

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you and the family well. It has been an absolute pleasure to have the students, your children, back in school over the last two weeks and there is plenty of news to share. I am delighted to say that sport clubs have resumed, and the timetable for this is at the very end of the newsletter. Please take time to have a look and encourage your child to take part with the activity for their year group.

The students in Y11 and Y13 have been taking their 'PPE' (pre-public exams) and, largely, they have met the challenge face on and are working tremendously well under the guidance their teachers and other staff have given them; the vast majority of them are taking revision really seriously. Mr Flores and I have visited Y11 Form Time and students were revising hard. There is a real continuity of positivity around the students' work ethic and this is impressive – well done to all these students.

### **ART**

The students in the Art Department have been working hard, from those in Y7 starting out on their artistic career at St Mary's, to those in Y11 who are finishing off their final works:



Summer Grundy in Y11 has created an excellent final response for her 'Daily Life and work' exam project (above).

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Shaloma Philips in Y11, is producing some excellent 'Daily Life' research and responses (above).



Y7 have completed their portraiture project with a creative transcription inspired by Frida Kahlo (above)



Finally, our Y10 students have recently submitted their 'Urban Art' unit. This was their first unit of work as part of their BTEC level 2 course. The Art team, and I, are very proud of their efforts. A special mention to Maria Constantinou and Aleksander Golowski for consistently working to an excellent standard (above).

## **SCIENCE**

Over the course of the Spring Term a group of Y12 students have been working hard taking part in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Gold Level award. This is a large commitment, involving 50 hours of project work which they have successfully completed, whilst being supervised by Graduate Engineers from Ramboll, a civil engineering company.

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The students have had to adapt, like the rest of the UK, to working on this project remotely at home as we went back into a full national lockdown shortly after the project launch in December. The team have demonstrated great resilience and have attended weekly Zoom meetings and webinars with their mentors whilst navigating this new challenging way of working.

The project brief was to design a sustainability education centre; selecting building materials, designing floor plans, considering the structural layout, calculating loads whilst trying to fine tune the balance between sustainability and practicality. The group's completed report is entitled 'Path to Carbon Zero' and the students (Luke Mobbs, Chris Mukoko, Charlotte Redman, Ada Kiran, Olivia Moore and Alphonse Kwizera) will be presenting this virtually (along with a 3D model of the building) to a panel of judges who will choose an overall winner out of almost 100 schools competing nationwide. The students will have a virtual project graduation ceremony on 30<sup>th</sup> April. I have seen the project report that the group created and we all could not be prouder of the students for their hard work and I'm sure you will join us with wishing them the very best of luck. This is our first year at St Mary's completing the STEM project at Gold level and something we wish to continue moving forwards.

*Please note: some pictures were taken before the wearing of masks in classrooms was made compulsory.*



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## **DRAMA**

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April, Y11 GCSE Drama students took their Component 2 Performing exam, this year they were asked to perform a monologue from an established play. More accustomed to performing in groups, students soon realised performing a monologue requires a different set of skills. As the only actor on stage, the skill of remembering lines without any other characters to 'bounce off', requires huge concentration and confidence. Whereas students in a group can often be an equal part in that group, on their own, the actor is totally exposed and all eyes and attention are on them alone.

As this is not a memory test performance, students are required to 'become' the characters from the monologues, ensuring they are using appropriate vocal, physical and performance skills to bring the character alive and aim to give a totally engaging performance. This required students to research their characters beforehand and create a history for their character as if real.

The monologues performed covered a wide range of issues and themes – including mental health in *Adult Child Dead Child* by Claire Dowie and *Five Kinds of Silence* by Shelagh Stephenson, through to power struggles in Ancient Greek drama in *Antigone* by Sophocles. It was a privilege watching the students perform and many of the students have really grown in their commitment, creativity and confidence. Many performances from the students felt worthy of being in a professional theatre, they were very mature pieces and comprehensive understanding.

Onwards, students will now be focusing again on their devised pieces which will be filmed and graded, before completing the GCSE Drama course with their written paper.

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Y11 Drama students

## **TEXTILES**

Since September, the Y10 GCSE Textiles students have been working extremely hard looking at the theme Natural Forms.

During this project the students have explored their chosen areas within the Natural Forms theme that include Plants, Animals and DNA. They have all researched into other artists work focusing on the decorative techniques and from this have all produced a range of brilliant textile experimentations inspired by these artists.

For the final outcome for this project the students are designing and making their own textiles tapestry which combines everything they have learnt from this project including, research based on their chosen theme, CAD (Computer Aided Design), textiles technique experimentations and Artist Research.

Here are some of the amazing work they have been producing (students' work: Nicolette, Natalia and Shayanne) with the final product coming in May 2021.



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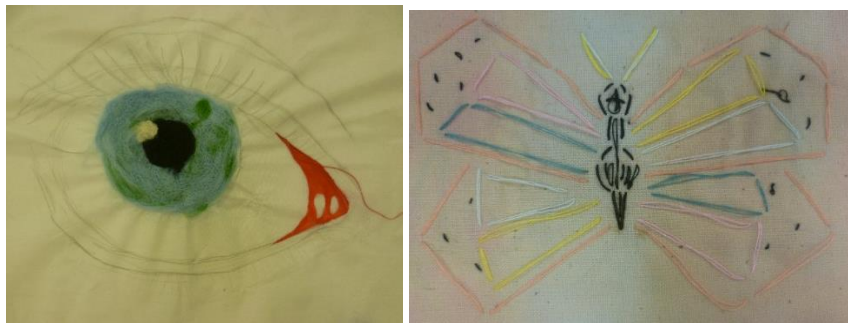
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### **BUSINESS - YOUNG ENTERPRISE**

The 2020-2021 6<sup>th</sup> form Young Enterprise group have been working really hard and created a company, logo, slogan and product and worked incredibly well together, despite the challenges that the pandemic and lockdown threw at them. Please see below a detailed report from Ms Johnson about their work – as she says we are all very proud of what they have achieved.



**ST MARY'S**  
CE HIGH SCHOOL



Whilst 2020/2021 school year has been difficult a team of 5 Year 12 St Mary's students have shown great resilience and commitment by participating in the Young Enterprise programme and competition.

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Using their initials their business is called **JACAR** with a catchy slogan of 'Who wants to be an entrepreneur?'

At the start of the competition the team brainstormed and identified many different potential product opportunities including items relating to the recent Covid situation, however they made important business decisions as, the young entrepreneurs that they are, to move forward with a product that will outlast the current situations.

Together they created and have maintained a focus with a mission statement stating 'We aim to provide exemplary revision resources for students studying Level 2 Business qualifications' along with their key values 'We value the succession of the future generation studying Business Studies. We also wish to provide quality and helpful products, from students for students'.



Their product is a set of Business revision flash cards aimed at business students who are studying Level 2 business or enterprise.

From the fantastic, immediately recognisable logo to the physical cards design including contents cards and the team written content the end product produced is remarkably professional, useful and dynamic.

Currently the revision cards are being marketed via social media and direct contacts with other schools.

The team aim to sell the flash cards to individuals and also to schools, with bulk buy discounts, as a provision to be made available for students studying business and enterprise.

Due to the restrictions they were unable to physically make a trade stand for their business however they did create a virtual view of what their stand would look like demonstrating their marketing flare and passion for their product and business.



The team were supported throughout the competition by Ian Smith, a Young Enterprise Business Advisor, and he confirmed "In what has clearly been a very difficult time, the team have managed to conceptualise, design, fund and produce their product, with meetings already planned in to sell significant volume to purchasers. Compared with other teams I have worked with before, they have excelled at the self-motivation required to make the

most of the Young Enterprise scheme, and I have every faith that they will have success in the competition (as well as making themselves a profit)."

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We are very proud of our amazing students and we wish them luck in the upcoming final competitions, congratulations to **Ruby, Allanah, Antonio, Jamie, and Chelise**.

## PE - SPORTS CLUBS

 WEEK A	After School (Sports Hall)	After School (Fields/Courts)
Monday	Year 10 Russell Hoops Basketball 3.00-4.00pm	Year 7 Rounders Club (LJO)
Tuesday	Year 7 & 8 Cricket Club (RHU/ADN)	Year 8 Rounders Club (EMA)
Wednesday	Sixth form Russell Hoops Basketball 3.00-4.00pm	
Thursday	Year 7 Russell Hoops Basketball 3.00-4.00pm	Year 9 & 10 Athletics Club (RWI/SAN)

 WEEK B	After School (Sports Hall)	After School (Fields/Courts)
Monday	Year 8 Russell Hoops Basketball 3.00-4.00pm	Year 9 Rounders Club (LJO)
Tuesday	Year 9 & 10 & 11 Cricket Club (RHU/ADN)	Year 10 Rounders Club (EMA)
Wednesday	Year 11 Russell Hoops Basketball 3.00-4.00pm	
Thursday	Year 9 Russell Hoops Basketball 3.00-4.00pm	Year 7 & 8 Athletics Club (RWI/SAN)

Thank you for your continued support of the school community.

Yours faithfully



Nicholas Simms  
Head Teacher

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