

7th February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2020. We ended last year raising £269.23 for Save the Children from the Christmas Jumper Day and Carol Service, and started the year with the 'SIAMS' inspection and were delighted with the outcomes. I wrote to you earlier this week about it, but if you missed that letter, please see here for details [SIAMS 2020](#).

The new behaviour policy started in January and, as with most changes, it is having a really positive impact in some areas whilst others need some further work. I thank you for your support with this – uniform and punctuality to school are much better and classes are settling well during the 'do now starter' we are all doing during the first, silent 10 minutes of the lesson. The areas that still need some work are: punctuality to lessons and consistency of behaviour during the lesson. I have been working with staff on these and will let you know of any updates we make.

Learning takes place in many different ways, sometimes quiet and reflective, sometimes active and creative. Over the past term in History, Year 7 students were experimenting with 'active and creative' learning by designing and building Motte and Bailey castle models. Maya from 7S won the competition; her model accurately presented the height of the Motte and the defensive features. We were delighted with all the entrants, and especially with Maya's, which was such an excellent portrayal of this style of castle.



Fig 1: Y7 Motte and Bailey Castle Models

Similarly, in Geography, Year 7 were tasked with creating a rainforest biome in a shoe box and they have produced some amazing work, some of which has focused on the damage that humans are causing to the environment. The quality was superb and we welcome the support by parents/carers at home over Christmas!



Fig 2: Y7 Geography Models

Back in November our Year 13 Business BTEC students planned and ran a 'Branding Workshop' for a group of Year 7 students. They started with some fun activities, whilst delivering active learning about branding in business. Then the Year 7's were set a challenge to create a logo, slogan and advertising for their new business 'Aloha'. The Year 7 students were very enthusiastic and this showed in the advertising they created.



Fig 3: Y7 and Sixth Branding Workshop

The Year 7's showed good team work and contribution, as well as interacting well with the Year 13 team. It was very difficult to choose a winner as the standard of work was very high from all four teams. The feedback from the Year 7's was all positive, with it being fun and very engaging. We were joined by Mr Donghi (Year 7 Lead), Mrs Meads (Year 12 and 13 Lead) and guest judges to choose the group we thought had the best logo, slogan and advert for the Aloha. The winners were very pleased and excited to win, and all students enjoyed their prizes and their certificates at the end. The Year 13's planning and delivery of the event was impeccable, the workshop ran smoothly and all students knew what they were expected to do and engaged. Lloyd, Aysenur, Louisa and Hakeem worked very hard and did the Business Team very proud.

Monday 20 January saw the launch of *Read Around the World*. This is a reading and research based extended learning and curriculum enrichment initiative for Year 7. Students have been issued with reading, writing and research activities, which cover academic subjects and the continents of the World. In addition to individual hard copies, an electronic version has been uploaded to Show My Homework. *Read Around the World* is optional, but we encourage students to rise to the challenge. Weekly prizes will be awarded for the best effort and achievement. Any student handing in their work with 100 points to the LRC will be entered into the weekly and termly competitions. Weekly entries should be in by Friday each week, and termly by 1st April. Prizes include sweets, front of line lunch passes (for you and a friend - for a week), amongst others. If you have any questions, please speak with Mrs Attard (EL8) or Mrs Evans (LRC). We look forward to seeing how much independent learning Year 7 can achieve by *Reading Around the World*.

Our Year 9 art students recently sat their mock exam and Ms Elmore and Ms Papadopoullos could not be more proud of their drawings. The Art Team are very proud of all our Year 9 artists for their excellent display of maturity in their behaviour during the exam and the resilience they displayed in completing their art pieces. A very special well done to Sebastien 9E and Micah 9H who are our art students of the week. We were incredibly impressed with the detailing of the fish scales as well as the tonal value and drawn precision of the shape and form of the fish.



Fig 4: Y9 Art work

The St Mary's High School Advanced Mathematics Group met for their second training session this Thursday in preparation for the UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge on 30 April. While the first session focussed on the mathematics of time, this session focussed on geometry and angles. The training sessions consist of multiple challenges which the Year 7 mathematicians do in order. Once they have completed a challenge, they collect a small prize and move on to the next. They then get a selection of past UKMT Challenge questions to take home, which they can complete and return for a reward. The turnout at the first two sessions has shown that St Mary's High School has a good number of highly able maths learners who are hungry for a challenge (and prizes). Sessions run every second Thursday (Week B). Anyone that wants to join the sessions should see Mr Goosen to attempt the entrance test. Entries are limited to Year 7 learners.

Students in Year 13 have been submitting university applications since UCAS opened in September 2019 and earlier this half term we had lots to celebrate. Students have received a steady stream of offers from a variety of institutions up and down the country, including Russell Group universities such as Kings College, London, Imperial College, London and Cambridge University. We are very proud of each and every student as they continue on their pathway and have high hopes for every single student in our sixth form community no matter what their future plans are.

News from the Sport Desk:

Just before we broke up for Christmas, Year 9 Girls played in an exceptionally wet Rugby Tournament at Cheshunt Rugby Club. The team played 4 games and won 3. Tries came from Samara, Senel, J'Nade, Sylvia and Charis. The girls did incredibly well to get these results and to keep playing in the adverse conditions. Senel was voted Player of the Tournament due to her excellent tackling. Well done ladies!

The Year 9 Boys' football team have been in action this week with their first league match of the season. They played superbly and beat Broxbourne 8-1, Darnell netting a hat trick, a brace for Josh and the other goals coming from Harvey, Jordan and a quite fortuitous own goal from the opposition. The boys will hopefully build on this performance and continue their fine form with two more upcoming fixtures in the next few weeks. All in all the team have played three games this half term and have qualified for the semi-finals of the district cup remaining unbeaten in the group stages winning two games and drawing the other. The boys have shown great attitude, resilience and teamwork to progress. The semi-final will be played after half term.

St Mary's competed against 10 schools in the Lea Valley district Indoor Athletics event at Picketts Lock on the 21st January. The event is always very competitive and involves students competing in a number of different track and field events. Bobby and Ben both won the Hurdle event for their age categories with finishing times of 10.8 and 9.3 seconds respectively. Aiden finished first in the Inter boys 300m with a time of 40.6 seconds. Charis finished first in the Inter Girls 300m event, finishing 3 seconds ahead of the closer competitor with a time of 44.9. The inter girls relay team of Ruby, Charis, Nissi and Nana, finished the day in strong fashion taking victory in the 4x200m relay event with a finishing time of 1.59. A fantastic result in what was a very exciting race. The success of these individuals saw the Year 10 and 11 girls' team finish in 3rd place overall and the Year 10 and 11 boys team taking an impressive 2nd in the overall rankings. Students will be looking to build on their successes in the Summer term which will see us taking part in the annual District Sports Athletics event at Wodson Park.

The Year 10 Boys' football team lost 5-2 to a very strong Richard Hale side. They showed resilience in their approach to the game and take away some areas of improvement. The boys started very quickly and took the lead in the opening stages of the game, a huge improvement on previous slow starts during matches. They doubled their tally in the second half but unfortunately, this was not enough to take the win.

The Year 11 boys football team had their District quarter final game against Richard Hale. The squad came in at half time one nil down, despite having plenty of chances to equalise. Max levelled the scores in the second half and it was 1-1 with 10 minutes left to play. The game looked like it would go to extra time before Richard Hale scored from a corner. The Year 11's went searching for an equalising goal in the last few minutes and conceded two more in the process. A good cup run for our most senior team sadly came to an end.



Nicholas Simms
Headteacher