

St Mary's

NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 1 - SEPTEMBER 2025

Bonjour La France

At the end of September, 50 of our Year 8 students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a trip to France, combining language learning with cultural experiences and plenty of fun along the way. The students took part in language workshops where they practised their French skills in real-life contexts. Students visited Paris and explored the Sacré Coeur, wandered through the beautiful Jardin des Tuileries, and enjoyed a cruise along the River Seine. One of the highlights was a magical day at Disneyland Paris. Students experienced the rides, shows, and parades – a truly unforgettable day. The trip was a wonderful success and a huge thank you goes to the staff who accompanied the trip and to the students for representing St Mary's so well.

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year. It has been a wonderful start to the autumn term with all students, including our new Year 7 students, settling into the new school year very well.

We were also delighted for last year's Year 11 and Year 13 students as they achieved exceptional results in the summer. It was wonderful to see the students fully rewarded for their excellent efforts. A huge thank you to our teaching and support staff team for their excellent work in supporting these students. St Mary's continues to be one of the highest achieving schools in the North-east and nationally.

It has already been a very busy term, with a wealth of enrichment opportunities taking place in school including educational visits, and a highly attended Year 6 Open Evening. We look forward to the term ahead, including our Year 11 and 13 Parents' Evenings, our Remembrance Day commemorations and our Sixth Form Open Evening.

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued superb support. This is very much appreciated.

Best wishes, Miss Patterson, Headteacher.

St Mary's Oxbridge Partnerships

Our partnerships with the University of Cambridge and University of Oxford continue to go from strength to strength. This year, we have been fortunate to host sessions from both universities, providing tailored guidance and insight into the application process.

These opportunities have given our students valuable advice and inspiration as they prepare for their prospective applications.

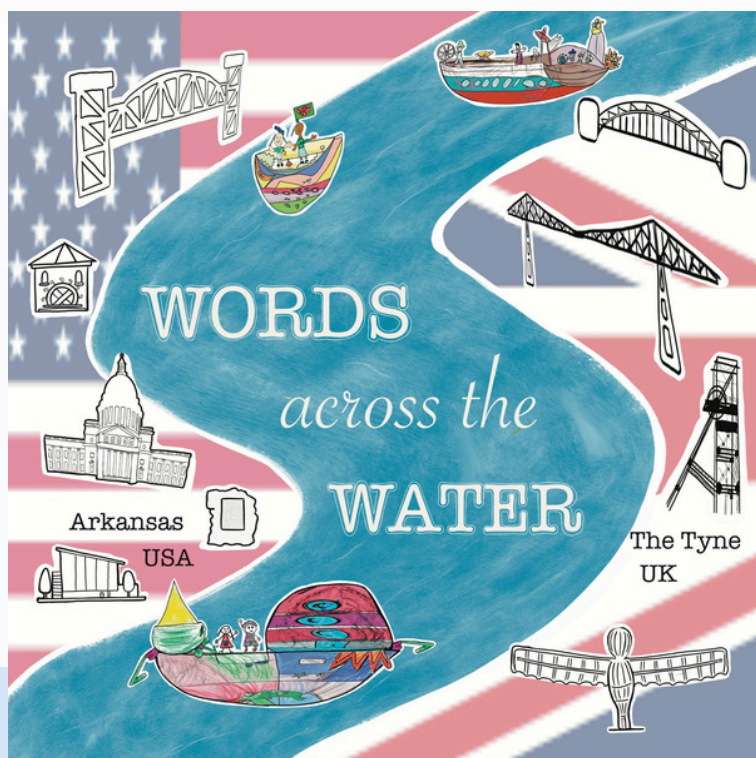


Words Across the Water

This year we are delighted to be part of the Words Across the Water Project in conjunction with Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books in Newcastle, and students and colleagues in Little Rock, Arkansas in the United States.

Working with storyteller and publisher Richard O'Neill, we are very excited to be part of this cross-city partnership project which brings together primary and secondary students to introduce themselves, their schools, and their cities to partner schools across the Atlantic Ocean! The project will culminate in the co-creation of a shared book, capturing young people's voices, histories, and creative perspectives.

In late September, we welcomed visitors into school from Seven Stories and Little Rock, who enjoyed a tour of our school and met our student participants. We were also very grateful to receive lovely gifts from our colleagues from Little Rock. Later the same day, students participated in an online meeting where they shared initial ideas for the book with their peers in America. We can't wait to see how the project develops!



Art exhibition

An exhibition was hosted recently showcasing the creativity of students from High Heaton Art Studio. A total of 22 talented artists took part in this event, including 11 students from St Mary's: Emilia Ewins, Gabrielle Gudel, Chiara Sanderson, Simone Ilao, Alessia Rea, Emilia Siemens, Zoe Valentine, Emily Oliver, Estella Ewins, Leah Mamlouk and Josie Harkin. The students demonstrated incredible talent and dedication and were amazing ambassadors for our school. A huge well done to them!

Sixth Form Day of Aspiration 2025

Year 12 students came together for a retreat day in school to reflect on their aspirations for the future. The day involved a variety of activities to unpick this theme, such as Lego constructions, and considering people who influence us and how they do this.

Students also had the opportunity to think about their place in the world and how they can make a difference, as well as writing a letter to themselves which they will receive at the end of Year 13. The day ended with some students leading a Celebration of the Word for the rest of the year group. A wonderful day for everyone involved.



Environment Leadership Team

The Sixth Form Environment Leadership Team have been working towards the Climate Friendly School Award.

As part of this award, the students were given the opportunity to visit Hartlepool Recycling Plant where they could see how the items are sorted for recycling and what happens to them.

Drama and Dance

The Drama Department has got off to a fantastic start this year! Our Drama and Dance Clubs are already buzzing with energy and creativity, led by our talented Sixth Form drama students who have done a brilliant job inspiring and guiding younger students.

It has been wonderful to see so many familiar faces returning to the clubs, as well as welcoming lots of new faces who are joining us for the first time. The enthusiasm and commitment from everyone involved has created such a positive atmosphere, and we are very excited to see what this year will bring!



EPQ Drop Down Day

Year 12 students recently took part in an EPQ Drop Down Day, designed to launch their Extended Project Qualification journey. The day provided expert guidance on choosing a topic, developing independent research skills, and planning their projects, giving students a strong foundation to begin this exciting academic challenge.



Recycling Assemblies

We were delighted to welcome Newcastle City Council into school to deliver assemblies to all year groups. The sessions highlighted the importance of recycling and the positive impact it can have on our community. Students also learned practical ways they can contribute towards making Newcastle a greener, more sustainable city.



Maths talent!

Meagan Cardozo in Year 12 was selected for a 2025 National Mathematics Summer School following an excellent performance in this year's Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. It was a wonderful opportunity for her to develop her mathematical thinking and meet other like-minded young people whilst attending the residential at Woodhouse Grove School, Bradford. It is an amazing achievement to be selected for this and Meagan said that she really enjoyed the experience. Well done Meagan!

National Gallery star

Abe Brough in Year 7 has been invited to an Awards Ceremony at the National Gallery in London in November due to a photograph of Abe being displayed.

Abe is a talented ballroom dancer and was chosen to be photographed as part of this exhibition. The photograph is one of just 57 works selected from the exhibition, out of 5,910 entries from photographers around the world. An amazing achievement!



Sixth Form Enrichment 2025-2026

We are delighted to announce the launch of our Sixth Form Enrichment Programme for the new academic year. The programme is designed to broaden horizons, inspire ambition, and provide students with valuable skills beyond the classroom. So far, students have benefited from a University of Leeds session on how to succeed in the Sixth Form, as well as an inspiring talk from Northumbria University AI professor Martyn Amos on the qualities needed to be successful in life. With a wide range of opportunities planned, this promises to be an exciting and enriching year ahead.



UCAS Application Presentations

To support our Year 13 students with their upcoming UCAS applications, we have welcomed a number of universities into school to deliver bespoke workshops. Representatives from Sheffield, Teesside, and Cumbria have spoken with students about the opportunities their institutions offer, from academic courses to campus life. These sessions have given students valuable insights into why they might wish to apply, helping them to make informed choices about their next steps.

Amazing Judo achievement

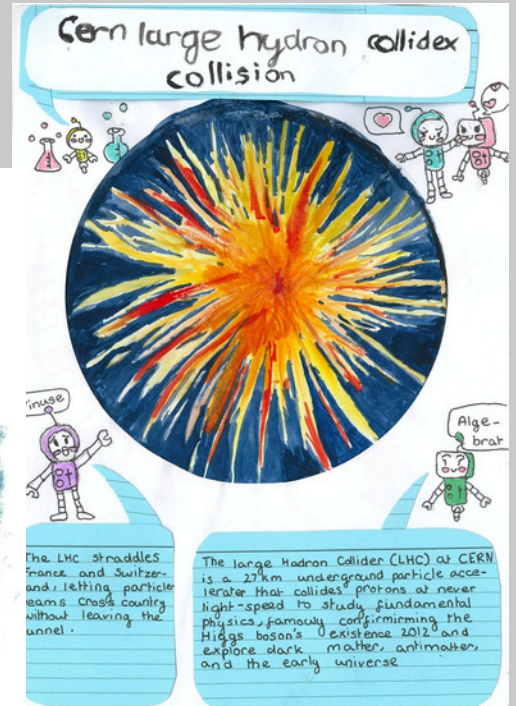
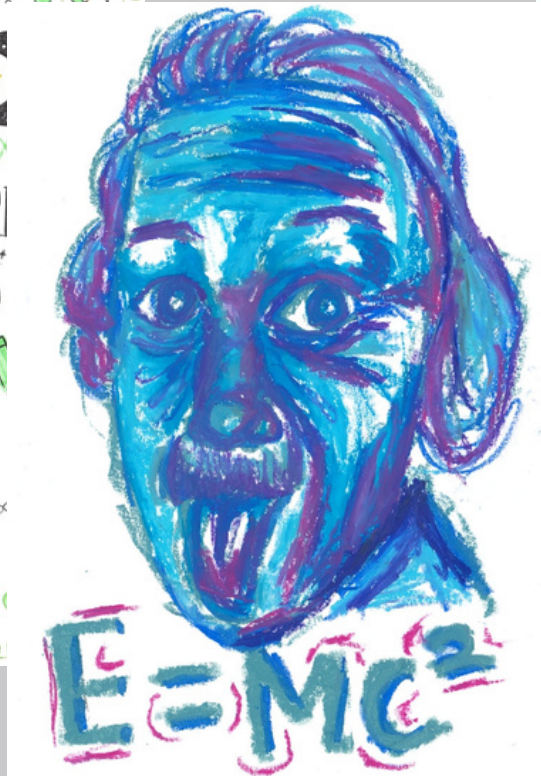
Isobel Irving in Year 7 competed in the British Judo Northern Region Schools Championship recently, representing St Mary's. She won gold in her division, meaning she's the Under 48kg female Middle School northern region champion and as a result, qualified to compete in the national 2026 British School Championships in early March. An absolutely fantastic accomplishment- well done Isobel!

Incredible football talent

Emily George in Year 9 and Eden Brogden in Year 8 have been selected to represent U14 Northumberland County Schools Football Team. It is a fantastic achievement as they have been selected from players across Newcastle, North Tyneside and all the way up to Berwick. A huge well done to Emily and Eden!

Science Postcard Competition

The Science Department recently ran a competition to ask students to design praise postcards which can be shared electronically when students achieve well in Science. There were a number of brilliant entries, but the three winning designs, pictured below, were created by Jasmine Akwueh, Khloe Amune and Alix Glorieux. The Science team were incredibly impressed with the levels of creativity on show in the postcard designs. Well done to all who entered.



Key dates and events ...

Monday 13th Oct 2.45pm- 6.00pm- Year 11 Parents' Evening (in person and an early finish for all students)

Mon 27th Oct - Fri 31st Oct- Half-term break

Wed 12th Nov 3.30pm- 5.30pm- Year 7 and 12 Tutor Evening

Thurs 27th Nov 5.00pm- 7.00pm- Sixth Form Open Evening (in person and early finish for all students)

Mon 8th Dec 2.45pm- 5.15pm- Year 13 Parents' Evening (in person and early finish for all students)

Football superstar

Amelia Rowell in Year 7 travelled to Manchester recently to play Manchester City's U12 Academy Team. She plays for Durham U12s and they won the game 6-3. Amelia scored a superb goal as part of this win. Huge congratulations to Amelia.

