

1 April 2022

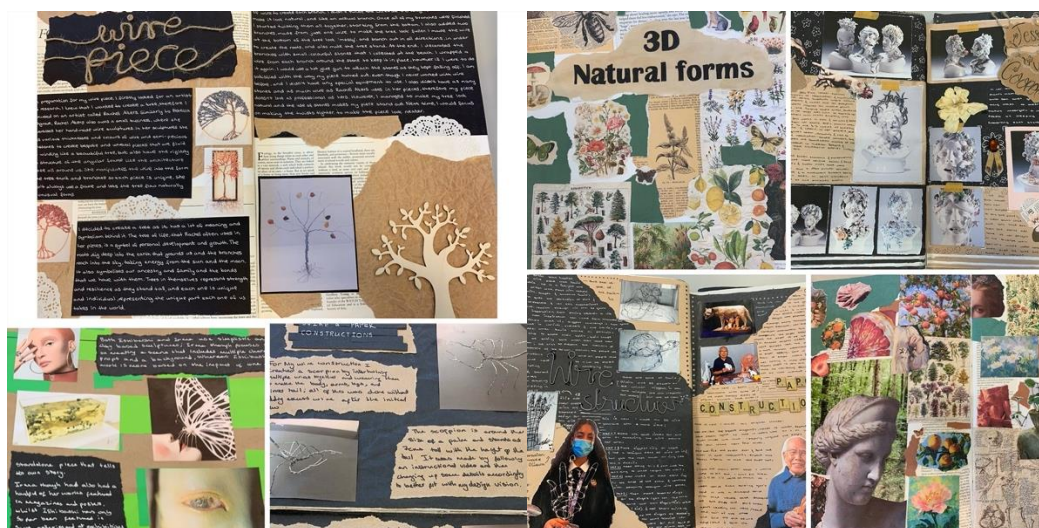
Dear Parents/Carers

Newsletter

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As we break up for the Easter Holiday, we reflect on all we have achieved this term.

Ukraine Appeal – thank you to all parents/carers, staff and students for your support of this initiative. The donations totalled £2,111.40 and the governors agreed to match the donation up to a value of £1500, so the total sent to the appeal was £3,611.40.

Art - The Year 11 BTEC Art & Design students have recently completed Unit 4, 3D Natural Forms. This is an intricately detailed project, developing 3D skills, processes, and disciplines. Students were required to research and create 3D natural forms, producing 6 Marquette's from clay, plaster, wire, paper, montage, and assemblage. I was very impressed with their resilience and focus in developing new skills and refining some previously learnt skills. Here is a sample of some of their beautifully developed sketchbooks.



The Year 12 and Year 13 Art students have recently completed their 10-hour mock exams. The large canvasses created were a response to their personal investigations. I am incredibly proud of their beautiful artwork and would like to take the opportunity to congratulate them on their excellent efforts and application of oil, acrylic and water colour paint. Here are pieces by Morgan, Katie and Daisy.

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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

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Music - The Year 11 Music Group have been hard at work creating, performing, and recording a music product for their examined coursework. They have finalised a very high-quality CD product called "Spotlight" that captures the diversity of the entries to this year's Music Festival 2022. Among the recordings are also original compositions and radio advertisements created especially for the promotion of the product. Its design was a combined effort with the imagery initialised by Antonio Morena. This piece of coursework was a great opportunity for the group to work together and each student had a key role to play in the success of the final CD whether it was design, marketing, research, administrative tasks, recording and/or performing.



It was wonderful to once again enjoy performances at this year's Music Festival. Over 70 students auditioned as part of the process and the finalists were able to perform 'live' again on stage with a limited audience. This Year our adjudicators were Alice Comerford (ex-St Mary's and undergraduate at BIMM) and Adam Pyle, our resident guitar tutor and professional musician, whose comments were constructive and well received by our young performing artists. The overall winner of the competition was Rebekah Green who performed in a duet and also as a soloist, demonstrating her growth as a musician throughout her time at St Mary's, confidence in her performance skills and her professionalism. Congratulations to 'King' House who had the highest combined score and therefore were awarded the David Watkiss Cup for Creative Arts.

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Careers - Our Year 10's experienced a day of Careers focused activities including learning about apprenticeships and University, how to research careers, team building, how to build a CV and how social media and branding works for businesses. The students were introduced to UNIFROG, an excellent destinations platform that supports students in their career, university, apprenticeship and employment research and pathways.

UNIFROG can be accessed by parent/carers to support student research by following the link www.unifrog.org/code and using the code MAFBparents. This code can be used by parents of students in all years and is a fantastic tool to encourage career discussions with your child.

Geography - Students in Geography took part in the Antarctica Flag Competition. Matilda Woodhouse drew the flag and was the winner of the in school competition between the Year 7's. Her flag was then taken out to Antarctica by the Polar scientist Lisa Herbert to celebrate Antarctica Day. The photo was taken aboard the Nathaniel B Research Ship.



ANTARCTICA DAY 2021

This certificate is awarded to: **St. Mary's Church of England School**
for designing inspirational flags *"in the interests of all mankind."*

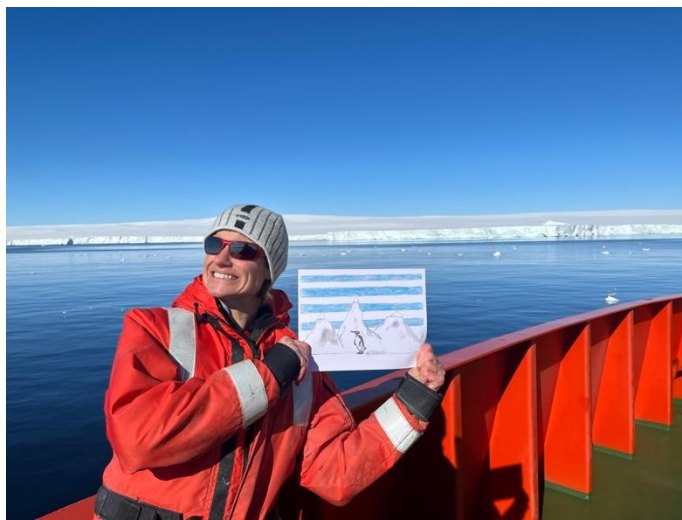
YOUR FLAG WAS CELEBRATED IN ANTARCTICA!

Location Name: Nathaniel B Palmer Research Ship, Antarctica
Latitude: 67° 34' S
Longitude: 68° 08' W
Date: 01/01/2022
Researcher: Lisa Herbert, Polar Chemist, Rutgers Marine and Coastal Sciences
Signed: UKPN Antarctic Flags Team

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Maths - On the 2nd of February, the top maths learners from Year 9 and 10 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. This national challenge consists of 25 maths problems which test students' logical thinking, ability to problem solve, and understanding of fundamental mathematical ideas.

In Year 9, Ivian was awarded a bronze award, which is a fair result in a paper which is also written by Year 10s and 11s.

In Year 10, Maame achieved silver, and bronze was awarded to Meggie, Stepan, Daniella and Khyar.

Well done to all those that participated! For anyone who would like to take part next year, the UKMT website has a comprehensive collection of past papers which can be used for practice. These challenges are meant to be fun and are meant to push you out of your comfort zone, so they are an excellent resource for students who enjoy a challenge.



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Business - St Mary's was delighted to introduce the new employment pathway for some of our sixth formers. This pathway consists of completing both the London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF) Certificate in Financial Education (CeFE) along with the Cambridge National in Information Technology.

The two qualifications together provide our students with key skills and knowledge to be able to enter any professional workplace, apprenticeship or towards studying further.

Since the start of the LIBF course the students have been very dedicated and committed to their studies and they have now completed the first two units' exams where they have achieved a fantastic 100% pass rate which is outstanding. Within the qualification this means that our students have now achieved the first Award in Financial Education (AiFE) with LIBF.

With only one more unit exam left to complete in the summer we are excited to see the positive progress of these young people and we are very proud of what they have managed to achieve this year.

Sixth Form - 6th form students recently had a session about study skills and resilience session with Jeremy from Maximize Your Potential. The session was engaging and provided lots of examples to support them as they push towards the final A Level and end of Year 12 exams. He discussed the 1% gains, revision methods, the importance of self-belief, use of apps etc as well as the real life journeys of people such as Muhammed Ali and Michelle Obama as inspiration. The students left energized and enthused with some new and some older but 'refreshed' methods that they can apply to their revision and application to study. The student evaluations were very positive, with students identifying their three most interesting ideas learnt and three areas to make an active change.



Year 12 and 13 students recently went to see *The Ocean at the end of the Lane* at the Duke of York's Theatre. It was an excellent production - visually stunning and captivating. It has given the groups plenty of material to write about in our exams

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Exams - With the exams period approaching fast, students have begun their preparation in earnest. We are aware that Covid has affected the continuity of lessons over the last couple of years, but we are determined to support our students and offer them the best possible chance to achieve their potential. We would like to make you aware of the quality online resources we have in place.

Microsoft 365	Dynamic Learning (Online Magazine)	www.dramaonlinelibrary.com
Google Classroom	Boost	www.digitaltheatreplus.com
Hegarty Maths	UniFrog	Computer Science: Learning to code
Accelerated Reader	Quizlet	Yandex.Translate.fr
My-On Book Library	ActiveLearn	Bedrock Learning
GCSEPOD	KnowITAllNinja	
Arc GIS	Seneca	
PiXL Learning	BBC Bitesize	

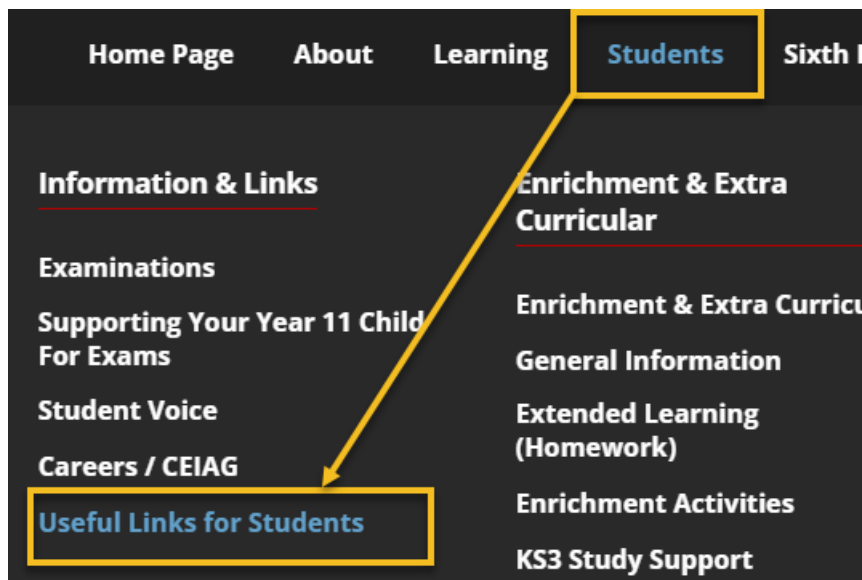
The link for all this can be found on the school website under “Students” tab and students have been given their usernames and passwords where applicable.

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Students can also download Microsoft Applications from the Microsoft Website using the school email. The link for the download can be found inside the school email system (see email link above: MS 365). Google classroom is being used more and more, and as well as accessing work and homework. It is also a good place for students to communicate with their class teacher and ask questions. Parents can use their child's log-in details to get access to all areas of Google Classroom, the same way as your son/daughter does.

I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter and have learned more about the work the students are doing in and out of the classroom at St Mary's, and the successes they are achieving.

As I write this, I am really looking forward to our Celebration Acts of Worship on the last day of term. I am proud to have signed nearly 300 certificates for awards for attendance, hard work and great behaviour. I am also looking forward to awarding the first Head Teacher's Award... the winner will be revealed during the morning!

I wish you and your families a very Happy Easter.

Yours faithfully

Nicholas Simms
Headteacher

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