



St Mary's Catholic College

NEWSLETTER

Work together; Succeed together



**Holy
Family
Catholic** Multi
Academy
Trust

Summer Term | 2025

STEPPING INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

St Mary's Dance Students Shine on Stage

The dancers of St Mary's Catholic College have dazzled audiences and made their school beam with pride following three unforgettable performances this term. Their passion, energy, and commitment have shone through on every stage they've stepped on, proving once again that the performing arts are alive and thriving at St Mary's. The journey began back in April at the Leap Festival in Liverpool, held at the Capstone Theatre in Liverpool. Sharing the stage with schools and dance companies from across the region, our students held their own, delivering a powerful and polished routine that earned heartfelt applause and glowing feedback. It was a moment of pride not just for the dancers, but for the entire school community.

Hot on the heels of that success, the dancers wowed the crowd again at the Wirral Schools' "Movies and Musicals" Night on Tuesday 17th June at the Floral pavilion, in New Brighton. Taking part in this vibrant showcase of young talent, St Mary's students brought cinematic magic to life with stunning choreography and heartfelt performances. Their interpretation, flair, and enthusiasm stood out as a true highlight of the evening.

Most recently, on 10th July, our dancers took to the stage once more at the New Brighton Arts Festival, where they captivated the local community with a performance that was both artistically expressive and technically outstanding. Performing among artists from across the region, they represented St Mary's with professionalism, pride, and undeniable talent.

Dancers from multiple year groups have worked tirelessly in rehearsals, balancing schoolwork and extracurricular commitments with admirable dedication. Their teamwork, resilience, and shared love for performance have been at the heart of their success.

To every dancer who stepped onto the stage — you've done St Mary's proud. Your passion has inspired, your dedication has impressed, and your performances have left a lasting mark on everyone lucky enough to watch them. Well done!



HFCMAT ARTS FESTIVAL

Last week was a vibrant and memorable one for the Arts Faculty at St Mary's, as students proudly took part in the HFCMAT Arts Festival, a week-long celebration of creativity, performance, and talent across the trust.

On Tuesday, Year 8 and 9 drama students took to the stage once again to perform their powerful and thought-provoking piece, *Greatest City*. They were joined by pupils who had been working with visiting poets Joseph Roberts and Joe Taylor, presenting their original spoken word pieces developed during in-school writing workshops. The event, held at District House in New Brighton, was an inspiring showcase of young voices and creative expression.

On Wednesday evening, the Choir performed as part of Sing Wirral at the Floral Pavilion, joining schools and community choirs from across the region. The evening was filled with music, unity, and joy, with our students delivering a heartfelt and polished performance that was met with warm applause.

Thursday saw our talented dancers take the stage to perform as part of Momentum Dance. With energy, passion, and professionalism, they showcased their choreography and performance skills in front of an enthusiastic audience. It was a proud moment for both the students and their teachers.

The week ended on a high with Friday Night Live, held in The Blue Room at The Floral Pavilion. Bands from schools across Wirral lit up the stage with outstanding live performances, and St Mary's musicians made a strong impression with their creativity and stage presence.

The festival was a brilliant celebration of the arts and the talent of young people across the trust. A huge well done to all the students who performed, and thank you to the staff who supported them throughout the week. We were proud to be part of such an inspiring event!



Learning Ambassadors promoting good habits

The learning ambassadors are a recent addition to St Mary's. We are a group of dedicated students who are working towards implementing the learning habits in our school. To do this we have taken part in numerous activities.

Earlier this year, we met twice with the art council. The first time we told each other what our dream job would be and talked about ourselves. We also used play-dough and LEGO to make something that we thought represented creativity.

Following this we helped Ms Keen with the inspire programme which is a programme that helps students understand multiple things that are important for our learning and our lives outside school. We worked together to create PowerPoints about each of the learning habits. All of these were then shown to forms during inspire time by their form tutors.

Earlier this year, six of us learning ambassadors all worked together to have a Teaching and Learning briefing with the teachers. During this, we presented our powerpoint on the learning habits, showing how we want lessons to change in the future. This influenced many teachers to implement the habits into their lessons.

Later in the year, we used the exact same powerpoint to present to the arts council in a zoom meeting. We were nervous, but after the meeting, we felt that we did very well and the arts council were inspired by our words.

However, we still felt that, as always, there was room for improvement. So to fully ingrain the learning habits to the point where we were being assessed on them we redrafted the attitude to learning to be directly related to the learning habits and we wrote a student friendly version.

This version was promoted to years seven, eight, nine and ten during pupil inset day. There was a session dedicated to the 'Attitude toward learning' being based on the learning habits in which we looked precisely at what we would be assessed on. Therefore, everyone was aware of how to improve and how to become more motivated to achieve a one in 'Attitude toward learning'.



Congratulations Year 11 and 13

A huge congratulations to all our Year 11 and Year 13 students for completing their exams! Your hard work, determination, and resilience over the past months have truly paid off, and we're incredibly proud of each and every one of you.

Year 13 marked the end of their school journey in style with a fantastic Leavers' Ball, a well-deserved evening of celebration. Meanwhile, Year 11 were given a heartfelt send-off as they walked through a guard of honour, cheered on by staff and students who recognised their incredible efforts.

As our students await their results, we want to wish them all the very best of luck for Results Day. Whether they're heading into further education, training, or the world of work, we know our students will go on to achieve great things. Well done and enjoy the summer!





Mayoral Visit

The Mayor of Wallasey recently visited St Mary's Catholic College, where he was warmly welcomed by staff and students. During his visit, he toured the school, engaged with pupils, and enjoyed a delightful afternoon tea. Students were eager to share their learning experiences, achievements, and aspirations, and the Mayor took great interest in their stories. His presence was both encouraging and inspiring, offering students a unique opportunity to connect with local leadership. We extend our sincere thanks to the Mayor for taking the time to visit and for his genuine interest in our school community.

On a Musical Mission

Mr. Hughes, our Head of Music is lacing up his running shoes to raise £1,000 for new musical equipment. His fundraising journey began with the Chester 10K, followed by the Chester Half Marathon, and now he's taking on the ultimate challenge: the 42.2 km Chester Marathon! His dedication is evident, not only in the miles he's clocked but also in the blisters he's earned along the way. Every stride he takes brings the school's music department closer to a much-needed upgrade. If you'd like to support Mr. Hughes and the school's music program, please scan the QR code to donate.



School Council cooks up a storm

After a year of productive meetings with our Canteen staff, some members of the School Council met with Dan and Sue, the catering management team, to hear about all the offers available in the canteen, including the meal deals and chill deals. Students were then able to make their own chicken wraps and muffins. Students also completed a survey about how they felt about the canteen food and the improvements made throughout the year. A huge thank you to Dan and Sue for putting on such a brilliant morning.



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

St Mary's students ROCK!

St Mary's students played to a packed Friday Night Live event at Future Yard, Birkenhead in June. The evening showcased the diverse range of talented musicians right across the age range from Year 7 to 11.

Solo performances included Lydia, Eleanor and Emily. Duo Lydia & Tom amazed the audience with acoustic rock and father and son combo John and our CEO Andy Moor rocked the house with a bit of quality Springsteen.

We were entertained with Schuyler Sisters from girl band Ameera, Amelia and Emily followed by an Adele Medley. The evening was crowned by quality performances from our two amazing year 11 bands Avenue and Fusion.

A big thanks also went out to Kyle and Libon who both made themselves available as drummers for other schools throughout the evening, carrying out their sessions with professionalism and skill.

The night was a true celebration of musical talent, community spirit, and the hard work of our students and staff. From soulful solos to high-energy band sets, every performance was met with well-deserved applause. Congratulations to everyone involved for making the evening such a memorable success, we can't wait to see what you do next!





Year 9 Mental Health TED Talk

Eight fantastic Year 9 pupils took part in our first English Department Year 9 Mental Health Symposium on the 19th June at Wallasey Village Library.

They had researched, planned and written a TED Talk style speech about a mental health topic of their choice. During a preliminary round they were then selected by a panel of staff from a field of their peers on the grounds of quality of effort, research, writing and delivery. At the symposium they delivered their speeches to an audience of staff, family members and some special guests from local NHS Mental Health Services.

Guests commented not only on the quality and maturity of their presentations, but of their inspiring confidence in getting up and speaking in front of a crowd. Through their sensitive planning and confident delivery of their talks they have lived our values of determination, compassion, courage, pride and respect.

We asked some of our students what inspired their TED talk and here's what they said:

"I have always been infuriated about the idea of people being treated differently because of their gender, especially since it has affected me and many others I know."

"To share my experience and to let people know that it's okay not to be okay."

"Anxiety is a topic that I relate to a lot and I was keen to speak about the struggles I have faced and what we can do to support others."

Congratulations once again, for your maturity and insight into these important issues.



Eco Brighton - Creating a greener future

Six of our Year 7 students (all boys) represented St Mary's at the finals of TNCC 2025, held at the Barbican Theatre in London. Schools from all over the country took part and, from fifty thousand participants, less than one thousand made it through.

The team was tasked with creating their own 'sustainable town' and 'Eco Brighton' came to life. Wind turbines and a hydrogen energy terminal featured in their innovative approach to creating clean energy.

Although they didn't win, the judges commented on the 'incredible energy' in the room. This was an invaluable experience in team building and communication: one that they can build on in the future.

Also, a big thanks goes out to parents for allowing their children to participate, as well as to Mrs Churchill for her assistance and support on this trip.



Mock Trial Experience

As part of our scholar's programme our Year 8 and Year 10 pupils were able to experience what a trial is like. The University of Liverpool John Moores law faculty delivered fantastic sessions that enabled our pupils to experience the realities of the British Legal system.

In each session we focused on a fictional case with pupils given designated roles of prosecution, defence and jury. As well as understanding the protocols of a trial pupils were able to draft their own arguments, interrogate witnesses and present their case. This allowed our pupils to showcase their persuasive writing and oracy skills.

The sessions were a pleasure to be a part of and our colleagues from LJMU were blown away by the calibre of our pupils and how persuasive they were in their arguments.



Adventures in Snowdonia

Our Arc pupils embarked on an unforgettable camping adventure to Beddgelert in the heart of Snowdonia. From exploring the stunning waterfalls at Betws-y-Coed to soaking in the natural beauty of the Snowdonia mountains, the trip was filled with awe-inspiring moments and plenty of fresh air!

Our young campers impressed everyone with their flawless tent-pitching skills and teamwork throughout the trip. Whether it was setting up camp or lending a hand to friends, they truly showed what it means to be responsible and resilient. One of the highlights was a peaceful walk around the lake, where pupils enjoyed the tranquillity of nature and had time to reflect and bond. Evenings were spent gathered around the campfire, sharing stories, roasting marshmallows, and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils – they were enthusiastic, respectful, and a joy to camp with. Here's to many more outdoor adventures!

Pax Christi Visit

Some of our Year 9 and 10 students were lucky enough to spend a morning with Aisling, who is the Schools and Youth Education worker for Pax Christi. She spoke to them about the history and work of Pax Christi and the importance of promoting peace in the world.



CHAPLAINCY AT ST MARY'S

The SVP team have been busy this term being Pilgrims of hope. From supporting Miss Willis' Malawi trip by holding a small summer fayre, to holding a zoom Q & A Session with her whilst she was teaching and supporting the church and school community in Malawi. They have held chess tournaments and regularly take on all comers. They have put together food packages for our school community and brought hope through this at all times.

Year 9 and 7 have had fantastic retreats both at Savio house and Soli house, finding out about themselves and developing their strong towers and faith. Both year groups thoroughly enjoyed themselves and have been using their confidence and determination this term in their lessons and extracurricular activities.

Mass has been celebrated weekly and has welcomed Father Sam to our Community, The team have also attended Mass with Bishop Mark and the Schools in the Diocese. The End of Year Celebration Masses brought together the year with a celebration of Faith with students leading the readings and prayers.

The SVP team look forward to making their Pledges as Pilgrims of Hope in September and continuing to help those around them. Big thanks to the Neo Community who continue to support our families with the Food hub, and Caritas who have helped our Families in Need.

May God continue to bless you all at this time of reflection and celebration.

L. Snelson
School Chaplain



SUBJECT FOCUS:

HUMANITIES



Key Stage 3 Geography

Year 7

This term Year 7 have been reflecting on how the lives of people in Low Income Countries might differ from their own. They began by exploring why “everything” is made in China and the social, economic and environmental impacts of this, before taking on the role of a ‘Factory Owner’ and deciding where the most suitable and profitable location for their new factory might be. They finished the term by comparing life in global cities like Lagos and New York City and understanding what factors affect the growth of cities and how this growth can affect the lives of the people there.

Year 8

This term, Year 8 have utilised their prior learning of energy resources and sustainability to embark on a mission to make the global fashion industry more sustainable. Exploring the scale of the fast fashion industry, the sustainability of clothing materials, impacts of the global supply chain and the social implications of clothing industry practices, their learning will culminate in a campaign to raise awareness and stimulate change when it comes to fashion.

Year 9

Year 9 have been studying the causes of conflict around the world and the impact that conflict can have on people and the environment. Following the book “Welcome to Nowhere” by Elizabeth Laird, students are introduced to a 13 year old boy called Omar who lives in Daara in Syria. They have empathised with Omar’s journey as he is forced to flee from his home in the city, explored the impacts of becoming an Internally Displaced Person (IDP) and have analysed the challenges of becoming an international refugee in Za’atari camp in Jordan. The key focus is to reflect on the UN Rights of a Child as part of our Rights Respecting School Award.

Winning Historians

Well done to Phoebe in Year 7 and Georgia in Year 9 for winning the Historical Research and Historical Fiction competitions.

Phoebe created an amazing biography about Joan of Arc and Georgia wrote a brilliant story called 'The Day The Women Disappeared' about the Icelandic Women's Strike.

The Humanities team are very impressed!



St Mary's Sustainability Group

The school's sustainability group restarted their work in January 2025. We are a group of students from Years 8-10 working together to make the school a more environmentally-friendly for the future.

During our meetings, we have been thinking of ways to be more sustainable. One project we have recently completed was an audit of the classrooms that left their lights on during lunch. Signs have since been handed to classrooms to remind teachers and students to make sure electricity is not just being wasted.

We have had meetings with the school's grounds team to discuss what the school is doing currently to meet the Government's "Simpler Recycling" scheme and how the trust is currently looking at their food waste levels. The canteen now use food and plastic bottle recycling bins.

On Monday 28th April, the sustainability group visited Chester Zoo to meet with the sustainability team. We were given the opportunity to first look around and take notes on some of the work that the zoo is doing to help promote global sustainability.

They then led a workshop with us to think of ways we could be more sustainable. In this we discussed what it means to be sustainable and how to act more environmentally conscious. We also discussed how our actions can have a negative effect on ecosystems but making simple changes can improve the futures for these animals and plants.

Some examples of things we think people can do to help include:

- Use less energy for heating
- Eat more plant-based meals
- Walk or cycle to school if you live nearby
- Share a lift with people or get public transport when possible
- Take plugs out of the sockets and turn switches off when not in use
- Try to avoid flying where possible

We are planning future meetings and looking at ways we can take more action and start working with the local community. We are also looking at ways to raise funds to promote further recycling schemes around the school and hopefully improve the green space around the school in the near future.



THE ARC

What a fantastic final term we've had here at The Arc! Our resourced provision for children with Autism has been full of learning, growth, and unforgettable experiences. From the classroom to real-world adventures, our Arc family has truly flourished.

One of the standout moments this term was our incredible trip to Alton Towers. This wasn't just a fun day out, it was a powerful opportunity to strengthen our community and encourage one another to step outside of our comfort zones. The energy, excitement, and courage shown by all our students was something truly special.

For many, it was their first ever experience on a roller coaster - a huge achievement in itself! Everyone faced their fears with such bravery and positivity, and the sense of pride among students and staff was overwhelming.

We'd like to give a special shout-out to Eva, who showed remarkable courage. Although she's visited Alton Towers with her family before, she had always felt too nervous to go on the Runaway Mine Train. But not this time! With the support of her peers and staff, Eva not only rode it once, but went back and did it twice! What an incredible achievement. Well done, Eva - we are all so proud of you!

In addition to our exciting trip, this term we've also been hard at work developing our brand-new Sensory Circuit Room. A sensory circuit room provides a structured environment with physical activities designed to help individuals, particularly children, regulate their sensory input and achieve an optimal level of alertness for learning and daily tasks. These circuits typically involve a sequence of alerting, organising, and calming activities, with the goal of improving focus, attention, and motor skills, ultimately supporting better sensory processing and emotional regulation.

All our children have thoroughly enjoyed their scheduled sessions, especially spending time in our much-loved Cuddle Box, which has quickly become a favourite calming space for many!

As we wrap up the term, we look back with gratitude for the experiences we've shared and the progress every single student has made. Thank you to all the staff, families, and especially our amazing young people for making this term one to remember. Here's to even more adventures and achievements next term!





Building our skills through collaboration

'Lego therapy' is led by our trained TA's, as part of our social skills interventions programme. This is a great way for our pupils to work together and interact with each other.

These sessions are typically conducted in small groups of no more than three, or occasionally four, pupils. Each pupil is assigned a specific role - such as engineer, builder or supplier. Lego therapy is beneficial for our pupils' social and communication skills as it encourages teamwork, turn-taking and verbal interaction in a structured, playful setting.

The collaborative nature of these sessions foster confidence, active listening, and positive peer interactions.

Our Alton Towers Trip By Alisa Wood

The Arc Alton Towers trip was fun and exciting for everyone. We all met at school at 8am, everyone was excited to go, so after sorting out the lunches, doing the head count and getting into our groups for the day, we got on the coach, and arrived at Alton Towers for 9 o'clock.

The rides were big, fast and thrilling (all the groups had their opinions on what their favourite ride was, mine was the Nemesis Reborn Rollercoaster). Out of all of the Alton Tower trips the Arc has had that one was the best one, the last trips we didn't get to go on all the rides. After Me, Milo, Luke and Anthony went on Toxicator the new ride, we went into a cafe to regroup with Unwin, Babs, Hannah, Harry and Coral to have lunch before going on more rides.

It was a great day I had fun with my friends and I spent a lot of time with them, though our group got separated into two small groups. My group went on different rides (Thirteen, Oblivion, Smiler, Rita and The River Rapids) to the other small group, so we were able to go on all the rides. By the end of the trip all of the groups met at the entrance to head back to the coach. We were all tired after the fun day and ready to go home, some fell asleep on the way back. It took about two hours but we all had a great trip. I'd definitely go back to Alton Towers.

Thank you Arc staff for giving us that opportunity to relax and have fun!



LIFE IN OUR LESSONS



Performing Arts

It's been a busy and inspiring term for the Performing Arts faculty, filled with creativity, achievement, and celebration.

Year 11 and Year 13 students successfully completed their final practical and written exams, showcasing their talent and dedication. Year 10 students also rose to the challenge of their mock exams, demonstrating impressive progress and professionalism in both performance and preparation.

Beyond the classroom, students across all year groups had fantastic opportunities to shine on stage. Our Friday Night Live music showcase was a standout event, with soloists and bands performing to a supportive audience of family and friends. We were also proud to see Callum's artwork displayed in the Walker Art Gallery during the Dot Art Awards, celebrating creativity in schools across the region.

The Wirral Festival of Dance saw our dancers deliver a powerful, polished performance, while our annual Arts Festival brought together the best of choir, dance, and drama. From ensemble pieces to individual showcases, the festival was a true celebration of student talent and teamwork.

This term has highlighted the energy, commitment, and creativity of our Performing Arts students and staff. We're incredibly proud of everything they've achieved and look forward to more exciting plans in the future!

A. Keen
Head of Performing Arts Department

Business, Computer Science and ICT

This half term, Miss Binns' Computing classes tackled the question: Should smartphones be banned for under 16s? Students worked in teams to research and present arguments using PowerPoint, exploring the impact of smartphones on learning, sleep, and mental health, alongside benefits like connectivity, education support, and responsibility. Each group created a persuasive presentation with three main points, a counterargument, and a clear conclusion. They carefully used images and design features to enhance their message. The debate encouraged critical thinking, teamwork, and digital communication skills. Peer assessments helped students reflect on both content and delivery. We were highly impressed with their confidence, creativity, and ability to tackle a real-world issue with such maturity.

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



Maths

As the summer term ends, students in Years 7–9 have excelled in a range of exciting and challenging topics through the White Rose Maths scheme.

Year 7 explored probability and developed key geometry skills, including constructing triangles, measuring angles, and visualising 3D shapes. These foundations will support their future learning. Year 8 built confidence in algebra, working with straight-line graphs and equations. They deepened their understanding of geometry by calculating area, surface area, and volume, and tackled transformations with accuracy and creativity. Year 9 prepared for GCSE by mastering algebraic techniques such as expanding and factorising expressions, using powers and roots, and applying Pythagoras' theorem in 2D and 3D. They also advanced their understanding of probability, including combined events and tree diagrams. Across all year groups, students have demonstrated impressive progress in reasoning, fluency, and problem-solving. It's been a term marked by growth, confidence, and curiosity, well done to everyone!

E. Daniels
Head of the Maths Department

Social Sciences

This has been a busy term in the Social Sciences department with students in Years 10-13 completing a range of different exams and submitting coursework to the exam boards. Students have all worked really hard and there have been lots of excellent achievements for our students. We wish all of our students good luck for their exam results in August.

L. Egerton
Head of Social Sciences Department



DT

A very busy last term as usual in DT! The GCE Product design class completed their portfolio and practical work before sitting two external examinations. The level 2 students in DT, Engineering and Hospitality handed in their coursework before themselves sitting external exams. Well done to them all!

Year 10 have now embarked on their own portfolios and coursework after a very busy first year at level 2 in all areas. At KS3 we have had much success in the production of year 7 wooden animals and battery testers. Year 8 have proudly finished their Memphis themed clocks in timely fashion and year 9 are illuminating their homes with their wonderful Art Deco candle holders.

E. Law
Head of DT Department

English

This year, Year 9 students explored mental health in English, reading *And The Stars Were Burning Brightly* by Danielle Jawando and studying its characters. They then wrote and performed their own TED-style talks on a chosen mental health topic. After presenting to their classes, a group was shortlisted to speak to the senior leadership team, who selected eight students to share their talks with members of the public and mental health professionals. The panel found the decision incredibly tough due to the high quality of all presentations. We are so proud of the maturity of our Year 9 students when addressing these issues.

L. Lowe
Head of English Department

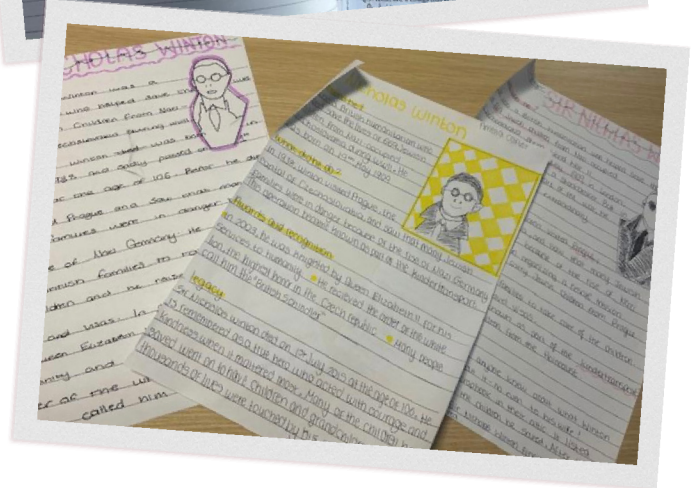
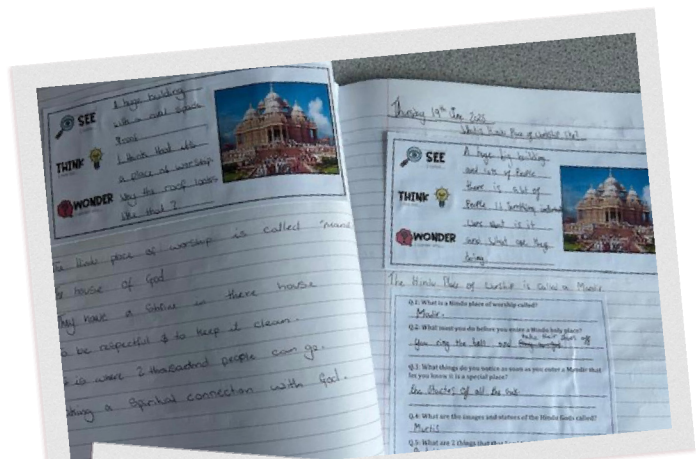
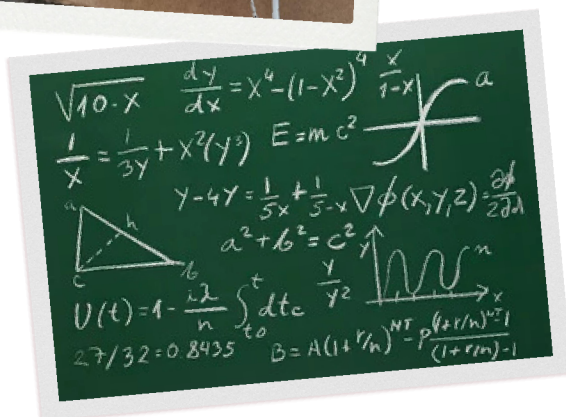
Religious Education

As the school year ends, students across all year groups have been actively applying their learning habits in lessons, sparking thoughtful questions and discussions.

Year 7 have been exploring Hinduism, focusing on key deities like Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth, as well as learning about Hindu weddings and the significance of a Mandir (temple). Year 8 are deepening their understanding of Islam, particularly the Quran, the Mosque, and the Five Pillars. They've studied Zakat (charitable giving), Salah (prayer), and Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca). Year 9 are currently studying Judaism, which they will revisit in Year 11 as part of their GCSE Religious Studies. They've learned about Sir Nicholas Winton, who helped rescue over 10,000 Jewish children during WWII through the Kindertransport.

We're incredibly proud of Year 10 for their commitment to mock exams. In RE, they've used targeted revision booklets, combining reading, mindmapping, and practice questions to build confidence with exam techniques. Congratulations to Year 11 students who've now completed their GCSE RE exams. Their resilience, including attending revision sessions on weekends and holidays, has been inspiring. We're confident they'll go on to achieve great things—well done, Year 11!

S. Keating
Religious Education Department



Science

Our enthusiastic Year 8 students recently enjoyed an exciting STEM trip, packed with discovery, teamwork, and hands-on science fun. The day began with interactive workshops where students explored real-world scientific concepts- testing forces, building ecosystems, and uncovering everyday chemistry. A highlight was the fast-paced science trivia competition, where our students competed in teams against other schools. Their teamwork, quick thinking, and positive spirit made us proud.

Another memorable moment was the classic Egg Drop Challenge. Tasked with protecting a raw egg from a high fall using limited materials, students showed creativity and engineering flair. Although most eggs didn't survive the drop, the problem-solving on display was impressive. Despite not taking home a trophy, the trip offered a brilliant opportunity to see STEM in action and apply classroom knowledge in fun, meaningful ways. Our students returned inspired and full of stories!

V. Brown
Head of the Science Department

Modern Foreign Languages

Bonjour à tous!

We're absolutely delighted to share just how proud we are of our brilliant students across all year groups in French this term. Our Year 11s have shown incredible dedication and resilience as they prepared for their speaking exams. Their enthusiasm and hard work during revision sessions have truly impressed us – they are rising to the challenge with confidence and determination. Bravo!

Year 10s are embracing the fascinating world of French celebrity culture. From film stars to sporting legends, their curiosity and thoughtful questions show a real love for learning about life beyond the classroom.

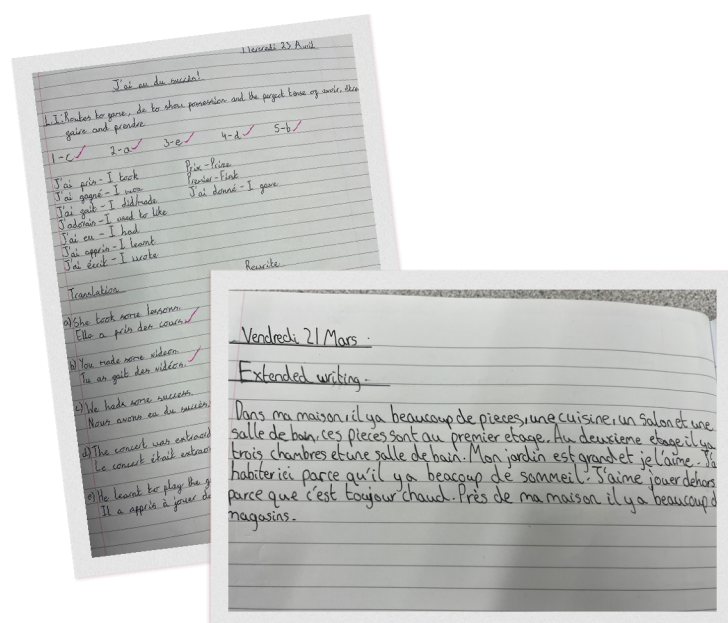
Meanwhile, our Year 9s have dazzled us with their creativity and insight as they explored the rich traditions of French festivals. Their work has been a joy to see – colourful, detailed, and full of cultural flair.

Year 8s have taken a virtual journey through Paris, discovering its famous landmarks and hidden treasures. Their interest in the city's history and architecture has led to some great discussions and exciting progress.

And not to be outdone, our Year 7s have been discovering what it's like to go to school in France. Their inquisitiveness and enthusiasm are laying strong foundations for future language learning. Continuez!

Across the board, we're celebrating fantastic achievement and a real spark of curiosity in all our young linguists. Vive le français!

J. Le-Normand
Head of the MFL Department



Physical Education

This term, it has been a pleasure to take our Key Stage 3 students to Wallasey Manor for after-school tennis sessions every Wednesday. The progress they have made has been exceptional, and we are incredibly proud of their positive attitude and commitment to learning. The coaches at Wallasey Manor have also praised the students, commenting on their maturity, teamwork, and strong work ethic throughout each session. Their behaviour has consistently been exemplary and is a true reflection of the core values we promote as a school: Pride, Determination, Courage, and Compassion. Our students have represented the school with integrity and enthusiasm, and their dedication both on and off the court has made a lasting impression.

J. Murray
Head of the Physical Education Department

SIXTH FORM

Year 12 Explore Liverpool and Future Pathways

Our Year 12 students enjoyed an enriching day, beginning with a visit to Liverpool Central Library. This visit gave students the opportunity to explore the wealth of resources available to the public and to reflect on the importance of such spaces for a wide range of users in the community.

The afternoon was spent at the UCAS Exhibition at the Liverpool Convention Centre, where over 100 exhibitors, predominantly universities were on hand to offer guidance and inspiration. With a bustling atmosphere and a variety of informative workshops, students made excellent progress in their destination planning. They broadened their understanding of the courses available in higher education and gained valuable insight into university life.

It was a thought-provoking and motivating experience that has certainly helped shape the next steps for many of our Year 12s.



Year 13 Leavers' Liturgy - A Fond Farewell

This term also marked a significant milestone for our Year 13 students as they came together for their Leavers' Liturgy, their final celebration as a year group at college.

It was a truly emotional afternoon, filled with laughter, reflection, and a deep sense of community. We are incredibly proud of all that they have achieved, not just academically but in the way they have grown into mature, compassionate young adults ready to share their talents with the world. We wish them every success and happiness in the future. No matter where life takes them, they will always be a part of the St Mary's community. Please stay in touch, we always love to hear how you're getting on!

CAREERS NEWS

Preparing for the Future, Today

This term has been full of exciting opportunities for our students to engage with the world of work, higher education, and essential life skills. From university visits and performance opportunities to professional training sessions, our young people have been actively preparing for life beyond the classroom.

A group of Year 12 students recently completed the National Citizenship Service (NCS), culminating in a celebration event at Claremount School. Students shared their experiences on stage, reflecting on the personal growth and life skills gained through the programme. Each student was presented with an NCS certificate, an excellent addition to their personal portfolios and a strong foundation for future pathways.

Another highlight for our students was the chance to step into the world of professional theatre at the Crewe Lyceum, where they explored behind-the-scenes production roles and received hands-on training from top industry practitioners. Performing on a renowned stage in front of a live audience was a truly unforgettable experience that broadened their understanding of creative careers.

Our Year 10 students benefited from expert-led employability training sessions delivered by the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge (ASK) group. They focused on interview techniques, including timekeeping, body language, and how to give confident, appropriate responses. Project coordinator Jo Bateman praised the resilience shown by many students, especially those who overcame initial nerves to engage fully in mock interviews.

The 'Next Steps' group in Year 10 enjoyed a university taster experience at the University of Liverpool, alongside peers from eight other schools. The day included a campus tour, visits to lecture halls and accommodation, and

valuable conversations with student ambassadors. Students gained insights into course choices, study methods, and student finance—key knowledge to support their future decisions.

A group of Year 12 students also attended a fully funded visit to Edge Hill University, where they explored course options and got a feel for life on a campus-based university. Meanwhile, psychology students took part in a Psychology Taster Day at Chester University, with sessions designed to reflect real undergraduate course content.

We're also proud to share that a team of six Year 7 boys represented the school at the National Careers Challenge finals in London. Competing as Team Eco Brighton, they designed a sustainable town of the future based on their local environment. We are so proud of this achievement.

Finally, we're excited to announce that our school has been selected to work with the Department for Education and the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) on a pilot project called Equalex. This initiative supports the government's updated careers legislation, aiming to provide every student with 10 meaningful work experience days between Years 7 and 11.

Our school is working hard to embed these opportunities into the curriculum as part of our wider commitment to preparing students for successful futures.



THE INSPIRE PROGRAMME

'We Rise by Lifting Others'

This term, Our Inspire programme has once again been an empowering experience for our students at St Mary's. One of our focuses has been on finalising the impactful *"We Rise by Lifting Others"* campaign, which has brought students together in a shared mission of kindness, inclusion, and community action.

The term concluded with an inspiring Diversity Week, where we celebrated the rich variety of backgrounds, cultures, and experiences within our college. As part of this week, students collaboratively developed a set of fundamental values that reflect the spirit and identity of our school community.

This celebration will culminate during Experience Week in an exciting art project, where students across year groups will work together to create stunning papier-mâché hot air balloons. These will symbolise our shared values and collective aspirations. Each balloon will feature photographs of the students involved, and will be displayed proudly in the school foyer. In addition, students will design mini flags with uplifting slogans and messages that celebrate diversity—both within St Mary's and in the wider world.

As part of the campaign, each year group has also been planning and running their own charity initiatives for local causes. These include creative events such as sponsored walks, "Beat the Goalie" challenges, and bake sales—all organised by the students themselves. These activities not only raise money for important causes, but also build teamwork, empathy, and a sense of community responsibility.



The Inspire programme continues to be a highlight of the calendar, providing all students with opportunities to enrich their lives through extracurricular activities through the Inspire opportunities programme. Each year, this culminates in our Experience Week—a week-long celebration packed with activities, workshops, and events that encourage students to step outside their comfort zones, try new things, and grow as individuals.

We are proud of the dedication, creativity, and compassion shown by our students throughout this term. Together, they have truly lived the message: ***We rise by lifting others and when we work together we succeed together.***



REWARDS & RECOGNITION

Experience Week 2025

Students at St Mary's Catholic College took part in the exciting and enriching Experience Week, a four-day programme designed to inspire, challenge and bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

In keeping with our school vision, *"Work Together; Succeed Together,"* the week gave students the opportunity to try new things, develop new skills, and make lasting memories alongside their peers. The usual timetable was suspended, allowing everyone to fully immerse themselves in a variety of creative workshops, physical challenges, local excursions and cultural visits. Throughout the week, students engaged in:

- On-site workshops focusing on creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving
- Sporting challenges and outdoor team games
- Local walks and community-based experiences
- A cultural or educational trip for each year group

For many, the highlight of the week was their trip out. Year 7 students visited Chester Zoo, where they explored a wide range of animal habitats and conservation zones.

"I've never been to Chester Zoo before—it was amazing to see the giraffes and elephants up close! I learnt so much about how we can help protect animals." — Eloise, Year 7

"It was one of my favourite days ever. I loved being with my friends and seeing the big cats. It made me think about working with animals in the future." — Kieran, Year 7

Meanwhile, another group of students ventured out to Delamere Forest for a day of nature, exploration, and team building.

"Delamere Forest was so peaceful and fun at the same time. I enjoyed being outside and working together on the challenges." — Luca, Year 8

"It was great to just be in nature and do something completely different. The best part was making a shelter with my group—we actually managed to stay dry inside it!" — Amara, Year 8

Whether students were climbing through inflatable obstacle courses in the gym, designing creative projects on-site, or taking in the sights and sounds of new environments, Experience Week encouraged them to reflect on our core values while having fun and learning in new ways.

Staff were incredibly proud of the students' engagement, maturity, and enthusiasm throughout the week. Their positive attitudes and willingness to try something new captured the true spirit of what the Experience Week is all about.

A huge thank you goes out to all staff and students who helped make the week such a resounding success. We can't wait to do it all again next year!



Hot Chocolate Friday

Year 7

Darcy G, Noah L, Ryan H, Rosie L, Jack E, Aliyah T, Lewis S, Hallie R, Oliver C, Hannah S, Ashleigh Q, Tommy S, Jaydon B, Emily S

Year 8

Michael S, Orla K, Riley W, Ruby P, Dominic M, Thomas H, Leo C, Isabella M, Richard H, James P, Harvey J, Isabella M, Thomas H, Rosie H, Morgan A, Amelia J, Keira P, Bobby M, Brooke B, Alfie C, Finley B

Year 9

Emily D, Alex I, Alex V, Seren J, Liv M, Mia B, Isabella W, Makenzie G, Finlay O, Erin F, Ashleigh J, Olivia H, Ethan M, Georgia T, Jayden H, Toby P, Isabella W, Aden S

Year 10

Isabel M, Tyler A, Ruby F, Alfie M, Corey B, Kimberley M, Lucas H, Lucy O, Norbert K, Amber D, Imogen L, Dannica B, Molly C, Grace R, Tom K, Annabella C, Dillon L

Year 11

Lacey M, Aidan O, Eve L, Hope C



COLLEGE KEY DATES

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 2nd - Staggered start day 1 (Years 7 and 12)
Wednesday 3rd - Staggered start Day 2 - Year 7, 11, 12 and 13 (Coaching day year 11 and 13)
Thursday 4th - All students return
Tuesday 9th - Open Evening (1:45pm school closure)
Tuesday 17th - Open Morning
Tuesday 30th - Year 7 Welcome Mass

OCTOBER

Thursday 10th - World Mental Health Day (Wear Yellow)
Monday 13th - Wednesday 22nd - Year 7 Retreat Days
Thursday 16th - Year 12 and 13 Parent Evening
Thursday 23rd - Year 11 Parents Evening
Monday 27th to Friday 1st November - Autumn Break

NOVEMBER

Thursday 6th - Sixth Form Open Evening
Wednesday 12th - Careers Fair

DECEMBER

Monday 22nd - Friday 2nd January - Christmas Break

