

St Mary's Catholic College

NEWSLETTER



St Mary's Catholic College
Wallasey
A Voluntary Aided Academy

In the top 7% of improving schools in the country



Working in partnership with St John Plessington Catholic College

Part of an **OUTSTANDING** Multi Academy Trust

“We know that success flows from happy, well-adjusted young people who are able to take full advantage of the outstanding educational opportunities we provide. Our Catholic faith is central to this, underpinning all our educational values”.

-Headteacher Mr. Tony Boyle

A GREAT TIME TO BE AT ST MARY'S



2017: Ellie English secured a place in Oxford and we celebrated our unity with St John Plessington



GREAT FIRST YEAR!

In November 2017 St Mary's celebrated its first year as an academy. It is a year that has seen significant changes in our College. Working in ever closer partnership with St John Plessington, many things have changed to draw on the practices and systems that have made SJP an outstanding school for the last 12 years. In July 2017 we celebrated our work together in a wonderful Celebration Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral where over 2000 students and staff of our two schools affirmed how closely we are now working together.

GREAT ACADEMIC PROGRESS!

In summer 2017 St John Plessington recorded one of the highest Progress 8 (the key performance measure for all secondary schools) scores in the country and St Mary's Progress 8 score placed it in the top 7% of schools nationally for improvement in this key measure. St Mary's enjoyed some outstanding A Level performances with yet again one of our students, Ellie English, securing a place at Oxford University.

GREAT NEW UNIFORM!

As part of the academisation process our governors took the opportunity to look again at the College's uniform that had been unchanged for over 30 years. Following consultation with our student body we believe we have a new uniform that captures the best of what is available and is fit for purpose in the twenty first century. Certainly the innumerable positive comments from students, parents and the wider community confirm that we have made the right decision. We are expecting 2018 to be even better!

PRESENTATION EVENING - FLORAL PAVILION THEATRE 2017



Our guest speaker for the evening was former pupil Sam Walters.

She left St Mary's in 2005 and followed her ambition to make a difference to the lives of others.

Sam studied PE and Sports Development and graduated with a First Class Degree. Her most meaningful life adventure took her to Namibia where she worked with an NGO called Physically Active Youth. Children in this group are at risk of going down the poverty trap with no prospects of earning or having a family. Sam worked with these vulnerable children in their studies using sport as a medium to engage them. Through sport these

children learnt discipline, it gave them a sense of purpose and enjoyment. It is here that she met her fiancé of 8 years. Sam had great success with these children. Some of them are now national cyclists, physical trainers, business owners, entrepreneurs, and some even went into further studies in the Universities in Namibia, Germany and the USA. It was a privilege to welcome Sam to our evening to show us all how we can make a positive

difference to the people we meet in the world.



Some of our Prizewinners..



Sports Personality of the Year: Yr7 Jack Lloyd, Grace Roberts Yr8 Albie Mitchell, Emma Clarke Yr9 Kian Farlam, Ellie Ryall Yr10 Callum McIntosh, Lauren Tyan
Musician of the Year: David Noyce
Choreographer of the Year: Chelsea Herbert
Artist of the Year: Louise Croft
Dramatist of the Year: Meaghan McCallion
Helen Roth Award: Melissa Rainford
Richard O'Neil Award: Natasha Atkins
Ron Roberts Award: Daniel Brown
Joshua Upton Award: Chloe Roberts
Outstanding Academic Achievement: Jude Torpey-Aldag, Ethan Arrowsmith, Michael Cooper, Ciara

Turley, Hannah Sheenan, Rachel Rowlands
Oustanding AS Achievement: Connor Denton-Sullivan, Daniel Regan, Ellie Corrigan
Olive Jordan Award: Hannah Molyneux
Beth Tweddle Award: Amber Bathily
Subject Awards
English: Matthew Doyle, Lucy Newman, Aidan Miller, Caitlyn McCloud, Robert Langdon, Caroline Doherty, Johnathan Carter, Mina Isham
Maths: Joseph Thurlow, Laura Zalewska, Carlos Whelan, April McGiveron, Flynn Powell-Williams, Siobhan Bingham, Christy Connor Thomas McMahon
RE: Jack Lloyd, Lucy Newman,

Paul New, Heidi Bailham, Jay Orton, Robin Green, Joel Howley, Elle-Rose Hanson
Science: Jack Pool, Alex Morgan Molly Johnstone, Kate Broughton, Joseph Levey, Emily Taylor
Biology: Jack Witty, Katie Owens
Chemistry: Charlie Filgate, Lauren Jamieson
Physics: Joel Sinclair, Krista Garcia
Geography: Reece Hollingworth, Gemma Parker, Paul New, Molly Banks, Louise Croft, Ted Torpey-Aldag, Grace Horton, Jonathon Bowly,
History: Judyta Wolinska, Sean

Feely, Michael Upton, Holly Gratton-Brown, Charlie McEvoy, Hannah Molyneux, Dylan Kane, Emily Hanley
French: Maxim McManus, Megan Ditchfield, Robert Mirasol, Fearn Jones, Arnold Mupukasa, Naomi Streatfield, Kate Leckey, Oliver Newman
German: Jordan Hardcastle, Natalie Eeles, Gary Evans, Phoebe Jones, Ted Torpey-Aldag, Megan Howe, George Higgins, Lucy Richardson
ICT: Drew Bradley, Gemma Manley, Drew Holbrook, Mia Ungi, Byron Luo, Grace Randles, Owen Worthington, Katie Butterworth

SOME OF OUR MANY GCSE SUCCESSES

We are extremely proud of our students who achieved many excellent results, including successes within the new, more challenging English and Maths GCSE's



Hannah Sheenan

2 Grade 7s, 1 Grade 6
1 A*, 5As

Primary School:
St Alban's



Michael Cooper

1 Grade 9, 1 Grade 7
4 A*, 3As

Primary School:
SS Peter's & Paul's



Ciara Turley

3 Grade 7s, 1 A*,
4As, 1B

Primary School:
SS Peter's & Paul's



Ethan Arrowsmith

1 Grade 9, 2 Grade 8s,
4A*, 3As

Primary School:
SS Peter's & Paul's

SOME HIGHER EDUCATION SUCCESSES

We are delighted that our 2017 Sixth Form leavers got the results that their efforts deserved, with a set of excellent grades which have allowed students to secure university places on prestigious courses at universities the length and breadth of the country.



Emma Campbell

Government and Politics
A*, History A*,
English Literature A.
She won a place to study
Law at
King's College. London

Primary School:
Sacred Heart



Russell Nokes

2 Distinction* in Dance,
Physics A, Maths A,
Chemistry A.
He won a place to study
Ballet and Contemporary
Dance at the acclaimed
Rambert School. London

Primary School:
SS Peter's and Paul's



Ellie English

Psychology A*, Religious
Education A, English
Literature A and Extended
Project A*
She won a place to study
Experimental Psychology
at Oxford University.

Primary School:
SS Peter's and Paul's



Jordan Lau

Distinction* in Business,
Distinction* in I.T and
Distinction* in Travel &
Tourism.
He won a place to study
Game Development at
Chester University.

Primary School:
St Joseph's Upton

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



The power of gifts

Hundreds of shoe boxes went on their festive way, taking Christmas cheer to children most in need around the world. Students in St Mary's and our partner primary schools; St Alban's, SS Peter & Paul's, Ladymount and Sacred Heart helped fill boxes with all kinds of gifts and treats as part of the annual Christmas appeal.



Students with shoeboxes ready for despatch

Thank you for all your kind donations!



Our Society of St Vincent de Paul hamper appeal has again been a great success. The hampers were delivered to and enjoyed by members of our local community.



Save the Children CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

We supported Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day in December. Students swapped an item of uniform for a Christmas item and donated £1.00 to charity. A big thank you to all those that got involved.



Oh yes they did!

As part of our 18by18 initiative, all year 7 students were treated to a pantomime performance of 'Peter Pan' at the Floral Pavilion Theatre.

The show and cast were fantastic with students getting right into the spirit of things from the off. They clapped, sang, cheered and boomed at every opportunity. It was a great afternoon enjoyed by all and a fun way to start the festive season.



We are conscious that there are other skills, experiences and personal attributes that young people need to develop in order for them to become employable and have the values that will enable them to be valuable members of the local and global communities. To enhance this further, this year we have launched our 'St Mary's Experience' which includes our 18 by 18 challenge to all our students in which we identify non-curriculum based challenges for every student to achieve before they leave us at 18.

Christmas Carol Service 2017

On Wednesday 20th December the College celebrated Christmas with our annual Carol Service, held this year at Holy Apostles and Martyrs' Church. Students from St.Mary's combined with the choir of St Peter's and Paul's Primary school and members of the parish to reflect upon the message of Christmas and its meaning to each of us. Over 150 pupils from the two schools sang, danced, acted and played across the evening with the church full to capacity. The night also helped to raise funds for the CARITAS foundation, helping to bring light to families in need over the Christmas period. Well done to all those involved in the varied and high-quality performances.



College Christmas Mass

A huge thank you to Canon Phil and Father Tom for organising and delivering a wonderful Christmas Mass to all of our students and staff. Thanks also to the singers, dancers and performers.

This mass is now available to view on our YouTube page.



Pensioners' Party

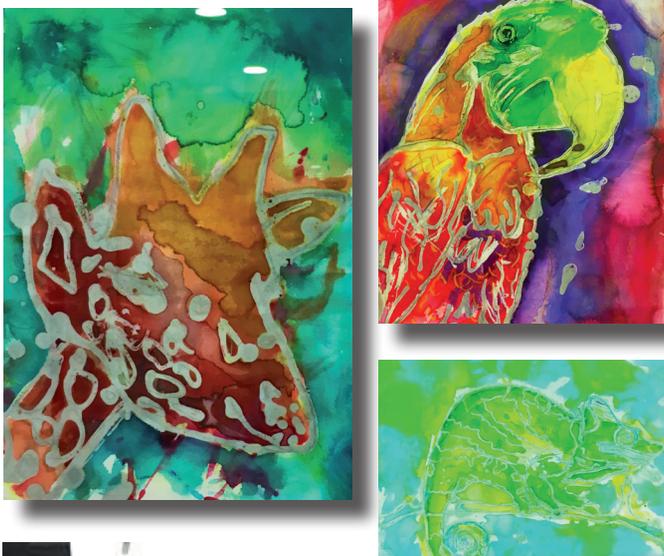
Thirty ladies and gentlemen from our community were invited to a Christmas party involving a three-course meal and entertainment from our talented students. Performances included scenes from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and the story of Advent. Our musicians played instruments and sang to the guests as they continued to enjoy themselves. Throughout the afternoon there were Dance performances and Christmas carols. Ending in a game of Bingo, the afternoon was a great success and everybody left happy and contented.



St. Mary's Art Exhibition

An exhibition of St. Mary's artwork is now on display at St. Catherine's Health Centre in Birkenhead. The work is on display at the centre for a year, aiming to create a bright and stimulating environment for patients and visitors to enjoy. After talks with coordinators and students we decided on a theme of 'Colourful animals'. Students worked hard to create work using two different techniques; wax resist and poly-tile print. Pupils, parents, NHS staff and members of the public attended the exhibition's launch, which also included the switch on of St. Catherine's Health Centre Christmas lights, performed by Mayor; Cllr Ann McLachlan. Musical entertainment was provided by our talented Brass band and college choir.

Wirral Community 



Year 7 student and exhibitor George Holman with Mayor and consort Ann and Bill McLachlan during the art exhibition launch

FRANTIC ASSEMBLY



We were honoured to host the internationally renowned theatre company Frantic Assembly back in October. Jonnie Riordan from the company hosted a devising workshop for St Mary's and SJP 6th form students. This was a fantastic opportunity for not just exploring this unique and contemporary style but also for the students of both schools to collaborate together.

Ignition Project 2017

Year 13 Performing Arts student Daniel Regan auditioned and successfully gained a place in Frantic Assembly's Ignition project 2017.

This national training programme offers only twelve young men aged 16-20 the opportunity to work in London for a week creating an original performance with Frantic Assembly. We are extremely proud of Daniel's achievement and of his amazing talent.



Year 13 student Daniel Regan who also stars in this years' College show as gangster 'Bugsy Malone'.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Written by Allyssa Jones



During the October half term, Miss Corlett, Jade Ellis and Allyssa Jones (year 13) headed off on a Youth pilgrimage to Israel with Shrewsbury Diocese led by Bishop Mark. The aim of the trip was to re-trace Christ's footsteps from the cave of Bethlehem to Jerusalem and to the shores of Galilee. Allyssa writes;

We began our pilgrimage by visiting the Church of the Nativity, built over the cave that marks the spot where Jesus was born. It was very hard to picture with the hustle and bustle however celebrating mass with Bishop Mark in the cave was a special moment that we will cherish forever. It was then that we started to re-trace the footsteps of Christ.

A special moment was joining the Adult pilgrimage and walking the 'Palm Sunday' path which led us to the Garden of Gethsemane and we then went on to visit the room where Jesus celebrated his 'Last Supper'. Everything we have learnt about the last week of Jesus' life on earth was starting to come to life for us. Later in the week we walked the Way of The Cross along the narrow street of the Via Dolorosa. It was a busy day where we saw market stalls and shop keepers selling their goods. Bishop Mark reminded us that this is what it would have been like when Jesus was carrying his cross as this would have seemed normal to passers-by.

This was such a fantastic experience, which has never been run before by the Diocese for young people. Not only did we get to re-trace Jesus' footsteps, we also had the opportunity to visit young people living within the conflict of Bethlehem and Jerusalem. It really puts in to perspective how lucky we are to have the education and opportunities available to us here at home. It really was the trip of a lifetime!



The Shrewsbury dioceses Youth and Adult groups, pictured here enjoying the shared pilgrimage.

Sixth Form Auschwitz Trip

Written by Andrew Nolan

My visit to Auschwitz isn't something I can say I really enjoyed, however, it is one I will remember for the rest of my life.

We began by visiting Oskar Schindler's factory where almost 1,200 Jews were rescued from execution during WW2, Schindler employed the Jews in his ammunition factory located in Krakow. Auschwitz is one of the concentration camps we visited, it was both an uncomfortable and emotional experience knowing the history of the camps, going through each of the buildings knowing how many people had suffered, how many people were executed because they couldn't perform their 'duties' and how the Nazi party created so much fear in their eyes to show power.

We were given the opportunity to walk through one of the remaining gas chambers that stood in Auschwitz. The chamber was not as I expected. Inside there was a small room, members of the Nazi party would force around 900 Jews into it to execute them using a method called Nitrogen asphyxiation; a process that removes the nitrogen in the atmosphere using a gas called Zyklon B which was developed before the war.

Next, we were taken to see Birkenau, known as the extermination camp. Prisoners sent to this camp were certain to be executed by the common method of euthanasia. This second camp is famously known as Auschwitz-Birkenau or Auschwitz II.

To sum everything up this was one of the most difficult trips I have been on, you feel so empty but full of emotions at the same time, you don't know what to do, or even say to those around you, knowing what has happened and you're standing there, however, this disturbing history must be remembered if we don't want it to be repeated.



Climbing Mountains for Charity



Yr12 completed a sponsored walk up Moel Famau Well done to everyone involved as we raised over £500 for these good causes!

Boxing Champion



Well done to Year 11 student Tom Musker who is now the 'National Junior Development Boxing Champion'. A talented sportsman, we wish him every success in his future career.

COMING SOON...

This year's College production is Bugsy Malone and it will take place at the Floral Pavilion on the 6th and 7th February 2018. Rehearsals are well underway and as always the show is shaping up to be spectacular. Tickets are on sale now from the website and box office of the Floral Pavilion. The cast is made up of students from year 7-13 and will feature cameos from some of our local primary schools. We hope to see you all there!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW FROM THE BOX OFFICE AND WEBSITE www.floralpavilion.com

Priced £7.50 / £5.00 Concessions

#GODISNOWHERE
GOD IS NOW HERE

Whether you see 'God is Nowhere' or 'God is Now Here' is all a matter of perception! #faithtest

For the latest information and updates on school activities and events

