



28 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

#### Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022. Christmas seems a distant memory now, but I want to thank you for your support in those first weeks back when Covid cases were high.

For your information there is a useful student page on our website that your son/daughter may find helpful. You can find it here: <u>link</u>; please have a look and promote with your son/daughter.

Also, there is a change to the menu in the Dining Room this term. I can thoroughly recommend the food that Chef Simon and the team serve up and, encourage your child to try it (whether it is a hot plated meal, a hot or cold snack, sandwiches or salad bar items). The latest menu is here: <u>link</u>.

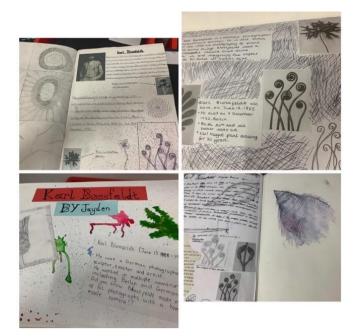
### Art from students

Below are some collages of KS3, KS4 and KS5 students' work from the Autumn Term. The Art department are incredibly proud of the progress made by students, in exploring and developing new skills and processes. This art is created in a range of mono printing, mixed media, ink and paint.



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### Franklin Scholars mentoring programme

Last term we launched our Scholars Programmes, designed to extend our most able students' learning beyond the classroom.

This programme has included our Franklin Scholars Programme, in which 15 x Year 10 students have been trained as mentors for Year 7 students. They have now been working as mentors since October, providing weekly mentoring sessions during Form Time. We are incredibly proud of the commitment they have shown in their mentoring, and how they have demonstrated our Christian Values in the care they have shown for younger students. The work that they are doing is excellent and really having a positive impact. I want to thank the Year 10 students Constance, Daniella, Ela, Emiliano, Florentia, Jessica, Kamsi, Lola, Alisha, Melisa, Phoebe, Rihanna, Sheri, Trisha, and Zoe for their hard work.

### Sports – boys' football

The Year 11 boys' football team travelled to Freeman College in the first round of the district cup earlier in January. Despite our team starting the game positively and creating a few half chances, Freeman College took the lead with a wonder strike from 25 yards out. The team displayed great team spirit and resilience to get back into the game and deservedly equalised just before half time, when Josh followed up his own rebound to score after Freeman's goalkeeper parried the ball. Despite dominating the second half St Mary's were unable to score the winner, although there was a fantastic effort from Dezire which beat the keeper but unfortunately cannoned off the post and behind for a goal kick. The game finished 1-1.

The match would end with the dreaded penalty shoot-out. Both teams missed 1 penalty in regulation so it went down sudden death. Harry saved Freeman's penalty, which gave Ada the opportunity to send St Mary's into the next round. He duly obliged despite the goal keeper diving the correct way, resulting in jubilant celebrations from the St Mary's side-line. Notable performances coming from Loui who caused the opposition trouble with his speed and dribbling precision and Jake who played out of passion putting the team's needs above his own.

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The team will play Richard Hale in the next round with a place in the semi-finals on the line. Read how they on in the next newsletter.

#### **Business Studies**

Our Year 9 business students completed our internal 'Subway Challenge' where they had to learn about business key factors, costs and profit calculations, market research including students creating surveys gathering and analysis the results. Their ultimate aim was to create a new sandwich product for Subway which they then had to promote in a presentation, using all the key business factors they had been learning throughout the term. Winning subs and presentations were selected from each of our five classes with certificates being issued.

At St Mary's we always look for opportunities for cross curriculum working and this was a perfect scenario for us to work with our fantastic Food Technology department. Students were able to take their ideas from paper to reality following the whole process from planning to production. So, the business students attended a kitchen, rather than a computer room, and they all made the ultimate winning sub from each class. The result was enhanced learning in business along with handling and managing food whilst students effectively made their own lunch. The student's attention to the challenge, the sub making and even the cleaning up was fantastic and we are proud of their achievements.



# Sixth Form

As our Year 13 Students approach the end of their St Mary's Journey, revision for final A Level and Level 3 BTEC exams is fully underway. Exams, along with University and apprenticeship applications, can often cause the students to feel added stress and pressure. During Form times, Mrs Meads and the Sixth Form Team work with students to help them manage their wellbeing. Students are involved in activities away from their studies to calm them and move their thoughts elsewhere enjoying activities such as a morning walk, badminton and basketball in the gym, meditation and mentoring younger students. Students appreciate the distractions and often comment that it sets them up for the day.

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## St Mary's CE High School Alumni

At the beginning of 2022 St Mary's started its very own Alumni of previous students and applications have been coming in steadily. Confirmed applicants receive a certificate and a badge which has been acknowledged by many who have received it as a lovely token of their membership to our school and its Alumni.

To date, we have had 150 applications ranging from very recent student departures to students that left us as far back as 1963. It is outstanding to see the progress both in higher education and also working careers of our students.

As part of the membership individuals have identified their level of participation where we have many offers of mentoring students, attending career fairs and workshops to talk to students which we look forward to arranging in the future. In addition, the commitment to Alumni events demonstrates that many of our previous students would enjoy reunions with other students, again we look forward to these events.

If you are a previous student of St Mary's please do join our Alumni but completing the application form on our website; <a href="https://st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk/alumni-submission/">https://st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk/alumni-submission/</a>

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#### Modern Foreign Languages

Before the Christmas holidays, Mrs Salgado and Mr Gomez invited a group of Year 9 Spanish students to a special breakfast in order to reward their excellent work in lessons. The MFL department wanted to recognise the resilience and dedication these students have shown from the start of Year 7. The pandemic has particularly impacted their learning during their first two years at St Mary's but they have been able to overcome these obstacles and make excellent progress in Spanish. Well done!!

Learning a second language can be challenging but we always encourage our students in Year 9 to continue studying a language to GCSE level, as it provides students with a way to explore other cultures and develop an understanding of the wider world. At the same time, it can help students' future career prospects as the ability to speak a second language is valued by many employers.

Recently the Department for Education has announced changes to the content and examination for GCSE languages. These changes are the result of a research project into the best approach to language learning that our MFL department has participated for the last three years. Our curriculum already reflects the changes that will be introduced in 2024 and our team is already teaching KS3 students using a methodology based on phonics, high frequency vocabulary and grammar.



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Finally, Mr Hunt was sent information about a Gaelic Football for girls course running at Goffs-Churchgate Academy (see flyer below if your daughter is interested).



I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

Nicholas Simms Headteacher

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