



28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the holiday I want to thank you for your support this half term. Please remember to keep testing (preferably on a Sunday and a Wednesday) and logging the results on the NHS test website, even through the holidays. If your child tests positive for COVID tomorrow or Sunday then please email the attendance email address to report this for track and trace.

### The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was set up in 1956 by Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh. Over 65 years later many young people still find achieving the DofE Award to be a fun adventure and a major challenge which is life-changing. Millions of young people in the UK and around the world have already taken part in the world's leading youth achievement award – pushing personal boundaries, gaining new skills and enhancing their CVs, College and University applications.

Last year, a number of Year 12 students in St Mary's Sixth Form decided to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, participating in a successful journey of self-discovery and development. More importantly, this historical award is respected by employers, colleges and universities alike due to the qualities and skills students develop through their experience of participating as they cover each section of the Award.

During the course, the Year 12's had to self-manage themselves by participating in all 4 sub sections below for a least one hour per week:

- Volunteering - undertaking service to individuals or the community.
- Physical - improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- Skills - developing practical and social skills and personal interests.
- Expedition - planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK.

Each student did a minimum of 3 months' activity for each of the Volunteering and Skill sections and they were also asked to cover the physical section within six months. Some of the students showed their creative art skills by taking hours of artistic photos, whereas others expressed their physical side through music and dance. Some students even helped out Class 2 at Holy Trinity CE Primary School, developing the children's reading and writing skills. Most decided to take responsibility for a living organism for three months - they found out that it was more difficult than they actually thought!

Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 crisis the Year 12 were unable to experience the Expedition section of the Duke of Edinburgh. However, the Organisation appreciated the difficulties that the students and Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinators faced, and so they decided to give the students their Bronze Awards in the face of adversity.

Well done, and keep up the great work Year 12, next year you should try and achieve your silver Duke of Edinburgh award. When you see the following students around school, please congratulate them: Yaren, Rojin, Nazli, Richard, Ava, Salman, Ellie, Amelia, Aimee, William and Kalliah.

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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If you or your child is interested in the Duke of Edinburgh award, please contact Mrs L. Johnson at St Mary's on 01992629124. You could also watch this short video clip to help you have a better understanding of the award: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7kY2w4A7\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7kY2w4A7_s)

## Music

Students in Year 7 have been studying the concepts of graphic score and traditional notation. Within the limitations of the pentatonic scale (from the Greek 'Pentas' meaning five), students have been creating scores for a four-part performance texture. It has been very interesting learning about different forms of written communication and there has been the discovery of some new budding composers within the Year 7 Cohort. Students are enjoying using some Italian words and phrases to support their musical scores and to indicate dynamics, phrasing and tempo. The Music department is looking forward to showcasing some of the wonderful compositions in upcoming performance events and displaying the written scores, of which Year 7 are very proud.



## Sports

Sports activities in school are restarting and there are a number of clubs after school, which I have shared with you on a previous newsletter. Below is a flyer about Rugby with Cheshunt Rugby club – please take time to have a look.

**SARACENS FOUNDATION**  
**CHESHUNT RFC OPEN DAY WITH SARACENS FOUNDATION**

Thursday 10th June 2021  
6-8pm  
Cheshunt Rugby Club, Andrew's Lane, EN7 6TB

Bring a friend to be in with a chance of winning a great prize!

Years 7-11  
Boys and Girls of all abilities welcome  
Players will be split into different age groups

Free refreshments provided  
Saracens Goodie Bag to take home!

**PROJECT RUGBY**  
Contact Luke Saint - Project Officer for more info  
lukesaint@saracens.net  
www.saracenssportfoundation.org

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## Maths

It has been a busy few weeks for KS3 maths, with a number of Year 7, 8 and 9 students taking part in the UK Maths Challenge, and a team of Year 8 students taking part in the Hertfordshire Maths Challenge. Learners who wrote the UK Maths Challenge had one hour to complete a 25 question paper. The questions are designed to encourage problem-solving, creativity, and push learners beyond what they learn in the classroom.

In Year 8, three learners achieved bronze for the junior paper: Daniel, Filip and Hasin. In Year 9, Kamsi achieved silver for the Intermediate paper, which is a fantastic achievement on a paper which is also written by Year 10 and Year 11 students!

In addition to the UK maths challenge, Jimi, Aaryan, Bradley, Hasin and Jack took part in the Hertfordshire maths challenge. This was a team-based competition, with 29 schools competing, and was a mixture of standard maths problems, estimation, and a memory round. The learners took to the challenge with aplomb and worked together brilliantly: delegating tasks, discussing problems efficiently, and utilizing each other's strengths.

Any learners who missed out this year and would like to take part in future maths competitions should let their maths teacher know. These competitions are excellent enrichment opportunities for maths students looking to extend themselves.

## Uniform

If you are considering uniform purchases, either for this year or next, you may wish to take advantage of the Smith's Schoolwear discount voucher below:



I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a restful half term and look forward to sharing more news in the next half term.

As always, I wish you an excellent weekend

Yours faithfully

Nicholas Simms  
Head Teacher

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