests to identify any links. The students are really enthused by this exciting project and they will have the opportunity to present their research at a conference at Northumbria University later this year.

Pope John Paul II Award

Many congratulations to our Year 13 students on their completion of the Pope John Paul II Award. Students completed a range of activities for their Parish and Social Awareness strands. Throughout their work, all the students showed great commitment and passion. Well done!



Year 9 Students Visit the Farrell Centre

On Tuesday 11th February a group of Year 9 DT students visited the Farrell Centre in Newcastle. The venue focuses on the built environment and aims to educate people about the crucial role that town planning and architecture have in the modern world.

Students visited the exhibition on display the Farrell Centre, before splitting off into groups to deliberate the essential infrastructure needed for a community to thrive and allowing them time to reflect upon the vital planning required when developing a city like Newcastle upon Tyne.

In the afternoon, students were able to visit the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape at Newcastle University, discovering inspiring degree level work and exploring the learning environments including a research area of the university investigating eco-friendly building materials such as Mycocrete made from a fungus called Mycelium. It was an exciting and engaging day allowing our Year 9 students to develop their creative design, problem solving and teamwork skills. Well done to all involved!



Year 5 Mini Retreats

We have been welcoming Year 5 students to St Mary's to experience a Mini Retreat. Year 10 students have been leading various activities such as Lego building, making a Rosary which the Year 5 students take away as a gift and building the tallest tower with paper straws. The Retreat itself begins with gathering in the Chapel for a Celebration of the Word.



University Workshops

Over the past month, we have been delighted to welcome local universities into the Sixth Form to run various workshops with the students looking at what it would be like to study different courses in the future. Highlights have included a genetics workshop where students extracted DNA and a business role play where students looked at the thrills and perils of running a company in 2025.



Northumbria Fashion School

Our Year 9 students had an amazing time at Northumbria Fashion School, working with professional mentors in the fields of design, styling & marketing! The students were given a sneak peek into university life and studying these different courses in the future. The students can't wait for the next Fashion Create session at St Mary's in March!



Sixth Form Employer Experience

Our Sixth Form Employer Experience Programme continues as we move into the spring. Over the past few weeks, students have been able to attend sessions with local employers such as Quilters Financial Advisors, global companies such as the Bank of England and local public services such as Northumbria Police. Our students have enjoyed learning about the careers available to them in the future and it has given them lots of ideas to think about as they consider life after St Mary's.



Computing Club for Girls

The club meets once a week on a Tuesday lunchtime. This term, the girls have been focusing on designing video games. So far, they have designed two-player racing games and they are now in the process of creating a maze-based game.



London Art Trip

Our Sixth Form Art students enjoyed their time in London recently where they managed to visit many of the art galleries and museums around the capital. The trip gave the students lots of inspiration for their work in the future.



Year 8 Handball

Our Year 8 boys Handball team recently competed in the PE & School Sport Service Handball Tournament at Benfield School. The boys were absolutely fantastic, demonstrating excellent teamwork, effort and determination in all their matches. They came out on top overall and finished 1st in Newcastle. An outstanding achievement. Well done boys!



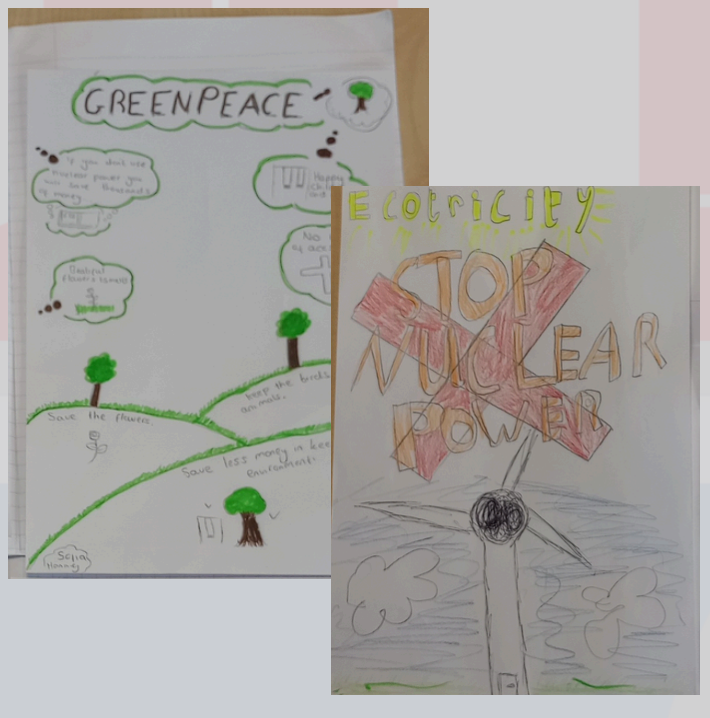
Easter Club

The Easter Club meets once a week on a Friday lunchtime. At the moment, the students are in the process of designing and making Easter cards for the residents of St Cuthbert's Care on the West Road. The cards are an excellent way of maintaining our longstanding close links with St Cuthbert's Care. The artwork looks amazing!



Year 8 Geography

In lessons, students have been debating whether the UK should build more nuclear power stations. Lots of different views were expressed. The students created some wonderful posters as part of the project.



County Cross Country

Tom, Joseph, Isobel & Amelie recently took part in the Intercounty Schools Cross Country Championships. The four St Mary's students were an integral part of the winning Northumberland team, beating teams from Durham, Cleveland, North Yorkshire and Cumbria. This was an excellent effort on very challenging course. A massive well done to all four students!



Year 8 Boys' Football

In February, the Year boys football team played the Royal Grammar School in the City Cup. After going in at half-time 3-0 down, the boys managed to turn things round and end the game at 5-5. In a nail-biting penalty shoot out, St Mary's ran out winners to secure well-deserved place in the next round.



Upcoming dates and events ...

Monday 17th March:

Year 10 Parents' Evening, 2.45pm-6.00pm (online)

Friday 11th April: Last day of term before the Easter break for all students

Tuesday 29th April: All students return after the Easter break