



St Mary's Catholic College

NEWSLETTER

Work together; Succeed together

Issue 4 | February 2023 stmaryswallasey.com

SHREKTACULAR!

TALENTED STUDENTS FROM ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, BLEW AUDIENCES AWAY AT THE FLORAL PAVILION IN A WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF 'SHREK THE MUSICAL'



Students from Year seven to thirteen all played a part in the two night sold-out performance at the Floral Pavilion Theatre in New Brighton. The hard-working, talented and energetic cast of over a hundred students put every ounce of their being into each and every number they sang. Shrek the Musical is a one-of-a-kind, hilarious fairy tale in which curses are reversed,

monsters get the girls, donkeys and dragons find love, and princesses are beautiful in all shapes and sizes. The cast shone in their roles both on and off stage, with many assisting with our after-school rehearsals, props and production. On the night, a number of staff and students offered their support by working in front of house selling raffle tickets and programmes.

SHREK

THE MUSICAL



Miss McCallion, Head of Drama and Media said "It has been a pleasure to work with students on this over the past four months. They have shown commitment and passion to the production and, most importantly, kindness to each other throughout the entire process."



Matthew who played Shrek and has applied to study Musical Theatre at university said "Over the past few months, everyone has worked tirelessly to create this show. It has been such hard work for all concerned. I loved being part of it all. Musicals are a massive passion of mine and this production was a great opportunity to showcase this."

Year 7 student Sian told us; "This was my first production at St. Mary's and I enjoyed every second of it. I've made some great new friends and the experience of performing on a professional stage was Shrektastic! I can't wait for the next one and the chance do it all again."





Shrek the Musical

Main cast

Matthew - Yr 13



Shrek



"I loved every minute! Musical Theatre is a massive passion of mine and playing the title role was a great opportunity to showcase this. Thanks to St Mary's I have found my direction, so watch this space!"

Studying at St Mary's: Drama, Music & English.



Keira - Yr 13



Princess Fiona



"I really enjoyed the whole experience of coming together to create a piece of theatre. On my journey to becoming a professional actor, I will never forget those nights, the confidence it gave me or the friends that I made."

Studying at St Mary's: Drama, Music, Media Studies & English.



Joseph - Yr 13



Donkey



"I just loved taking part in Shrek. Playing such a great role as 'Donkey' meant that I had to really develop my skills to do him the justice he deserved. The nurture and support from all the staff was amazing!"

Studying at St Mary's: Chemistry, Maths & Drama.



Shrek the Musical

Main cast

Nikkolah - Yr 13



Pinocchio



"Performing on a professional stage has really boosted my confidence as a singer and inspired me to keep chasing my dreams no matter what."

Studying at St Mary's: Dance, Music & Media Studies.



Tom - Yr 13



Lord Farquaad



"Although the musical presented challenges such as performing on my knees the whole time, the character was so much fun to play and I had the time of my life out there on that stage!"

Studying at St Mary's: Drama, Media Studies, Health & Social Studies.



Rachel - Yr 13



Dragon



"This show was such an amazing experience for me. I was able to do what I love and sing my heart out as 'Dragon'. It has also given me the added confidence to continue my passion for Musical Theatre at University."

Studying at St Mary's: Drama, Media Studies, Art.



Shrek the Musical

Behind the scenes..









Many students, past and present, were also in the audience to offer their support. as well as the main cast of last year's production, "Legally Blonde," who took time off from their university studies to help backstage. Mrs. Keen said, "St. Mary's Catholic College has the highest ambitions for all its students." Relationships are at the heart of everything at here, and this year really epitomised this with former students showing up to give support to their former school-mates, and our supportive and kind community continues to grow. Students and staff have worked so hard to make Shrek a production to remember. It was brilliant to see every seat filled in the Floral Pavilion!"

Mr. Maddocks added: "As one more in a long line of successful performances, I think it's safe to say that the performing arts department and the wonderful students of St. Mary's Catholic College really do know how to put on a show!"

And of course, it doesn't stop there.. Mrs. Keen is already planning the next memory maker for our students. Watch this space!



Future Stars

Primary schools shine bright



Students from across our feeder primary schools also took part in the performance. Mrs Hickey, Head of Dance visited the 6 primary schools involved over a three week period choreographing a Shrektacular piece so that our students of the future were able to also shine and take centre stage. She said 'The focus of our workshops was for all students to feel inclusive, to allow them to enjoy the workshops and be part of a performing arts company. To get the opportunity to then perform on a professional stage was the cherry on top of the cake. All students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and felt a great sense of achievement. For one night they became an extension of our St Mary's family and the team and I look forward to teaching them in the future.'

St. Paul's RC Primary

St Paul's Headteacher Christine Fenna said they were again delighted to be involved in 'Shrek the Musical' with the students from St Mary's. "It was an amazing opportunity for them to be onstage with such talented students and work with the wonderfully creative St. Mary's Performing Arts staff. The children enjoyed every minute of the project, from the rehearsals at our school, St. Mary's College, and then at the theatre before the performance, which was the icing on the cake. It is an experience they will never forget, and many of them are telling their teachers that they want to choose St Mary's as their secondary school because of it. Thank you to everyone involved and congratulations to such a wonderful cast and their brilliant teachers."



St. Alban's RC Primary

John McDonald, Headteacher of St. Alban's Catholic Primary School, told us, "From the start of rehearsals to the final show, the children of St. Alban's benefitted from the great experiences provided for them by St. Mary's, leading to one or two, with sights fixed on the West End! The professionalism of the students and the staff at St. Mary's and the joy of the night, left such an impression on us."



St. Joseph's RC Primary, Wallasey

Maria Hollis, Headteacher of St. Joseph's, told us, "As well as two nights, we also performed a matinée for all our feeder primary schools and our primary schools in the HFCMAT." Emily Reid, Assistant Headteacher at St. Bernard's and the executive lead on the creative collaboration and primary liaison, said, "What a stunning performance by the young people at St. Mary's. The standards of acting, singing, and dancing were extremely high, and I was entertained throughout the show. It was a pleasure to bring our pupils to see it. A wonderful example of creativity, shining on the stage."



Ss Peter & Paul RC Primary



Sacred Heart RC Primary



Our Lady of Pity RC Primary



"A huge Thank you and well done to all the primary school children who performed in our College show this year. You worked so hard and it was an absolute pleasure working with you.. See you all next year!"

- Performing Arts Team

Department Focus: Science

Learning in our labs



The mission of St Mary's science department is to create knowledgeable, scientifically literate and technologically capable problem solvers. We aim to foster a spirit of inquiry, nurture our pupils' curiosity and bring current, relevant and real-world science into the classroom experience. We want to prepare our pupils to become informed citizens who are capable of comprehending, analysing and making well-reasoned judgements on global issues.

What we have covered so far this year..

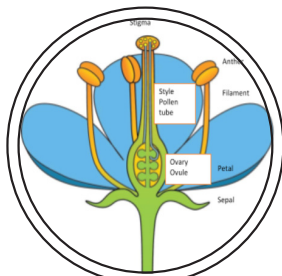
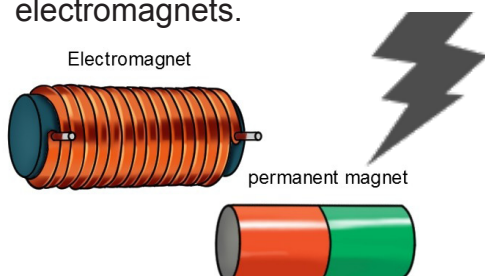
Year 7	Particles, cells, forces and separating mixtures
Year 8	Periodic table, digestion, energy and chemical reactions
Year 9	Reactivity series, forces and motion, microbes and disease, electricity
Year 10	Cell biology, atomic structure, energy
Year 11	Homeostasis, rates of reaction, forces
Year 12	Cell biology, biological molecules
Year 13	Bioenergetics and genetics

What we are doing at the moment..

Year 7 *Reproduction, electricity and magnetism*

This half term our Year 7 students have been studying reproduction in biology. They have been looking at how reproduction is a vital life process and how both plants and animals reproduce.

In physics students have been studying electricity and magnetism. This has involved lots of practical work on building circuits and investigating the properties of magnets and electromagnets.

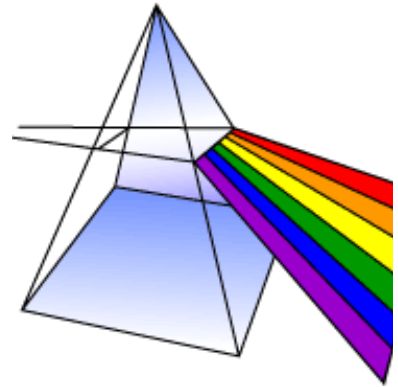
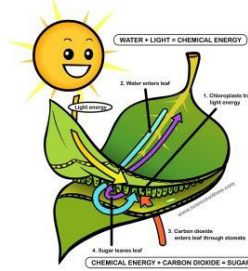


Topic	Assessment Statement	Achievement	Percentage
Cells	Identify subcellular structures and their functions	100%	100%
Particles	Describe how the movement of particles generates diffusion	100%	100%
Forces	Describe how chromatography can be used to separate inks or dyes	100%	100%
Separating mixtures	Describe how a mixture is separated by a force over an area	100%	100%
Forces	Describe forces associated with deforming objects such as stretching and squashing	100%	100%
		Total percentage	100%

Structure	Role
Nucleus	Strengthens the cell and gives it support
Mitochondria	Contains genetic material, which controls the activities of the cell
Chloroplast	Energy is released here by respiration
Ribosome	Filled with cell sap to help keep the cell turgid
Cell wall	Controls the movement of substances in and out
Permanent vacuole	Proteins are made (synthesised) here

Year 8 *Light, photosynthesis, respiration*

This half term year 8 have been studying light in physics. This has involved investigating reflection, refraction and how cameras work. In biology students have been studying photosynthesis and respiration.



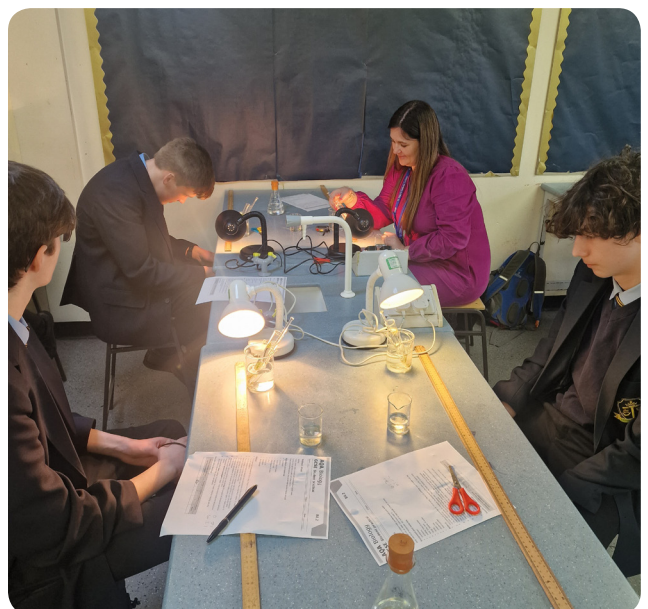
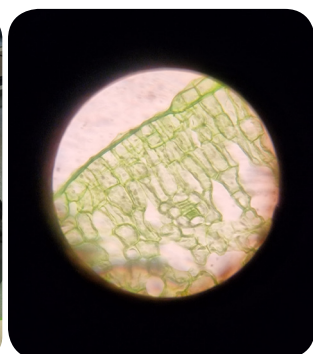
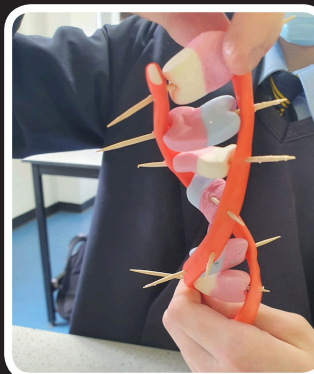
Year 9 *Genetics, environment, climate change*

In year 9 this half term, students have been studying the structure of the earth and atmosphere. This links closely with the work done across the school by our eco-ambassadors as we look at the impact of climate change. In biology we have been learning about inheritance and how our appearance can be down to both our environment and our genetics. Students modelled a double helix and experimented with the extraction of DNA from strawberries.



Year 10 *Organisms, osmosis, atomic structure*

Our year 10 students are well into their GCSE studies. As part of Biology lessons students have been focusing this half term on transport in organisms. Both in terms of organ system such as circulation but down to a cellular level by introducing students to the humble potato and osmosis. In chemistry students have been building on their knowledge of atomic structure to learn about the different types of bonding. In physics students have now started their electricity unit. They have been investigating resistance in a wire.



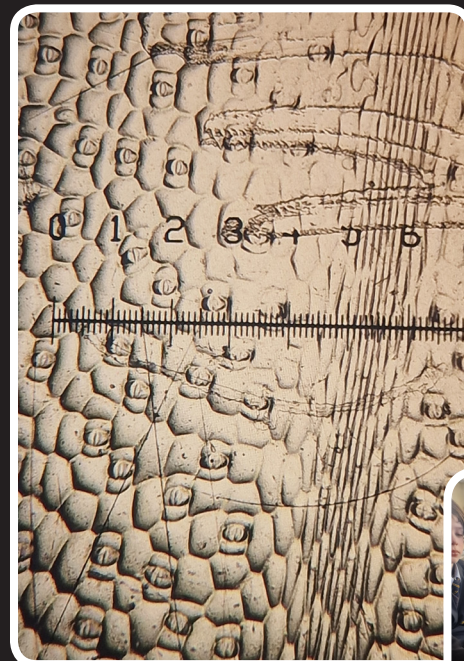
Year 11 *Ecology, genetics, evolution, waves*

Our year 11 students are nearing the end of their GCSE course and preparing for their final mock examinations. In Biology, students have been studying ecology, genetics and evolution. In Physics, students have been learning about waves. In Chemistry, students have finished their GCSE studies by looking at resources and atmosphere and how this ties in with their learning in Geography and Biology.



Sixth Form *Ecology, genetics, evolution, waves*

We offer five different courses in our sixth form. Our animal care students have completed their external exam and are busy working on their animal handling and housing assignments. In Biology our Year 12 students are studying exchanges between organisms and the environment. In Year 13 Chemistry, students have just finished analysis and building on their GCSE knowledge with further studies on acids and bases. In year 13 Physics, students have finished their unit on electromagnetism and have now moved on to studying capacitors. Finally in year 12 Applied Science, our students are well into unit 2 coursework and lab procedures.



What we'd like to celebrate as a department..

Mrs Mountford has been impressed with how 7VP have increased in confidence throughout the year, especially in their practical skills and using scientific terms in their explanations of scientific observations.

Mrs Sherlock is pleased how well 8a/Determination have been organised during practical skills lessons and their cooperation in clearing up efficiently.

Mr Connolly has been really impressed with 9b/Sci Determination's approach to their most recent formal assessment. They have shown clear evidence of having revised, tried really hard with the actual assessment and engaged with the ongoing review process. Students have demonstrated maturity throughout the process and a real determination to achieve as highly as possible and reflect on their own progress and next steps.

Mr Prendergast has been really impressed with the 9b/SciCourage and especially Bethany H. The students all work hard and have demonstrated excellent practical skills. Bethany goes above and beyond to support other students in the class

Geography Department

Competition update

In the last newsletter, we shared the Antarctica Day flag competition which Year 9 engaged in as part of their Extreme Environments unit of learning. Three flags were shortlisted and shared on our Geography Department Social media page. The winning flag was from Holly. Her design was chosen as we felt it best represented what we had learnt about the issues faced by the frozen continent, alongside demonstrating our college core values:

Pride

A beautiful piece of work to be proud of.

Respect & Compassion

Encouraging us to care about the planet.

Determination

That we can do something about the issues.

Courage

To make a stand and change our future.

The flag was sent to Antarctica aboard the RRS Sir David Attenborough with the research scientists from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) who were travelling down to spend the 'summer' learning about further impacts of climate change.

At the end of January, we were super proud to receive a certificate of participation in the competition and also to receive images of the flag in Antarctica.

The flag will now be returned to school (via the post which could take a few months!).

What an amazing story! Well done to Holly, and all that entered!

We are also waiting for a letter and postcard to arrive from another scientist aboard the RRS Sir David Attenborough. After being written between the Falklands and Antarctica, it was posted from Rothera Camp, Antarctica in December. We can't wait to read the answers to the incredible

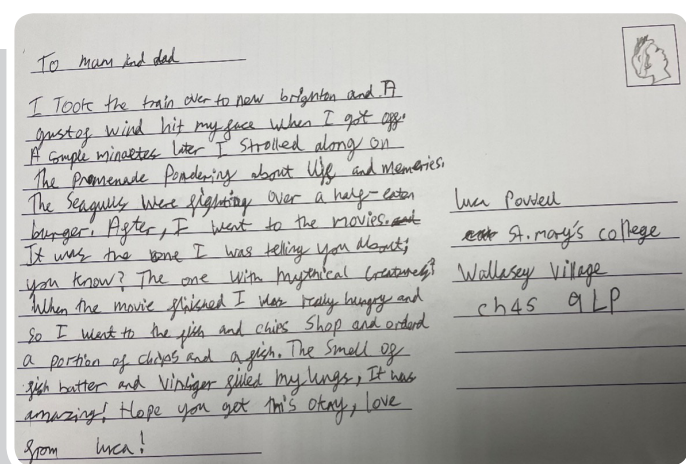


English Department

Term overview

Year 7 Travel writing

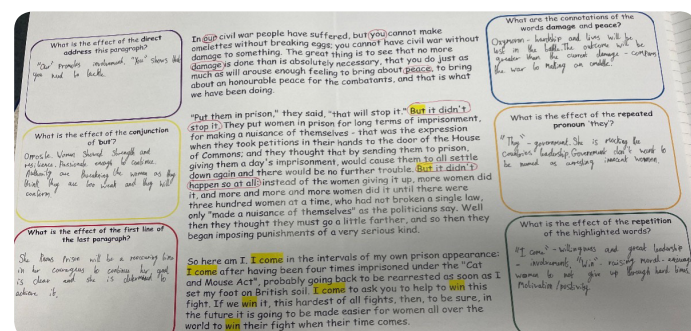
Our year 7s this term have been busy planning their dream holidays. Students have actively delved into the different styles of travel writing; including travel guides, brochures and postcards. Students have written a personalised postcard to their family and friends describing a day out in New Brighton.



Luca P. Year 7

Year 8 Artful evaluation

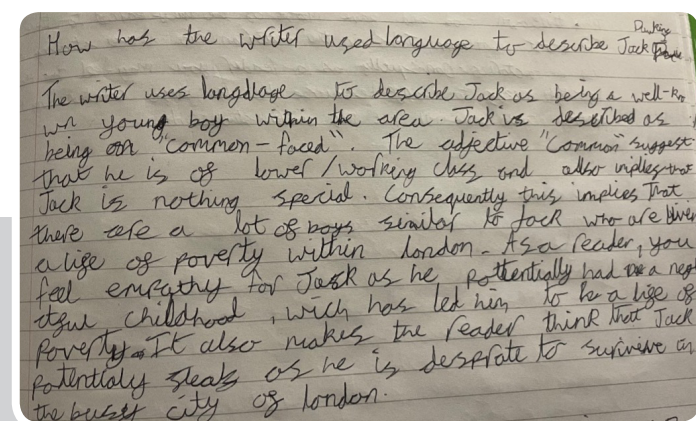
Our year 8s have been annotating and evaluating literature that discusses Crime and Punishment past and present. Students have analysed the characterisation of the creative juvenile Jack Dawkins, better known as the Artful Dodger and how his circumstances led him to a life of theft and pickpocketing.



Cameron F. Year 8

Year 9 Social commentary

Our year 9's have been focusing on social commentaries within literature and analysed the infamous Emmeline Pankhurst speech, which argues that society cannot gain "peace" without a little "damage." Students have actively enjoyed learning about the Suffragettes and how their bravery and dedication has brought gender equality within today's society.



Lilly S. Year 9

Year 10 20th Century fiction

Last half term, Year 10 students were studying A Christmas Carol and looking at 19th Century problems and issues which link to the AO3 contextual strand for this text. This half term, we have been studying the skills needed to be successful in our Component 1 Language exam. We have been exploring a range of 20th century fiction texts with the focus on how writers create effects using language and structure.

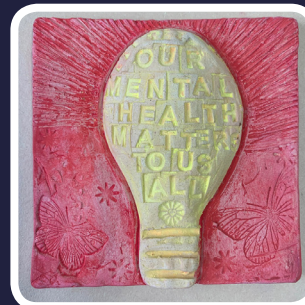
Year 11 Language structure

This half term, Year 11 have been looking at a range of 19th and 20th century non-fiction texts in connection to their Component 2 Language exam. We have been exploring how writers create effects using language and structure to create an impact on their readers. This half-term, we will be reviewing our responses in our Language Mocks to plug gaps in our knowledge and to ensure that we can maximise our time management skills during the exams.

Art Department

Dot Art competition

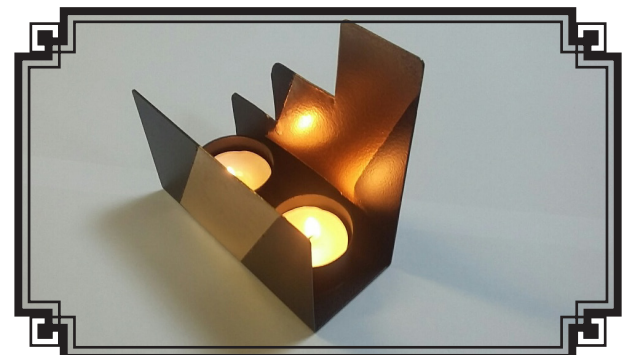
Dot-Art Schools is an interactive, online, inter-school art competition. Open to all Year 9 students and taking place annually, it culminates in a public exhibition of the winning artworks and a prize-giving ceremony by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool. We were spoiled for choice this year due to the high quality of work we had to choose from. Inspired by artists Grayson Perry and Banksy, every student in the year group sculpted a clay tile using traditional methods, each depicting a personal, visual response to certain social issues. It was so difficult, but we have now uploaded our entries and eagerly await the outcome. There will be one winner and two runners-up, each of whom will receive a personal prize as well as one for our art department. Here are just a few of our entries.. Good luck to everyone!



DT Department

Year 10 shine again

Our DT Department would like to recognise the fabulous work completed by Year 10 students on these Art Deco inspired tea light- candle holders. Amazing!



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](#)

Hot Chocolate Friday

Pupils recognised for achievement



- Year 7** G.Thomas, J.Shirley, F.A Quirk-Walsh, C.Hamm, F.Davies, G.Darlington, T.Allen, M.Feeny, S.Rourke, S.G Traynor, M.Maddox, B.Jones, D.L MacPhee, A.Howell.
- Year 8** R.Frankome, C. Feely, A.Smith, J.Howard, I.Walsh, L.O'Keefe, H.Watson, F.Jenson, T.King, J.Hughes.
- Year 9** H.Corkish, N.Richards, L.Lowe, R.Chantry, A.Walton, S.So, B.Heathcote, A.Maguire, J.Hisarza, A.Pawlukiewicz.
- Year 10** C.Glover, J.Henri Reid, B.Williams, A.Ridyard, G.Barker, L.Mercer, J.Parry, El.Cronin, A.Gallway, N.Leslie.
- Year 11** C.Ross, E.Higgins, C.Burke, B.Smith, J.Iedsham, E.Fontana, D.Clifford, M.Hibbs.
- 6th Form** L.Moor, B.Cutherbert.

Key College Dates

Upcoming dates to remember

Monday 27th February 2023

ALL students return.

World Book Week begins

Tuesday 28th February 2023

Strike Day Years 7,8,9 & 10 to remain at home

Year 11 - To attend college. (Maths & Eng mocks)

Years 12 & 13 - To attend as normal.

Thursday 2nd March 2023

World Book Day

Year 9 Vaccinations

Options Evening - Year 9 (5.30-7pm)

Wednesday 8th March 2023

New Year 7 Parent Zooms

Year 8 Enterprise Day

Thursday 16th March 2023

Maths Feast Day

Friday 24th - Sunday 26th March 2023

Performing Arts-London trip

Friday 31st March 2023

End of Term

Monday 17th April

ALL students return.





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