

27 May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Newsletter



As I write this newsletter, I come from seeing different lessons that had the Platinum Jubilee as a theme. In English, they were developing their understanding of language and literature using stimuli (pictures, film, poetry) linked to the Queen, the Jubilee and other national celebration events like the 2012 Olympics; in Art they were looking at the art behind the design of the Queen's coronation dress and the crown, and designing their own versions. There will be many other lessons across the school in many different subjects where the Jubilee is a theme to mark this significant occasion. On Monday we gave all the staff and students a commemorative badge (pictured above) to wear, and on 15 July we will be hosting a whole-school Platinum Jubilee event where students are off timetable and doing fun activities through the day.

Back in March, we were finally (post-Covid) able to take part in the 'Voice in a Million' competition. After being postponed in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID restrictions, St Mary's 'Phoenix Singers' finally had the opportunity to perform in 'Voice in a Million' 2022.

Music

Voice in A Million presents an opportunity of a lifetime for school children from all backgrounds throughout the UK, to come together united in song and perform in front of their own family and friends in what has been billed as 'The World's most spectacular school concert', raising awareness of the plight of children in care and the importance of Adoption and Fostering.

'Phoenix Singers' successfully auditioned for a featured solo and performed 'Anytime You Need a Friend' on the main stage in front of an audience of over 10 thousand.

This is what organiser Jo Garafalo said after, "St Mary's were absolutely awesome last night and your soloists were incredible, I would love them in our stage choir! It has been great to work with and get to know you both over the last few years, long may it continue".

As a result of this performance several of our singers have auditions for the 'on-stage' choir.

We have already registered for 2023, if your child would like to join our singers please see Miss King in the music department to arrange an audition.

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Founders Day

On 26th April a service was attended by the whole of Year 7, at St Mary the Virgin Church, for the Founder's Day Service.

In 1640 Robert Dewhurst founded his free school for boys at Churchgate, Cheshunt. He handed over its management to trustees in 1642, three years before his death in 1645. Twelve trustees were appointed. The Trust deed specified the school to "remain for ever for the benefit of poor children of the parish for the teaching of them there to read English, so that they may know God the better, and also to write and cast accounts so that they may be better able to be apprenticed to some honest trade or mystery."

St Mary's CE High School is part of the Dewhurst Trust, and each year we attend a service of 'thanks' to our historical benefactors.



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The service was led by Father Eugene and Mr Simms and music was performed by both Dewhurst St Mary and Holy Trinity CE Primary Schools and by our own choir the 'Phoenix Singers', led by Mr Crosby and Miss King.

Science

In Science, we marked Science Week with activities explaining different scientific phenomena, including the "Collapsing can", "Flame tests", and "Investigating disease and spread of infection". Alexi (Year 7) won the prize for best model with this Solar System model. Leo and Adaeze (both Year 7) got a special mention for participating in all activities. The students really enjoyed the activities and learned a lot from them.



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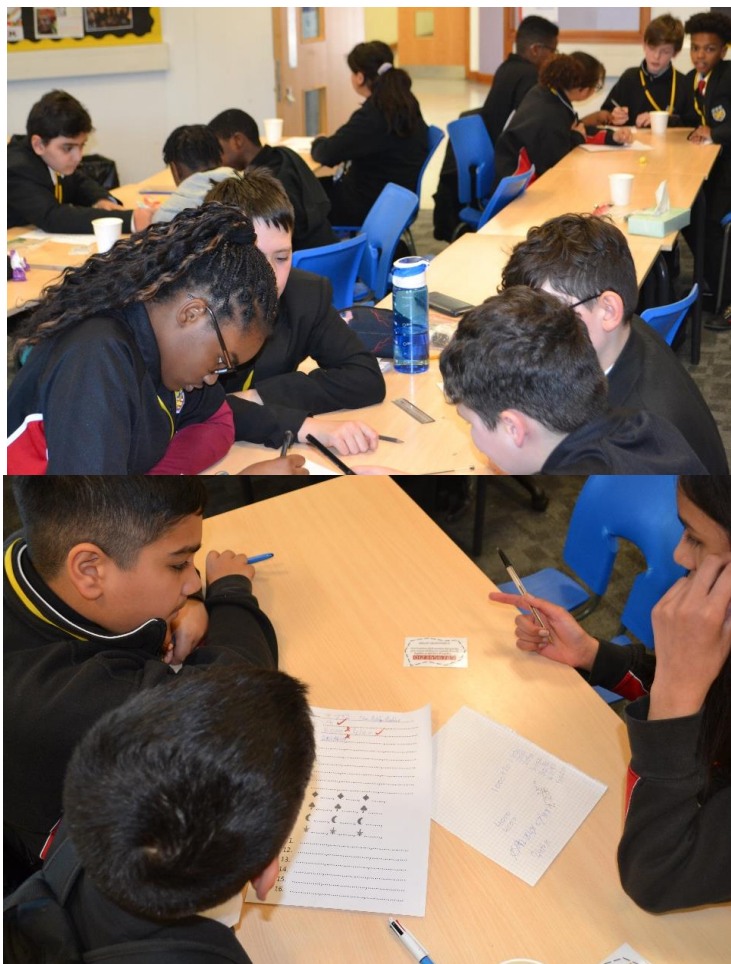
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Maths

Students have been very busy in Maths this half term, with a range of Maths competitions and activities. Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students celebrated World Maths Day by competing in an inter-house maths competition known as a "Relay Race". Competitors competed to complete maths puzzles as quickly, and accurately as possible.



Year 7 results

1	17	7S1	Patrick, Logan, Talliah, Alfie
2	14	7F1/2	Kyion, Isaac, Rhian, Zacary
3	13	7K1	Jesse, Jeremy, Noah, Baran
4	11	7T1	Ollie, Achai, Tyler
5	9	7T2	Tao, Stephanie, Ashlea
6	7	7S2	Narin, Iggy, Nikodem, Dera

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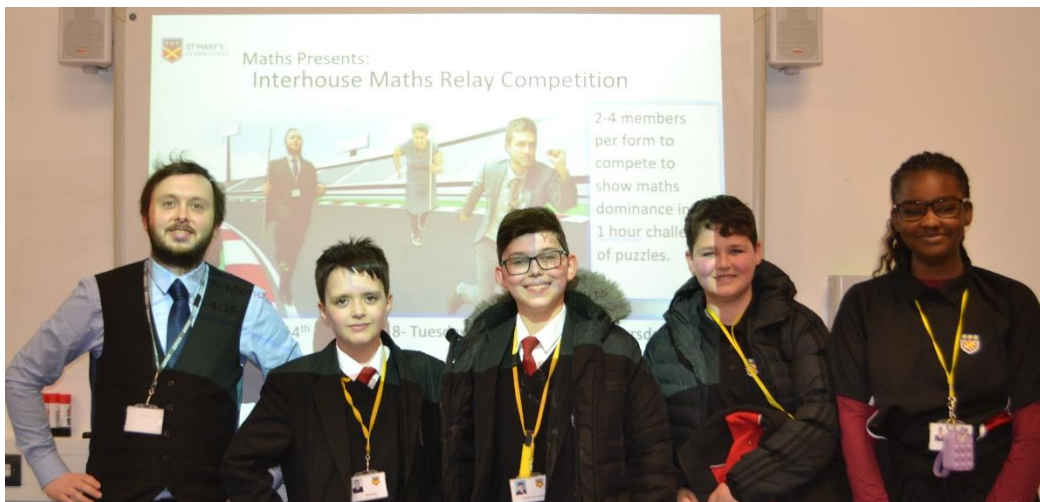
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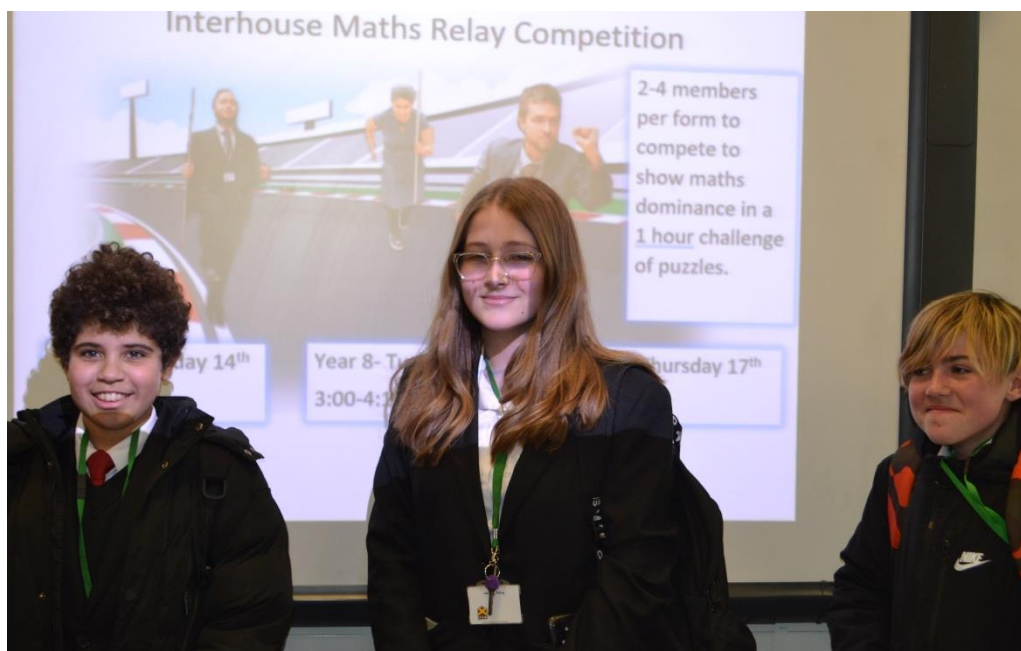
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Year 8 results

1	22	8S2	Ruby, Harlee, Rafael
2	21	8T1	Efe, Sema, Jason
3	20	8F2	Tara, Jakub
4	16	8K1	Katie, Charlie
5	14	8T2	Isabella, Ria



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Year 9 Results

1	33	9F	Sarah, Jake, Phoebe
2	28	9K	Micah, Elaine, Liam, Defne
3	25	9T	Ivian, Nana, Jude, Aaryan
4	23	9S2	Bradley, Oliver, Jimi
5	20	9S1	Michaelange, Dayo



All competitors enjoyed the event and represented their House and school with distinction and valour!

In addition to this, a small team of Year 7s took on a series of mathematical challenges against 40 other schools in Hertfordshire. The team got a respectable score of 106 points. There were some exceptionally demanding tasks and activities in the challenge, so all students can take considerable pride in the way they approached the afternoon. The team consisted of Talliah 7S1, Stephanie 7T2, Ashlea 7T2 and Leo 7F1.

Then, on the 27th and 28th of April, a group of learners from Year 7 and 8 participated in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, a one hour test which is written by students across the UK. This test is meant to be challenging and push learners to apply what they have learnt in class to novel situations.

While the results below show the students who performed well, every learner who took part should be proud of themselves and give the challenge a try again next year. The challenge is a wonderful opportunity to build the problem solving and lateral thinking skills required to excel in maths, so anyone who would like to attempt the challenge next year must let their teacher know.

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Year 7 Team

Filip	Silver (Best in Year)
Tyler	Silver
Danny	Bronze
Alexi	Bronze

Year 8 Team

Efe	Silver (Best in School)
Chris	Silver
Antreas	Silver
Ashvin	Silver
Maya	Bronze
Nicole	Bronze
Jason	Bronze
Brian	Bronze
Ria	Bronze
Milena	Bronze
Johan	Bronze
Jakub	Bronze
Alyssia	Bronze

It is excellent to read about their successes!

English writing competition

The talents of our students never cease to amaze me. Two students from Year 10 have been selected to have their short stories published, following successful competition entries to 'Mini-Sagas; Twisted Tales'. Lewis's story 'Far' and Ria's story 'No-Man's-Land' were selected from hundreds of entries from around the country. An excellent achievement from two students whose writing has shone well beyond St Mary's. Well done.



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Year 8 Interschool Hertfordshire competition



A team of Year 8 students took part in an interschool maths challenge against 38 other teams throughout Hertfordshire. Efe, Katie, Ruby, Jason and Joshua worked well as a team and each of them played an important part in contributing to their success. The team were faced with some general maths questions, a memory and description round, an estimation round and a final general maths question round. Overall the team placed 22nd of which I am incredibly proud. Everyone had a great time, and they are looking forward to building on their score for next year.

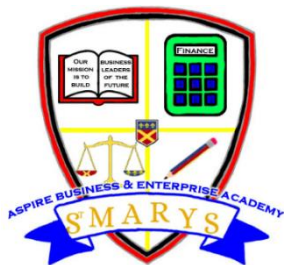
Work Experience

Two of our Year 9 students took part in a local fire station training and work experience week.

The trainers who trained them for this week could not praise them enough. They said that Arda should be a firefighter, and has developed his skills in team building and resilience through the week. His trainer was so proud of him and said he could not praise him enough. Similarly Hayden performed really well and was the “last man standing” when they had finished their drill - a great achievement to stand in front of adult strangers and report the job had been completed.

Both the boys completed their challenge against another set of boys, reeling out the hose as a team, giving commands, firing the hose at a target, reeling the hose, packing away and all this while working closely together. They won the first challenge and they won overall. Their Head of Year and Student Manager were very proud with what they have achieved this week.

Aspire Business & Enterprise Academy



The **Aspire Business & Enterprise Academy** has been busy building our **Opportunities Portfolio** for students to gain further skills, knowledge, experiences and qualifications in addition to the exciting academic learning journey they are progressing through. Students are also being given opportunities to develop key criteria for their personal statements for university or apprenticeships and ultimately their CV's.

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The Opportunities Portfolio contains different opportunities ranging from report writing and sign language courses to digital marketing and first aid qualifications. To date over 15 students have already independently studied, achieved and gained the 'Fundamentals of Digital Marketing' Certificate delivered online by Google Garage and accredited by the Open University.

Sign Language Beginners Course

This course is based on British Sign Language (BSL) has been delivered by a local member from our community over a 6-week period. Both students and staff members have attended learning together, with St Mary's sponsoring the students for half of the associated costs. From complete novices all attendees have developed their skills and can now, to varying degrees, communicate using BSL.

Feedback from students included that the best part of the training was "getting to learn the basics of a language that will become more used in the future". Another student stated that it was great "learning signs I can use at work". This course has provided an important insight into promoting a more inclusive community where communication is vital to ensure everyone can be



involved. As a further commitment, we have secured some sign language books for our library which are now available for all students and staff to review and learn this important skill. We look forward to running this course again in the new school year.

Emergency First Aid at Work

As a vital requirement in every workplace in the UK the Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) Level 3 qualification provides a 3-year validity period where you can be registered as an emergency first aider in a workplace. At St Mary's, we understand how important it is for people to have some lifesaving training and via a local provider, to date, we have had 4 individual full days of training with assessment where we have over 25 sixth form students now first aid qualified.



This has been a great experience for the students as they have not only qualified in an essential workplace requirement with lots of practical assessed tasks such as CPR, choking and bandaging, they have also experienced a complete workplace training situation. Students feedback included; "It was very easy to follow along and was able to explain the concepts of First Aid in great detail" and "I really enjoyed the first aid course, it was interesting, useful and very informative" whilst Year 13 student Vas said "I am glad that I have learnt

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these new skills, so I know that in a worst case scenario, I will be able to help others". We will be continuing to provide access to this qualification for our current and new sixth form students.

I hope you and your family enjoy the half term break and are able to take part in the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee, whether that be face-to-face with street parties or other events, or on the television, watching the Trouping the Colour, Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's or the Concert at the Palace.

I wish all of you good health,

Yours faithfully



Nicholas Simms
Headteacher

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