



St. Mary's Catholic College

NEWSLETTER

Work together; Succeed together Pilgrims of Hope



**Holy
Family
Catholic** Multi
Academy
Trust

Spring Term | 2025



EASTER AT ST. MARY'S

As we journey towards Easter, a season of renewal and resurrection, our College takes this sacred time to reflect on all that we have accomplished as a faith-filled community. In the spirit of Hebrews 10:24, which calls us to "consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds," we celebrate the many ways our students and staff have embodied hope, service, and unity this year.

Last week, during Inspire, our students took to the school grounds to participate in Our Walk to the Vatican, a symbolic act of pilgrimage celebrating the Jubilee Year. This was more than just an opportunity for fresh air and exercise—it was a moment of reflection, reminding us that we are all on a journey of faith, hope, and perseverance.

Another way we are celebrating the Jubilee Year is through the Decorate Your Door competition. Each form group has prayerfully reflected on what hope means to them, expressing their ideas in creative ways that have transformed our hallways into a visual celebration of faith and inspiration.

To conclude this term, our Year 7 students are setting off on their retreat—an opportunity to deepen their relationship with God, spend time in reflection, and step outside their comfort zones. Retreats offer a chance to pause from daily life, listen to God's calling, and grow in faith. We pray that this experience will be a time of renewal, spiritual growth, and community.

Our SVP Faith in Action group has been living out the Gospel values through service and

leadership. They have participated in Mini Dash meetings, connecting with other young people in the diocese, and engaging in discussions about Catholic Social Teaching. They also had the privilege of interviewing our head teacher, discussing key issues such as social justice, stewardship of creation, and recycling in the canteen, reinforcing our shared commitment to caring for both people and the planet as part of our faith.

In addition, our college gathered for a special Jubilee Mass in the chapel, celebrated by Father Mike and Father Sam. This sacred occasion was a moment of gratitude and renewal, reminding us of God's faithfulness throughout the years. The celebration concluded with a joyful time of fellowship—chips and cake—marking this special year with thanksgiving and community.

As part of this special celebration, our new Lectionaries were blessed, symbolising our continued commitment to hearing and living out God's Word. The Lectionary holds the sacred readings proclaimed at Mass, guiding us in faith and drawing us closer to Christ. We pray that through these blessed texts, the Word of God will continue to inspire and transform our college community.

As we prepare our hearts for Easter, may we continue to embrace the hope and love that Christ offers us, supporting one another in faith and service.

L. Snelson
School Chaplain

CHAPLAINCY IN ST. MARY'S



Meeting Mr Madlocks



Enjoying chips in the chapel



Jubilee Mass



Lending a helping hand



Our 'pilgrimage to the Vatican'



Visiting SJP



Walking the Gra to celebrate 'A Year of Hope'



SVP Faith in Action group



Our Jubilee door competition



ZILLO YOUTH AWARD SUCCESS

A True Inspiration

Many of you may already know Miah, a Year 11 student who joined The Arc at the start of Year 10. We are absolutely delighted to share the incredible news that Miah has won the prestigious Zillo Wirral Flourish Award – Celebrating Resilience and Personal Growth! This well-deserved recognition honours young people who have faced and overcome adversity, and Miah's journey is a true inspiration to us all.

Before joining St. Mary's, Miah had not attended school for three years due to bullying, which left her fearful of school and social interactions. When she first visited, she struggled with anxiety and was often unable to move comfortably around the building. However, through unwavering determination, resilience, and the support of The Arc team, her teachers, and fellow students, Miah has transformed her school experience.

Fast forward to today, and Miah's progress has been nothing short of extraordinary. She is now a confident Anti-Bullying Ambassador, using her experiences to support and inspire others. She has excelled in her studies, built strong friendships, and even showcased her poetry at Arts Week, bravely sharing her powerful story of resilience and personal growth.

Winning the Zillo Wirral Flourish Award is a testament to Miah's strength and determination. It also highlights the power of a supportive community in helping young people thrive despite past challenges. Her journey serves as a beacon of hope for others who may be facing similar struggles.

We are immensely proud of Miah and all that she has achieved. She has not only flourished personally but has also become an inspiration for others at St. Mary's and beyond. Congratulations, Miah – this is just the beginning of a bright and successful future!





Blood Brothers

Watching live theatre is invaluable for drama students, allowing them to observe professional acting, enhance interpretation, and appreciate live storytelling. Earlier this month, Year 10 Drama students attended a touring production of *Blood Brothers* at the Liverpool Empire Theatre.

Having recently studied and performed an abbreviated version of the play for their BTEC Level 2 course, students enjoyed seeing professional portrayals and how the musical elements enhanced the production. Their excellent theatre etiquette impressed audience members, who even emailed Mr. Maddocks to commend their outstanding representation of the school.

World Book Day 2025

On March 6th, students and staff all gathered together to celebrate 2025's World Book Day! Tons of entries were received for Miss Cullen's story writing and book illustrating competitions, and many students participated in the returning lifesize 'Where's Wally' challenge around school.

Throughout the week, pupils were also able to colour their own bookmarks in the library and complete book-themed activities as well as explore this year's World Book Day titles. Similarly, during Inspire time, each form was tasked with creating their own River of Reading mural.

The highlight for most of the St Mary's family, though, was the dedication shown by all the staff members who chose to dress up for the occasion. From Mrs Trunchbull to Macbeth and Dracula to Narcissa Malfoy, a huge array of book characters came to visit and the effort put into making the day memorable was hugely appreciated by all!



Going the extra mile...

Head of Music, Mr. Hughes, is going the extra mile—literally—to support the college's music provision.

In 2025, he has set himself an incredible challenge: completing a 10km run, a half marathon, and a full marathon to raise funds for a more practical approach to teaching music in the classroom.

His journey began with the Chester 10K, where he crossed the finish line with a smile. With two more races ahead, Mr. Hughes is calling on the school community to support his mission and help bring more music to the St. Mary's community.

Visit his JustGiving page by scanning the QR code to donate today!

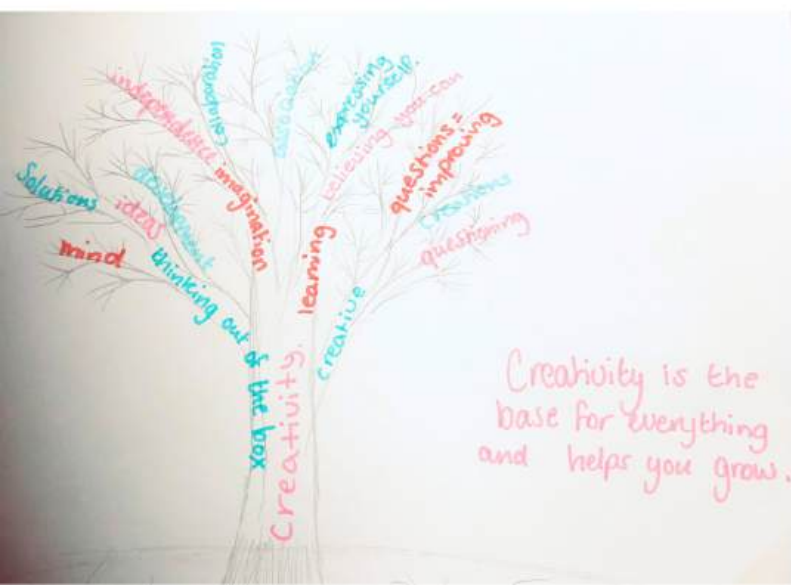


PERFORMING ARTS



This term, the Performing Arts Faculty has been alive with creativity, energy, and innovation across Drama, Dance, Music, Media, and Art. Our students have been pushing boundaries, developing their skills, and bringing their artistic visions to life. With an incredible lineup of Inspire opportunities alongside our creative curriculum, it's been an inspiring time for all!

We continue to nurture talent, creativity, and confidence, empowering students to express themselves in bold and imaginative ways. Whether it's on stage, in the studio, or behind the camera, our students are developing skills that will last a lifetime.



This term, our school welcomed representatives from the Arts Council for an inspiring visit, marking the official relaunch of the Learning Ambassadors programme. With a focus on the power of creativity and the key learning habits that drive success, the event was a celebration of artistic expression, resilience, and leadership.

Following a rigorous application process, 20 students from Year 7 to Year 12 were carefully selected as Learning Ambassadors, a prestigious role that will see them champion creativity and learning habits throughout the school. These ambassadors will act as role models, helping to embed the values of resilience, imagination, collaboration, discipline, and persistence into all areas of learning.

During the visit, the Arts Council team worked closely with the newly appointed ambassadors, guiding them through interactive workshops that explored how these learning habits transcend the arts and influence all subjects. From problem-solving in Maths to teamwork in PE, students discovered the universal impact of creative thinking and perseverance.

The event was an empowering experience for all involved, providing ambassadors with the tools to inspire their peers and shape the future of learning at our school. As beacons of the next phase of learning habits, these students will now be leading initiatives to encourage others to embrace creativity as a driving force in education.

With the support of the Arts Council, our school continues to place creativity at the heart of learning, ensuring that students develop not only creative skills but also the mindset and determination to succeed in all aspects of life. This is just the beginning for our Learning Ambassadors, and we can't wait to see the positive impact they will have in the months ahead!

Celebrating our local area through collaboration in the Arts

Our Key Stage 3 Community Project is bringing New Brighton's History to Life!

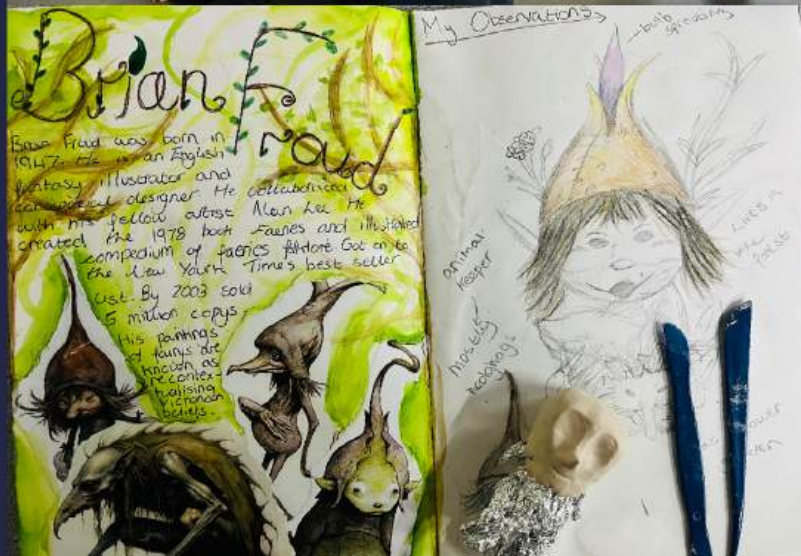
Our Year 7 and 9 students have been actively engaging in an exciting Community Project, exploring the history and regeneration of New Brighton. This initiative has brought together Drama and Art students, allowing them to connect with the local community while celebrating the town's rich.

Our Drama students have been diving into New Brighton's fascinating history, tracing its transformation from a bustling Victorian seaside resort to its modern revival. Through immersive research and creative storytelling, students have been developing performances that highlight key moments in the town's past. In a particularly impressive scene, our Drama studio even became the landing stage at the Pier Head in 1952! Their hard work and dedication have resulted in dynamic performances that capture both the nostalgia and the excitement of New Brighton's evolution.

Meanwhile, our Art students have been drawing inspiration from New Brighton's heritage to create unique and meaningful pieces. Year 7 students are designing ceramic postcards inspired by Sarah Graham's vibrant style. Their work captures the spirit of the local fairground, beach, and historic architecture while incorporating personal messages that reflect the changing nature of communication over time.

Year 9 students have taken a more mythical approach, studying the work of fantasy artist Brian Froud. Using polymer clay, they have sculpted goblins and other mystical creatures inspired by local legends. These students are also creating enchanting fairy sculptures to be placed around the department paying tribute to the original Fairy Garden in Vale Park, which was sadly lost in a fire.

This project has been a fantastic opportunity for our students to connect with local heritage, showcase their creativity, and contribute to their community in a meaningful way. Through drama and art, they have brought New Brighton's history to life while playing a part in shaping its future.



Dot-Art Competition '25

St. Mary's is thrilled to announce that three of our talented students—Callum, Phoebe, and Luca—have been selected to represent our school in the prestigious dot-art Schools competition, a contest that showcases young artistic talent across the region.

This exciting journey began with our Year 9 students creating and submitting artwork based on any theme of their choice. They explored a variety of mediums, from tonal pencil and watercolours to a 3D pizza slice crafted from fabric and buttons!

After careful review by a panel of artistic judges, the top three pieces from our school have now been shortlisted. Their artwork will be featured on the dot-art website, where the public can vote for their favourite from April 8th to April 30th. The piece with the most votes will go on to represent St. Mary's in the final exhibition. The winning artwork from each school will be displayed in a public exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool from June 7th to July 14th, with a special prize-giving ceremony for the overall winners on June 26th.

We are incredibly proud of all our students for their creativity and imagination. We encourage everyone to show their support by voting online and visiting the exhibition!

Check their progress and cast your vote here: www.dot-art.com



Music Showcase

St Marys music department is no stranger to quality performances and March 20th was no exception with the Sixth Form Charity Showcase.

Headlining the event were Liv Quayle and Daisy Wiggins with solo vocal performances that would have pride of place in your favourite playlist. We wish them all the best for the next chapter in their musical journey. Supporting the event were Avenue and Unique Interaction, the former an established year 10/11 band with the latter making their gigging debut.

We had an emotionally charged duo from Lydia and Tom who we will undoubtedly hear more from in the future. Last but not least Ameera and Emily belted out some amazing solos giving us assurance that before long they will be headlining a similar event for their very own final showcases.

We thank everyone who supported us and we look forward to inviting you to Friday Night Live next term.





Saba's Swim

St Mary's Youth Theatre (SMYT) debuted their production of "Saba's Swim" by Danusia Samal as part of the National Theatre's Connections Festival 2025.

Their home performance took place back in February and consisted of BTec Level 2 and 3 students who had been working really hard and they had been giving up their lunchtimes and afterschool to bring this brand new piece of theatre together.

We were lucky to have Director Ellie Hurt come to watch the performance and she gave some fantastic feedback to the cast post performance. She was so impressed with the cast's portrayal of Saba's story and how they brought so much care and attention to the story.

The cast took her constructive feedback back into the rehearsal room and they are now preparing to take it to the Lyceum Theatre in Crewe after Easter to perform alongside Helsby High School as part of the festival.



Worlds Greatest City

Students in Years 8 and 9 have been given a unique opportunity to bring history to the stage through an exciting partnership with the Liverpool Empire Theatre. As part of the 'World's Greatest City' project, students are drawing connections between the rich history of Liverpool and the globally celebrated musical Hamilton.

This innovative project has seen students participate in professional workshops led by industry experts, giving them hands-on experience in music writing, choreography, and performance. Through these sessions, they have been able to develop their own original pieces, inspired by the themes of Hamilton, while incorporating elements of the regions own cultural and historical legacy.

The partnership with the Liverpool Empire Theatre has provided students with an incredible platform to express their creativity and enhance their performance skills. By working closely with theatre professionals, they have gained insights into the world of musical theatre, from stagecraft to storytelling.

This collaboration highlights the importance of creative education and the impact it can have on young people. Through the 'World's Greatest City' project, students are not only developing their artistic abilities but also deepening their understanding of Liverpool's past and its place in the wider world.



THE ARC

Forest School Pilot Begins!

In collaboration with St. George's, ARC students have embarked on their Forest School sessions. This program provides a supportive outdoor learning experience, encouraging personal growth, responsible risk-taking, and a sense of achievement for all participants over a dedicated period of time.

During the forest school sessions, students are supported in their learning through a holistic approach which encourages the exploration of the outdoor environment and an appreciation for nature.

Students develop confidence, emotional resilience, independence, language and communication skills and increase levels of physical activity and mental well-being.



Art Competition

Our lovely Coral Swan has taken part in this year's Art competition through Dot Art. Dot-art Schools is an interactive, online, inter-school, art competition, taking place annually and culminating in a public exhibition of the winning artworks and prize giving celebration for teachers, students and their families.

This is Coral's entry and in her words what inspired such a beautiful piece.

"I used crayons to create a colourful drawing of an outside celebration amongst friends. My uncle was a huge inspiration for this piece as he was an artist and helped me with the drawing.

I've always loved art and it was and still is my favourite subject in school and has always been a dream of mine in my future so this competition was a great opportunity to show off my art skills and artwork. I hope my drawing will inspire and encourage other young artists to take a plunge and enter art competitions and be proud of their artwork."

We wish Coral the best of luck in the competition and congratulate her in her efforts!



Animal Care

As part of our animal care coursework we visited the farm to demonstrate the techniques we would use to handle various animals.

The following is from Lucas, reflecting on his experience of animal care so far:

"I enjoyed going to the farm and learning about animal care, we got to learn how to care for various animals and use what we learned to actually handle said animals, we also got to go to Tam O' Shanter farm and handle the animals there.

We also have one of the best teachers who can be very understanding with our class. She understands that we all work at a different pace and challenges me to achieve a distinction in all my coursework. Thanks to the animal care course I also got offered a place on the volunteer team at Tam O' Shanter which I was very happy with. The same teacher also teaches us all different types of sciences and is very understanding if we struggle with things."



New Additions

We have also had two new additions to the Arc! Give a warm welcome to Shelie and Steve. These fantastic Bearded Dragons give our students an opportunity to understand what it means to care for an animal. We have a rota for each child to clean the vivarium, bath the dragons and feed them.

SIXTH FORM

This term has been an eventful and productive time for our Sixth Form students at St Mary's. Year 13 students have been diligently preparing for their upcoming formal examinations in May, completing their mock exams to ensure they are well-equipped for success.

In addition to their academic commitments, all Year 13 students have had the fantastic opportunity to take part in an accredited First Aid in the Workplace training course. This valuable qualification, fully funded by the school, equips students with essential life-saving skills applicable in both professional and everyday situations. Upon successful completion, students will receive a certificate valid for two years, enhancing both their employability and personal development.

Additionally, Year 13 students who successfully secured conditional university offers benefitted from a visit by Catherine Stillitho, a representative from Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU). She provided an insightful session on the next steps for university applicants, covering key topics such as student finance, accommodation options, and the overall costs associated with university life. This guidance has been instrumental in helping our students to finalise their next steps.

Meanwhile, our Year 12 students have had an equally engaging term. They participated in an Enterprise Day focused on the Stock Market Challenge, working in teams to develop their understanding of economic decisions that impact business. The interactive game provided students with the opportunity to test their financial decision-making skills, aiming to maximise stock holdings and generate the greatest profit by the end of the simulated trading days. The event helped develop key skills such as leadership, communication, organisation, initiative, and resilience-essential for future education and careers. Students thoroughly enjoyed the fast-paced and dynamic nature of the challenge, providing them with an insightful and enjoyable learning experience.

Our prospective year 12 HFCMAT Sixth Form students enjoyed a visit to our St John Plessington site for a taster day. Students really enjoyed their warm welcome, the opportunity to meet the staff and see the great facilities. The sample lessons were described by students as challenging, thought provoking and they enjoyed the insight of what to expect from sixth form study in September.

We are incredibly proud of our Sixth Form students for their hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication to both their studies and personal development. We look forward to seeing them continue to grow and succeed in the coming months.



LIFE IN OUR LESSONS

Design Technology

The Design Technology department has been a hive of activity this term, brimming with creativity and practical application.

Year 13 Food Science students have immersed themselves in the intricacies of cinnamon bun chemistry, meticulously experimenting to achieve the perfect recipe. Their exploration of food preservation methods, culminating in homemade jams and jam-filled doughnuts, showcased their understanding of bacterial growth control.

Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students, as ever, delivered exceptional performances in their practical exams, demonstrating impressive culinary prowess.

Key Stage 3 students experienced the joy of cooking chicken fajitas, focusing on incorporating diverse vegetables. Their enthusiastic feedback, including comments like, "I'm dead impressed with myself, it tasted amazing," and "my mates all had a try and want the recipe," highlighting their success and newfound confidence.

In Design Technology, GCSE students diligently finalised their prototypes, producing a range of innovative projects from pack-away BBQs to engaging educational toys, all meeting the exam board's brief. Our engineering students have advanced their skills in 3D modelling using OnShape, creating complex and impressive designs, demonstrating a strong grasp of modern engineering techniques.

E. Law
Head of Design and Technology Department



English

It's been an exciting Spring term in the English department. Year 7 have been reading all about being a child in Victorian times and the sounds of 'Food Glorious Food' have been ringing down the corridor as we have been enjoying Oliver! We've seen some fantastic performances from budding Dodgers and Fagins!

Year 8 completed their dystopian creative writing in January. They showed an excellent understanding of the genre and really used their imaginations to create dark new worlds. Some of their work can be seen outside the English office.

Year 9 have been exploring Gothic literature and reading Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. We're hearing some strong opinions about how far science should be allowed to go and learning about how cleverly Shelley writes to present her ideas to the readers.

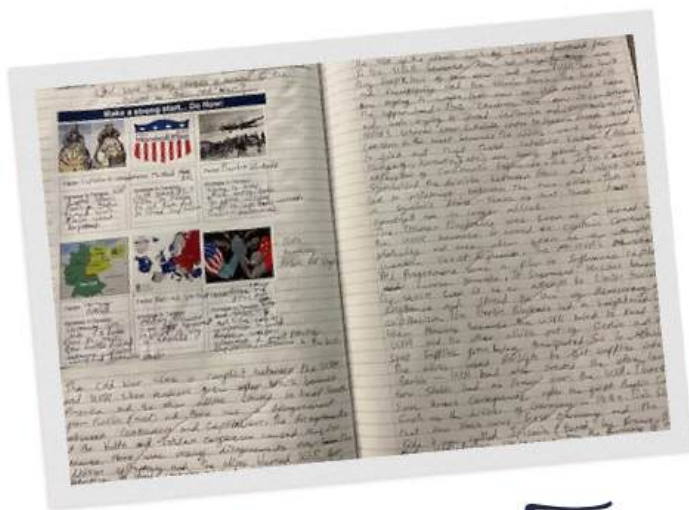
Our Year 10 students are becoming experts on Shakespeare as they learn about the "tyrant" Macbeth and his "fiend-like queen" and you can see just how well Year 11 have been doing as we are celebrating their achievements on the notice board outside the library. Most pupils have improved by at least one grade from their previous mock exam and some have improved by two or three. We are so impressed with their positive attitude and hard work.

Beyond the curriculum, Scrabble club continues on a Monday and its leader, Mrs Cowdray, is also the proud winner with her form of best Jubilee of Hope door. Megan and Tia from Year 9 attended the Wirral Education Awards ceremony with other members of HFCMAT who won the 'Great and Green Award' for their work at the MAT's very own COP29.

Finally, look out for more news about our Year 9 Mental Health forum where our pupils will get to present their views on mental health to MPs and experts in the field.

L. Lowe
Head of English Department





Humanities

This term, Year 9 students have been delving into one of the most fascinating and complex periods of modern history – the Cold War.

Throughout their studies, they have worked incredibly hard to understand the key ideological differences between the USA and the USSR, with a particular focus on capitalism and communism. This has involved exploring the ways in which these conflicting ideologies shaped global politics and the relationships between the two superpowers after World War II.

The department has been especially impressed by the students' commitment to understanding the causes of rising tensions between the USA and the Soviet Union. Through engaging discussions and careful analysis of historical events, students have developed a deeper insight into how the Cold War unfolded, and the significant impact it had on international relations.

The highlight of the term has been the students' recent essays on the rising tensions between the two powers. Their work has demonstrated impressive research, critical thinking, and a genuine understanding of the period. The quality of the essays has been outstanding, and the history department is incredibly proud of what Year 9 has achieved. Students have not only grasped the complexities of the Cold War but have also produced work that reflects their passion and dedication to the subject.

Well done to all Year 9 students – we look forward to seeing what you will accomplish in the next term!

H. Stonely
Head of History Department

ICT

This term, our Year 9 students took part in an exciting Business Studies taster project designed to introduce them to key business concepts in a fun and practical way. Inspired by The Apprentice, students worked in small teams to take on the Easter Egg Challenge – developing a new product aimed at children aged 6–10.

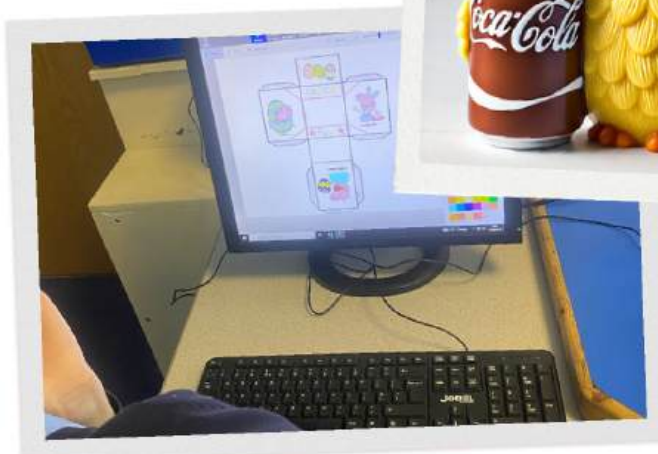
Working as entrepreneurs, students had to generate creative product ideas, design eye-catching packaging, and carry out detailed cost and profit calculations. They explored essential business concepts such as branding, pricing strategy, cost of sales, gross and net profit. Teams assigned roles, including a project manager, to reflect real-world working structures, and divided responsibilities between design and finance.

A key part of the challenge involved researching popular Easter egg brands to understand what makes them successful. Students analysed design features, target audiences, and pricing strategies before applying this knowledge to their own products.

The project supported the development of key employability skills such as teamwork, leadership, creativity, and problem-solving. It was fantastic to see such high levels of engagement and enthusiasm throughout the task. From bold, playful designs to carefully thought-out business models, the final presentations were both imaginative and commercially aware.

We were incredibly impressed by the professionalism and ambition shown. The Easter Egg Challenge not only introduced core elements of Business Studies, but also gave students a taste of what it's like to bring a product from idea to market.

V. Dougherty
Head of Business Studies, Computer Science and ICT Department



Modern Foreign Languages

Bonjour à tous!

What a fantastic year it has been in the French department! Our students have dived deep into the language and culture, exploring exciting themes at every level.

Year 7 took their first steps into the world of French by learning how to talk about the local area—from navigating towns to describing places and giving directions like true Parisians!

Year 8 got stylish as we delved into the world of French fashion. From haute couture to street style, they explored the influence of French designers and even had a go at describing outfits in perfect French!

Year 9 embraced the magic of media, exploring French cinema, music, and reading. From classic films to modern hits, they learned how French culture influences the arts—and maybe even found a few new favourite songs along the way!

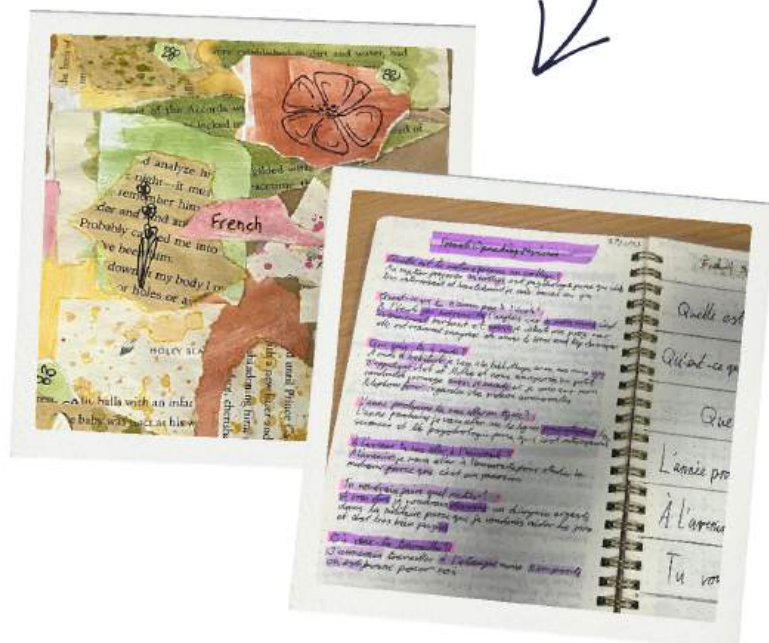
As we look ahead, we want to send a huge *bonne chance* to our Year 11 and A-Level students who are preparing for their upcoming exams. Your hard work and dedication will pay off—keep going, and we believe in you! *Allez ! Allez ! Allez !*

Lastly, a big thank you to Faith S, who has gone above and beyond by sharing good student practice through her ongoing revision notebook. This fantastic resource is helping students stay organised and motivated—bravo, Faith!

Merci to all our students for making this year so exciting! Keep practicing your French, and we can't wait for another term of learning and adventure.

À bientôt!

J. Le-Normand
Head of the MFL Department

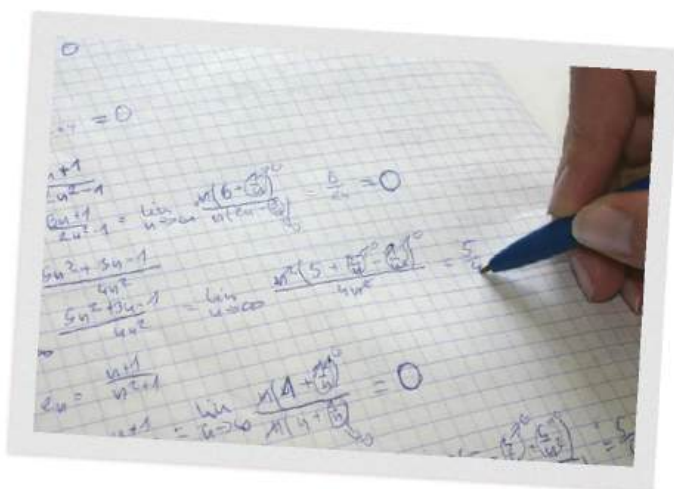


Physical Education

During this term, the Physical Education department has made significant efforts to enhance students' extracurricular opportunities, with a particular focus on supporting girls. This has included lunchtime and after-school Trampolining sessions on Thursdays, as well as establishing a partnership with Everton in the Community. Through this collaboration, a select group of girls in Years 8 and 9 have been working to improve their confidence and self-esteem while engaging in practical sessions. As recognition for their exceptional dedication, these girls will be rewarded with a trip to Anfield Stadium.

Additionally, Year 11 students enrolled in the WJEC Sport and Coaching Principles course have recently completed their second mock exam in preparation for their final exam on June 10th. Notably, six Year 11 students achieved a Level 2 Distinction (L2D) or higher, a remarkable accomplishment given that the exam is still three months away.

J. Murray
Head of the Physical Education Department



Maths

On Wednesday 19th March 16 teams from across the Wirral including 2 from St Mary's, geared up to battle it out in a thrilling maths quiz competition. The event was a celebration of numerical prowess, strategic thinking, and collaborative spirit. St Mary's were represented by Majka, Faith, Ivy, Euphemia, Lucas, Cameron, Friel and Joshua-David.

Hosted by St Mary's in conjunction with the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP) the competition aimed to ignite a passion for mathematics among students while fostering teamwork and friendly competition. Each participating team, comprised of bright minds from various schools across the Wirral, bringing a unique blend of skills and knowledge to the table.

The quiz encompassed a wide array of mathematical topics, ranging from algebraic equations and geometric theorems to probability puzzles and logic problems. With questions designed to challenge and inspire. Participants had the opportunity to showcase their problem-solving abilities and mathematical aptitude.

Beyond the thrill of competition, the event served as a platform for students to engage with mathematics in a fun and interactive way. By encouraging teamwork and critical thinking, the competition sought to instil valuable skills that extend far beyond the classroom.

As the teams went to head-to-head, excitement was running high among students, teachers, and supporters alike. The atmosphere was electric with anticipation, as everyone eagerly awaited the unveiling of the ultimate maths champions. The teams worked diligently on the variety of challenges they were posed throughout the afternoon. Both St Mary's teams represented the school excellently having great success in the competition.

E. Daniels
Head of the Maths Department

Science

This term, students across all year groups have explored exciting science topics through practical investigations and theoretical learning.

Year 7 studied forces, conducting experiments on friction and gravity. They also explored separation techniques like filtration and chromatography and learned about DNA, heredity, and genetic inheritance.

Year 8 focused on health and light. They investigated the effects of diet and exercise on the body and explored how light interacts with materials, using prisms to study refraction and how images form with mirrors and lenses.

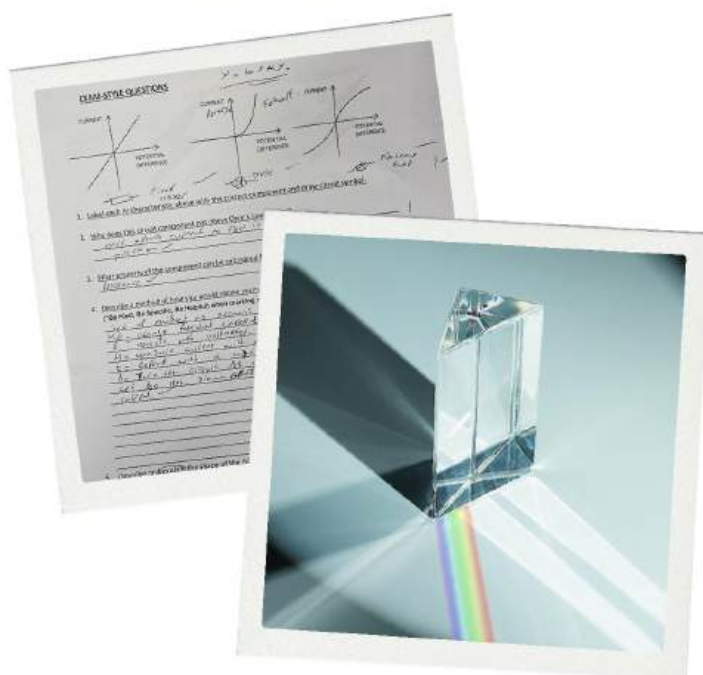
Year 9 developed their understanding of electrical circuits, experimenting with series and parallel setups to analyse current and voltage. In chemistry, they studied material properties such as conductivity and strength.

Year 10 covered a wide range of GCSE topics. In physics, they explored circuits, electricity, and nuclear radiation. In chemistry, they studied electrolysis and chemical bonding. In biology, they investigated photosynthesis, gas exchange, respiration, and the body's response to exercise.

Year 11 completed their mock GCSE exams, receiving grades and feedback. They are now refining their knowledge, practicing past papers, and preparing for their final summer exams.

It has been a fantastic term of scientific discovery, with students developing key skills and deepening their understanding of the world around them.

V.Brown
Head of the Science Department



Religious Education

This term in Religious Education, students have been delving into a variety of fascinating and meaningful topics that connect history with faith. Year 8 have been examining the theme of marginalisation, looking at how Jesus reached out to society's outcasts. They've also reflected on who is marginalised in today's world, sparking thoughtful discussions on social justice and how we can make a difference.

Year 11s are wrapping up their study of Judaism, exploring the Jewish synagogue and its significant features like the Ark, Bimah, and Ner Tamid. They've also gained an understanding of the importance of clothing in worship, such as the Kippah and Tallit, which deepens their appreciation for Jewish traditions and faith.

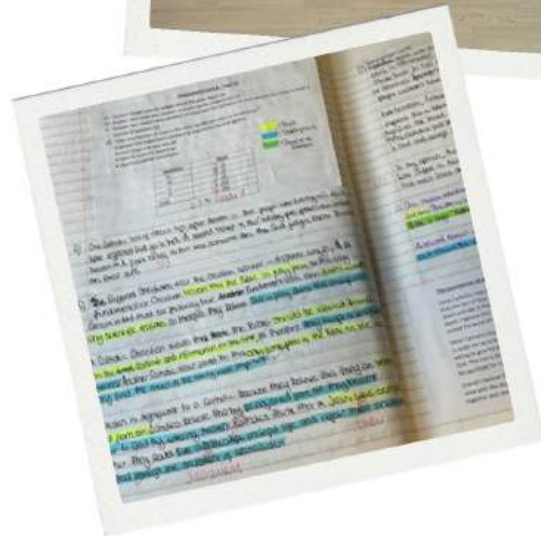
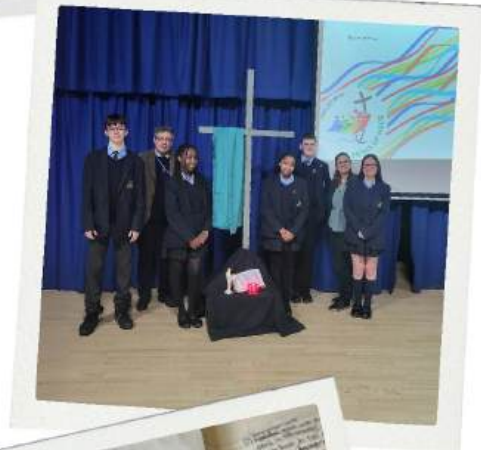
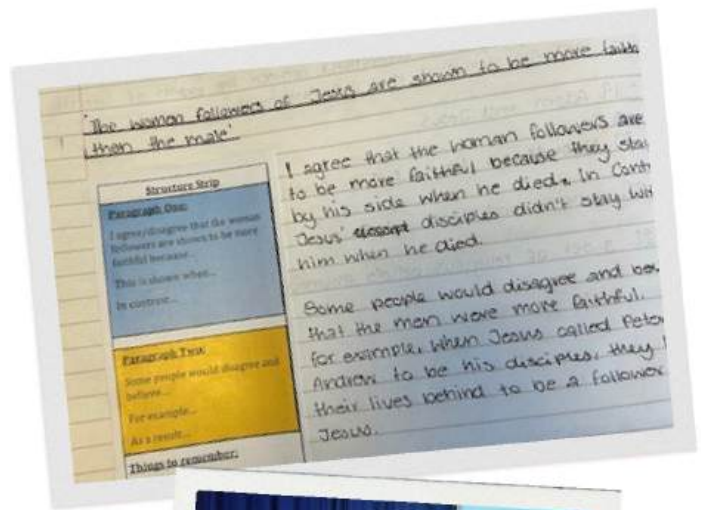
Year 9 have been focusing on the lives of disciples, both men and women, during Jesus' ministry, using figures like Peter and Mary Magdalene to explore what it means to be a disciple today.

Year 10 have been working on refining their exam skills, focusing on key topics such as pilgrimage, Catholic Social Teaching, and the changes to the Mass after the Second Vatican Council.

Lastly, Year 7 have been learning about the different titles of Jesus and key Catholic teachings like the Incarnation and the Nicene Creed.

We are incredibly proud of the effort, enthusiasm, and insight that our students have shown in Religious Education this term. Their thoughtful contributions and engagement in discussions have truly enriched the learning experience for everyone. Keep up the amazing work

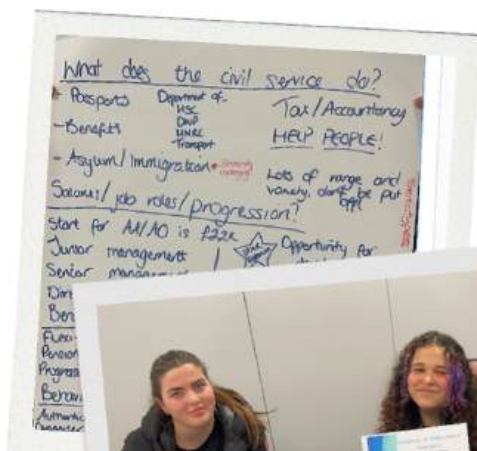
S. Keating
Religious Education Department



Social Sciences

In February our sixth form Social Science students had the opportunity to attend the first ever Civil Service Liverpool Workshop at the India Buildings, Capital Building and Mann Island. They explored the careers available in the Civil Service, the application process, and attended bespoke sessions on how to complete personal statements. The students then went on to complete mock interviews with the recruitment team before being given valuable feedback.

L. Egerton
Head of The Social Sciences Department



THE INSPIRE PROGRAMME

Shaping Confident and Compassionate Young Leaders

The Inspire Programme is a transformative personal development initiative aimed at nurturing confident, curious, respectful, resilient, creative, and ambitious young people with a strong commitment to kindness.

Designed to be diverse, modern, and engaging, the Inspire Programme provides students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to become successful learners and global citizens. By fostering personal growth and a strong sense of community, it equips young people with the tools they need to make a positive impact on the world around them.

What makes this programme truly special is its bespoke design tailored specifically to meet the needs of our students. Inspire Time is carefully crafted to ensure that students develop not only academically but also socially and emotionally, helping them to navigate the challenges of the modern world with resilience and empathy.

This term, we are particularly pleased with our campaign 'We Rise by Lifting Others', which explores the importance of inclusivity, respect, and the celebration of diversity. Through this initiative, students have been engaging with the concept of protected characteristics, learning how to champion equality, and giving children hope for a brighter future. These values are at the core of our school community, reinforcing the importance of kindness and mutual support in all that we do.



Inspire Opportunities

Students are embracing a wealth of extracurricular opportunities, with a fantastic selection of activities designed to nurture their talents and interests. From football and art to drama, dance, music, and film club, the diverse range of options ensures that there is something for everyone.

These activities not only provide students with a creative and physical outlet but also help them develop teamwork, confidence, and new skills beyond the classroom. Participation continues to grow, reflecting the enthusiasm and dedication of both students and staff in fostering a vibrant school community.

In addition to these opportunities, Year 13 students recently took part in a valuable first aid training session. This hands-on experience equipped them with essential life-saving skills, reinforcing the school's commitment to preparing students for real-world situations.

With such a dynamic and enriching extracurricular program, Inspire continues to provide students with the tools and experiences needed to thrive both academically and personally.



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Lunch Clubs 13.00 - 13.35

After School Clubs 15:05 - 16:00

Year 11 Intervention 15:05 - 16:05



Lunch time clubs

MONDAY

Art Club | Choir | Dodgeball | PE | Futsal
Table Tennis | Basketball | Recharge
Dance Club | Games Club | Scrabble Club
Drama Boys Club | Bake Club

TUESDAY

Art Club | Ukelele | Orchestra | Knitting Club
Basketball | Futsal | Table Tennis | Dodgeball
Year 7 Dance Club | Games Club | Recharge
Holy Mass

WEDNESDAY

Art Club | Choir | Dodgeball | Futsal
Table Tennis | Basketball | DT Homework support
Horrible Histories club | Recharge
Boys' Dance Club | Board Games club
Poetry Club | Games Club Lunchtime

THURSDAY

Art Club | Connections | Dodgeball | Table Tennis
Futsal | Basketball | Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
Contemporary Theatre | Recharge | Games Club
Boys' Dance Club | Chaplaincy | SVP Group
Fantasy Premier League

FRIDAY

Art Club | Drama Club | Dodgeball Lunchtime
Futsal | Table Tennis | Basketball | Dance Club
Recharge | Games Club | French Speaking Club
Spanish Club | Pilgrimage Club/SVP Group

After School Clubs

MONDAY

Art Club | Book Club | Netball | Boys' Football
Taylor Swift Club | Study Support Club
Girls' Code Club | Recharge | St Mary's Dance Co.
Games Club

Year 11 Interventions:

Child Development | DT | French | Health & Social
Care | Hospitality | Maths | Psychology

TUESDAY

Girls' Football | Boys' Rugby
Dungeons & Dragons Club
*No other Clubs due to staff training

WEDNESDAY

Art Club | Japanese Club | Cross Country
Scholar Programme LAMDA - Acting
F1 in Schools | Football | Board Games Club

Year 11 Interventions:

Child Development | Computer Science | Drama
English Intervention | Health & Social Care | Science

THURSDAY

Futsal | Harry Potter Book Club | Study Support Club
National Theatre - Connections

Year 11 Interventions:

Child Development | Computer Science
Geography | Health & Social Care | History
Music | RE

FRIDAY

Study Support Club

Year 11 Interventions:

Computer Science | Drama | Health & Social Care
Hospitality Intervention | Science Intervention



REWARDS & RECOGNITION

The Ethos Challenge: Celebrating St. Mary's Finest Students

Over the past few weeks, St. Mary's students have put their best foot forward in **The Ethos Challenge**, a competition designed to reward outstanding behaviour, attendance, punctuality, and attitude to learning. Led by Ms. Lamb, the challenge encouraged students to embody the school's core values, striving for excellence in all aspects of school life.

After careful monitoring, the top-performing students from each year group were selected for an exclusive Mystery Trip on Friday 4th April 4th. The chosen students—who demonstrated exceptional commitment to The St. Mary's Ethos—were treated to a well-deserved adventure to TheLight Cinema, New Brighton, where they enjoyed a day filled with excitement and rewards.

Congratulations to all of our winners, who stood out with their dedication and exemplary conduct. Ms. Lamb praised all participants, highlighting the incredible efforts made across the school.

The Ethos Challenge may have ended, but the spirit of excellence continues! Let's carry this momentum forward into term three!

Hot Chocolate Friday

Year 7

Maxwell M, Lilly W, Ted C, Zac J, Olivia W, Katelin S, Oliver W, Ameilia K, Sophie S, Nuriya N, Lawrence C, Archie P, George R, Oliver D

Year 8

Eleanor F, Rafiwa O, Oliver C, Ben A, Freddie M, Bobby M, Alex B, Kelsey W, Finley B, Maria M, Tyler M, Maisy D, Liam K, Michael S, Keira P, Nathan P, Maria M

Year 9

Lewis R, Sean G, Max F, Lola C, Mackenzie Q, Poppy M, Luca P, Frankie E, Keira H, Finley B, George K, Tia A, Ava M, Laila-R S, Ben A, Megan L, Isabella W

Year 10

Ryley D, Anastasia C, Ciaran D, Faith S, Tyler K, Olivia H, Jack K, Eibhlin C, Mia F Antonia S, Franky B, Ethan F

Year 11

Mitchell H, Katelyn S, Sian E Katie K, Ellarna W, Isabella S, Alfie R, Lestyn E, Skye D, Aleisha R, Thomas M, Antonia H, Oliver O, Thomas J, Maisie-Day G, Isaak M

The Arc

Matthew C, Lacey F



CAREERS NEWS

Term 2 of this year has been another busy one for careers, with two major events taking place in close proximity to each other.

In February, National Apprenticeship Week focused on providing information relating to the variety of apprenticeship opportunities existing now and likely to be available in the future. National Careers Week took place in March, and saw the focus shift to provide information on option choices (Years 7 to 9), whilst the older year groups (Years 10 to 13) were provided with information on sectors such as Animal Care and Engineering. In addition to this, Inspire Time was used to successfully consolidate the weekly themes.

Another strand of National Careers Week was to bring in The Inspirational Learning Group (TILG), whose facilitators delivered full day enterprise sessions to whole year groups for Year 7 and Year 12. Whilst the latter tackled a 'stocks and shares' challenge, our Year 7 students were asked to develop their own town, with a remit to use a range of gases in order to create a sustainable and environmentally friendly infrastructure. The winning team, 'Eco Brighton', will now work on their project in the coming months, before going to London this July to compete in the National Finals.

During this period there have also been a number of careers related trips across various year groups, including:

- Bidston 'Careers Carousel' – Year 12
- 'DiscoverSmart' Edge Hill University trip – Year 8
- 'Next Steps' group council tour – Year 10
- Civil Service Liverpool visit – Year 12

These opportunities are provided as part of our careers programme and designed to build on the careers related experiences our students will benefit from as they progress towards the world of work.



COLLEGE KEY DATES

APRIL 2025

Monday 21st - Easter Monday

Tuesday 22nd - All Students return

Thursday 24th - Year 8 parent evening

Saturday 26th - Family Walk

Monday 28th till Wednesday 30th - Year 9 and 10 residential trip to Soli House

Tuesday 29th - Parental Coffee event, 9 - 10.30am and, Connections Performance Lyceum Theatre, Crewe

Wednesday 30th - Assessment Steering Group meeting 2 - 4pm

MAY 2025

Thursday 1st - Year 10 Scholars Mock Trial

Monday 5th - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 13th - Year 8 – HPV Vaccine

Saturday 17th - D of E Bronze Practice Expedition

Wednesday 21st - Online Parents Information Evening 4: Catholic Life and RSE

Thursday 22nd - Transition Coffee event, 5 - 6.30pm

Friday 23rd Last day of term, Year 13 Leavers Liturgy 12 - 2 pm

