

21st May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

It has been a busy week and we said 'au revoir' to our Year 11 students in a lovely act of worship, led by Mr Flores this week. It was a lovely reflection on their five year journey with us, but the highlight with the students seemed to be the photographs of them when they were much younger. I want to thank all the Year 11 parents/carers for their support over the last five years and we are looking forward to welcoming many of your children back in September for the 6th Form.

In a recent newsletter we brought you news of the Year 12 'Path to Carbon Zero' engineering project which involved students designing and creating a 3D model of a sustainability education centre. Although St Mary's did not win overall, the team received the following feedback from their assessors at Engineering Company Ramboll:

'We thought this was a very strong technical report, with all stages of a project lifecycle considered and a good understanding of the different elements that go into a project. There was an understanding of architecture demonstrated through your space planning and aesthetic considerations. The later stage structural calculations and the demonstration of the understating of load path theory was very impressive, the calculations were well written and are what we would expect from graduates in industry!'

All five students have now graduated as Gold Level Industrial cadets and enjoyed a virtual graduation ceremony with some snacks and a glass of (non-alcoholic) fizz last week. Well done to Ada, Luke, Chris, Alphonse and Charlotte.



WE BELIEVE EVERYONE IS EQUAL: EVERYONE DESERVES THE BEST

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Headteacher: Mr Nicholas Simms B.Sc. (Hons), NPQH

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On Tuesday 27th April, nine students took part in an Anti-Bullying training session run by The Diana Award. Students in Year 7 worked together and acquired vital skills to enable them to change the attitudes and behaviours of bullying by building their skills and confidence to address different situations, both online and off.

The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme sees trainers working with students and other young people to change the attitude surrounding bullying. The programme has a strong peer-to-peer focus, with trainers giving young people the skills and confidence to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to tackle bullying in their school long after the training has finished. The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying work is recognised as world-class thanks to this sustainable approach.

The training looked at bullying in different situations including face-to-face and online. At the end of the day, pupils made an action plan of how to approach bullying issues and committed to their roles as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. Here at St Mary's, we are hoping to organise a range of activities to raise the awareness of how bullying can effect a person. Our Year 7 Ambassadors have already raised awareness and money for the Diana Award through selling 'Choose Kindness' wristbands.

Here are our St Marys Anti-Bully Ambassadors at their training session:

Back row: Elisa, Tara, Yasemin and Olivia

Front row: Daniel, Clara, Abida, Zam and Stephanie



Over the course of this term, our Year 12 Product Design students have been working extremely hard on a team Chair Project.

The project brief was to design a chair that was inspired by architecture, with some students choosing to focus on the shape of the London skyline, to using bridges as structural inspiration. Students were also required to collect anthropometric data, in order to ensure their final outcome is suitable for use. Once their ideas had been rendered and analysed, Miss Kanuni and Mrs McKinney grouped their students into three teams, and gave each team one design to focus on manufacturing in school.

This task required students to work collaboratively and encouraged the development of their communication and manufacturing skills. All three teams have been working exceptionally hard to ensure that their chair is manufactured to a high quality and is fit for purpose. We have one group manufacturing a rocking chair, whilst the other two teams are in the process of manufacturing statement pieces. Here are some images of all our teams hard at work!

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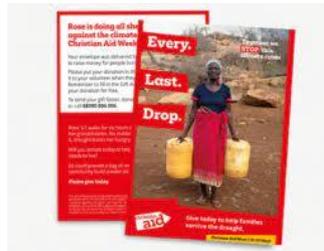


Pictured: Olivia, Chris, Liam, Callum and Lilith. Ricardo, Jamie, Cem, Morgan and Kristian

All students at St Marys CE High School are made aware of the sacrifices that humans and wild animals now face for survival due to **climate change**.

Intense drought, storms, heat waves, rising sea levels, melting glaciers and warming oceans can directly harm animals, destroy their habitats, and wreak havoc on people's livelihoods and communities.

Although the climate crisis affects us all, people living in poverty have to deal with its extreme and life threatening effects on a daily basis. Christian Aid was formed to help all humans and animals in times such as these.



Last week was Christian Aid week, (10th to 16th May 2021) and Christ Church Waltham Cross, along with Year 9 students from St Marys, collected donations in order to help those worst off than our selves. In fact, 9L raised £35 after watching YouTube Clips about children and adults who are suffering due to climate change. This donation will go towards a great cause such as helping a community to build a dam, so that when the rains come, they will have the water they need to live. Well done 9L for beaing positive members of our community.

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Finally, in September, we plan to launch a brand new house system. House systems have been a part of English schools for centuries and St Mary's has previously had one if you go back approximately 20 years. A house system divides the student population into groups called houses, and the intention is to have four houses at St Mary's, named after famous and influential world figures. Students would be allocated one of these 4 houses in September, and existing forms would simply adopt a house name, there would be 2 forms per year group per house. See the table below;

| Year | House 'A' | | House 'B' | | House 'C' | | House 'D' | |
|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 12/13 | 12/13a1 | 12/13a2 | 12/13b1 | 12/13b2 | 12/13c1 | 12/13c2 | 12/13d1 | 12/13d2 |
| 11 | 11a1 | 11a2 | 11b1 | 11b2 | 11c1 | 11c2 | 11d1 | 11d2 |
| 10 | 10a1 | 10a2 | 10b1 | 10b2 | 10c1 | 10c2 | 10d1 | 10d2 |
| 9 | 9a1 | 9a2 | 9b1 | 9b2 | 9c1 | 9c2 | 9d1 | 9d2 |
| 8 | 8a1 | 8a2 | 8b1 | 7b2 | 8c1 | 8c2 | 8d1 | 8d2 |
| 7 | 7a1 | 7a2 | 7b1 | 7b2 | 7c1 | 7c2 | 7d1 | 7d2 |

Students would have additional competitions and activities that would be planned across the year within each Teaching and Learning area, for example House Netball or House Music competition. Students would be able to gain reward points in the same way they do currently, but these points would also count towards their house total. Some of these competitions would be mandatory and occur in curriculum time, but others would be optional and students could 'sign up' for competitions involving activities that they enjoy and/or are good at. The house system will give them additional leadership opportunities and will grow their confidence and friendships across the school. The process of naming the houses has already begun this term, and shortly the school council will help in narrowing down the list before we ask the students to vote for their favourites.

If you are interested to know more, please watch this short [presentation](#)

As always, I wish you an excellent weekend

Yours faithfully



Nicholas Simms
Head Teacher

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