St Mary's

NEWSLETTER



Bienvenue en France!

On Monday 5th October, students set off extremely early for an exciting five-day adventure. It was a fantastic trip filled with sightseeing, fun and unforgettable memories! Staying in a stunning château and sharing cosy camping pods on site made the experience even more special. During the visit, students explored the beautiful Sacré-Cœur Basilica, admired the Eiffel Tower from below and enjoyed a relaxing boat cruise along the River Seine, taking in the famous sights and bridges.

The group also visited the charming town of Compiègne, experiencing everyday French culture firsthand. A quick stop at Amiens Cathedral was also a must!

The absolute highlight of the trip was Disneyland Paris. Students thoroughly enjoyed the magical atmosphere, rides and attractions, making for a brilliant day full of memories to treasure.

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Executive Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families had a lovely holiday.

We have a busy half-term ahead with our Remembrance Services for all year groups this week. We were also delighted to welcome the BBC Bitesize Careers team to school this week. They led an event with students in Years 7-10 exploring many different aspects of skills needed to succeed in the workplace.

As this newsletter demonstrates, so many activities and enrichment opportunities took place last half-term. We have had educational visits to France and Thurston, an English Literature trip to Manchester, various Maths competitions, a wide array of Sporting competitions and games, Duke of Edinburgh presentations, and many different clubs across all subject areas in school.

A huge thank you to our staff team for providing such a broad, holistic curriculum for our students and well done to our students for partaking in these opportunities so enthusiastically!

We look forward to our Advent activities later this term.

Best wishes, Miss Patterson.

Mini Mercury Showcase

Congratulations to Sofia Hanney-Margallo (10S), who recently performed at The Grove music venue as part of the Mini Mercury Showcase, one of the prestigious Mercury Prize Fringe events.



Sofia impressed the audience by both singing and performing one of her own original songs, showcasing her creativity, confidence, and musical talent. Her participation followed a four-week creative songwriting programme at Newcastle University, which our Music Department organised for a number of student musicians.

Throughout the course, students collaborated to develop their songwriting skills and formed three bands to perform at the showcase. Sofia also demonstrated remarkable adaptability and teamwork by stepping in at short notice to support one of the bands. We are incredibly proud of Sofia and all the students who took part.

UKMT Mathematical Competition for Girls 2026

On Tuesday 22nd September, 30 of our female A Level students took part in the UKMT Mathematical Competition for Girls, achieving fantastic results with 4 Distinction awards and 10 Merit certificates.

A special congratulations to Annabelle Henderson, Jennifer Whittaker, Imogen Smith and Stephanie Guan, who all achieved Distinctions.

This 90-minute competition, organised by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT), provided an excellent opportunity for our students to demonstrate their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills through a series of challenging questions.

The competition also provided students with the opportunity to challenge themselves beyond the A Level curriculum, developing resilience, logical thinking and confidence in tackling unfamiliar mathematical problems. It was wonderful to see so many students embracing the challenge and representing the school so positively.

Congratulations to all 30 participants for their hard work, enthusiasm and excellent achievements in this national competition!

Merit Certificates for A-Level Students

On the same day, two of our highest achieving female A Level students, Elsie Deacon (Year 12) and Meagan Cardozo (Year 13), took part in the UKMT Mathematical Olympiad for Girls, with both achieving Merit certificates.

This demanding two-and-a-half-hour competition consisted of five challenging problems, requiring students to demonstrate strong mathematical reasoning, creativity and problem-solving skills. Two questions required numerical answers, while the remaining three required fully reasoned written solutions.

Achieving Merit in this challenging national competition is a fantastic accomplishment and reflects the girls' mathematical ability and determination.

A huge congratulations to all our girls who took part in both competitions. We are extremely proud of their achievements!



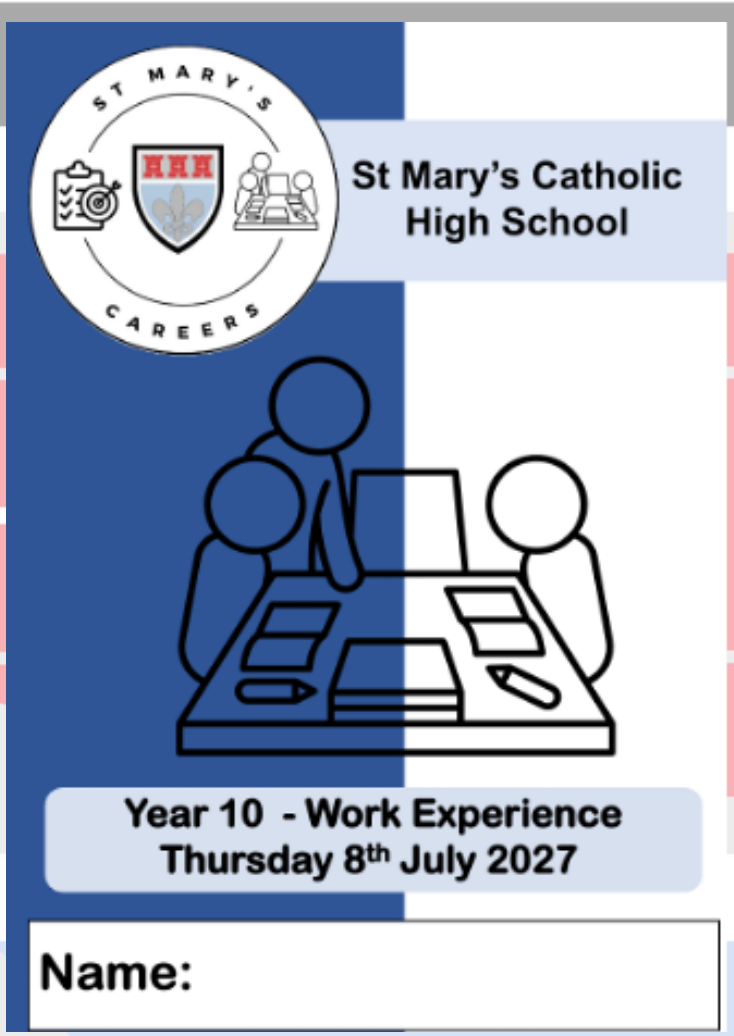
Year 10 Work Experience

On Friday 23rd October, we officially launched our Work Experience Programme with Year 10 students. The programme is designed to give students valuable insight into the world of work, helping them develop key employability skills, explore potential career pathways and gain firsthand experience of a professional working environment.

All Year 10 students will take part in a Work Experience Day on Thursday 8th July 2027. We hope this opportunity will allow students to learn more about different industries, build confidence and begin thinking about their future education and career choices.

Parents and carers have now received a letter outlining the programme, including important information about arranging a placement and the support available throughout the process.

We look forward to working with students, parents and local employers to make this a valuable and rewarding experience for all involved.







London Interdisciplinary School

Year 12 students recently took part in an insightful session delivered by representatives from the London Interdisciplinary School (LIS). The session introduced students to the university's innovative approach to higher education, which focuses on tackling real-world challenges through a range of different academic disciplines.

Students explored how subjects such as economics, psychology, technology and politics can be combined to better understand and solve complex global issues.

A Fantastic Afternoon of Rugby

Our Year 10 and Year 11 rugby team enjoyed a fantastic afternoon at Gosforth RFC yesterday, taking part in a tournament against local schools.

The team delivered an outstanding performance across three entertaining matches, securing comfortable victories against Prudhoe and Seaton Valley before finishing the afternoon with an impressive win against JPA in a much more competitive contest.

Throughout the tournament, all the players demonstrated fantastic resilience, determination and teamwork. It was particularly rewarding to see so many girls who were new to rugby grow in confidence as the afternoon progressed, embracing the challenge and showcasing their developing skills. Well Done!



Athletics Achievement

Sebastian in Year 10 has had a fantastic 2026 athletics season, winning the F.D. Moran Challenge Cup for best overall male Track and Field performance at Gosforth Harriers. He also achieved Level 9 PB Awards in the 60 m, 100 m and 200 m, and finished third in the NECAA Under 16 Boys Grand Prix.

Congratulations on a brilliant season!



Year 12 and 13 Enjoy King Lear in Manchester

Our Year 12 and 13 English Literature students travelled to Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre to watch a fantastic live performance of Shakespeare's King Lear. The production was incredible and met with universal accliam by our students who enjoyed the innovative staging and the incredible acting of David Threlfall as Lear, who led a stellar cast.



After the play, we were delighted to attend a Q&A session with the actors playing Edmund and Edgar as well as one of the directors. This discussion really helped to illuminate the performance and gave us lots to think about. Back in the classroom we were able to reflect on how seeing the play deepened our understanding its characters and themes and has made us appreciate Shakespeare's bleakest tragedy in a new light.

Strengthen Links with Local Employers - Nissan

As part of our commitment to preparing students for their future careers, we are delighted to continue building strong partnerships with local employers across the North East. These links provide invaluable opportunities for students to learn about different industries, develop workplace skills and gain insight into the wide range of career pathways available to them.

A recent highlight was our work with Nissan, one of the region's most prominent employers. Opportunities such as this help students understand the skills, qualities and experiences that employers value, while showcasing the exciting careers available right here in the North East.

We are incredibly grateful to Nissan for their support and look forward to continuing to work with local businesses and organisations.





Year 7 Football Success

The Year 7 boys A and B Football teams have now started their seasons and have played both City Cup and League fixtures. Both teams have represented the school with outstanding effort and attitude and have been a credit to themselves during the games. The A team started their season off with a 4-3 defeat in the 1st round of the City Cup, which ended up being a thriller of a game, narrowly missing out. They have since played 2 league games and won 6-0 and drew 1-1. Goals from Aiden, Alfie, James, Archie and Cuthbert. The B team also started with a Cup match and played exceptionally well. The game finished 1-1 with Jason being our only goal scorer. However, with this being a cup match, the game needed a team to win, therefore both teams took part in a penalty shootout. Dominic made two exceptional saves to send St Mary's B team through to the next round. The B team have since played 3 league games, losing 2 and winning a game 4-1. Goals from Ollie, George and Luca. An exciting season ahead for both of our new Year 7 boys football teams.







Bracelet Making Club

It's been a lovely start to our Bracelet Making Club! Students have been enjoying getting creative every Monday lunchtime in G13, experimenting with different colours, patterns and designs to make their own bracelets. It's been great to see so much enthusiasm and creativity already!

Former Students Inspire Year 12

It was fantastic to welcome former St Mary's students Leo and Jack from Oliver Wyman to this week's Year 12 Employer Experience session. They shared their experiences of degree apprenticeships and offered valuable advice about this exciting route into higher education and employment.

Oliver Wyman now has four former St Mary's students working for the company, a fantastic achievement and a great example of the opportunities available to our students beyond school.



Drama Club is Back!

Drama Club is back! Students are developing their improvisation skills through fun and engaging improvisation circles, building confidence, creativity and teamwork along the way.

Drama Club is a great opportunity to try something new, work with others and express yourself in a relaxed and supportive environment. Whether you love performing or are keen to give drama a go for the first time, everyone is welcome!

When: Every Wednesday
Where: G25



Cross Country Event

A group of KS3 students recently represented the school at a School Games Inclusion Cross Country event in South Shields. Competing against students from across the Northeast, they tackled distances of up to two miles in both individual and team events. All of our students demonstrated fantastic determination and resilience, and we were extremely proud of the way they represented St Mary's throughout the competition.



Year 11 reflect on their Silver DofE Expeditions

Our Year 11 students recently completed presentations reflecting on their Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award expeditions.

The presentations gave students an opportunity to look back on their experiences, explain the challenges they faced and consider how they responded when things did not go according to plan. They also reflected on the importance of teamwork, resilience and determination in successfully completing their journeys.

Through the expeditions, students developed a wide range of valuable skills, including communication, problem-solving, organisation and supporting others. Presenting their experiences also allowed them to recognise how much they had achieved and how their confidence had grown throughout the process.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award provides students with an excellent opportunity to challenge themselves beyond the classroom, develop their independence and work effectively as part of a team. We are very proud of the commitment shown by our Year 11 students during both their expeditions and presentations.





Het Schoter School Visits St Mary's

At the beginning of October, St Mary's welcomed 80 students from the Het Schoter school in the Netherlands during their annual trip to Newcastle. Over two days, the Dutch students joined our Year 7 and Year 8 classes to take part in PE, English, and Maths lessons.

Students from both schools thoroughly enjoyed the experience, making the most of the opportunity to work with and get to know young people their own age from another country. The visit in October marks the fifth year in a row that Het Schoter has visited St Mary's during their annual trip to Newcastle. We look forward to continuing this tradition in the years to come.







Key dates and events...

Wed 11th Nov 3.30pm-5.30pm- Year 7 and 12 Tutor Evening (in person)

Thurs 26th Nov 5.00pm-7.00pm- Sixth Form Open Evening (in person and early finish for all students)

Mon 30th Nov 2.45pm-5.15pm- Year 13 Parents' Evening (in person and early finish for all students)

Friday 18th December- final day of term before the Christmas break (early finish for all students)