



St Mary's Catholic College

NEWSLETTER

Work together; Succeed together



Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Spring Term | 2026

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

St Mary's students were once again key performers at the HFCMAT Friday Night Live event at Future Yard, Birkenhead, performing to a packed audience and showcasing an exciting mix of singers, guitarists and brand-new bands.

Headlining the night was St Mary's own scratch band – Amelia, Ameera, Darcy, Emily, Grace, Jacob, John, Keira, Laika, Lydia and Thomas – formed during college music club.

Solo performances were given by Euphemia D, Keira P, Ameera B, Emily D and Amelia J, while John M and Lydia O impressed with vocals and guitar.

Two new bands also made their debut: Jacob, John, Grace and Lydia; and Tom, Lydia and Grace. We're excited to see how they develop ahead of our Summer Showcase.

Hosted by HFCMAT, the evening also featured excellent performances from St John Plessington. We can't wait to see our students perform again in our summer showcase which takes place on Wednesday 1st of July.



FANCY GETTING INVOLVED? COME JOIN...

ST. MARY'S

ROCK
BAND

MONDAY + TUESDAY LUNCH
(SEE MR HUGHES TO FIND OUT MORE!)



ST MARY'S STUDENTS TAKE TO THE SLOPES

Thirty-two students and four members of staff enjoyed an unforgettable week on the slopes in Pila, Italy, this February, representing the school with **pride** throughout the trip.

The trip began bright and early on Saturday morning, with students travelling by coach before arriving at the resort early on Sunday afternoon. After settling in, the group visited the ski hire centre to get fitted for boots and helmets; excitement was already building for the days ahead, and students showed **respect** and responsibility during preparations.

On Monday morning, following an early breakfast, we headed up the mountain to meet our ski instructors and begin the first day of lessons. From the very start, students demonstrated enthusiasm and **determination**. Over the course of five days of ski school, they made exceptional progress, quickly building confidence and exploring the full resort.

Located in the stunning Aosta Valley, often described as the most panoramic balcony in the Alps, Pila provided a breathtaking backdrop for learning. Throughout the week, students showed **courage** as they tackled new challenges, continually pushing themselves to improve while supporting one another with **compassion**.

Evenings were packed with enjoyable après-ski activities, including bowling, a visit to a local ice cream parlour, and a meal at a traditional pizzeria.

On the final evening, students were proudly presented with certificates by their ski instructors. The instructors shared celebratory stories of success on the slopes, praising the group's progress, their bravery in facing challenges, and the kindness they showed towards one another. Staff were extremely impressed with the fantastic behaviour, positive attitudes and team spirit shown throughout the trip. It was truly a memorable week in the mountains, one that will stay with everyone for years to come.





NEWS

Dot Art Competiton - St Mary's represents again!

We're excited to share that St Mary's is once again being represented in the Dot Art Competition, a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their creativity as part of a wider celebration of young artistic talent.

This inspiring project encourages students to express themselves through art while gaining recognition beyond the classroom. A huge congratulations to Jack, Rosie and Brooke in Year 9 for having their artworks shortlisted, we are incredibly proud of their achievement.

We look forward to celebrating their success scan the QR code below to place your vote.



Summer Art Show

Exciting news from the Art Department! Over 45 pieces of work from KS3, KS4, and KS5 pupils will be framed and professionally hung at The Hatch Gallery, Victoria Road, New Brighton.

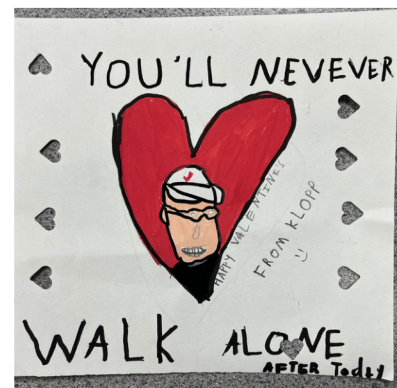
The exhibition will feature a mixture of clay, Textiles, mixed media, portraiture, and abstract portraiture, all carefully selected from the last two projects, with pupils given the opportunity to further develop their work for display.

Don't miss the Private View on Thursday 4th June at 6:30pm, with drinks and nibbles provided for our guests. This promises to be an extremely aspirational evening for our pupils, and we hope it will inspire them to continue exploring their artistic potential. The exhibition will then be open to the public on Friday 5th, Saturday 6th, and Sunday 7th June, from 10am-4pm (and 11am-4pm on Sunday).



Love is in the air

For Valentines Day, students and staff had the opportunity to send a Valentines Day card & rose hand delivered by Cupid themselves. We had great fun delivering these during Inspire time to share the love and put smiles on the faces of our St Mary's community. The funds raised from our 'Secret Valentines' have been sent to the Teenage Cancer Trust to support young people living with Cancer.





Empire Theatre Partnership Projects

Students have had an exciting year taking part in The Liverpool Empire Partnership Programme, with opportunities to work alongside leading organisations from the professional performing arts industry.

As part of the programme, Drama students visited the Liverpool Empire Theatre to watch the acclaimed production *Dear England*. The experience was supported by both pre- and post-performance workshops, allowing students to explore the themes, staging, and storytelling techniques used in the production. The visit gave students valuable insight into professional theatre production and proved hugely inspiring. Students involved in the project will now use this experience to devise and create their own original drama pieces, inspired by the themes and ideas explored in *Dear England*.

Dance students also took part in a special project connected to *Sleeping Beauty*, working with professional dancers from the English National Ballet. During the workshops, students had the chance to explore choreography, storytelling through movement, and the discipline of classical ballet while learning directly from professional dancers. The work created during these workshops will now be showcased in our Summer Showcase, where students will perform pieces inspired by both *Dear England* and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and commitment students have brought to these opportunities and look forward to sharing their work with the school community at the showcase.

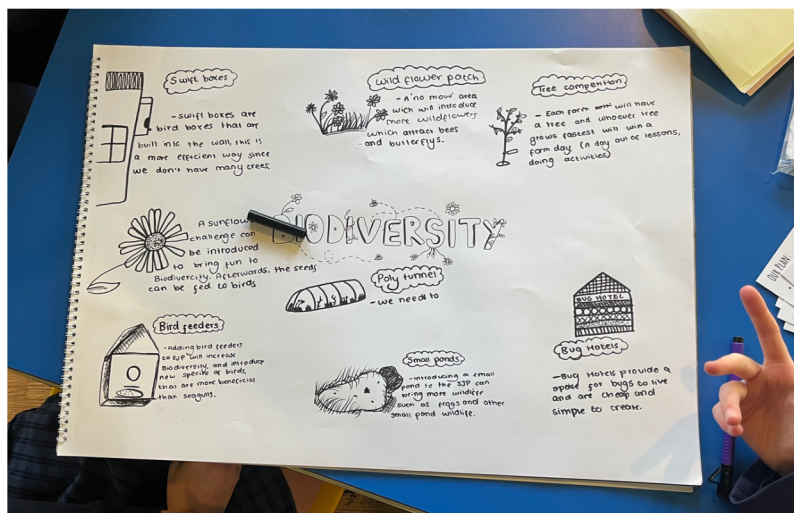
Change Makers' project update

St Mary's Change Maker group recently returned to Chester Zoo to share updates with other schools in our HFCMAT on their current sustainability project. The dynamic duo have chosen to focus on the topic of biodiversity. After conducting a survey with stakeholders, they have now refined their ideas on how to help promote biodiversity across our campus.

During their visit, they also met with experts to discuss their plans and received valuable advice on how to approach the local council to gain support for their goals.

Their key areas of focus include providing further education about what biodiversity is and exploring strategies we can use both at home and in school to support it. They also aim to develop our small courtyard spaces, making them more inviting for both our community and local wildlife. Their plans include introducing bird feeders and nesting boxes, as well as creating bug hotels to encourage insect life, which is essential to our local ecosystems.

Congratulations to James & John for all their hard work in researching and presenting their findings so far. Keep an eye out to see how this exciting project develops after the Easter break!



Enterprise Challenge Success for Year 7 & 12

Students in Year 7 and Year 12 took part in exciting enterprise activities this term delivered by The National Careers Challenge.

Year 7 students worked in teams to design an environmentally friendly town, developing their collaboration, innovation and communication skills. The best groups presented their ideas to a judging panel including Mr Wellens (Careers Lead) and Mrs Draper (Head of Year 7). Judges were impressed by the confidence and creativity shown by students. Congratulations to the winning team from 7MT, who will now progress to the regional stage of the competition.

Meanwhile, Year 12 students took part in the Stocks and Shares Challenge, gaining insight into financial markets while developing their teamwork, strategic thinking and decision-making skills.

Well done to all students involved for demonstrating our school values of determination, courage, pride and respect.



International Women's Day

Our school celebrated International Women's Day, recognising the achievements and positive influence of women in our lives and communities. This year's theme was "Give to Gain."

During the week, students were encouraged to take time to reflect on the women who have inspired or supported them. Many thought about the important message: "Because I knew you, I have been changed for good." This allowed students to appreciate the women who have helped shape their lives, including family members, teachers, friends, and role models.

As part of the day, the Safer Schools Police Team also delivered informative sessions to all year groups in the Theatre. These sessions gave students the opportunity to discuss important topics such as respect, safety, equality, and supporting one another within the school and wider community.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

A celebration of books, reading, and creativity

World Book Day 2026 was a roaring success! Once again, Miss Cullen planned activities to take place from Monday to Friday, allowing students to celebrate literature throughout the whole week.

On Monday morning, the Seuss on the Loose scavenger hunt was officially launched! Dr Seuss illustrations were hidden all around St Mary's, from Green Eggs and Ham in the canteen to Thing 1 and Thing 2 in an RE classroom. Using specially designed cards from the library, students were encouraged to find and note down the locations of all 16 pictures throughout the week.

World Book Day tokens were distributed during form time on Tuesday, and 2026's World Book Day titles were added to the library shelves so pupils could see what books they'd like to purchase with their tokens.

During Wednesday's break time and lunchtime, students were encouraged to enter our World Book Day Competitions, redesigning book front covers and writing short stories. Joshua S in Year 9 won our drawing contest, with his beautiful depiction of a Dinosaur Encyclopedia. His prize included World Book Day books, dinosaur stickers and an Easter egg!

Thursday was World Book Day itself! Over 32 staff members spent the day dressed as different book characters, from Great Expectations' Miss Havisham to The Wizard of Oz's Cowardly Lion. This is exactly double the amount of teachers who dressed up in 2025! At lunchtime, The Big Book Quiz took place in the library, with staff competing in front of a student audience. Mrs Cowdray won first place, but Mrs Lowe and Mrs Snelson - as well as sixth former Faith S - put up a good fight.

To conclude World Book Day Week, students with completed scavenger hunt sheets returned them to the library on Friday break time for a prize. Each pupil received book themed stickers, sweets, a Dr Seuss badge and even more World Book Day tokens!



CHAPLAINCY AT ST. MARY'S

Celebration of the word

'Celebration of the Word' has continued to be a significant part of our week, bringing us together to pray, reflect, and share. This term we have explored the theme of lent, helping us to prepare for Easter. We listen to readings, say prayers, and enjoy singing hymns accompanied by Mr Hughes on the piano.

CAFOD's Big Lent Walk

Our students have been lacing up their trainers and taking meaningful steps this Lent as part of CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. With enthusiasm and determination, every year group has been getting involved in a special challenge to walk the incredible distance from our school all the way to the Vatican - right here in our own school grounds!

Instead of traveling abroad, pupils have been completing laps around the school yard, with each step contributing to the shared goal. By working together, the entire school community is helping to symbolically cover the distance, showing both teamwork and commitment to making a difference.

CAFOD's Big Lent Walk is an annual event that encourages people to walk 200km over 40 days during Lent, raising money for and awareness to support communities around the world experiencing poverty. At St Mary's, students have embraced this mission with great energy, understanding that their efforts can help provide essentials such as clean water, food, and education to those in need.

A big well done to all year groups for their fantastic participation so far.



THE INSPIRE PROGRAMME

We are delighted to share the latest news from our Inspire Programme this half term. It has been a busy and exciting period, with our students continuing to embrace opportunities that support their personal development and broaden their understanding of the world around them.

Citizenship Projects

As part of our Inspire sessions students have started their Citizenship projects, Students have been exploring what it means to be an active and responsible citizen through a range of real-life examples and discussions during Inspire Time. These sessions encourage pupils to think about their role within the school community and the wider world, helping them to develop a sense of responsibility, respect for others and an understanding of how their actions can positively impact society.

Learning Ambassadors

Our Learning Ambassadors have also been working hard behind the scenes to support the development of learning across the school. They have been designing and writing their own sessions focused on our core learning habits. These sessions will be delivered to students in Years 7–10 during Inspire Time and will help pupils develop key Learning Habits. This student-led approach allows ambassadors to share their experiences and support younger pupils in building strong learning behaviours.



Our 'new look'
Learning Habits



Looking Ahead - Charity Project

After Easter, students will begin a new Inspire project rooted in our Catholic values of compassion, service and care for others. Each year the group will work together on a charity-focused initiative, giving pupils the opportunity to support those in need and make a meaningful difference within their community.

Throughout the term, students will research, plan and take part in activities that raise awareness and support charitable causes. This project will encourage pupils to live out our school mission by putting faith into action, showing kindness, generosity and a commitment to helping others. We are looking forward to seeing the creativity, teamwork and dedication our students bring to this important work.

Inspire Opportunities

Inspire Opportunities continue to be a driving passion within our school community. Students are encouraged to get involved in the wide range of clubs, teams and enrichment opportunities available throughout the week. These activities allow pupils to explore new interests, develop talents and build friendships outside of the classroom environment. From sports and performing arts to academic and creative clubs, there is something for everyone. Further details of all the extra-curricular opportunities available can be found on the St Mary's website

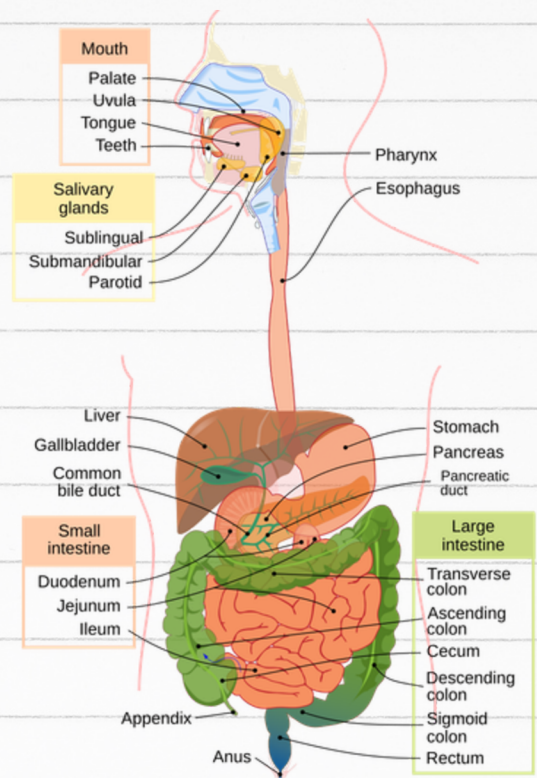
SUBJECT FOCUS:

SCIENCE

It has been another busy and productive term across the Science Department, with students across all year groups demonstrating excellent engagement and a growing confidence in their scientific understanding. Alongside developing subject knowledge, students have continued to strengthen our core learning habits — being **inquisitive, collaborative, disciplined, persistent, and imaginative** — which support success both inside and outside the classroom.

Year 11

Year 11 students have now completed their second round of mock examinations. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, focus, and maturity they have shown throughout this demanding period. Demonstrating strong **discipline**, many students approached their revision with determination, attending intervention sessions, completing extended exam practice, and refining their exam techniques. Following the mocks, staff have completed detailed question-level analysis to identify strengths and areas for development. Students are now working through carefully tailored lessons and targeted revision activities designed to address specific gaps in understanding, helping them build confidence and persistence as they prepare for their final examinations.



Year 10

Year 10 students are nearing the end of the first phase of their course and are beginning to prepare for their own mock examinations, which will take place in June. Recently, students have taken part in practical learning experiences including a heart dissection, alongside studying the digestive and circulatory systems. These lessons have encouraged students to be truly **inquisitive**, asking thoughtful questions about how structures relate to function and exploring real biological systems first-hand. Practical work continues to develop both scientific skills and curiosity, helping students connect classroom learning to real-world science.

Year 9

In Year 9, students have been studying ecology as well as the structure of the Earth and its atmosphere. As part of this topic, they have explored how different types of rocks are formed and how geological processes shape our planet over time. Through group investigations and discussion-based activities, students have demonstrated strong **collaboration**, working together to analyse environmental data, share ideas, and explain complex processes to one another. These shared learning experiences have helped students develop confidence in scientific communication as well as teamwork skills.



Year 8

Year 8 students have been exploring how light behaves, including how it reflects from mirrors and travels through glass and lenses. They have also investigated filters and how lighting is used on stage to create different colours and visual effects. This topic has encouraged students to be **imaginative**, applying scientific concepts creatively to understand how lighting designers use physics to transform performances and visual experiences. Practical demonstrations and investigative tasks have allowed students to experiment with light and colour while developing their scientific reasoning.



Year 7

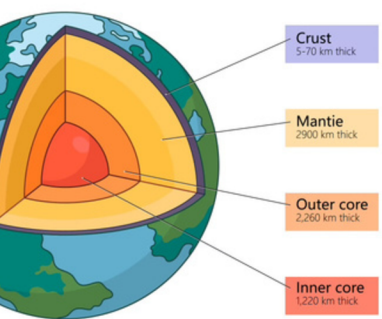
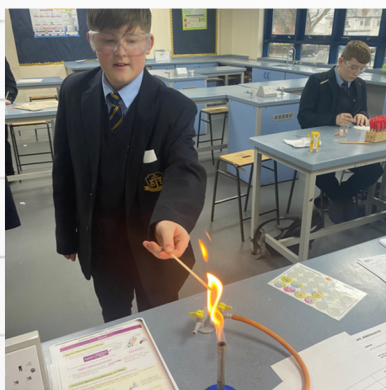
Meanwhile, Year 7 students have been building their understanding of the human body. Following their earlier work on cells, they have learned how organs are formed and how organ systems work together to keep the body functioning effectively. Through extended writing tasks, model-building activities, and structured practice, students have shown real **persistence** as they tackle new scientific vocabulary and increasingly complex ideas. Their growing confidence reflects the strong foundations being established in their first year of secondary science.



V. Brown
Head of the Science Department

KS3 Science Club

Many of the photographs featured alongside this newsletter come from our highly popular KS3 Science Club, which continues to grow each term. The club provides students with the opportunity to explore a wide range of scientific themes beyond the classroom through hands-on practical activities each week. From exciting experiments and investigations to creative problem-solving challenges, students thoroughly enjoy the chance to experiment, discover, and work together in a relaxed and engaging environment. The enthusiasm and curiosity shown by those who attend truly reflect our learning habits in action, as students collaborate, ask questions, and develop their love of science through practical exploration.



We are delighted with the enthusiasm, effort, and positive learning attitudes demonstrated across all year groups this term. It is fantastic to see students not only developing their scientific knowledge but also strengthening the learning habits that will support them throughout their education. We look forward to continuing this journey of discovery and achievement in the months ahead.

THE ARC

Ecosystems and Adaptations

This half term in Science, our class has been exploring the fascinating topic of ecosystems and adaptations. We have been learning about how living things evolve and adapt to survive in their environments, as well as how species can become extinct when they are unable to adapt to changing conditions.

As part of this learning, we looked back in time to explore how dinosaurs once dominated Earth and how their extinction helped shape the ecosystems we see today. This helped us understand how life on Earth changes over millions of years and how new species evolve to fill different roles in an ecosystem.

We have also been learning about biodiversity and why having a wide variety of plants, animals, and microorganisms is so important for keeping ecosystems healthy and balanced. The children discussed how different organisms depend on one another for food, shelter, and survival.

To bring our learning to life, we visited a local woodland area where we explored the environment and identified different organisms and the habitats they live in. The children carefully observed plants, insects, and other living things while thinking about how they interact within the ecosystem.

Back in the classroom, we created our own ecosystems in a jar, selecting materials that could support living organisms and discussing how the different parts of the ecosystem work together. This hands-on activity helped the children understand how delicate and interconnected ecosystems can be.

It has been wonderful to see the children asking thoughtful questions and showing curiosity about the natural world around them.

World Autism Month

World Autism Month, celebrated every April, is a time to raise awareness, promote understanding, and celebrate the unique strengths of individuals with autism. At The Arc, our Autism provision, we are proud to support and empower our students, recognising that every learner experiences the world in their own way. Throughout the month, we encourage compassion, inclusion, and acceptance across our school community, helping everyone to better understand autism and appreciate the diversity that makes our school such a special place.



New Life Skills Intervention – Cycling with Wheels for All

We are excited to introduce a new life skills intervention for our Autism Base in partnership with **Wheels for All at Birkenhead Park**. This fantastic charity provides inclusive cycling opportunities for people with disabilities, ensuring that everyone has the chance to experience the joy and freedom of riding a bike.

Through this programme, our pupils will have access to a range of adapted cycles designed to support different needs and abilities. The sessions focus on building confidence, developing independence, and most importantly ensuring that every child has the opportunity to take part in physical activity.

As part of our wider life skills offer, this intervention helps pupils develop important skills while also encouraging healthy lifestyles. Regular exercise plays an important role in supporting both physical and mental wellbeing, and cycling provides a fun and engaging way for pupils to stay active.

We are incredibly proud to be working alongside Wheels for All to provide this opportunity for our students and look forward to seeing them grow in confidence, enjoy the outdoors, and develop new skills along the way.



Arc 5K Walk – Supporting National Autism Week

As part of National Autism Week, our Autism Base will be taking part in a special **5K Walk on 17th April** to raise awareness and celebrate the incredible young people in our community. This event is an opportunity for students, staff, families, and supporters to come together, promote understanding of autism, and show our support for inclusive education.

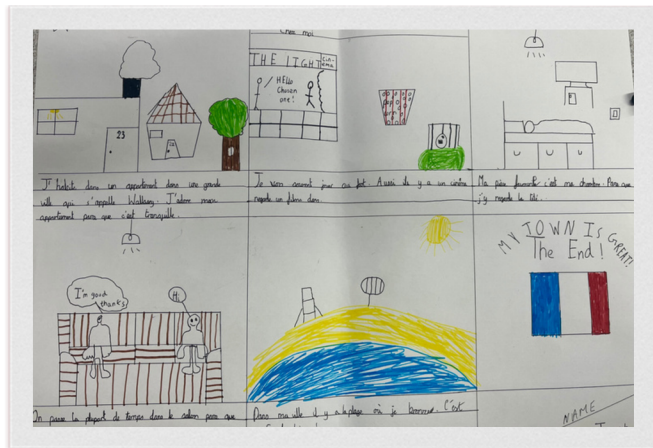
Throughout the week we will be highlighting the strengths, achievements, and individuality of the pupils in our Autism Base and mainstream. The 5K walk is a chance for our school community to take a positive step—quite literally—towards greater awareness and acceptance.

Participants will be walking to raise funds that will go directly towards supporting resources, activities, and opportunities for our Autism Base students. Every step we take helps us continue creating an environment where all learners feel supported, valued, and able to thrive.

If you would like to support our walk, please consider making a donation using the QR code below. Every contribution, big or small, makes a real difference and is greatly appreciated.



LIFE IN OUR LESSONS



Modern Foreign Languages

Over the past two months, the French Department has been buzzing with enthusiasm, hard work and exciting opportunities across all year groups.

Our Year 11 students have continued to show real dedication in preparation for their final mock examination ahead of the final GCSE exams. They've been working particularly hard on speaking skills, improving their fluency and confidence. While Year 10 have been immersed in celebrity culture, exploring famous personalities in France and debating the world of fame.

In Key Stage 3, Year 9 have thoroughly enjoyed delving into technology use in France. They're now writing extended sentences and starting to consider their GCSE options. Year 8 have been focusing on describing their town, area, and surroundings in specific detail. They've really enjoyed sharing what makes their communities special. Year 7 are now moving on to "All About Me," learning to describe themselves, their teachers and their school.

Exciting news: a trip to Paris is planned for November! It was so popular that it was oversubscribed, and we're pleased to say another trip will be organised in the future. It's been a fantastic, positive period of growth and discovery for everyone!

J. Le-Normand
Head of the MFL Department

Design Technology

It's been a busy and creative term in the DT department! Our Year 10 Hospitality students have been perfecting their pastry skills, learning how to laminate dough to create beautifully flaky pastry. They then put their new skills to the test by making their own delicious version of pop tarts. Next up, they'll be moving on to choux pastry as they take on the challenge of making profiteroles!

In Engineering, Year 10 students have been exploring a brand-new CAD programme called Onshape, using it to design detailed 3D models for their upcoming bike tool project. Over in Design & Technology, Year 10 students took inspiration from the bold shapes and patterns of the Art Deco movement to design and create their own stylish candle holders. Meanwhile, our hardworking Year 11 students have been busy completing their coursework projects and are now getting ready to start their revision as they prepare for their exams in June.

E. Law
Head of DT Department



Physical Education

This past term, our boys' team achieved fantastic success at the Indoor Cricket Tournament, finishing the day as overall winners after a series of impressive performances. Competing with determination and enthusiasm, the team demonstrated excellent teamwork, energy and skill throughout the competition. Each match showcased their growing confidence, strong communication and commitment to supporting one another, which ultimately led to their well-deserved victory.

Their success at the tournament means the team has now qualified for the County Championships, where they will proudly represent the school in the next stage of the competition. This is a significant achievement and a wonderful opportunity for the boys to continue developing their skills while competing against other top teams from across the county.

A special congratulations goes to Calum, Keiran, Albert, Noah, James and Mason and Mr Everall, whose hard work, teamwork and positive attitude played a key role in the team's success. They represented the school brilliantly and should be extremely proud of what they have accomplished. We are very proud of their efforts and look forward to following their progress in the upcoming County Championships. Well done to all the boys on a fantastic achievement.

J. Murray
Head of the Physical Education Department



Religious Education

Another busy term in RE has begun in 2026. Our students, as always, have made us proud with the effort and understanding they have shown in lessons.

One highlight this half term has been how Year 9 have engaged with the highly debatable topic of capital punishment and whether it is an effective method of punishing criminals. We will end the term by exploring the Christian teachings on forgiveness, and we are excited that Gee Walker, founder of the Anthony Walker Foundation, will be visiting the school in April to speak about how her faith led her to forgive.

Some of our Year 10 students had the opportunity to work with an external organisation called 'God and the Big Bang', which focuses on exploring big questions and encouraging oracy to help students debate important ideas. The students engaged brilliantly and made us incredibly proud through their thoughtful contributions.

Year 8 have been focusing on Catholic behaviour during Lent and reflecting on the importance of this season in the lead-up to Easter. Recently, they have evaluated the significance of both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and the importance of the season to Catholics around the world. Year 7 have continued to deepen their knowledge of key Catholic teachings. This half term they have been learning about the importance of the Eucharist and where it originated from, which will enable them to make links next year with the significance of Maundy Thursday.

Finally, our Year 11 students have now begun their revision programme. We would like to take this opportunity to remind them of the resources available via the 'Year 11 RE Revision' class on Google Classroom. These include short podcast recordings for each topic, revision PowerPoints, revision booklets, past papers and mark schemes. We are also offering lunchtime and after-school revision sessions. Please speak to your RE teacher if you would like to access this support.

S. Keating
Head of the RE Department



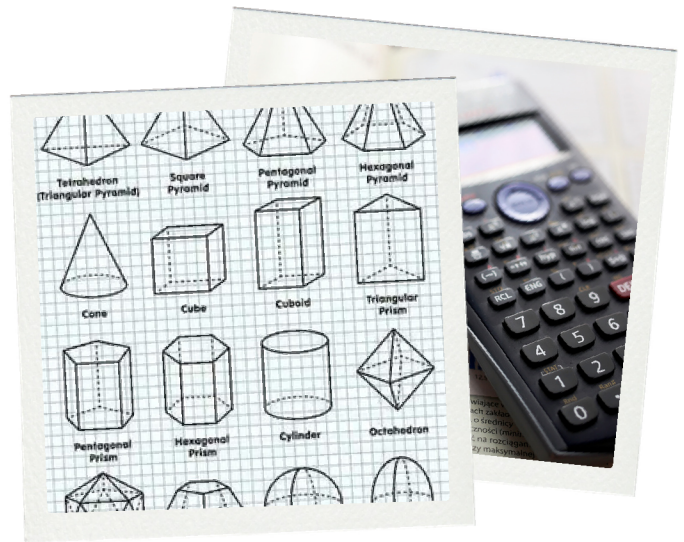
Maths

It is a real pleasure to introduce myself as the new Head of Mathematics. I have been incredibly impressed by the warm welcome I have received from both students and staff, and by the positive, hardworking ethos that is so clearly embedded across the school. Students have shown a fantastic attitude towards their learning, and it is a privilege to be part of such a supportive and motivated community.

I would also like to commend our Year 11 students for their hard work and determination in completing their mock examinations. Their focus and resilience have been evident throughout this period, and they should be proud of the effort they have put into this important stage of their preparation. As they now turn their attention to final preparations, I am confident that this strong foundation will support them in achieving their best.

Across the school, it has been great to see the breadth of mathematical learning taking place. Year 7 students have been building strong foundations through their work on fractions, decimals, and percentages. Year 8 have been developing their algebraic understanding, exploring equations, inequalities, and standard form. Year 9 students have been extending their skills further with algebraic expressions, working with brackets, and real-life graphs. Meanwhile, Year 10 have been studying sequences, angles, and 3D shapes, continuing to build the knowledge and problem-solving skills needed for success at GCSE. I look forward to supporting all students as they continue to develop their confidence and success in mathematics.

I. Cameron
Head of Maths Department



English

This term students across year groups in English have been working hard on developing both literature and language skills as well as a love of the subject.

Highlights in KS3 have been Year 7 immersing themselves in Lionel Bart's *'Oliver!'*; the musical adaptation of Dickens' *'Oliver Twist'*. As well as developing their understanding of the way that 19th Century life is depicted in literature, they have developed skills and tier three vocabulary relevant to the study of the modern play. They have shown collaboration, imagination and discipline in their learning. Well done Year 7!

Year 8 and 9 have been working on embedding the emoji reading strategy into their skillset as they study 19th century literature. Using the emojis helps them track the text and supports the selection of quotations when producing extended written work. Year 8 students are also looking forward to their theatre trip to the Floral Pavillion to watch a full scale performance of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* to coincide with their study of the play. What a lovely way to end a very successful and productive term.

Students across KS4 have been developing their exam skills this term, with Y11 undertaking three mock exams and Y10 having their first introduction to the GCSE Language Non-Fiction content and skills. Students are showing real discipline and perseverance in the way they are working to develop these skills and it is paying off in their work.

Teachers across the department also got into the spirit of things for World Book Day 2026 and turned out a fabulous array of costumes. It was a great way to engage students in conversations about books and reading for pleasure.

L. Lowe
Head of English Department

Performing Arts

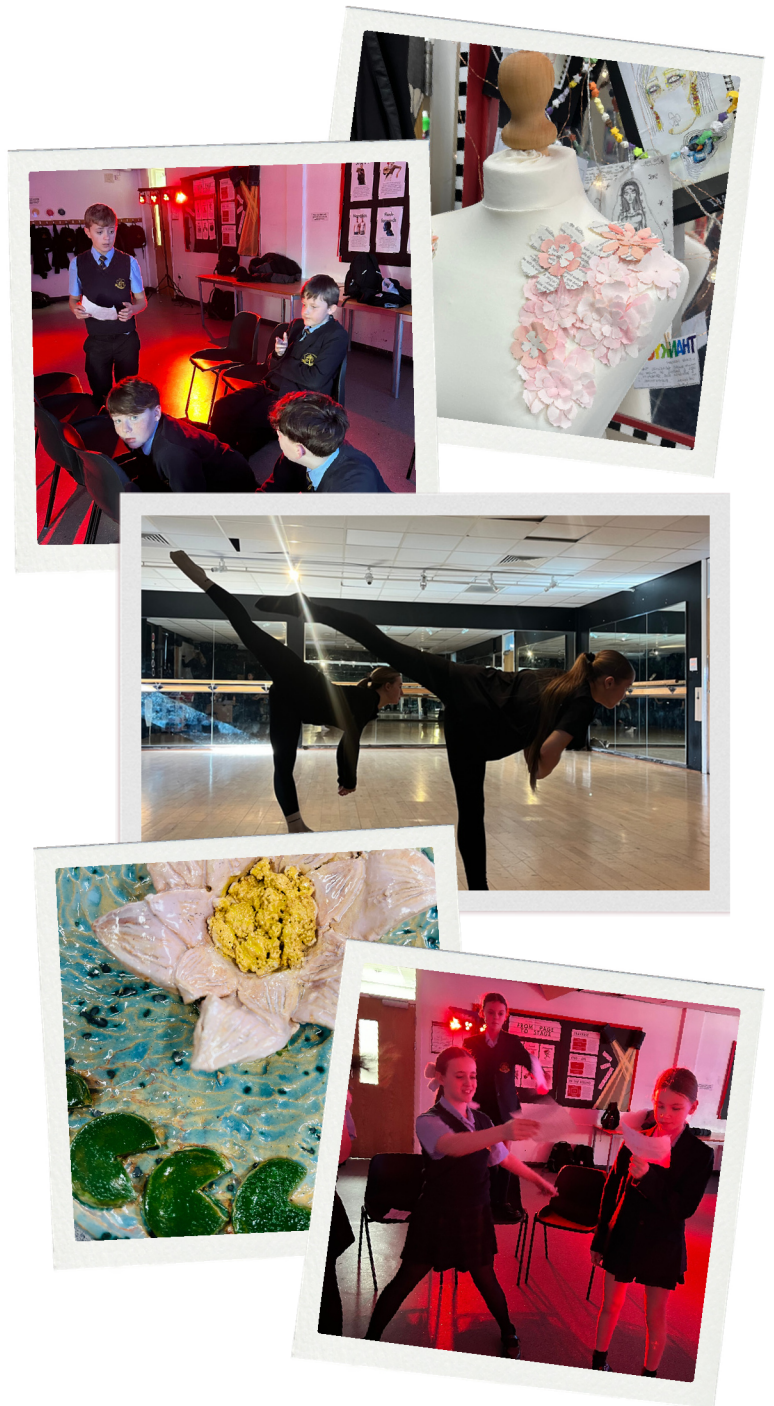
It has been a vibrant and creative term in the Performing Arts department, with students showcasing their talents across music, drama, dance, and art. One of the highlights was Friday Night Live at Future Yard, where bands and soloists delivered an energetic evening of live performance. A standout moment came from The Scratch Band, who impressed audiences with their creativity and teamwork.

In Dance, students have been working hard in preparation for the upcoming LEAP Festival, collaboratively choreographing an original piece to be performed at the Capstone Theatre. Meanwhile, Drama students have explored performance in exciting ways. Year 7 developed their understanding of empathy through WW1-inspired performances, while Year 8 brought *Our Day Out* to life, transforming script into stage. Year 10 students demonstrated outstanding commitment in their powerful production of *Blood Brothers* for their practical exam.

Creativity has also flourished in Art and Textiles, with students taking part in the Dot Art competition and Year 10 textiles students developing designs for their summer fashion show.

We would also like to thank our Year 9 students for attending the recent open evening, and we look forward to many of them choosing creative subjects as they begin their GCSE journey. We also wish all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students the very best of luck as they continue their preparations for exams after Easter.

A. Keen
Head of Performing Arts

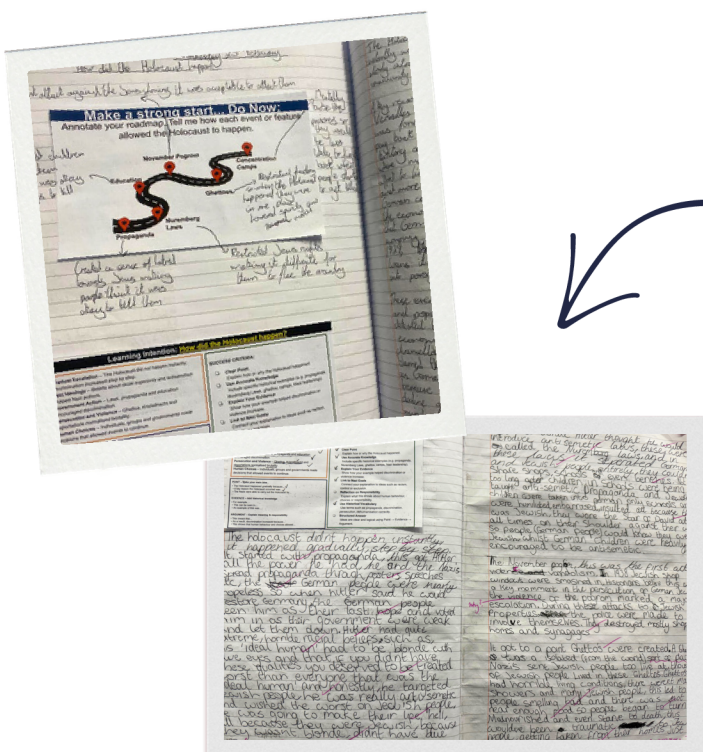


Humanities

This term, students in History have engaged thoughtfully with the complex topic of the Holocaust, exploring how and why events escalated over time. Through structured writing and source analysis, students developed their understanding of key stages such as propaganda, the Nuremberg Laws, Kristallnacht, ghettos and concentration camps.

A strong focus has been placed on building extended written responses, with students practising how to explain causes and consequences using clear evidence. The work shown highlights growing confidence in tackling challenging historical concepts, as well as improving analytical and evaluative skills. Well done Year 9!

H. Stonely
Head of Humanities Department



ICT & Business

This term, Mr Lyon has launched a Scholars Coding Club, providing students with the opportunity to explore programming and robotics beyond the classroom. Students have begun by building and coding programmable robots, developing their understanding of sequencing, logic and problem-solving through practical, hands-on activities.

The sessions have been characterised by strong engagement, collaboration and curiosity, with students working together to build, test and refine their designs. As the club develops, students will progress onto more advanced robotics and Raspberry Pi projects, allowing them to deepen their technical skills and explore increasingly complex programming concepts.

This initiative has been a valuable extension of learning, offering additional challenge for our most able students while fostering a genuine enthusiasm for Computer Science.

V. Dougherty
Head of the ICT & Business Department



Social Sciences

Year 11 Child Development students at St Mary's have been getting creative in their studies, exploring the reproductive systems and the key structures involved in reproduction as they prepare for their upcoming exams. Through engaging and interactive approaches, students have been able to deepen their understanding of this important topic while building confidence for their assessments.

Meanwhile, our Year 13 Sociology students attended a conference on Friday to further develop both their subject knowledge and exam skills. The event, held at the Trafford Centre in the Vue cinema, consisted of a series of interactive, fast-paced sessions focusing on education, crime and deviance, and theory and methods. Students found the experience extremely valuable and timely as they continue their preparation for the summer A Level examinations.

We congratulate our students for their hard work this term and wish them the esteemed of luck in their upcoming exams!

L. Egerton
Head of the Social Sciences Department



SIXTH FORM

Next Steps

This term has been very busy for our Sixth Form students at St Mary's. Students have been diligently preparing for their upcoming formal examinations in May, completing their mock exams to ensure they are well-equipped for success. Many of our BTEC students are also waiting on the results from their January examinations.

Year 13 students who have successfully secured both conditional and unconditional university offers benefitted from a visit by Catherine Skillito, a representative from Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU). She provided an insightful session on the next steps for university applicants, focusing on student finance and the overall costs associated with university life. This guidance will be instrumental in helping our students to finalise their next steps.

Our fantastic Year 12 students will be taking part in a two week work experience placement at the end of the Summer term, from the 6th-17th July. Our students are looking to develop their employability and skills gaining an insight into a range of different job roles and employment sectors. We are on the lookout for placements to support our students. If you are able to help through a placement with your own business or employer please email Mrs Witan at sixthform@stmaryswallasey.com



National Careers Week

During national Careers Week Year 12 took on the Stocks and Shares Challenge with The Inspirational Learning Group.

The experience acted as a masterclass in **adaptive resilience**, as participants were forced to remain composed and pivot their tactics in response to sudden market volatility—a direct parallel to the agility required in today's fast-paced world of employment. Beyond financial literacy, the challenge sharpened **collaborative leadership** and **strategic communication**; success relied on the ability to negotiate within a team, resolve conflicting viewpoints, and articulate a unified vision under strict time constraints. Ultimately, the challenge transformed abstract economic concepts into a tangible toolkit of "soft skills" that are highly valued by employers and universities alike.

Well done to everyone who took part but especially the winning team of Matthew, Hope, Eve and Ellis.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR 6TH FORM



View our course guide



Apply online

CAREERS NEWS

Preparing for the Future, today

Half Term 3 was a busy and exciting one for Careers, beginning with our annual Careers Fair on 4th February. This much-anticipated event is now firmly embedded in our school calendar, with over thirty organisations in attendance. These included training providers, further education colleges, universities from across the country, and a wide range of local and national businesses, giving students valuable insight into the many pathways available to them.

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW 2026) then took place, commencing on 9th February. Working with a range of partners, including Amazing Apprenticeships, students were given the opportunity to learn all about apprenticeships. Through videos, quizzes and interactive activities shared via Google Classroom, alongside discussions during Inspire Time, students developed their understanding of the different apprenticeship levels and application timelines, helping them to consider whether this pathway might suit them in the future.

Students in Years 11 to 13 were also invited to attend a series of webinars throughout the week, covering apprenticeship opportunities in areas such as logistics, law, audit, retail and finance. This information will continue to be shared as more opportunities become available throughout the year.

Hot on the heels of NAW, Half Term 4 began with National Careers Week (NCW 2026) in the first week of March. A key highlight was our Enterprise Days. Year 7 students rose to the challenge of designing a sustainable, eco-friendly town of the future, while Year 12 students explored the corporate world through a stocks and shares challenge. With the theme 'Follow Your Passion', the week encouraged students to believe in themselves and take ownership of their futures.

This half term also provided some fantastic enrichment opportunities. A selected group of Drama students enjoyed a trip to the Liverpool Empire Theatre to watch a live performance of Dear England, thanks to our valued partners.

Year 13 Sociology students benefitted from a visit to the Trafford Centre, where they joined other colleges for a full-day Tutor2U conference. The event focused on exam techniques and provided valuable guidance on structuring high-quality answers to showcase their knowledge effectively.

Meanwhile, Year 8 students have now completed their work on the Changemaker Project, delivered in partnership with Chester Zoo and the University of Manchester. The project explored sustainability, with a particular focus on how we can improve biodiversity within our school environment.

Students also had the opportunity to visit Edge Hill University, where they enjoyed a campus tour and took part in a range of engaging activities. One highlight was a challenge to design an app aimed at supporting student life. The experience proved highly inspiring, with several students already expressing an interest in attending the university after completing their A-levels.

Overall, it has been a packed and inspiring period, with students across all year groups gaining valuable experiences to support their future aspirations.



REWARDS & RECOGNITION

End of Term Celebration

To celebrate the end of a busy term, students (and staff!) enjoyed a fantastic day of fun, creativity, and friendship in a relaxed atmosphere ahead of the Easter break. Pupils arrived ready to take part in a range of activities designed to reward their hard work.

The sports hall was filled with laughter as students enjoyed trampolining, alongside football matches, games, and time to socialise with friends. In the art room, many got creative decorating their own pencil cases, producing some fantastic and colourful designs to take home.

The celebrations continued with a delicious treat of pizza, chips, and ice cream, which proved very popular and rounded off the day perfectly. It was a wonderful way to end the term and celebrate our school community. We wish everyone a happy and restful Easter break!



Hot Chocolate Friday

Year 7

Riley B, Grace C, Mia S, Harry B, Reegan H, Lola N, Leah S, Billy S, Lilly-Mae C, Elliot L, Amber B, Adam W, Natalia P, Flynn C, Miley R, Hazel C, George T

Year 8

Joseph S, Jalayla R, Oliver D, Shayla A, Rayen H, Ashley Q, Laika C, Alfie R, Evie T, Kaleb R, Ellis K, Sophie S, John M, Arlia B, Harli T, Bella J, James L, Seth M,

Year 9

Amy D, Alfi C, Harrison C, Frankie H, Lydia O, Greyson N, Alex S, Olivia L, Ruby P, Antony W, Rosie A, Joseph H, Alex B, Nyla C, Thomas D, Grace P, Poppy W, Connor M,

Year 10

Callum H, Sian P, Tilly F, William P, Eddie B, Olivia M, Oliver R, Viktoriia G, Harley C, Amelia C, Amelia C, Evie P, Jacob M, Joe F, Kuldeep S, Harry D

Year 11

Stevie B, Lottie B, Naveah R, Isach W, Norbert C, George M, Isabelle M, Friel J, Kim M, Jaydon B, Tyler K, Gerrard M

Sixth Form

Lacey F, Ellarna W, Miah S, Maddie F



COLLEGE KEY DATES

**EASTER BREAK: MONDAY 30TH MARCH
- FRIDAY 10TH APRIL**

APRIL

Monday 13th - Students return
Thursday 16th - Year 8 Parents' Evening
Saturday 18th - DofE Bronze Practice Expedition
Tuesday 21st - Coffee Event with Citizen's Advice's energy champion
Wednesday 22nd - Friday 24th - Soli Year 9 retreat
Thursday 23rd - Parental coffee event

MAY

Monday 4th - Bank Holiday
Thursday 14th - Holy feast day of Ascension
Friday 15th - DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition (Y10)
Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th - Silver/Bronze Qualifying Expeditions (Y9/Y10)
Friday 22nd - Year 13 Leavers Liturgy

**HALF TERM BREAK: MONDAY 25TH
MAY - FRIDAY 29TH MAY**

JUNE

Monday 1st - Students return
Wednesday 10th - Pupil Inset Day
Wednesday 24th - Arc camping experience
Friday 26th - Inset Day, Arc camping experience, Year 13 Prom
Tuesday 30th - Year 12 Mock Interviews

JULY

Wednesday 1st - Reading parental coffee event, Year 6 Induction Day, Induction Evening
Thursday 2nd - Year 7 Parents' Evening
Monday 6th - Mass of Thanksgiving
Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th - Year 10 First Aid Training
Friday 10th - Year 10 Experience Day
Saturday 11th - Sunday 12th - Silver Qualifying Expedition (Y10)
Monday 13th - Thursday 16th - SMCC Experience Week
Friday 17th Last Day of Term 3

