

# St Mary's



## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families had a lovely half-term break. We wish our Year 11 and Year 13 students continued good luck with their summer examinations.

All other year groups also continue to work very well in lessons, as well as contributing brilliantly to the wider life of the school.

As we move through this half-term, we have two Parents' Evening for Year 7 and Year 8, as well as an Intake Evening and visits for Year 6 students who are joining us in September. We look forward to welcoming them.

We also have many lovely end of year activities planned for all our students.

Best wishes for the rest of the summer term,

Miss Patterson, Headteacher.



## A Royal Celebration at Buckingham Palace

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Mr Cottington represented St Mary's at the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award celebration. The celebration took place at Buckingham Palace and was a wonderful event to celebrate all students who have achieved their Gold Award. This year also marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the event celebrated all schools who enable students to participate in the award.

Three former students were also able to attend the celebration, Olivia Dowden, Scarlett Butterfield and Jacob Nelson (see photograph on the front cover), and they had the opportunity to listen to speeches from inspirational people such as Dame Kelly Holmes, David Seaman and Sara Davies. The Duke of Edinburgh, His Royal Highness Prince Edward, also attended the event on behalf of the Royal family.

We have also recently received our Social Value Certificate, which details all of the volunteering our Duke of Edinburgh students have completed in the last 12 months. This amounts to an incredible 1,690 hours and £12,500, which is a fantastic achievement by our students. We are so proud of all our students who participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the difference they are making in our community. Well done!





## **Students Celebrate International Collaboration at Seven Stories**

A group of our students have been taking part in an exciting international creative project, collaborating with students from Little Rock, Arkansas, USA. Together, they have been working on writing and illustrating a book, showcasing their creativity and teamwork across continents.

Recently the students attended a special event at Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books in Ouseburn. They were joined by Year 4 pupils from St Vincent's Primary School, School Governor Anthony Woods-Waters and they also welcomed a very special guest – North East Mayor Kim McGuinness.

The event was made even more memorable through a live Zoom link with students in Little Rock, who were hosting a parallel event at the Clinton Presidential Center. This transatlantic connection allowed both groups to come together in real time to celebrate their shared achievements.

During the event, our students confidently took part in a panel discussion, sharing their experiences of working on the project and reflecting on what they had learned. They also listened to inspiring speeches from both the North East Mayor and the Mayor of Little Rock, highlighting the importance of global collaboration and cultural exchange.

A particularly proud moment came when attendees heard a reading from the book created as part of the project, bringing to life the hard work and imagination of all the students involved.

.We were delighted to hear that the event made the front page of a newspaper in Arkansas and was also featured on a local TV station in Little Rock – a fantastic achievement for everyone involved!

# St Mary's Summer Concert

We would like to invite you to the Music Department's Summer Concert. This will be an evening performance commencing at **6pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July** in the School Atrium, where many of our talented students will perform in ensembles, groups and as soloists. Following the performance refreshments will be available and the evening's proceedings will be concluded by 7:30pm.



This event provides our students with the valuable opportunity to develop their performance skills and we are looking forward to celebrating another successful school year together, with many musical favourites included in the concert.

Tickets are free and available to book using the QR code. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Year 12 University Campus Visits

Year 12 students recently enjoyed campus visits to Newcastle University and Northumbria University as part of our ongoing support for considering life after St Mary's.

During the visits, students toured the campuses, explored the facilities and gained a valuable insight into what student life is like at university. They also received helpful guidance on the UCAS application process and the steps involved in applying to higher education. The trips provided an excellent opportunity for students to think carefully about their future pathways and begin considering the type of university experience that may be right for them.



# Art Club

Students of all ages come to Art Club to work independently during lunchtimes on their creative ideas. Some students are producing work which will contribute towards the Arts Award. Others come along simply for the pleasure of expressing their creativity. At the moment, younger students are developing ideas for the End of Year Mass, which is centred on the theme of St Francis of Assisi and his strong connection to nature. Year 10 students have been working on their GCSE portfolios, exploring different materials and techniques.



## Creative Success in Year 7 Art

The Art Department has been very impressed by a stunning piece of environmental art created by Emily Wemyss in Year 7. Emily carefully planned her design before using recycled textiles to bring her idea to life.

As part of their current topic, Year 7 students are exploring environmental art and how street artists raise awareness about climate change. Emily is now hoping to enter her work into the Baltic Youth Open submission this June—an exciting opportunity. Well done, Emily!



## St Mary's Seal City Cup Glory with Dramatic Late Winner

After qualifying for the City Cup following a convincing semi-final victory, our Y7 boys football team faced the same opposition they had previously met on league finals night – a fixture that once again proved to be tightly contested. The first half was evenly matched, with both teams creating chances but struggling to find a breakthrough. Five minutes before half-time, St Mary's conceded to an excellent headed goal. In the second half, the boys stepped up their intensity and began to put the opposition under sustained pressure. Their efforts were rewarded when Latrell Ogie found the net to make it 1-1. With the match appearing to be heading for penalties – a draw would have been fair for both sides – drama struck late on.

With just five minutes remaining, Latrell scored his second goal of the game after a fortunate deflection, securing a 2-1 victory for St Mary's. The win capped off an outstanding season, with the team completing the double by lifting both the league title and the City Cup.



# Dungeons & Dragons Club

Every Friday afternoon, a group of students gathers for the school's Dungeons & Dragons club. They work together to create characters and navigate quests filled with mystery and excitement. The club, run by Mr Martins, provides a lovely environment for creativity, teamwork, and friendship, something its members look forward to at the end of every week. Pictured is a character designed by Margo Trpin in 8M. It is so striking and well thought out, well done Margo.



## Vamos De Tapas

Year 8 students have recently been studying the topic of food and tapas in Spanish and as part of this, they had the opportunity to visit a Tapas restaurant. During the visit, they had the opportunity to sample a variety of traditional dishes and experience Spanish dining culture. We were so proud of our students who were polite, respectful, and represented the school exceptionally well throughout the visit. Everyone had a wonderful time trying new foods, sharing their experiences, and enjoying the Spanish atmosphere. Many students rose to the challenge of trying to speak Spanish during the meal, ordering and using typical restaurant phrases, which they have been learning in class. Well done Year 8!



## Year 10 Ecology Fieldwork

Year 10 students have been developing their fieldwork skills in Science by conducting ecology data collection. They compared different areas of the school grounds, investigating how aspect affects the average leaf area. This hands-on activity allowed students to apply their scientific knowledge in a real-world context while building valuable data collection and analysis skills. Well done, Year 10.



## Drama Club

Drama club has been a delight this year. Each week we have strong numbers and a core group who attend each week without fail. The Sixth Form leaders arrive on a Wednesday with such enthusiasm and full of ideas for each session. Students have been developing skills in improvisation, devising and group work all year and are concluding the year with some exciting devising projects.



## Sixth Form Leader

"It has been an absolute pleasure to lead the Drama Club this year as Sixth Form student, and work with so many talented younger students at St Marys. From many different drama teamwork games, to creating their own pieces, the students have really done so well. I and am looking forward to seeing all their amazing ideas in the future."

Evangeline Coward  
Year 12

## EPQ Mentoring

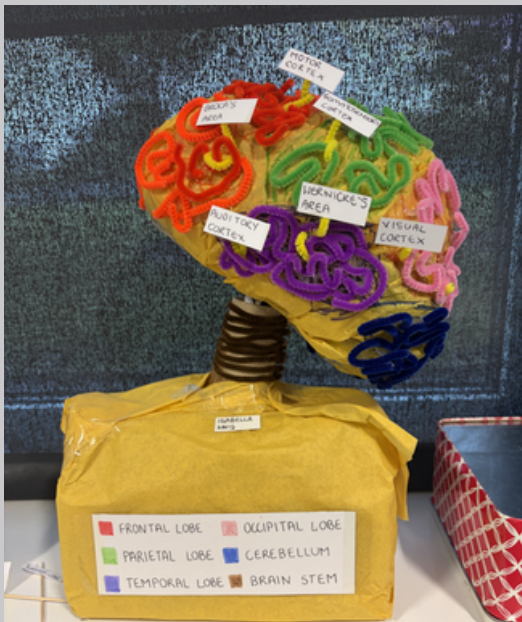
Our Year 13 students have been providing excellent support to our current Year 12 EPQ students. Each week, the Year 13 mentors have shared advice, guidance and encouragement to help students develop their project ideas, organise their research and make effective progress.

This has been a valuable opportunity for Year 12 students to learn from those who have already experienced the EPQ process.



## Year 12 Brain Models

Year 12 Psychology students have recently begun their study of biopsychology, with lessons focusing on the structure and functions of the brain. As part of this topic, students were challenged to take part in a creative brain model competition, and the results have been outstanding. A wide range of materials and approaches were used, including models carved from wood, edible creations, Minecraft builds, knitted designs and detailed clay structures. The creativity on display has been exceptional, and the effort put into the projects is clear. Students were judged not only on creativity, but also on the scientific accuracy of their work, including the quality of labels and accompanying diagrams. The standard has been so high that more winners than ever are being selected this year. It has been fantastic to see students combining creativity with their developing knowledge of the brain.

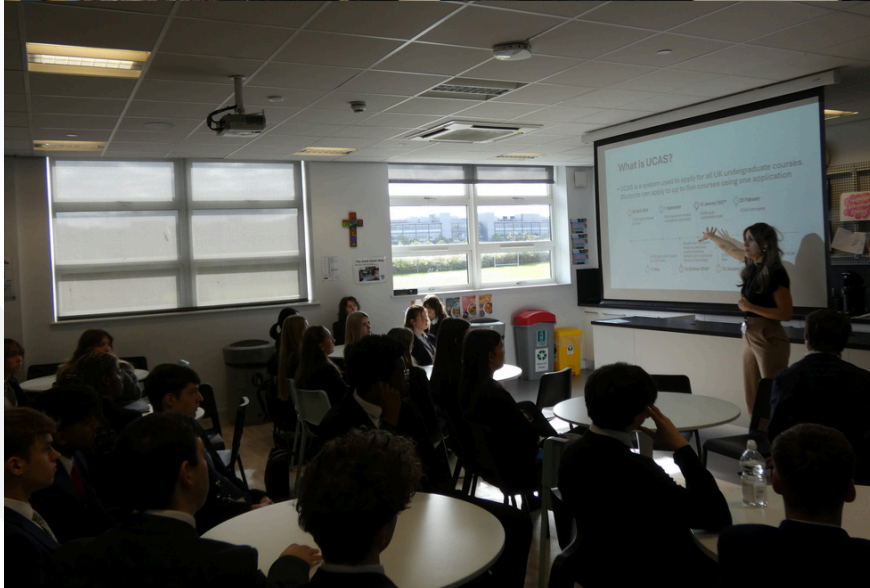


## Personal Statement Workshops

Year 12 students have recently taken part in a series of personal statement workshops delivered by Newcastle University, Durham University and the University of Sheffield. These sessions provided valuable guidance as students begin writing their personal statements and preparing their university applications.

Students were able to explore what makes a strong application, how to reflect effectively on their academic interests and experiences, and how to present themselves confidently to universities.

The workshops have been an excellent opportunity for students to begin thinking carefully about their future destinations and to take the next important steps in the UCAS application process.



## Athletics Success for Seb

Sebastian Hanney-Margallo delivered an outstanding performance at the North East County Athletics Championships, earning two silver medals and achieving personal bests in both the 100m and 200m events.



## Key dates and events ...

**Mon 8th June-** Year 8 Parents' Evening, 2.45pm-6.00pm (in school)

**Mon 29th June-** Year 7 Parents' Evening, 2.45pm-6.00pm (in school)

**Tues 14th July-** Summer Music Concert 6:00pm

**Fri 17th July-** Last day of term for all students (with early finish for students)