



St Mary's Catholic College

NEWSLETTER

Work together; Succeed together

Issue 2 | November 2022 stmaryswallasey.com

LEST WE FORGET



WE CAME TOGETHER ON FRIDAY 11TH OF NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE THAT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES HAVE MADE FOR US FROM WORLD WAR I TO THE PRESENT DAY.

Wreaths were laid by our student ambassadors before both students and staff fell silent for two minutes, broken only by the sound of The Last Post being played in corridors around the building. We will remember them.

THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

'FOR THE FALLEN' - LAURENCE BINYON

Theme of the Week Belonging to God's family



The word 'family' doesn't always mean those we live with, families are unique to us all and can be made up of so many different people. Families can also change and become bigger and smaller. But family is important because it is those around us who support and guide us and show unconditional love.

Reflection

In God's family, there are no outsiders, no enemies.

-Desmond Tutu

Prayer

Dear Lord help us to rejoice in the love we receive in God's family, allow us to see the family we have around us and support us when showing unconditional Love.

Amen

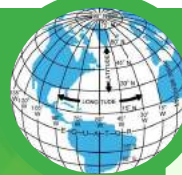
Department Focus: Geography

Caring for our common home

As Pope Francis reminded us in the Laudato Si' "When it comes to the care of our common home, we are living at a critical moment of history". Our intent in Geography is to help our young people understand the uniqueness of their world, to explore the issues and challenges facing the planet and, most importantly, foster our core values to encourage our students to be the changemakers of the future and find solutions.

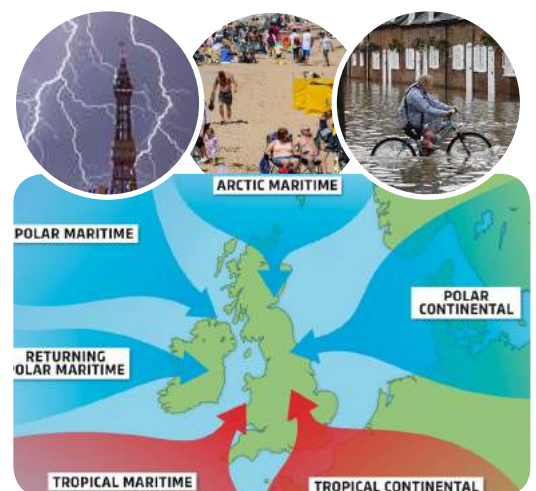
Year 7 *Just How Fantastic is our World?*

Year 7 have been exploring this big question by undertaking a 'journey' around the world, visiting different continents to identify unique physical and human features. After studying latitude, they were able to explain why the North Pole has unique climatic characteristics. They have investigated why the ecosystem of Madagascar is so important to biodiversity and they have learnt about how humans exploited the natural resources of Easter Island in the past and the effects this has today.



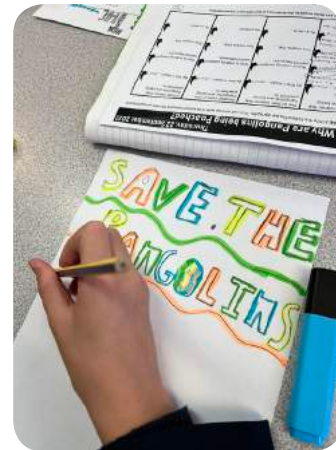
Year 8 *Why do British People talk about the Weather so Much?*

Building on their understanding of latitude and the causes of Climate Change from Year 7, students have busted the myth that weather and climate are the same thing! After comparing the climate data of equatorial and polar regions, they zoomed in to learn about how the unique location of the UK leads to our changeable weather and why we spend an average of four months each discussing this! They also explored how weather conditions might change in the future if global temperatures continue to rise. In the next unit, students will go on to understand how this can affect the development of countries such as Malawi.



Year 9 *How can we Help Beat Extinction?*

We have been extremely proud of Year 9 students, in particular. After learning about how humans engaging in the illegal Wildlife Trade are causing biodiversity loss, the entire cohort planned and prepared campaign materials to raise awareness of these issues. This culminated in a group of volunteers meeting members of the public at Chester Zoo and using different communication skills to share the message, handing out leaflets prepared by Year 9 classes and gaining support by asking for Zoo Visitors to write a pledge.



Artist Visit

Year 9 were also lucky to be able to work with local artist Ling Warlow to learn about flowers which encourage pollinators such as bees and butterflies in our own ecosystem. Ling delivered a workshop in which students created a variety of paper wildflowers. These will form part of an exhibition at Thurstaston Common Visitor Centre in June 2023 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Wirral Way. We are looking forward to this being part of our own Golden Jubilee celebrations.



Schools Climate Conference

With the event of the COP27 Climate Summit in Egypt this year, Year 9 students were invited to participate in the Annual Schools Climate Conference in Sheffield. Students were invited to discuss climate issues relevant to their own lives and explore what they can do to combat climate issues.



Eco-Schools Status

Last year, members of our school council undertook an audit to evaluate how 'green' our school site and community were. They found the results shocking but we are proud to announce that in August, St. Mary's was awarded Eco-schools Status and the Green Flag award.

This year we are empowering yet more students to become Green Ambassadors and to lead projects which will not only improve our school grounds but will contribute towards a more sustainable future for all on our shared planet.



Flag Design Competition

To show our ongoing commitment to this, we are launching a school wide competition to design a flag representing St. Mary's commitment to the environment and to celebrate 'Antarctica Day' on 1st December. The winning flag will be taken to Antarctica by climate scientists and we will receive a photograph and certificate to show the distance the flag has travelled. Very exciting!



Details of how to get involved will be shared in Inspire lessons, on our departmental Twitter Account (@GeographySMCC) and Instagram Account (geography_smcc).

Social Sciences Department

Psychology

Our year 13 Psychology students have been testing their knowledge through a series of activities including making brain hats, quizzes and team hockey.



Maths Department

Pupils up for a challenge!

Miss Daniels and the Maths department would like to say a big well done to all of the A-Level Maths students who completed the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. The Senior Maths Challenge encourages mathematical reasoning and precision of thought. The questions can be quite challenging and are designed to really make pupils think! A big shout out goes to Jenna Pulford, Harvie Roland and Joseph Thurlow for all achieving a silver certificate. Well done also to Dannil Raj, Sean Feely, Daniel Kearney, Ryan Nicholas, Joshua Flynn for achieving bronze.



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

English Department

Menacing monsters

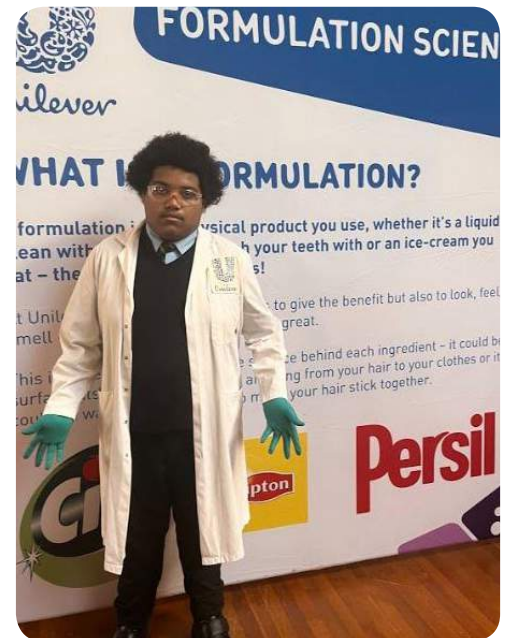
"It was a dreary day in November", when 7BH "beheld the accomplishments of their toils." A witch's hat made of clay with six teeth rotting. A welded black hand, scarred from the blistering heat and finally, a treacherous monster with piercing blue eyes that seeks his next prey. A massive English SMCC appreciation to Jessica, Megan and Alfie who have created menacing monsters for their homework!



The Arc

Brighter Futures with Unilever

The Arc team took 5 students to attend the Unilever Brighter Future inspire programme. This aims to get students engaged with stem by introducing them to the activities that take place on global research and development sites. We were very proud of all the pupils engagement and how they put themselves in the shoes of a consumer and discussed what environmental implications certain products have. Well done team!



DT Department

Designing time

Year 9 DT pupils have been studying the 'Memphis' design movement from the 1980's. Its bright colours and playful design was an inspiration for the class to design and make a clock using CAD. The clocks were designed on Techsoft 2D design and manufactured on the laser cutter.



Drama Department

Blood Brothers

Some of our year 9 and 10 drama students took part in a Blood Brothers workshop run by current cast member Grace Galloway. This was another great opportunity provided as part of our partnership with The Empire Theatre's Creative Learning Team.



Art Department

Culture & Identity

Year 8 students have been focusing on Identity. Looking at their own heritage and those of others. Researching Banksy and traditional cultural pattern they drew silhouettes and filled them with their own designs. Using watercolours, pencil and various textures they created stunning mixed media portraits.



Hot Chocolate Friday

Pupils recognised for achievement

Year 7	V.Golushkova, J.Postance, B.Dunn, W.Parker, K.Birch
Year 8	H.Fardoe, A.Gontijo, S.Mellor, C.Bawden,
Year 9	A.Holt, J.Hisarza, E.Wood, A.Dacosta
Year 10	R.Wells-Jones, K.A.Sandall, G.Green-Badley, T.Sander
Year 11	D.Griffin, C.Ross,
6th Form	H.Roland, E.Williams, M.Rimmer, E.Seels



St Mary's Careers Fair

Inspiring pupils' futures



On Wednesday the 9th of November, students at St Mary's took part in a Careers Fair, set up exclusively for them in the main sports hall of the school. Students were allocated time during the event to interact with a range of universities, further education colleges, training providers and employers.



**ROYAL
AIR FORCE**

**MERSEYSIDE
FIRE & RESCUE
SERVICE**



Kids Planet



Students were able to browse the stands, gaining expert advice on job roles and job sectors, as well as information/guidance on the range of education and training routes available to them in the future. Supporting our young people to become well informed in terms of their future choices is a key part of our careers strategy and more events to consolidate this support will follow in the future.

MODE



**Hugh Baird
College**



**LIVERPOOL
LH
HOSPITALITY**

Inspire Programme

Anti-Bullying Week



Anti-bullying Ambassadors at St Mary's have come together to promote equality, diversity, inclusion and kindness within school. In our Anti Bullying week "Reach Out". This theme empowered them to do something positive to counteract the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

The Anti-bullying Ambassadors are made up of 12 students from Years 9, 11, 12 and 13 and was originally set up in 2021 as part of the school's '#BEKIND!' campaign and has since continued to develop.

To mark the start of our Anti-Bullying week on Monday, all pupils were invited to wear odd socks. This was to raise awareness of bullying and to remind each other that we are all unique, we can work together to change things, we are all welcome and we have no outsiders here.

There is now also an online system for students to report bullying to ambassadors, they will then support the student and inform staff, holding parent/carers information evenings to educate on how to spot bullying, and working with local primary schools to discuss with the children about the impact of bullying as well as the importance of standing up against it.

'The Open Door' space at school has also been created for students who are having friendship issues and can receive support from the ambassadors, as well as our 'Feel-Good Fridays' where wellbeing will be promoted throughout the day. Students from all year groups are able to benefit from the activities and support services that are provided here at St Mary's.



As part of the week's the ABA led collective worship each day in the theatre for each year group which includes Music Dance and Drama pieces from the performing arts pupils.



In a world where you can be anything #Be Kind #Reachout

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO ONLINE BULLYING

Top tips for parents and carers



Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health ... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app, and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem, and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details at the bottom of this guide.

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0808 800 5000

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Childrens Commisioner

Advice on sexual harrassment

Talking to children about these issues is vital and following the 'Everyone's Invited Project' The Children's Commissioner 'Dame Rachel De Souza' talks about how harmful behaviour happens online and off-line and offers support and guidance for parents and carers tackling these difficult issues [here](#)

We will be supporting this work from the Children's Commissioner through a bespoke package in our inspire programme.



Inspire Opportunities

Healthy lifestyles day

One of the great strengths of St Mary's is our commitment to educating the whole child. Our Inspire Opportunities enables us to give every child high quality experiences beyond classroom lessons that will help them become well rounded adults. Year 7 this term had a healthy lifestyle day. Sessions on each of the days were facilitated by professionals and experts in the field of living a healthier life, such as how to deal with changing emotions as they enter their teenage years with an introduction to 'an outline counselling facility' Kooth', Internet Safety, First Aid and talks with PC Emma Hodgson.



Inspire Programme

Teenage drama

As part of our Inspire programme looking at identity, in drama we explored what it means to be a teenager today and throughout history. As we remembered all fallen soldiers this week, they created dramatic scenes in which they tried to imagine what life was like for many young people during WW1.



In Other News..

Community Christmas appeal



'That time' of the year is fast approaching and the community team here at St Mary's are starting to think about our Christmas plans. One of our dearest traditions is creating Christmas hampers for our elderly community members and also for those families in need within our community. We could not do this without the kind donations from you; our parents and carers. With the challenges many have faced in the past three years and are continuing to face this year, the need for care and support in our community has never been more important, but we are mindful that we are all being influenced by the rising cost of living. With this in mind, we tentatively ask for donations to this year's Christmas Appeal. Where able, we would like students to bring edible but not perishable items to include in their form Christmas hamper. Form teachers will collect the items from the students and help them decorate their boxes to add the items to.



We ask that parents/carers and students think carefully about what our community members may like to receive in order to have a festive Christmas but that may also help them with the day to day living around Christmas, such as tea or coffee, soup or long lasting cakes. We do ask that no alcohol is brought into school and that any items have enough use by dates on them to last until at least a week after Christmas.



We are also looking to donate items to keep our community warm, blankets, socks, hats and gloves along with new toys for those in need. We are also collecting toiletries for teenagers, something we often forget when giving to the foodbank.



The final date for donations is the 1st of December 2022 This will enable the SVP and our chaplaincy team to deliver our hampers and other items to the houses of our elderly community members and to those in need.

If you are able to donate we are very grateful, your donation will help us send some Christmas cheer to important members of our community.

JOB OF THE WEEK – NEUROLOGIST

Neurologists diagnose, treat and manage patients with disorders and problems linked to their brains. As you can imagine, a love of Science, the desire to help people and many years of study are all inclusive elements of this pathway. Look at the brief clip below, which provides you with more information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZt8-otJMH4>

In addition to the above, have a listen to Krishna. His hard work and dedication over many years has led to him becoming a consultant neurologist with an NHS Foundation Trust. Please read the transcript below the video clip to see all the additional information such as expected salary, hours per week etc.

<https://icould.com/stories/krishna-neurologist/>

Apprenticeships – Years 11/12/13 inclusive

Barclays Bank are now advertising a wide range of apprenticeships for 2023 and have a large number of virtual events taking place over the next few weeks to provide additional advice on what will be available from September next year.

The website below provides the details you require to access the information you need:

<https://search.jobs.barclays/apprenticeships>

Apprenticeships – Year 13 only

Unilever R&D Port Sunlight degree level apprenticeships are now OPEN. All schemes are fully funded by Unilever R&D and the apprentices also receive a competitive salary and benefits package.

For the September 2023 entry they are recruiting for the following apprenticeships, which are all fantastic opportunities:

Packaging Professional – (Mechanical Engineering)

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/business/training-and-development/degree-apprenticeships/apprenticeship-subjects/supply-chain-and-packaging/packaging-professional>

Laboratory (Chemical) Sciences

<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/study/apprenticeships/courses/laboratory-scientist-chemical-science>

Data Science

<https://www.yorks.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/degree-apprenticeships/data-scientist-degree-apprenticeship/>

Chemical Engineering

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/apprenticeshipdegreesatstrathclyde/engineeringchemical/>



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](#)



CHRISTMAS

Carol Service

Wednesday 14th December at 7pm
All are Welcome



St Mary's Catholic College
Wallasey

Part of an **OUTSTANDING** Multi Academy Trust



Key College Dates

Upcoming dates to remember

Thursday 24th November 2022

Year 8 Parents Evening 3.30-6.45pm

Wednesday 7th December 2022

Year 7 Pantomime Trip

Monday 12th November 2022

Year 11 Work Experience Week

Friday 9 December

College Closed to Pupils for Staff Inset

Wednesday 14th December 2022

SMCC Carol Service

Friday 16th December 2022

Wallasey Village 'Churches Together' Nativity

Tuesday 20th December 2022

End of term. Students finish at 12.15pm

Wednesday January 4th

New Term. All students return

Monday January 9th

Years 11 & 13 Mock Fortnight begins

SEND

Coffee time

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



Thursday 15th December

11am-12pm

Led by the SEND team

Discussing:

How to support our children when they are upset.

41 ST GEORGES ROAD, WALLASEY VILLAGE, WIRRAL,
CH45 3NF



SUPPORTING VETERANS & SERVING MEMBERS OF
THE ARMED FORCES, BLUE LIGHT EMERGENCY SERVICES,
NHS & SUPPORT STAFF

Bingo Night 26th November 7pm

Family Open Mic Night 9th December 7pm

Christmas Market and Santas Grotto

Sat 17th & Sun 18th December

11am - 5pm

Open to all - Everybody welcome!

All funds raised are reinvested into the club to
continue supporting Veterans and Blue Light
Services.

Find out more about us and ways in which you can help
support our organisation [here](#)

WALLASEY VILLAGE STREET NATIVITY

Friday 16th December



4.30 PM IN ST MARY'S COLLEGE CAR PARK

Christmas carols

Pop-up Nativity (dressing up for children)

Refreshments

A FREE event for families of all ages
organised by Village Churches Together