

St Mary's



ISSUE 7 - MARCH 2026

Students enjoy an amazing trip to Rome

A group of 30 students recently visited Rome. The students were wonderful ambassadors for St Mary's and impressed everyone they met. On their first day, they visited the Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill. It was incredibly moving to see students video calling home from the Colosseum, full of awe at what they were experiencing. They also visited St Mary Major, where Pope Francis is buried. This was one of the most powerful moments of the trip. Many students, entirely unprompted, chose to kneel and pray at his tomb, and then took part in Eucharistic Adoration.

The next day was spent at the Vatican and our students were able to sit very close to front of St Peter's Square for the Papal Audience, which was an unforgettable experience for the students. Their excitement at seeing Pope Leo was incredible, yet what stood out most was the reverence and attentiveness they showed throughout the service. The group then visited the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel and St Peter's Basilica. The following day, students explored the wider city, including the Trevi Fountain and Piazza Navona. The students had a very spiritual, reflective and memorable visit. A huge well done to the students and thank you to the staff team who led the trip.

Headteacher's welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

A huge thank you for your ongoing support throughout this term. We really appreciate it.

Furthermore, an immense thank you to our wonderful students who give so much to St Mary's and are a real credit to our school.

This is another jam-packed issue, demonstrating so many fantastic opportunities that our students have taken part in this term. Our amazing teaching and support staff team make this possible, therefore, a big thank you to them for their superb work and efforts.

We wish all students, staff and their families a wonderful and peaceful Easter break and we look forward to returning to school, refreshed and renewed, for the summer term.

Very best wishes,
Miss Patterson, Headteacher.



SEND coffee afternoon

We recently hosted a coffee afternoon for the parents of all students in school who receive additional SEND support. We were fortunate to be joined by Gemma East, an NHS Speech and Language Therapist who works within the Bishop Bewick Trust supporting Speech, Language and Communication Needs amongst our students. Gemma gave a really interesting presentation on what SLCN is and how teachers, support staff and parents can support communication in children and young people. For more information, please see the SEND section of our website.

Crochet Club

Students have been meeting with Ms Potts each week to work on a project of making our patron saint, Mary. Students have demonstrated excellent skills and are developing the art of Crochet. The next project is make to Joseph and Jesus in time for Advent.



Crystal Craft Club

Students have been meeting every Monday lunchtime to make items using diamond art. This term, the group have been focused on our patron, St Mary. They have made a range of images using this art. The art will be displayed in the Chapel, Miss Patterson's office and in other places around our school.



Lit and Phil Young Writers' Awards

Our students were a credit to the school at the Lit & Phil Young Writers' Awards this year. They represented St Mary's brilliantly in the writing workshops and with the entries they crafted for the competition. Sarah Humphrey in Year 11 won the Fiction category with her short story, 'They Told Us Not To Light Them', which was such a superb achievement.

Jan Siemens in Year 12 was also runner up in the same category. All students involved gained much from this experience. A huge well done!



Feast Day

On Wednesday 18th March we celebrated our Feast Day with the focus on Mercy. This day celebrated our identity as a Catholic school as well as celebrating St Mary. To mark this day, students had entered an Art competition to design portraits of Mary. The Kitchen staff made biscuits in the shape of our school badge. All students received a bookmark and had the opportunity to take part in a letter hunt around school. Once all the letters were collected they could then be used to make a phrase about mercy. All lessons on this day, had an activity which reflected mercy.



Our Lady of Mercy



Mary, gentle Lady of Mercy, quietly you stand beside us in our need. Teach our hearts to rest in God's mercy and to walk in peace beneath your gentle care. Amen.



Drama Trip

GCSE students recently travelled to the Sunderland Empire to see Blood Brothers, their set text. Experiencing Willy Russell's iconic musical on stage brought the characters, themes, and emotional intensity to life in a way that goes far beyond the page.

The performance offered students valuable insight into staging, characterisation, and key dramatic techniques that will strengthen their understanding for both written and practical components of the course. Well done to all students involved.



Basketball Club

Organised and run by Newcastle Eagles, the basketball club meets every Monday after school. Sessions focus on a mixture of training exercises, skill-based routines and activities to improve tactical knowledge, usually finishing off with some competitive game time. All the students thoroughly enjoy coming along to the club and have made excellent progress with their basketball this year.



U15 Girls Shine in Newcastle Schools City Cup Final

The Under 15 Girls' football team produced an outstanding display in the Newcastle Schools U15 City Cup Final. The team got off to a brilliant start against very tough opposition. Despite being under early pressure and unfortunately going 1–0 down to a goal against the run of play, St Mary's quickly turned the game around with two superb goals from Ella Harwood, giving them a well-deserved 2–1 lead.

In the second half, the girls stepped up once again, controlling large parts of the game and showcasing their quality. Their dominance was rewarded with three further goals—another from Ella Harwood to complete her hat-trick, and two well-taken finishes from Emily George.

St Mary's secured an impressive 5–1 victory to lift the City Cup, capping off a fantastic team performance full of determination, skill, and composure. To cap off a memorable evening, Megan Delaney lifted the trophy in her very last game for St Mary's, having proudly represented the school team since Year 7. Well done to all students involved.





Year 7 Boys U12 City Champions After Unbeaten Season

After completing an unbeaten league campaign, the Year 7 Boy's A Football Team progressed to the U12 City Finals, one of the toughest competitions of the season. St Mary's made a fantastic start to their semi-final, taking a 1-0 lead thanks to a superb cross from Issak Allen, expertly finished by Darren Morosan. The match remained tight, with both sides battling hard, and the boys went into half-time with a slender but deserved lead. In the second half, the St Mary's midfield took control of the game. Their dominance resulted in four excellent goals- two from Latrell Ogie, one from Finlay Harwood, and another from Issak Allen- sending St Mary's comfortably into the final.

The final saw St Mary's face a side who, like themselves, had remained unbeaten all season and had finished top of the West League. The opening stages were very evenly matched, with chances at both ends. The breakthrough came when Latrell Ogie fired a sublime strike into the top corner, before producing another outstanding solo effort to put St Mary's 2-0 ahead. The opposition pulled one back before the break, making it 2-1 and setting up a tense second half. However, the boys rose to the challenge magnificently. Their second-half performance was outstanding- disciplined, controlled, and full of determination- as they held firm to complete a 2-1 victory.

This win secures a well-deserved league title for a team that has been exceptional all season, remaining unbeaten and conceding only four goals in eight games. A brilliant achievement- well done!

St Mary's student in Newcastle U15 cup win!

Isaac Conway in Year 9 was in the Newcastle United U15 team who won the Premier League International Cup.

Isaac played a huge part in this outstanding achievement and has been recognised nationally in the news. Congratulations Isaac!



Arts Award

Recently a number of students in school have been working towards their Arts Award. This award enables students to play to their strengths and express their creative identity. The quality of the work that students produced has been exceptional. Bronze Arts Award students have completed their course and received their certificates from Trinity College, London. They have developed their portfolios through the use of exciting materials and techniques, working towards unique and personal goals.

They have researched the work of Artists and Designers and shared their skills with others. Taking these first steps towards leadership is a very important part of Arts Award, with students learning to develop their communication skills and to work as part of a team.

Students have participated in many arts events including gallery visits with family and friends and a day trip to Edinburgh. Showcasing the final pieces of work at Newcastle City Library was another joyous event, giving our young people a flavour of exhibiting and selling their work professionally.

Students have also been busy preparing work to submit for our upcoming exhibition at the People`s Theatre; "Birds: Brilliant and Bizarre". All of our young people have been offered the opportunity to submit work and the show promises to be spectacular!



Sixth Form Culture Day

Recently, we held our annual Sixth Form Culture Day, with over 27 countries represented and 75 Sixth Form students taking part. It was brilliant to see such a wide range of cultures showcased from across the world, including Ireland, Italy, Pakistan, the Philippines, China and Mexico.

It was also fantastic to see so many students visiting during Personal Development and at lunchtime, alongside staff turning out in such strong support. The atmosphere throughout the event was a real credit to our school; from students wearing cultural dress, to those selling traditional food, as well as running competitions and games to help others learn more and get involved. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we raised over £250, which will be donated to CAFOD to support worthy causes around the globe.



BBCET Applying to Oxbridge Conference

Our prospective Oxbridge applicants in Year 12 recently attended the BBCET Conference on Applying to Oxford and Cambridge, where they took part in a range of workshops designed to support and guide their applications. Students explored what makes an effective personal statement, including how to evidence academic curiosity and super-curricular engagement in a clear, convincing way. They also learned more about the wider application process, from admissions tests and interviews to the timelines and expectations involved.



Jesus College Outreach

We were delighted to welcome ambassadors from Jesus College, University of Cambridge into school to speak with our Year 10 students about what studying at Cambridge is really like. It was especially pleasing to see one of our former students, Sonny, returning to share his experience. Sonny is currently reading Philosophy at Jesus College and spoke openly about the transition from school to university, what he enjoys most about his course, and how students can start preparing now.



KS5 STEM Club

KS5 STEM Club students recently took part in a brilliant pharmacy taster session delivered by Newcastle University. Working from a professional-style brief, students prepared their own chemical product and gained a real insight into the practical skills and precision involved in studying pharmacy at university.



University Taster Morning

Our Year 12 students recently took part in a University Taster Morning in Sixth Form, designed to help them explore higher education and begin thinking carefully about their next steps after St Mary's. Representatives from a range of universities, including Oxford, Durham, Newcastle and Northumbria, delivered engaging talks that gave students a clear insight into what university life is really like. Across the morning, students considered why they might choose to apply to university, what different courses and campuses can offer, and how universities can vary in teaching style, student experience and opportunities beyond the lecture theatre. The Taster Morning was a timely and supportive event as Year 12 begin to plan ahead and make informed decisions about their future pathways.





ST MARY`S CATHOLIC SCHOOL ART DEPARTMENT

People's Theatre Exhibition 2026
23RD April - 21ST May

Birds Brilliant & Bizarre



Viewing times.....

- During box office opening times:
Monday to Friday: 10.30am-1pm
- During show evenings:
Tuesday 28th April- 2nd May:
6.30pm- 9pm
Monday 11th May- 16th May:
6.30pm-9pm

Join us for this exciting, pioneering exhibition, bringing these remarkable creatures to life!

Showcasing the fabulous, groundbreaking talent of our students in year 7-13.

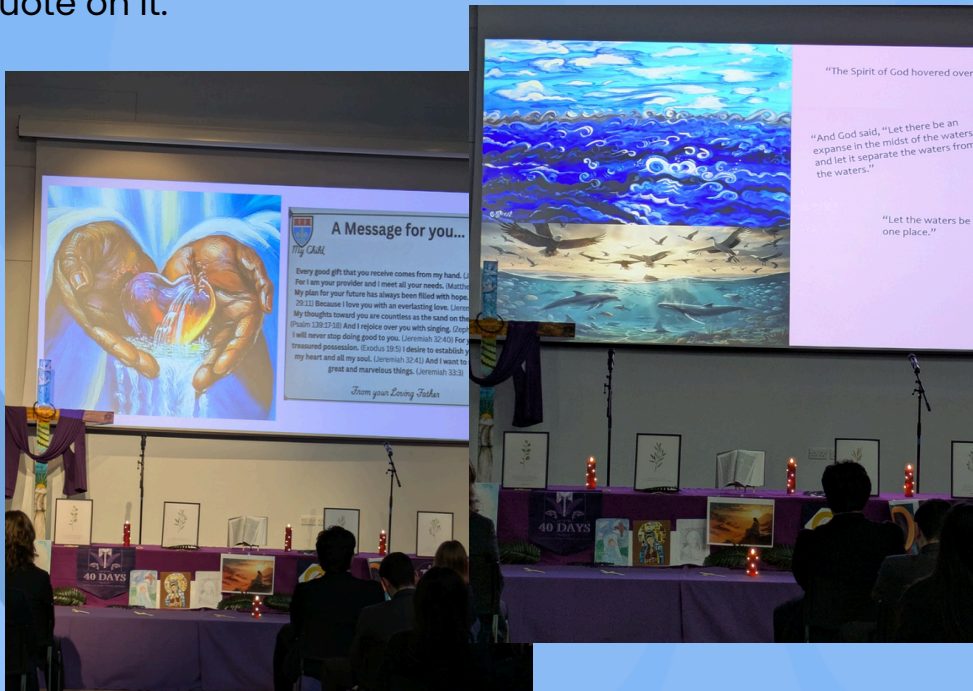
OPENING EVENT
Thursday 23rd April
4.00-6.00PM

STUDENT ARTISTS.....

Lenten Celebration of the Word

Our theme for Lent this year has been *'Living Water'*. In our Lenten Celebrations of the Word, we explored the image of water, where water is seen in scripture and the effects that water has on the world.

We also focused on what Jesus means when he offers us living water. Students were given the opportunity to spend some time in personal reflection. At the end of each service, students were handed a pencil with a scripture quote on it.



Key dates and events ...

Thursday 2nd April- All students break up for Easter holiday.

Monday 20th April- All students return to school.

Monday 4th May- Bank Holiday Monday.

Friday 22nd May- All students break up for half-term holiday.

Monday 1st June- All students return to school.

Friday 17th July- All students break up for summer holiday.