

# St Mary's

## NEWSLETTER



### RSC Chemistry Olympiad

Year 12 Chemistry students were given the opportunity to participate in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad, this involved completing a difficult 2 hour written test after school which is designed to develop critical problem-solving skills, apply Chemistry in different abstract contexts and test their knowledge in new, real-world situations. We had some fantastic achievement amongst the group; Eleanor Burrows achieved a silver award and Isaac Brophy, Cellina Guan, Jasmija Mukuntharajah, Lily Yang, Elisa Cassar-Parnis all achieved bronze awards. Well done for achieving this in such a tricky competition!



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We are deeply saddened by the death of Pope Francis. May our beloved Pope rest in peace.

## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families had a lovely Easter break.

As you will read in this newsletter, there were so many activities, competitions and other enrichment in school before the holiday. This has continued in earnest this week, with our return to school. Students continue to make the most of these wonderful opportunities.

We were also very saddened by the death of Pope Francis over the Easter break. Students and staff have spent time this week reflecting on his life and ministry. His humility and compassion were an example to us all and he will be greatly missed.

We have a short half-term ahead but a busy one and we send our very best wishes to our Year 11 and 13 students for their upcoming exams.

Enjoy the bank holiday weekend,  
Miss Patterson, Headteacher.

## Think Maths Pi Representation competition

Congratulations to Ruby Ifeajuna (9T) and Anna Biju (9T), who won a prize for the national Think Maths Pi Representation competition. They made the digits of  $\pi$  with their bodies and were praised for their fun and original idea. Well done!



## Intermediate Maths Challenge

160 students from Years 9, 10, and 11 took part in the annual Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. This is a 60-minute, 25-question multiple choice challenge designed to encourage mathematical thinking through stimulating and thought-provoking problems - ideal for both beginners and experienced problem-solvers.

Students prepared for the challenge through in-class preparatory lessons and, in many cases, through their own independent revision. This hard work has led to a significant increase in successful outcomes, and the results this year have been fantastic across all year groups.

Special congratulations go to Meagan Cardozo, who achieved Best in School, as well as Florence Brophy and Hyab Okbay for Best in Year. Zac Barbieri and Ethan Douthwaite also performed exceptionally and qualified for the follow-on rounds: the Grey and Pink Kangaroo. A massive well done to all the participants for their effort and achievement!

# Prayer Winner

Recently some of our students have taken part in the Diocesan prayer competition inspired by the words and actions of Blessed Carlo Acutis. We are delighted that Jimena Areal-Lomba is the winner of the Key Stage 3 group. Please read Jimena's prayer below.

Heavenly God,  
We thank you for giving us the humbling presence of Carlo Acutis. May he elevate us with his conditional compassion for the Eucharist. Through his actions, may the children of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle be gifted with the same love and affection that Carlo had. May they, like Carlo seek the resilience and the untold braveness that he possessed. Help them to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, sharing your wisdom with each step the children take. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Drawing below by Michael Rickeard, Year 9.*



# UCAS

'While many of our Year 13 students have received offers to study at university this year including courses such as law, medicine, social work and primary education, Year 12 students have started the process of their application.

Students have attended personal statement workshops run by Mr McCrory and have attended sessions from many different universities such as Northumbria University, the University of Cambridge and Bangor University with the aim of understanding more about the different educational providers.



## Handball Finals

Following on from the success of the U13's City Regional Qualifying round, our U13's boys Handball team competed in the Handball Regional Finals at the Beacon of Light in Sunderland. The boys were up against the top Handball schools around the region, so they were very much looking forward to the occasion. Overall, they did very well, winning one,

drawing one and facing defeat twice. There was some excellent team and individual performances from all involved, who I'm sure will be looking forward to competing in the same competition next year. It was also great to see Y12 student Oliver Cass who was involved with the officiating of the games and helped run the competition through his involvement with the Newcastle Vikings Handball Club. Well done to everyone involved.



## Sixth Form Culture Day

We recently held our annual Sixth Form Culture Day where over 25 different cultures were represented by Sixth Form students and members of staff. Students participated by wearing their cultural dress, raising money by selling food and drinks, and sharing information about their different cultures. The students really enjoyed themselves and made over £300 for charitable causes.



# Celebrating the Winners of the NHS Artwork Competition

We are delighted to announce the winners of the NHS Art Competition, where students were invited to design posters promoting the important messages of well-being, mental health, resilience, and the School Health Service.

The competition saw a diverse range of submissions, each showcasing a unique interpretation of the themes and ideas that support our mental and emotional well-being. The winning designs will not only receive prizes for their efforts, but their artwork will also be proudly displayed, serving as a constant reminder of the significance of mental health and resilience.

Well done to all students who entered this competition and congratulations go to Katherine Wiszowaty (7I), Enya Maule (7N) and Maya Knapik (7R) who were the first, second and third prize winners respectively.



## Heart Dissections

Year 12 Biologists have been recently learning about the function of the circulatory system by carrying out heart dissections in teams.



## Year 8 Boys' Football

Our Year 8 boys' football teams have had an excellent year, with both teams reaching the Newcastle City Cup Semi Finals. One team played against Jesmond Park Academy on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. In a thrilling match, St Mary's twice took the lead with goals from Chuk Eze and Leo Jobson. In the final seconds of the match, Jesmond levelled the score to make it 3-3, which meant penalties. Jesmond Park ran out winners 6-5. A valiant effort on the part of the St Mary's team. The other semi-final was against St Cuthbert's on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April. In an exciting high-scoring match, St Cuthbert's edged past St Mary's to book their place in the final against Jesmond Park, winning the game 6-, with Jack McManus, Jack McManus and Odrhan Holland getting on the scoresheet for St Mary's. The students in both teams can be very proud of their achievements during the course of an excellent season.



## Psychology Taster Session

Our Year 12 students were lucky enough recently to have a taster lecture in Psychology from one of the lecturers at the University of Sunderland. The students learnt about the different research methods in the subject.



## BBCET Applying to Oxbridge Conference

Recently, our Year 12 students were delighted to attend the annual BBCET Applying to Oxbridge at St Cuthbert's Catholic High School. The students, who were alongside other students from the other four secondary schools in the Trust, looked at how they can apply to study at the University of Oxford and Cambridge in the future gaining lots of valuable hints and tips along the way.



## Year 11 and Year 13

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are currently working very hard as they prepare for their final examinations.

Several GCSE and Vocational exams have already taken place, with a large number of GCSE and A Level examinations taking place in the two weeks before and after the May half-term holiday.

We are so proud of the amazing efforts of our Year 11 and Year 13 students and we wish them all the very best in the weeks to come. Students have worked so hard and we know that their efforts will be richly rewarded in the summer.

If there is anything further we can do to support your child, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Head of Year.

## Upcoming dates and events ...

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May** - Bank Holiday Monday

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May** - Year 13 study leave begins

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** - Year 11 study leave begins

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May** - Half-term break

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June** - Year 8 Parents' Evening (online)

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June** - Year 7 Parents' Evening (in school)