



St Mary's Catholic College

NEWSLETTER

Work together; Succeed together

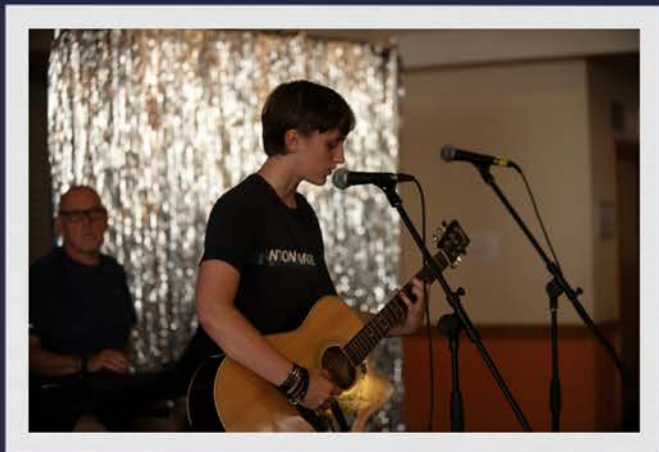


**Holy
Family
Catholic**

Multi
Academy
Trust

Summer Term | 2026

HFCMAT FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



Students from St Mary's enjoyed an unforgettable week of creativity, performance and celebration as they took part in this year's HFCMAT New Brighton Arts Festival.

Throughout the week, our students showcased their incredible talents across a range of events, performing alongside pupils from across the Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust and celebrating the arts within the local community.

The festival began with the beautiful Choirs by Candlelight performance at the Blue Lounge in the Floral Pavilion. Led by Mr Hughes, the St Mary's choir joined primary and secondary school choirs from across the Trust to deliver an uplifting evening of music that captivated the audience.

On Thursday, more than 20 of our students took centre stage at the Spoken Word event at Riptide New Brighton. After working with acclaimed poet Joseph Roberts, students confidently performed their own original poetry, demonstrating exceptional creativity, courage and self-expression. Their performances were both moving and inspiring, earning enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Friday evening saw many of our talented musicians perform at Friday Night Live at the Floral Pavilion. The event featured a fantastic variety of performances from past and current students, including an exciting appearance from the brand-new St Mary's rock band, whose debut performance was met with an overwhelmingly positive response.

The festival was a tremendous success and provided our students with invaluable opportunities to perform, build confidence and celebrate their talents in front of live audiences. It also reflected the strength of collaboration across the Trust and the important role the arts play in inspiring young people.

We are incredibly proud of every student who took part. Their commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism throughout the week were a credit to themselves, their families and our school. We would also like to thank the staff, families and members of the community who supported the events and helped make this year's HFCMAT New Brighton Arts Festival such a memorable celebration.





CHAPLAINCY AT ST. MARY'S

Celebration Mass

Father Michael led a special Mass for all year groups, creating a meaningful opportunity for our school community to come together in faith. Students demonstrated great respect and confidence throughout the service, particularly in their reading and singing, contributing to a reverent and uplifting atmosphere. It was wonderful to see so many pupils actively participating and embracing the values of St Mary's with such pride.



SVP Festival

This year saw the first Wallasey district SVP festival with over 120 pupils from the Mini Vinnies and the youth SVP, they came together and looked at Jesus' hands around the world and how their actions within their SVP groups made sure that Jesus was still present in the world.

They then celebrated Mass with Father Michael where 3 generations of SVP groups came together. "Such a privilege to share mass with so many members of all the different SVP groups". Jo, a Mini Vinnie said "I loved it when the small towers were made into one big strong tower". John said "I loved meeting other Mini Vinnies and listening to what they do".

It was such a wonderful day and we were so proud of our students for being great role models to the younger children. Thank you, and well done!



Soli Retreat

Year 9 had a fantastic Strong Towers retreat, building on their personal and spiritual formation while developing confidence in a variety of new and challenging situations. From riding roller coasters and hiking, to climbing milk crates and quite literally holding each other up, students were encouraged to step outside of their comfort zones and support one another as a community.

During times of reflection, pupils thoughtfully considered who the "strong towers" are in their own lives and where they can turn for support when they need it most. These moments allowed them to connect their experiences to their faith and relationships in a meaningful way.

The feedback from students says it all: "Absolutely fantastic!" and "When can we go again?" Strong friendships were formed, confidence was built, and memories were created that will last a lifetime.



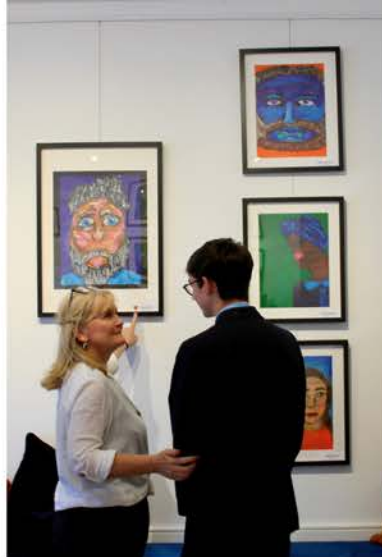
NEWS

People and Places Art Exhibition

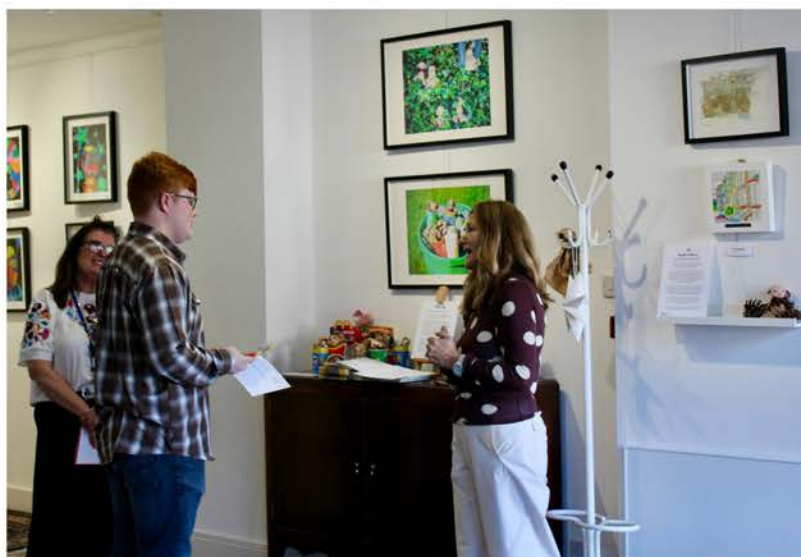
We are incredibly proud to celebrate the success of our recent Arts Department exhibition, "People and Places", held at The Hatch Gallery, New Brighton. This exciting opportunity showcased over 100 outstanding pieces of artwork from our KS3, KS4, and KS5 pupils, with work carefully selected and developed from their recent projects.

The exhibition celebrated the incredible variety of skills, creativity, and imagination within our department, featuring a diverse collection of artwork including clay sculpture, mixed media, portraiture, and abstract portraiture. Each piece was professionally framed and displayed within the gallery space, giving pupils the opportunity to experience what it feels like to exhibit their work in a professional setting.

The response from both pupils and families was truly wonderful. Parents were delighted to see their children's artwork celebrated in such a prestigious environment, and pupils were incredibly proud to see their creativity valued and presented as professional artwork. This was a hugely aspirational experience, allowing pupils to see the possibilities and opportunities that can come from pursuing their artistic talents.



Gallery owner Annely was overwhelmed by the quality of the exhibition and shared how impressed she was with the pupils' artwork, creativity, and professionalism. She commented on how much the pupils appreciated the gallery space and how inspiring it was for them to see their work exhibited in a real-world creative environment.



A special moment came when Annely was particularly impressed by Jacob K's artwork, which featured on the exhibition invitation. Inspired by his work and artistic style, she has now commissioned Jacob to create a painting of The Hatch Gallery itself, an incredible recognition of his talent and a fantastic achievement for him as a young artist.

The "People and Places" exhibition was a celebration of creativity, ambition, and the artistic journey of our pupils. We hope this opportunity has inspired them to continue developing their skills, taking pride in their work, and seeing themselves as artists of the future.



Dame Gee Walker Visit

Earlier this term, we also had the honour of welcoming Dame Gee Walker, who spoke to our Year 9 students about how her faith enabled her to forgive following the tragic death of her son, Anthony, and about the inspiring work of the Anthony Walker Foundation.

This was a truly memorable and moving experience for our students. Dame Gee was full of praise for our pupils, commenting:

"Can you send a thank you to the children for being so respectful, for the high fives, their interactions and their hugs, which I will hold dear."

We are incredibly proud of the maturity, respect and compassion shown by our students throughout her visit.



Learning Ambassadors Inspire Education Professionals at Theatre Porto

Our Learning Ambassadors represented St Mary's with confidence and professionalism during a special event at Theatre Porto, where they shared how the school's Learning Habits have supported their personal and academic development.

The event brought together more than 30 educationalists from across the region, providing our students with a unique opportunity to showcase the impact of the Learning Habits programme and celebrate the work taking place at St Mary's.

Throughout the day, our ambassadors spoke about how developing positive learning habits has helped them become more resilient, independent and reflective learners. They shared personal experiences of how these habits have influenced their confidence in the classroom, their approach to challenges and their overall growth as learners. One of the highlights of the event was the students' presentations, where each ambassador spoke confidently in front of an audience of over 30 education professionals. Their thoughtful reflections, articulate delivery and willingness to share their experiences made a lasting impression on everyone in attendance.

The event also gave students the opportunity to meet educators from other schools, take part in discussions and celebrate the importance of developing lifelong learning skills.

We are incredibly proud of our Learning Ambassadors, who represented St Mary's with maturity, enthusiasm and confidence throughout the day. Their presentations demonstrated not only the positive impact of the Learning Habits programme but also the remarkable young people they are becoming.



dot-art Awards 2026

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the fantastic achievement of Rosie A, who was selected as a finalist in this year's prestigious dot-art Schools competition.

At the start of June, Rosie's artwork was showcased as part of the 14th annual dot-art Schools Exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery, where the creativity and talent of hundreds of young artists from across the region were celebrated.

The exhibition opening followed the dot-art Schools prize giving ceremonies at St George's Hall, where almost 90 primary and secondary schools came together to celebrate the incredible artistic achievements of pupils. It was a wonderful opportunity for young artists to see their work displayed in a professional gallery setting and to celebrate their dedication and creativity.

Rosie's selection as a finalist is a huge accomplishment and recognises the imagination, skill and commitment she has shown in developing her artwork. Having her work displayed at such a prestigious venue is a fantastic achievement and a moment to be truly proud of.

We would also like to congratulate Jack W and Brook B, who were both shortlisted for the competition. Being selected from so many talented entries is a fantastic accomplishment and reflects the creativity, commitment and confidence they have shown in their artwork.

A huge congratulations to Rosie for representing our school with such creativity and confidence. We are incredibly proud of her success and look forward to seeing where her artistic journey takes her next!



St. Mary's Change-Makers Project

Following months of research, planning and collaboration, our St Mary's Change Maker group recently showcased their biodiversity project at a special celebration event attended by parents, local politicians, stakeholders and representatives from across HFCMAT.

Working alongside students from St John Plessington, James L and John M confidently presented the work they have been leading to help increase biodiversity across our school. Their project has already seen new flowers planted around the campus to support pollinators, alongside handmade clay bee houses designed to provide safe habitats for solitary bees.

Visitors also enjoyed taking part in an interactive 'Guess the Pollinator' game and adding their own environmental pledges to the 'Sustainabilitree', creating a powerful display of the small actions we can all take to protect our planet.

A special thank you goes to Magills Nursery for their generous donation of plants, which has helped bring the students' ideas to life and create new spaces for wildlife to thrive across our school grounds.

Congratulations to James and John for representing St Mary's so brilliantly. Their passion, teamwork and commitment to making a positive environmental impact are something the whole school can be proud of.



An Outstanding Year of Dance

This term has been filled with incredible opportunities for students in the Dance Department, and we are immensely proud of everything our dancers have achieved.

Students from Years 7–11 have enjoyed a range of exciting performance experiences, including performing at the Leap Festival Liverpool, collaborating with the English National Ballet and Liverpool Empire, and taking part in the Wirral Schools Dance Festival at the Floral Pavilion. These opportunities have allowed students to develop their confidence, creativity, technical ability and performance skills while representing St. Mary's with pride and professionalism.

One of the highlights of the year was performing at the Leap Festival Liverpool, a celebration of the performing arts held at the Liverpool Lighthouse. Students created a piece inspired by the theme "Dance Through the Ages", drawing inspiration from contemporary choreographers Christopher Bruce and Richard Alston. Their dedication and creativity resulted in a powerful performance that showcased both technical ability and artistic expression.

Students then worked alongside the English National Ballet and Liverpool Empire through a series of workshops, exploring repertoire from the classic ballet *Sleeping Beauty*. Using the skills and ideas developed during these sessions, students created an original eight-minute piece, which they performed alongside other schools from across Merseyside on the stage of the Liverpool Empire.

The year concluded with participation in the Wirral Schools Dance Festival at the Floral Pavilion, where students showcased their choreography alongside schools and dance groups from across the Wirral in a fantastic celebration of dance.

Mrs Sabri and Miss Brown are incredibly proud of the commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism shown by all of our dancers. Their hard work throughout the year has resulted in some truly memorable performances, and they have represented themselves, their families and St Mary's exceptionally well.

We would like to thank all students for their dedication and cannot wait to see what exciting opportunities the future brings for the Dance Department.



Spoken Word

Pupils from Year 7 to Year 10 have had the fantastic opportunity of working with local celebrity poet Joseph Roberts. In two lively, creative workshops at the Floral Pavilion they have listened to Joseph perform and then written and performed their own poems about home and where they live.

Joseph, who has performed on TNT Sports, Amazon Prime and for the Premier League, was incredibly impressed with our pupils, saying they were "boss" and "heavy" - watch his Scouse slang poem on youtube and you'll see that is high praise indeed!



Goodbye Year 11!

Recently, we celebrated the end of an important chapter for our Year 11 students as they marked their final day at St Mary's with a memorable farewell celebration.

Staff and students from across the school came together to form a special guard of honour, lining the school grounds to applaud our Year 11s as they left the building for the final time. It was a wonderful moment of celebration and recognition, showing how much they have been valued as members of our school community.

Students also enjoyed signing each other's shirts, creating a lasting reminder of their time at St Mary's, before celebrating together with ice cream and inflatable activities.

We are incredibly proud of everything our Year 11 students have achieved and the resilience, determination and character they have shown throughout their time with us. We look forward to welcoming them back on results day, then for Sixth Form induction too. Congratulations and enjoy your summer!



Duke of Edinburgh

Our Duke of Edinburgh students have been working hard throughout the year to complete their Bronze and Silver Award. The programme has given students the opportunity to develop a range of valuable skills including teamwork, communication, leadership, resilience and problem-solving.

Students have taken part in training sessions, preparation activities and their expedition, where they worked together to navigate routes, cook meals, set up camp and overcome challenges as a team. It has been fantastic to see students grow in confidence and independence while taking part in such a rewarding experience.



SUBJECT FOCUS:

PE

As another successful academic year comes to a close, we are incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of our students and staff within the PE Department. It has been a year filled with success, commitment and opportunities, reflecting our aim of placing physical education, sport and wellbeing at the heart of school life.



WJEC Sport and Coaching Principles- Outstanding Attitude to Learning & Reward trip

This year has also seen exceptional commitment from our Year 10 and Year 11 Sport students. Their attitude to learning has been exemplary, resulting in coursework being completed earlier than ever before, with every student achieving their target grade or exceeding it. This is a remarkable accomplishment and one that both students and staff are immensely proud of. Their dedication has set an exceptionally high standard for the incoming WJEC Sport and Coaching Principles cohort, providing an excellent example of what can be achieved through hard work, resilience and determination.

To recognise this fantastic effort, our Year 10 students enjoyed a well-deserved Footgolf Reward Trip. It proved to be a memorable day for both students and staff, with plenty of laughter and friendly competition.

The standout moment came during the playoff between Mr Everall and Mr Caul, when Mr Everall came agonisingly close to achieving a hole-in-one. Students gathered around the final hole, watching the tense finish before erupting into celebration as Mr Everall claimed victory. It was a brilliant way to reward students for their outstanding efforts throughout the year.



Silver School Games Mark Achievement

One of our standout achievements this year has been earning the Silver Wirral School Games Mark for the first time in a number of years. This prestigious award recognises the school's commitment to providing high-quality sporting opportunities and promoting participation in physical activity.

This success has only been possible through the outstanding dedication of the PE Department, alongside colleagues from across the school who have worked together to provide an exceptional range of opportunities for our students. Throughout the year, students have represented St Mary's in activities including cricket, cross country, rock climbing, Kin-Ball, sports leadership, tennis, rugby and football, allowing more young people than ever before to experience competitive and recreational sport.



St Mary's Victorious in Inter-trust Football Match

Continuing our commitment to ensuring PE remains at the centre of school life, we were delighted to organise a staff football fixture against our Trust rivals, St John Plessington.

Played in great spirit, the match provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen relationships across the Trust while showcasing the positive role sport can play in bringing schools together. After an entertaining and competitive contest, St Mary's emerged victorious with a 9-6 win, with goals coming from Mr Everall, Mr Caul and Mr Cameron.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by staff from both schools, and we hope this will become an annual Trust tradition that continues to grow in the years ahead.

As we reflect on another fantastic year, we would like to thank all of our students, staff and families for their continued support. The commitment shown by everyone involved has made this one of the most successful years for PE at St Mary's in recent times, and we look forward to building on these achievements in the next academic year.

#Worktogethertosucceedtogether



THE ARC

A Fantastic term for achievement and adventure

It has been an incredibly memorable term for The Arc, filled with achievement, teamwork, and unforgettable experiences.

We are immensely proud of our children, who recently completed a 5K Walk for Autism and raised an incredible £1,500. Their enthusiasm, determination, and positive attitudes shone throughout the walk, making the day a huge success. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the staff and parents who supported the event and helped make it possible.

The money raised will help support over 700,000 autistic people across the UK, ensuring autistic individuals and their families can access vital advice, guidance, and support when they need it most. By taking part, we have all played a small part in transforming lives and changing attitudes towards autism- and that is something truly special.



This term also saw the return of our much-anticipated Arc Camping Trip to North Wales. Despite the heatwave, we were determined to make the experience unforgettable, and it certainly lived up to expectations! Children and staff enjoyed an amazing few days together, strengthening relationships, building confidence, and learning valuable new skills.

There were so many wonderful milestones achieved throughout the trip. Some children cooked their very first meal, others experienced their first swim in the sea, and many conquered their fear of heights while taking in the breathtaking views from the Great Orme. We even faced a dramatic thunderstorm together, showing courage, resilience, and determination as we supported one another through it.

The teamwork displayed by everyone was exceptional, from pitching the tents on arrival to packing everything away at the end of the trip. The children consistently encouraged one another, demonstrating kindness, resilience, and a real sense of community.

A special thank you goes to Mrs Murphy, who did an outstanding job driving the minibus, ensuring we travelled safely throughout the trip. We would also like to thank Mr Milo, our resident DJ, whose fantastic playlists kept everyone's spirits high during the long, hot journeys. We are incredibly proud of everything our children have achieved this term and are already looking forward to creating even more amazing memories and adventures together next year!



LIFE IN OUR LESSONS

RE

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting end to the year in the RE department!

Our Year 7 students have been studying the religion of Hinduism, learning about Puja, the Mandir, Hindu wedding ceremonies and funeral rites. Some classes have also had the opportunity to create Hinduism-themed PowerPoint presentations in the ICT rooms, producing some fantastic work.

Year 8 students have been studying the religion of Islam, exploring the Five Pillars of Islam and developing their understanding of this important world faith. They have produced some brilliant and insightful pieces of work, demonstrating both knowledge and maturity in their learning.

Year 9 students have been learning about the life of Sir Nicholas Winton and how his courageous actions helped save the lives of hundreds of children during the Second World War. Students have reflected thoughtfully on the importance of compassion, courage and moral responsibility.

Year 10 students have recently completed their mock examinations and we look forward to seeing their hard work and preparation rewarded. When they return in September, they will begin studying Judaism as they continue their preparation for their GCSE examinations next summer.

Finally, a huge well done and congratulations to our Year 11 students. We are immensely proud of the perseverance, resilience and determination they have shown throughout the examination season. The extra revision sessions, completion of past paper questions and participation in the '5-a-Week Lollipop Challenge' will undoubtedly pay off. We cannot wait to celebrate their achievements on Results Day.

We will miss you, Year 11, and wish you every success for the future.

S. Keating
Head of RE Department

Maths

As we approach the end of another successful academic year, we would like to congratulate all of our students for their hard work, commitment, and achievements throughout the year.

A special well done goes to our Year 11 students, who have now completed their GCSE Mathematics examinations. We are incredibly proud of the resilience, determination, and effort they have shown during their studies, and we wish them every success as they await their results.

We would also like to congratulate students across all year groups for the excellent attitude and dedication they have demonstrated in their end-of-year examinations. Their hard work has been reflected in some fantastic achievements, and we are delighted with the progress many students have made.

Finally, congratulations to all students who achieved Gold, Silver, and Bronze certificates in this year's UKMT Maths Challenge. In particular, we would like to recognise Caiden Cunningham, James Lowe, and Joseph Sandalls, who all achieved the outstanding accomplishment of receiving a Gold Certificate. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects their exceptional mathematical ability and problem-solving skills.

Well done to everyone on a successful year in Mathematics.

I. Cameron
Head of Maths Department





DT

It has been a fantastic and very busy end to the year in the Design Technology Department!

Across Key Stage 3, students have proudly completed their final projects and have been taking their wonderful creations home. Year 7 students have produced a brilliant collection of wooden animals and dinosaurs, showing creativity, accuracy and resilience in the workshop. This remains Mr Griffiths' favourite project, and we can certainly see why!

Students have also designed and made their own battery testers, helping them understand how design can solve real-world problems. These clever products aim to reduce battery wastage by checking whether there is still energy left to use before batteries are thrown away.

Year 8 students have taken home their bold and colourful Memphis-inspired clocks, full of exciting shapes, patterns and personality. Year 9 have also completed their Art Deco-inspired candle holders, showing excellent practical skill, precision and attention to detail. Across all year groups, students have demonstrated amazing confidence and ability when working with tools, materials and design ideas.

In Food Technology, the temperature in the kitchens rose along with the summer weather, but our students continued to cook up a storm! They have made a delicious range of dishes including chicken stir fry, fruity muffins, sausage rolls, brownies, marble cake and pizza. Alongside their practical cooking, students have been developing their knowledge of how to adapt recipes to make dishes healthier, considering ingredients, cooking methods and nutrition.

Our Year 10 Engineers have also been working incredibly hard, learning and perfecting their 3D modelling skills in preparation for their coursework next year. We have seen some amazing student models created, showing technical accuracy, creativity and determination. A special mention goes to James, Landon and Thamu, who have shown fantastic promise and could make excellent CAD engineers in the future!

A huge well done to all of our Design Technology, Food Technology and Engineering students for such a successful and creative end to the year. We are very proud of everything they have achieved!

E. Law
Head of DT Department

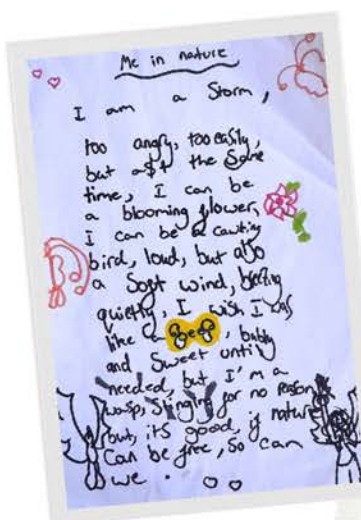
English

At Key Stage 3, Year 7 and Year 8 have been working hard on their transactional projects for real audiences.

Year 7 are working on writing to advise with a focus on guides. After studying the features of effective guide writing they will produce guides to St Mary's Life for incoming Year 6 students starting in September which will be given out at summer school. As well as providing a real audience for Year 7 to work for, this will hopefully set some nerves aside and provide valuable peer to peer information for our new intake.

Year 8 have followed on from nature poetry to thinking about conservation. As well as creating their own conservation poems inspired by spoken word poet Amanda Gorman, they have begun to get political! They have researched the serious issue of sewage dumping in the local area using various media forms and planned and written formal letters to local - MP Dame Angela Eagle - expressing their concerns about the issue and demanding action. We're really impressed by how engaged both year groups have been with the projects.

L. Lowe & J. Hessey
Head of English Department



Performing Arts

It has been another fantastic term for the Performing Arts department at St Mary's, filled with creativity, collaboration and countless opportunities for our students to shine.

Our dancers have represented the school with pride, performing at both the Floral Pavilion and Liverpool Empire Theatre, while Art students enjoyed an inspiring workshop with local artist Kerry Dunning before showcasing their work at the Hatch Art Exhibition. We were also delighted to celebrate students recognised in this year's Dot-Art awards, highlighting the incredible creativity within the department.

Music has continued to flourish, with memorable performances at Choir by Candlelight, our Celebration Masses and Friday Night Live. Students have also explored new opportunities through a DJ workshop, and we are thrilled to see the formation of a new student rock band bringing fresh energy to rehearsals.

Across Art, Dance, Drama, Music and Textiles, students have continued to develop their skills and creativity in lessons, while many also took part in the New Brighton Festival of the Arts, celebrating the talent within our local community.

We would like to congratulate our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who have worked incredibly hard throughout their practical and written examinations.

We also wish a fond farewell to Ms Brown, who leaves us this summer. We are incredibly grateful for her dedication, creativity and contribution to the department, and she will be greatly missed.

As another memorable year draws to a close, we are already excited for the creative projects, performances and opportunities planned for the next school year!

A. Keen
Head of Performing Arts



Business Studies, Computer Science and ICT

Our Year 10 Business students have worked exceptionally hard this term as they completed Component 2 of their BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise, applying the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the course to a realistic business scenario.

Students researched, planned and developed their own micro-enterprise ideas before producing a comprehensive business plan. They explored key business concepts including market research, target markets, pricing, finance, profit forecasting and resource planning, developing valuable enterprise skills throughout the project.

A particular highlight was seeing students confidently record their business presentations. After carefully preparing and refining their pitches, they presented their ideas to camera, clearly explaining and justifying their business decisions. The quality of the presentations was extremely impressive, demonstrating not only their business knowledge but also the communication, organisation and presentation skills they have developed throughout the course. It was fantastic to see the confidence students gained as they refined and delivered their final presentations.

We are incredibly proud of the commitment, resilience and professionalism shown by the entire cohort and look forward to seeing them build on this success as they complete the final component of their qualification in Year 11.

V. Dougherty
Head of Business, Computer Science & ICT Department





Humanities

Our Year 10 students have recently achieved impressive results in both geography and history as they worked incredibly hard towards their first serious set of mock examinations. In History, students demonstrated the same academic dedication, tackling complex essay structures and source analyses with outstanding maturity to secure fantastic scores. These assessments have provided valuable experience ahead of their GCSE courses, giving students greater confidence and highlighting the progress they have made so far. Teachers have been particularly impressed by the determination, resilience and positive attitude shown throughout the examination period. With these assessments successfully behind them, all students have now officially completed this year's curriculum requirements. We are incredibly proud of their resilience and progress this term, and we wish everyone a well-deserved, restful summer break.

M. Smith
Head of the Humanities Department

MFL

As another successful year comes to an end, we would like to congratulate all our students on their hard work, resilience and progress in French.

Year 7 have completed their study of family, friends and school life, developing their vocabulary and confidence in speaking and writing. Year 8 have explored free-time activities and hobbies, building their reading and listening skills while extending their use of opinions and justifications. Year 9 have focused on jobs and future aspirations, preparing for GCSE-style tasks through translation, extended writing and spontaneous speaking activities. Students across Key Stage 3 have also recently completed their end-of-year assessments, demonstrating the excellent progress they have made throughout the year.

A special farewell goes to our fantastic Year 11 students. They approached their GCSE examinations with maturity and determination, and we are incredibly proud of the effort they showed across their speaking, listening, reading and writing papers.

We wish them every success in the future. Well done also to Year 10, who recently completed their first GCSE French Speaking examinations. Their preparation, pronunciation and confidence were very promising, providing a strong foundation for next year.

With the Tour de France starting soon - and this year beginning in Barcelona - families may enjoy following the race while learning more about the geography of France and Spain. It is also a reminder of the friendly sporting rivalry between France and England, both on the football pitch and beyond! Bonnes vacances et à bientôt!

J. Le Normand, Head of MFL Department

THE ROUTE • PARCOURS

STAGE • ÉTAPE 1

FRIDAY 2 JULY • VENDREDI 2 JUILLET • 184 KM
EDINBURGH ÉDIMBOURG > CARLISLE

STAGE • ÉTAPE 2

SATURDAY 3 JULY • SAMEDI 3 JUILLET • 223 KM
KESWICK > LIVERPOOL

STAGE • ÉTAPE 3

SUNDAY 4 JULY • DIMANCHE 4 JUILLET • 223 KM
WELSHPOOL > CARDIFF



Science

As another busy and successful academic year draws to a close, we would like to congratulate all of our students on their hard work and achievements.

We recently said goodbye to our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they completed their GCSE and A-level examinations. We have been incredibly proud of the dedication, resilience and determination they have shown throughout the year and during the exam season. We wish each and every one of them the very best for the future, whatever path they choose, and look forward to celebrating their well-deserved results with them in August.

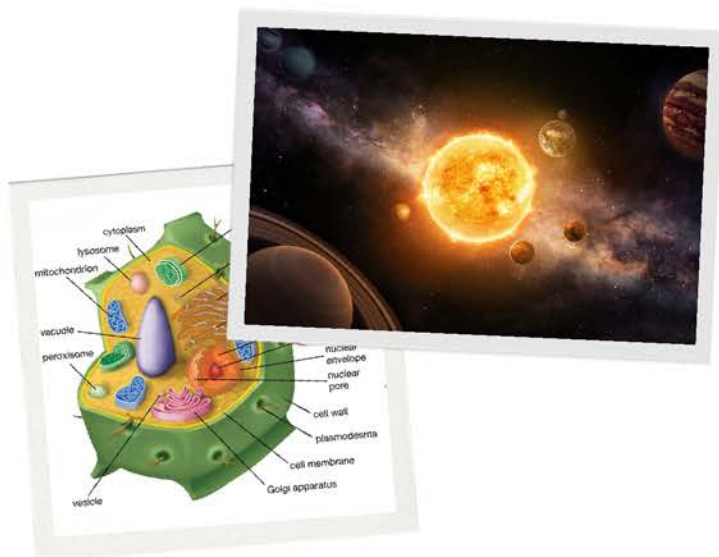
Our Year 10 students have reached an important milestone, having now completed the first half of their GCSE Science courses. They have also sat their first set of mock examinations, providing valuable experience and an opportunity to identify strengths and areas for development. We are excited to build on this strong foundation when they return in September as they begin their final year of GCSE study.

Our Key Stage 3 students have also impressed us by completing their end-of-year assessments, demonstrating the knowledge, practical skills and scientific thinking they have developed throughout the year. They are ending the year by exploring some fascinating topics: Year 7 are discovering the wonders of Space, Year 8 are investigating Energy, and Year 9 have begun their exciting introduction to GCSE Science, studying Cell Biology, Atomic Structure and Energy.

It has been a fantastic year in Science, and we would like to thank all of our students for their enthusiasm, curiosity and hard work. We hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to another exciting year of scientific discovery in September.

V. Brown

Head of the Science Department



Social Sciences

It has been another busy term in Social Sciences, not just with exams for Year 11 and 13, but in the classrooms too.

Year 10 have been diving hands-on into their practical coursework this half term. The classroom turned into a mini-nursery as they mastered the essential life skill of safely preparing a baby's bottle. From understanding the critical importance of strict sterilisation and precise water temperatures to accurately measuring formula, our students demonstrated outstanding focus, care, and maturity. It's not as easy as it looks, but they handled the task like absolute pros! We are incredibly proud of how seriously they are taking their studies as they build the foundational skills needed for brilliant careers in early years care. Keep up the amazing work!

In Year 12, Health students took a hands on approach when learning about person centred care and dysphagia. They considered reasons why we would adapt care for people with swallowing difficulties and gained practical experience of preparing different IDDSI liquid consistencies. Students developed a greater understanding of how health and care professionals support service users to eat and drink safely while maintaining their dignity, independence and quality of life.

Well done to everyone for their continued hard work, enjoy your summer!

L. Egerton

Head of the Social Sciences Department

SIXTH FORM

Year 12 Future Pathways & Work Experience

It has been an incredibly busy and productive term for our Year 12 students as they actively begin preparing for their future pathways. The journey started with an insightful visit to Edge Hill University, where students had the opportunity to explore various subject areas, meet university staff, and tour the campus accommodation, giving them a tangible taste of higher education and inspiring them to think seriously about their next steps.

Building on this momentum, students participated in a dedicated Mock Interview Day designed to sharpen their professional skills. The day began with a valuable presentation from HMRC, which was followed by practical interview sessions where students received personalised feedback to help them refine their communication and presentation techniques.

To wrap up the term, the cohort put these newly developed skills directly into practice during a two-week work experience placement. Collaborating with a wide range of external employers, applying the professional habits they've spent this year cultivating.

Well done Year 12!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR 6TH FORM



View our
course guide



Apply online



A Fond Farewell to Year 13

May half term marked a significant milestone for our Year 13 students as they gathered together for their Leavers' Liturgy-their final celebration as a cohort at the college. The milestones continued with their Prom at the Racquet Club Hotel, where students and staff came together to celebrate the end of the exam season in style. It was a deeply moving and joyful period, filled with laughter, reflection, and a strong sense of community. We are incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved, both academically and in their personal growth into mature, compassionate young adults.

As they prepare to share their talents with the world, we wish them every success and happiness. No matter where their journeys lead, they will always remain a valued part of the St Mary's community. Please stay in touch; we always love to hear about your next steps.

"St Mary's for many of us has been more than just somewhere to learn. It's been a place where we have grown, challenged ourselves and discovered who we are, as well as creating relationships that we will never forget."

Lily-May Rimmer - Head Student



CAREERS NEWS

Year 12 Work Experience

Each year, our Year 12 students undertake a two-week work experience placement, giving them the opportunity to develop new skills, gain valuable insight into the workplace and explore potential career paths.

This year, we're delighted to welcome three students back to St. Mary's for their placements. From supporting lessons in the Art Department to working alongside our IT Technician, they've experienced first-hand what it's like behind the scenes in a busy school.

We caught up with them to find out what they've learned, what surprised them most and how the experience has helped shape their future aspirations.

Here's what they had to say...



Lacey - Receptionist

"I'm in Year 12, I do art for a living however I like to do things with my other hobbies such as cooking and Science. I feel like I'm a bit quirky as a person and I'm currently hoping to get an apprenticeship by the end of sixth form. I'm doing my work experience in the front office as I didn't want anything too far away from home."

I have mostly enjoyed doing jobs in the main office because I don't like having to communicate with other people that much. Another reason I like doing jobs in the main office is because it keeps my hands busy. A new skill that I have learnt is how to laminate properly however it did take a few tries to get it right but eventually I got it, laminating however is a useful skill as it gives things more durability like frequently used items.

A skill that I have been working on is my communication skills with other people. I believe that I've grown a bit more confident talking to people as I don't stutter as much as I usually do and I find that I've also been maintaining eye contact which I usually don't do often.

Advice that I would give for work experience is to do something that you want to do or enjoy because you're gonna be there for a week or two. Another piece of advice I would give is be yourself. It's like you're the best version of you.

My plan after Sixth Form is to hopefully get a hospitality apprenticeship so I can continue my cooking. If I can't get a Hospitality apprenticeship I'll try and look for a job at a café or somewhere near home or somewhere that I'd actually enjoy."

Harry - IT Technician

"I'm Harry, I'm 17 and completing my work experience in IT with Mr Carr and Mr Max. During my work experience, I have enjoyed being busy throughout the day and getting important jobs. I have learned a lot, including how to take apart laptops."

When you go on to pick your work experience, I'd advise students to choose something that you actually enjoy so you learn new things and don't get bored.

I'm still not sure on what I'll be doing after Sixth Form, but I have definitely enjoyed my work experience placement."



Jacob - Art Teacher

"My name is Jacob and I am a Year 12 student in sixth form, taking art, Media and English. I am completing my work experience in the Art Department of St Mary's"

During my placement I have enjoyed how practical and physical the work has been. I've worked a lot with paint this week so have developed my skill using acrylic paint.

For younger students, when you decide on your work experience placement, try to find something you know you can wake up to and enjoy.

After sixth form, I'm thinking of potentially doing an apprenticeship, or taking a course involving my favourite things, writing or illustration."



Mitchell - IT Technician

"I'm doing my work placement in IT in St Mary's. I have enjoyed being able to work again as I like working and this has been a great experience. I also enjoyed working cables and learning new things and being able to troubleshoot computers."

When picking your work experience placement I'd advise people to pick something out of their comfort zone as it will help them grow.

My placement has actually changed my plans for after school, as it's made realise I don't like working in an office and I prefer to work on manual jobs."

A special thanks to the Year 10 students who also joined us for their work placement. You all worked so hard. Enjoy your summer!



THE INSPIRE PROGRAMME

Developing Creative thinkers with a mind to be kind

It has been another exciting and purposeful term in INSPIRE, with students across Years 7–13 engaging in a wide range of learning experiences designed to prepare them for life beyond the classroom.

From careers education and employer encounters to exciting opportunities during Experience Week 2026, students have explored future pathways, developed new skills and taken part in a variety of enriching activities that broaden their horizons and support their personal development.

This half term has also provided an opportunity for students to revisit our St Mary's Core Values, reflecting on how they shape our daily lives and guide the way we treat ourselves, others and our wider community. Through discussion and reflection, students have considered how these values can be lived out both in school and beyond.

A key focus has been Health & Wellbeing, with students exploring ways to maintain positive physical and mental health, build resilience and recognise the importance of seeking support when needed. Alongside this, students have continued to develop their understanding of keeping safe, exploring topics such as online safety, healthy relationships, personal safety and making informed decisions in an ever-changing world.



From September The curriculum has been intentionally planned to reflect the latest national expectations for Personal Development. It incorporates statutory Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), Citizenship, Careers Education, Financial Education, Artificial Intelligence, Online Safety, Sustainability, Oracy and Digital Literacy within one coherent learning journey. Each theme is revisited throughout a student's time at St Mary's, enabling learning to build in depth and complexity as students mature.

INSPIRE is also firmly rooted in the Catholic mission of the College. Guided by Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching, students are encouraged to develop compassion, integrity, respect and a commitment to serving others, while understanding their responsibility to care for our common home and contribute positively to society.

This ensures that INSPIRE not only meets statutory requirements but also provides a broad, ambitious and future-focused Personal Development curriculum that prepares every student for life beyond the classroom.

RECOGNITION & REWARDS: EXPERIENCE WEEK 2026

Students enjoyed an unforgettable Experience Week, taking part in a wide range of activities designed to develop confidence, teamwork, resilience and creativity while creating lasting memories.

Throughout the week, students across Years 7 to 10 stepped away from their usual timetables to experience learning in new and engaging ways.

Their programme included outdoor adventures, educational visits and team-building challenges, with highlights including Chester Zoo, Delamere Forest, The Hive, Chester city centre, The Light Cinema, bowling and the ever-popular Inflation assault course. Students also took part in activities such as Junior Taskmaster, Mock Trial, Circus Skills, First Aid, Food Showdown, Food Glorious Food, Escape Room, Sports Day and a coastal walk, providing countless opportunities to learn new skills, work collaboratively and challenge themselves.

Year 10 students enjoyed a programme focused on preparing them for the future, beginning with an Enterprise Challenge and First Aid training before visiting the Trafford Centre, where they developed independence, responsibility and teamwork while representing the college superbly.

A huge thank you goes to all of our students, who represented St Mary's Catholic College with maturity, respect and enthusiasm throughout the week. Whether competing in Sports Day, exploring new places, tackling outdoor challenges or supporting one another through team activities, they demonstrated the very best of our college community.

Experience Week once again proved to be a fantastic opportunity for students to develop new skills, strengthen friendships and create memories that will last long after the school year has ended.





Hot Chocolate Friday

Year 7

Angel R, Oliver D, Annie R, Ben C, Frankie F, Jess H, Lexi M, Niah M, Jemima B, Bobby K, Halle R, Archie P, Osaru G, Elsie M, Ara M, George M, Olivia T, Teddy M, Ruby S, Oliver B

Year 8

Nuriya N, Albert C, Emily B, Riley A, Rayen H, Skye R, Lewis H, Niah M, Jemima B, Bobby K, Halle R, Archie P, Ara M, George M, Olivia T, Teddy M, Otis M, Lawrence C

Year 9

Bobby M, Orla K, Rosie A, Jack W, Daniel K, Kandi R, Frankie K, Helin Y, Amelia J, Charles P, Kandi R, Charles P, Cormac F, Renee M, Thomas D, Maya D, Maisy D, Lacey B

Year 10

Louie G, Joshua H, Viktoriia G, Katie S, Leighton T, Elizabeth H, Noah P, Megan L, Seren J, Zack C, Poppy M, Toby P, Joseph R, Ellis H, Daniel T, Ava M

Year 11

Gerrard G, Joseph B, Izzie S, Majka W, Frankie P, Corey B, Courtney B, Ciaran D, Sasha M

The Arc

Logan P

COLLEGE KEY DATES

**SUMMER BREAK: MONDAY 20TH JULY -
WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER**

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 9th September - Open Evening

Tuesday 23rd September - Open Morning

OCTOBER

Tuesday 7th October - Open Morning

Thursday 23rd October - Year 11 Parents' Evening

**HALF TERM BREAK: MONDAY 26TH
OCTOBER - FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER**

NOVEMBER

Thursday 6th November - Sixth Form Open Evening

DECEMBER

Friday 12th December - College closed to all students

Friday 19th December - Last Day of Half-Term 2

