

24 June 2022

Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

Key Stage 3 Annual Prize Awards evening

Last night was the Key Stage 3 Annual Prize Giving, and it was a fantastic night, hosted by Jack and Hazel, with performances from Music and Drama students that absolutely blew us away. Congratulations to all the winners of prizes last night, and we look forward to seeing more names at one of next year's Prize Giving events.



WE BELIEVE EVERYONE IS EQUAL: EVERYONE DESERVES THE BEST

Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN7 5FB t: 01992 629124 f: 01992 643354
e: admin@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk w: www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr Nicholas Simms B.Sc. (Hons), NPQH

'Students feel happy and safe at school' OFSTED 2019
'An exceptionally inclusive and caring community' SIAMS Inspection 2020

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Music

Since the last newsletter was produced, the 'Phoenix Singers' have been out and about in the local community celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with one of our feeder primary schools, Dewhurst St Mary. We performed several songs and came home with a well-deserved ice cream cone.



Wellbeing

Godfrey, the 6-year-old Border Collie, is no stranger to St Mary's. He and his owner Pam enjoyed another one of their regular visits, showing off dog tricks and dances to students and staff.

Arranged by Therapy Dogs Nationwide and our Wellbeing Lead, Mrs Buxton, Therapy Dogs Nationwide is a national charity where visiting volunteers take their own dogs into establishments to provide comfort, distraction, and stimulation.

The benefits of Animal Assisted Therapies have been extensively studied and results range from improvement in general health and wellbeing, increased confidence levels, to improved communication skills.



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Everyone involved enjoyed the cuddles and agreed it had made a difference to their day, leaving them feeling calmer and more relaxed.



Geography

On Wednesday 8th June Year 8 went to Walton-on-the-Naze to carry out a day of fieldwork activities. Despite the weather forecast, the students had a great day and were able to have fun at the beach whilst experiencing some key geographical coastal processes.

Students were involved in field sketching, wave counting, land use mapping, service tallying and environmental quality surveys.



All 185 students were brilliantly behaved and it was a pleasure to work with them out of the classroom.

Careers

On Wednesday 15 June, 100 Year 10 students attended the 'Generation Broxbourne' careers event. This gave students an opportunity to engage with 30 local employers including The Birch Hotel, Tesco's, Sunset Studios and Marriot. Students spent an hour at the event, held at the Spotlight Theatre in Hoddesdon, networking with employers and listening to the fantastic opportunities that are available when they finish in education.

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The fair was available to all students and parents, who were invited through letter to the event in an open session between 3.30 and 6.00pm.



MFL

In MFL, 10 Year 10 students who had expressed an interest in further study of languages beyond GCSE had the opportunity to visit the University of Cambridge on 22 June, where they experienced first-hand what a lecture at university feels like.

As well as experiencing a taster session in a never before learned language (Portuguese) and the key to a good translation into any language, students also experienced that there is more than just language learning to a languages degree and that politics, history, geography and society as a whole are key elements studied (in this instance, students were treated to a lecture on the impact of Nazi culture on Germany).

They also had the opportunity to have questions answered by current Cambridge students on anything to do with study at university. Our students took this opportunity, engaged really well in all of the sessions and made us very proud!



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News from the Sports Desk

Year 9 & 10 students travelled to the Lea Valley Athletics centre to officiate the Primary Schools' District Championship. Students were tasked with judging and organising the track events, marking and scoring the field events and presenting the primary school students with trophies and medals.

The students officiated the event exceptionally well, and visiting parents and staff from other schools commented how smoothly the events had run due to the work of the St Mary's young leaders. A very proud day for the PE department to see our students leading the way in local primary school sport.



I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Nicholas Simms'.

Nicholas Simms
Headteacher

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