



St Mary's Catholic College

NEWSLETTER

Work together; Succeed together

Issue 1 | October 2022 stmaryswallasey.com

Headteacher's Message

Welcome to the first edition of our new and improved college newsletter - in this very special year for us - our 50th anniversary. Our aim is to bring together key items of celebration and important information into one place. We have introduced this as a direct result of your feedback, helping to improve our communication strategy. Your input continues to be a crucial aspect of college life and we are determined to ensure that we work together in order to succeed together.



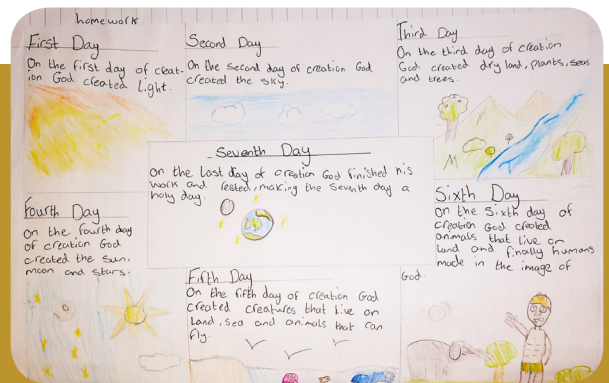
Department Focus: RE

Discussing the Big Questions

As a Catholic school, The RE Department is central to the ethos and core values of St Mary's. Our schemes of work are designed to be an engaging, well sequenced, meaningful and effective way of exploring personal belief in order to help evolve, challenge and support the Christian development of every young person.

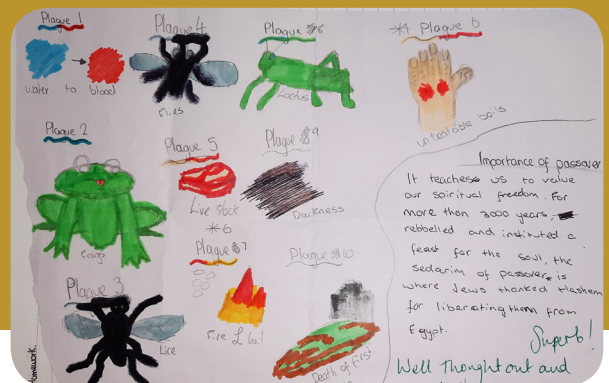
Year 7 Creation to Summit

Year 7 have been asking the Big Questions, What caused the universe and why are we here? They have been looking at the mystery of God, undertaking research tasks of how God reveals himself and discussing views on how the world was created. They have been practising different revision techniques and self reviewing to gain a better understanding of the concepts they are learning.



Year 8 Covenants

Year 8 have been researching and investigating the idea of Covenants with God, what they are and the effects they have on modern day. They have been very interested in Moses' Story and how passover affected Judaism today.



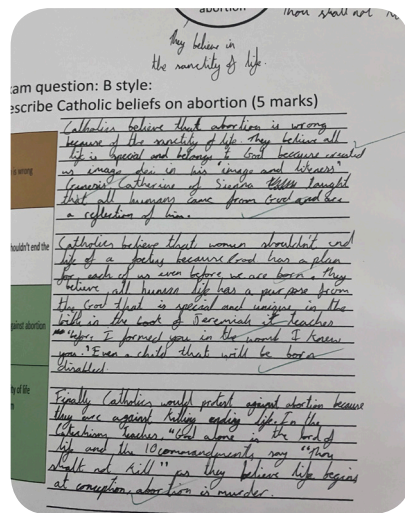
Year 9 Faith & Science

Year 9 have been asking the Big Questions, What caused the Universe and Why, they have had heated discussions on Evolution and how survival of the fittest links to the current environmental problems the Pope has been asking us to look at. They have been preparing an academic review piece, debating if there is any evidence that God exists.

Type of Experience	Experience	How is this God revealing himself?	Challenge: What might an atheist say?
Prayer	All religious think that they can make contact with god through prayer. Informal prayer Miracles are a religious experience because they break the laws of science it simply cannot be explained. E.g. Chilean survival	If the person praying feels that god is listening to the prayer, then they if that private prayer is answered, E.g. a sick person gets better	Its just Luck
Miracles	Miracles are a religious experience because they break the laws of science it simply cannot be explained. E.g. Chilean survival	The only explanation for that experience only god could have caused it. E.g. people witnessing a miracle - direct contact	There has to be a scientific explanation
Numinous	This is a feeling of the presence of god.	a lovely sunset a lovely moon in the night	Its just the universe
Conversion	When something happens in your life, which changes your way of life.	They come to realisation that god has helped them	you make a life for yourself

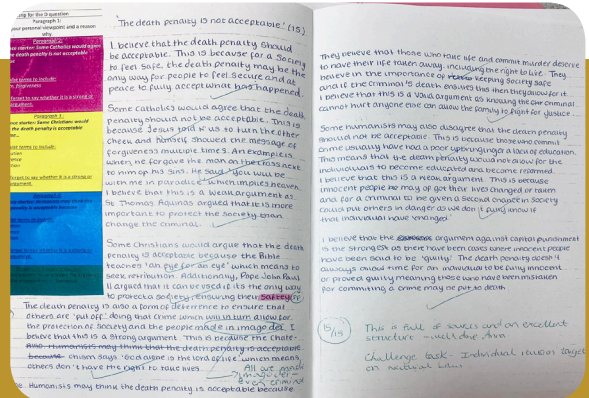
Year 10 Origin & Meanings

Year 10 students have started their GCSE course with this unit. They have unpacked Catholic beliefs on the origin of the universe in comparison with Christianity. They have looked at St Catherine's teachings on the sanctity of life and Imago Dei. Finally, they have investigated what Michelangelo's painting of 'The Creation of Adam' expressed about Catholic beliefs in creation, God and humans



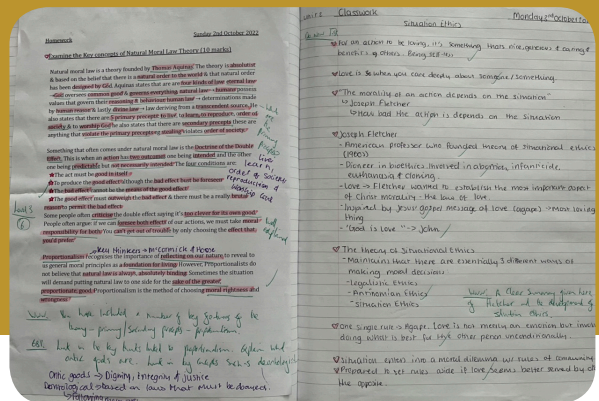
Year 11 Sin and Forgiveness

Sin and Forgiveness is year 11's topic and the year group have been investigating and debating theories of punishment, what the Catechism and different popes say about capital punishment. When discussing Forgiveness they looked into how Gee Walker was able to forgive her son's killers and what Jesus told us we should do. They have been practising different styles of exam questions and working out how to improve their answers to improve their scores.



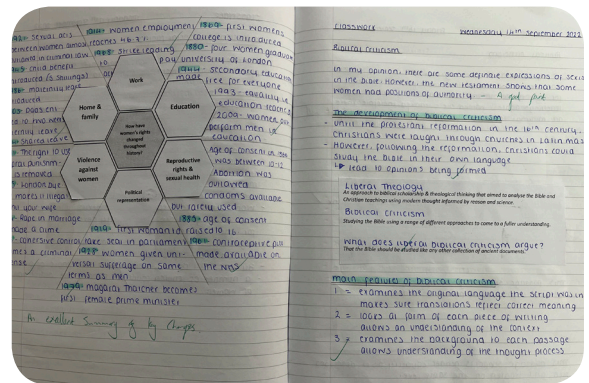
Year 12 Ethical Theories

Year 12 studies have explored a range of different ethical theories, such as Natural Moral Law and Situation Ethics. They have explored key features and the key strengths and weaknesses of each theory. Students have completed AO1 exam questions and reflected on how to improve their answers.



Year 13 Christianity & Gender

Year 13 students have explored different Biblical texts relating to gender and reflected upon key biblical criticism. They have developed strategies to use when critically evaluating aspects of the curriculum and how they can use these techniques to build a conclusion.



C-Change Creativity Conference

Pupil performances do us proud

We are hugely proud to be part of C-Change through HFCMAT one of only eight Royal Academy [Creativity Collaboratives](#). We are working with a network of schools to promote innovative practices in teaching for creativity across all subjects - from Maths to Dance! Within this project, our students represented the College at the C-Change Creativity Conference, performing for over 100 educational, business and creative practitioners. This included Dance Drama, Art and our College choir also joined the MAT choir in a fabulous ensemble piece. We were so delighted with their professionalism and enthusiasm and look forward to developing these opportunities across the curriculum.



Liverpool Empire Partnership

Exciting times

Since September, we have embarked on an educational partnership with the Liverpool Empire Theatre. We are incredibly excited to be working alongside them as they have many opportunities on offer which will expose our students to new and memorable experiences. Without the partnership, these would otherwise be inaccessible. We have already taken part in a visual workshop with the English National Ballet, as well as visiting the theatre to see Swan Lake and there are so many more opportunities to come!



Hot Chocolate Friday

Pupils recognised for achievement

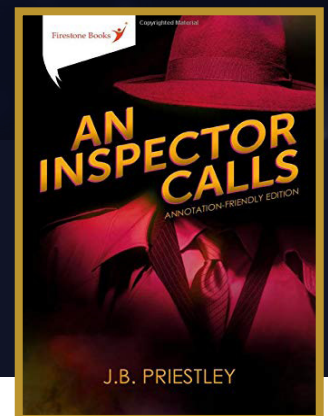
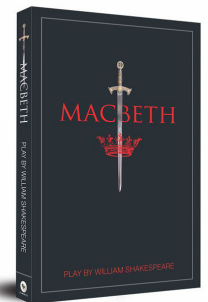


Year 7	Harry A, Tilly F, Meeya B, Ben A, Noah P, Keira H, Aden S, Megan L
Year 8	Eibhlin C, Stevie B, Ruby M, Samuel G, Isabelle M, Leon R, Emi B, Scarlett D
Year 9	Aaliyah-A C, Owen P, Katelyn S, Harrie Jo D, Eve L, Regan W-J, Maddie F, Oscar S
Year 10	Luke D, Olivia C, Luke K, Maisie C, Jake M, Amaia M, Luke D, Olivia C
Year 11	Emily H, Harry D, Christina L, Rylie V, Jasmine T, Cecilia B, Teo B, Hope B
6th Form	Sophie D, Callum M, Renee B, Jack B, Sean F, Lauren G, Matty A, Calum B

English Department

Pupils shining bright

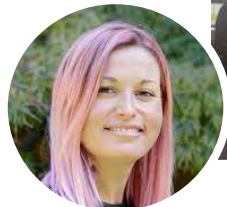
What a successful and exciting start to the year. Our English Stars of the Week are shining bright, with their names being announced and celebrated within lessons at the start of every week! Our year 7's started the year by changing the world and debating on how we can make the world a better place. We have some inspirational climate change advocates... Watch out Greta! Our year 8's and 9's have been getting into the Autumn spirit whilst using their imagination to create dystopian and gothic narratives. In KS4, a young female has taken her life in Bromley and Year 10 students are figuring out who is to blame in An Inspector Calls. Year 11 are studying their GCSE Shakespearean text. A Tyrant King rules the Monarch in Scotland.. His "vaulting ambition" is causing him to kill. Will Macbeth ever be caught?



Virtual Author Visit

English rewards

English teachers nominated Year 7 students to take part in a virtual author visit with Aisling Fowler. This was as a reward and recognised the fantastic work that has been taking place in their English lessons. Aisling introduced students to her book *Fireborn* and shared insider tips on how students can craft their own fantasy adventures with their own unique



cast of magical creatures and answered questions. Students then completed activities with Aisling to create their own monsters and characters. The visit was so inspiring for our avid readers and writers.



HFCMAT Chester Zoo Takeover

Pupils demonstrate talent for conservation

We took over Chester Zoo on 6th October to raise awareness about conservation. **Art** students put together a pop-up exhibition and talked to visitors about the plastic waste in our oceans and seas and the devastating effects it has on marine life globally.

Drama students performed to a poem written by Matthew Butterworth of Yr13; a really poignant piece about the plight of endangered species..



Dance students showcased their choreography skills with an interpretive piece that captured the essence of conservation perfectly.



*“And like my friend the polar bear
I'd like to ask a favour
Buy your sweeties without palm oil
It doesn't change the flavour”*

CHESTER ZOO

Music students sang their hearts out to carefully chosen songs with messages they stand behind. One of them being 'Big Yellow Taxi' possibly the most iconic protest song for environmentalists through the years.

*“You don't know what you got 'til it's gone
They paved paradise and put up a parking lot”*



World Mental Health Day

Standing together

#HelloYellow

YOUNGMINDS



Inspire Time

YoungMinds

So many positives to celebrate with Inspire so far. Year 7 during Inspire time have taken part in a transition project "Awesome Me" where they have shared and celebrated how they are all "awesome". They have even written their own recipe for an awesome me. As part of our compassion core value the whole college turned yellow on Monday 10th October to raise awareness of Mental Health in conjunction with YoungMinds. Young Minds is the UK's leading charity fighting for a future where all young minds are supported and empowered, whatever the challenges. They are here to make sure young people get the best possible mental health support and have the resilience to overcome life's difficulties. As a College we are committed to supporting their work. All year groups have also been introduced to Inspire Opportunities and there are many wonderful projects planned to further develop our core values. We are working together to succeed together.

Pupils exchanged one piece of uniform for something yellow in return for a donation to charity. Supported by a cake sale we raised much needed funds to support our young people in the UK.



You Said & We Did

Pupil and parent voice



PUPILS

Can we have an opportunity for pupils to have their say in school?

We had 2 pupil surveys in 2022 from the Head teacher. The student council set up student voice boxes in the library which are checked every week.

Can we improve the standard of the main toilets?

Plans are in place for brand new toilets this year which were shared with the student council. We increased the staffing on the toilets at break and lunch and the student council take an active role in checking them weekly.

Can we have more structured activities in P&A time?

We have launched the new Inspire programme looking at a variety of topics linked in with our core values and mission.

Can we have a longer lunchtime?

We have introduced a new school day with a shortened P&A time and longer lunch of 45 minutes for all pupils.

Can we have more clubs at lunchtime?

With our 45 minute lunch time we now have a wider variety of extra-curricular clubs in sport, performing arts and in the library. A lot of these will also be available after school.

Can students have more opportunity to talk about bullying?

Last year we trained large numbers of pupils to be Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who are available to support students if needed.

Can we reduce the lunch queues?

A food station has now been set up on the GRA so some food can be purchased and eaten outside.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

How can we contact our child's year team?

We have set up direct email addresses for each year team which are monitored daily.

Can we have more opportunity to support our child with homework or assessments?

Parents now have an individual Arbor login which is used to record all homework's set. Each child received an information pack with revision strategies and revision materials.

How do I know what clubs are available to my child?

We now have a full enrichment programme running every lunch time which can be found on our website and has been shared with all pupils.

Is there a way I can see how my child's day has gone so I can support them at home?

We have moved to a new programme called Arbor with a parental app that allows you to see all the positive recognition points for your child each day.

Is there an opportunity for my child to get breakfast before school?

We now open our canteen from 8am and serve free bagels as part of the national breakfast programme.

How will my child be supported in the transition from Year 6 into Year 7?

We offer an enhanced transition programme which includes a summer school, primary visits, year 7 toilets and playground and an earlier lunch time.

Work together; Succeed together

Extra Curricular

Clubs & interventions

Lunchtime Sessions 1-1.35pm

Monday

Guitar Orchestra • Reading Intervention • Football • Trampolining • Dodgeball • Book Club • SMCC Drama Performance Club • Dance Club • Geography Club

Tuesday

Art Club • Choir • Football • Trampolining • Dodgeball • Chess & Board Games Club • Dance Club • Chaplaincy Mass • History Club

Wednesday

Art Club • Senior Choir • Maths Homework Club • Writing Club • Football • Trampolining • Dodgeball • Dance Club • Science STEM Club • Drama Club • Faith in Action

Thursday

Art Club • Choir • Football • Trampolining • Dodgeball • French Grammar Clinic • KS5 Drama Co • Dance Club • Faith in Action

Friday

KS5 Literature Club • Football • Trampolining • Dodgeball • French Culture Society • Animal Care Club • Drama Club • Dance Club • Eco Leaders Club

After School Sessions 3-4pm

Monday

Art Club • Maths Intervention • Basketball • French Drama Club • A Level Chemistry Intervention • DT/Engineering Intervention • DT Formula 1 Club • Debate Club • Health & Social Coursework Support • ICT/Computing study Support • Senior Dance • RE Homework Support

Wednesday

Business Coursework Support • Maths A Level Intervention • English A Level Intervention • Rugby • DT Formula 1 Club • DT/Engineering • Murder Mystery Club • Health & Social Coursework Support • Childcare Coursework Support • ICT/Computing-Raspberry Pi • Drama Connections Rehearsals • Drama Coursework Support • RE Revision & Master Class • English Intervention

Thursday

English Intervention • Girls & Boys Football • Engineering Coursework Support • Harry Potter Club • Junior Dance Club • RE Revision and Study Skills • DT/Engineering Intervention

Friday

A Level Biology Intervention • GCSE Chemistry Intervention • GCSE Physics Intervention • Drama College Show Rehearsals • Faith in Action Community Group

More information including room numbers and year groups can be found on our website [here](#)

Careers Bulletin

Job of the week- Marine Biologist



**Holy
Family
Catholic
Multi
Academy
Trust**

Marine Biology is the study of everything in water and the environment surrounding, often with the aim of protecting marine environments.

Take a look at the short video clip below for more information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=am-StbO53ek>

Linked to the above, check out Matt's story. Matt is a Fisheries Technical Officer for the Environment Agency. His job is to improve river habitats and increase fish populations. Please read the transcript (below the video clip) as well as watching the video – Matt gives some really good advice about 'following your dreams'. <https://icould.com/stories/matt-b/>



Apprenticeships

Morrisons supermarkets



Year 13 Apprenticeships

Morrisons Supermarkets - Level 6 apprenticeship (degree with honours) in Retail Leadership:

Overview:

40 vacancies nationwide

Three year apprenticeship – minimum qualifications required are English and Maths GCSEs at grade 4 or

higher, plus 112 UCAS points. Starting salary circa 22k. Start date September 2023.

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/1000091208>

In Other News..

College show 2023

The Performing Arts Department has announced the exciting news that the next college show to be performed at the Floral Pavilion is (drumroll).. Shrek The Musical! Auditions take place this week and we are looking forward to seeing you all there at the end of January. The show will run across two nights so be sure to keep an eye on our website for updates on ticket sales.

NEW BRIGHTON
FLORAL PAVILION
THEATRE



Staff Achievement

Marathon success

On Sunday 2nd of October, after weeks of hard training, dedication and commitment; our very own Miss Cowdray and Catering Manager Dan Dowd completed the Chester Marathon. They are both absolutely delighted with themselves and their times. Miss Cowdray completed the course in 4 hours and Dan in 4 hrs 27min. Well done to them both!



SEND

Coffee time

Come and join us for coffee and a chat in The Student Hub on the following dates. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and carers.

Tuesday the 18th October 9am-10 am

Led by The Positivtree charity who offer support and guidance for parents.

Wednesday the 9th November 4-5.30pm

Led by the Child Bereavement UK charity - looking at supporting our children with grief and loss.



Thursday 15th December 11am-12pm

Led by the SEND team - How to de-escalate our children when they are upset.

Key College Dates

Upcoming dates to remember

Friday 21st October 2022

INSET day for staff. Pupils on half term.

20th – 28th October 2022

October half term

Monday 31st October 2022

All pupils return after half term

Wednesday 9th – Friday 11th November 2022

Year 7 Alton Castle retreat

Wednesday 9th November 2022

In school Careers Fair for all pupils

Thursday 10th November 2022

Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening 3.30pm-6.45pm

Monday 14th November 2022

Anti-Bullying week – One kind word

Odd socks day for pupils & staff

Tuesday 15th November

Sixth Form Open Evening 6pm-8pm



St Mary's Catholic College
Wallasey

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 15th November - 6.00pm - 8.00pm

An essential evening to learn how to support you child's transition into Year 12. Meet our Sixth Form subject staff and learn how St Mary's Sixth Form can turn your aspirations into reality.

Your Sixth Form journey is underway!
email: 6thform@stmaryswallasey.com with any queries.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to have an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

SPOT THE ONLINE SAFETY TIPS FOR GOING

BACK TO SCHOOL

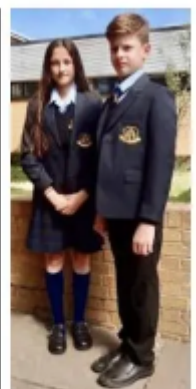


St Mary's needs your
uniform

As part of our commitment to recycling we are asking you to play your part by donating any uniform that you no longer need so that it can be reused.

What we need:

Blazers Jumpers Skirts Bags
Shirts Blouses Trousers PE Shorts
PE Tops Trainers Lightly worn shoes



Put your uniform in the FUSS
collection tub as you come into school