



10 June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Newsletter

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I hope you and your family had a good half term and enjoyed any Jubilee parties and activities you took part in.

On the afternoon of last day of term, we held a service in our Memorial Garden in memory of Christopher Nicolaou, who passed away in March. It was attended by about 60 people, including staff, governors, and of course Christopher's family and friends. It was a touching tribute to Christopher and we presented his family with a tribute book containing messages from staff and students as well as photographs we had of Christopher taking part in different school events over the years.

We made Road Safety the focus of our act of worship this week. I share the Powerpoint that we showed students here: [AoW](#) and ask that you discuss with your children their behaviour on the way to/from school and how they can ensure they stay safe (including **not** using mobile phones or other devices to talk on or listen to music on). Sadly, half of all pedestrian deaths nationally are from people aged 15-19 and I ask that you look at the Powerpoint we shared with the students (including the notes at the bottom of many slides) and discuss this with your children. We want them to know how to behave safely when they are between home and school and to avoid situations that are dangerous to them and others.

Business Studies

Recently, the 6th form Business group went on a working visit to the Harry Potter World. I am assured that they did a lot of work, as well as enjoying the experience of the studios! Please read on for their report:

On Tuesday 10 May 2022, the Business team took a group of Year 12 & 13 students to the Magical world of Warner Bros. Studios: The making of Harry Potter in Watford.

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Business Group go to Warner Bros. Studios 2022



We were taken to a special classroom which had exclusive props for us to see, costumes and drawings, including the original Hagrid silicone head model. Students enjoyed a special marketing lesson based around how the Harry Potter movie franchise was marketed and changed over the years to attract their growing audience.



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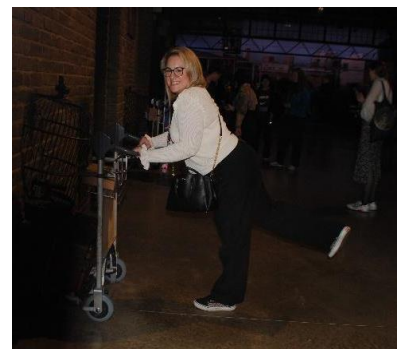
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It also featured how social media was used and how it was adapted over the years.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the lesson and ended up writing and pitching their own ideas to promote a trailer for a new film. Their ideas were very creative and impressive! We may have some movie directors in the making here at St Mary's.... Watch this space!



After the lesson, we took a tour of the Warner Bros. Studio where we were all so impressed with the secrets behind the movie! From the Gryffindor common room, to Dumbledore's enchanting office flying cars! A couple of sets in particular stood out from the rest, including the original 4 Privet Drive House and the original Hogwarts Express Train Station.



Mrs Achilleos: "It was a magical experience for us all, and so lovely to be able to take our students on educational trips again. These experiences are invaluable and memories they will never forget."

Marianna: "A big thank you to the Business Team for organizing this amazing trip and I would recommend it to all lower year groups as I feel they would also love it."



Geography

On Tuesday 24 May, 'Club 9' Year 7 students took part in a joint Geography and Science activity for the day. They were set a challenge to construct a house that would withstand flooding. They were then given a budget and were able to buy the resources they needed having thought about the structure and materials that would work best. Once the houses were complete we were joined by Father Eugene who judged the buildings and tested their waterproof capacity.

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The winning group built the building which was the most like a real dwelling whilst still having a good capacity to resist a flood. The students were engaged and enthusiastic all day and were a joy to work with.



English - Poetry

This year St Mary's was involved with the Just Talk poetry competition along with other local schools – the second year we have been involved. Just Talk is a multi-agency campaign, steered by young people. In 2017, a group of professionals from various agencies in Hertfordshire came together to discuss current mental health services, projects and campaigns and as a result of this meeting, extensive research and consultation took place with young people across Hertfordshire - The Just Talk campaign was born. They champion that 'We all have mental health, just like we all have physical health' and 'It's OK to not be OK'.

This year's competition was open to KS3, KS4 and Sixth Form students, with the title "The Gift of Kindness". Organised by Mrs Buxton, our Wellbeing Lead, in conjunction with the English department, the quality of the submissions was extremely high and proved difficult to judge.

St Mary's overall winner and 4 runners up all received Amazon vouchers. Below is the winning entry by a Year 11 student.

The Gift of Kindness

***Sometimes I feel like the moon carrying the burden of the night sky alone
I'm crying brightly, but all they see is the faint shine,
never how hard I work.***

Shouts and screams, panics and pressures, they build up like a mountain

"Try harder"

"Too lazy"

"Just not good enough"

"So much potential"

"You're such a disappointment"

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*If only you were like
 them.
 Why can I never get anything right?
 Judging me. Physiognomy. Whispers.
 "Be careful, the moon could cause you to drown"
 I'm drowning.
 And it's cold.
 I look out at the shining stars and the blazing sun before me,
 It burns,
 Stings,
 Agonises.
 Why can't I be like you?
 I don't want to be me
 I don't want to be the moon.
 But I hear a gentle, soothing voice reaching out, ever so slightly, surrounding me with a myriad of
 understanding – simple consideration – a gift.
 A faint flicker of hope
 I realise -
 I'm never carrying the night sky alone.*

We all struggle sometimes and there is help available for young people and parents/carers. Please use this link if you would like to know more: [Just Talk](#).

JUBILEE WEEK WORK

Art

To commemorate the Platinum Jubilee, our Year 7 artists paid homage to the Queen's 70-year service on the throne, by recreating images by artists over the last 70 years. Year 7 students created some incredibly creative and imaginative monoprints of her majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Using ink and oil pastel mono printing techniques our Year 7 artists researched contemporary artists such as Andy Warhol, Banksy, Pure Evil and several more to inspire their designs.

Here are some examples of those monoprints.



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Business Studies

Our amazing Year 9 and 10 Enterprise and Business students enjoyed researching businesses that have made changes to their products for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. They were interested to find out what brands were willing to do to help participate in the celebrations, whether it be to change their packaging to incorporate the event, add to their product ranges including some with limited editions, or amend their products name.

Students selected their favourites and then created imagined they were the marketing team for the business so they completed their own Marketing Mix '4P's' for the products to ensure that they would be marketed to the best ability during the Jubilee.

We are very impressed with their thought processes as their work shows they would be able to build effective marketing campaigns.

<p>Product:</p> <p>The Heinz salad cream bottle has had the packaging changed for the queen's jubilee. The changes in the packaging consist of a different background colour with a darker green than the original bottle packaging. The main difference is the wording 'salad queen' instead of salad cream. And it has a big crown with number 70 in the middle of it celebrating the queen's 70th year on the throne. Above the crown instead of it saying 'original' it says 'platinum jubilee edition'.</p>		<p>Place:</p> <p>I will sell this product in common English shops like Tesco, Iceland, Aldi, Waitrose, Lidl, Asda, Sainsbury, morrisons to celebrate the 70th year of the queen's reign in England. I will sell in these places because it's traditional English food shops.</p>
<p>Price:</p> <p>The original salad cream bottle costs £2.50. I would charge this exclusive salad queen limited edition jubilee bottle at £7 since it is limited edition and celebrating the queen's 70th which is a big deal in England so the packaging may be in high demand and will be very limited.</p>		<p>Promotion:</p> <p>I will advertise this product on tv, on the radio, on newspapers, and on the Heinz website. I will be mentioning how it is very limited and in high demand. And to be advertising it on billboards and to pay for google ads and YouTube adverts to get it talked about and to appear on people's feed. People may take this as a way to make profit as it is limited packaging and exclusive</p>

Drama

In KS3 Drama lessons during Jubilee week, we explored the title 'Heavy is the Head that Wears the Crown' – a quote we used from Shakespeare's play Henry IV, said by King Henry, and also Stormzy used this phrase in his song called The Crown which year 9 Drama classes explored. What does this phrase mean? Why might someone who wears the crown be heavy? What is this a metaphor of?

Also we looked at whether being the queen might be a gift or a burden, what might be the advantages but also the disadvantages of this.

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KS3 explored the concept of what this phrase means – exploring the idea of what the advantages of being part of the royal family might be but also what the downside might be as well.

They groups used two contrasting tableaux, then movement and role play to bring their tableaux alive, before presenting their work to the class.

Words such as Service/Serving the people and duty were also explored.


Maths


Key stage 3 students in maths celebrated the queens Jubilee by looking at the kind of maths everyday people would have had to use during the early days of the Queen's reign. Students focused on using money prior to decimalisation and use of pounds, shillings, and pence. Once students had an idea of how this “unusual” currency system worked they explored the amount of maths required to buy items using 1950's prices and ended with planning a “coronation party”


Students enjoyed exploring this old currency, but overwhelming consensus was that they are glad it was replaced!



You do...
Plan a coronation party

Your Budget:


£1


× 3 10s


× 8 1d

You do...

Some questions to practice:


How much to buy:


- 10 newspapers: ?
- 4 loafs of bread: ?
- 8 Giant Crunchie: ?
- 12 eggs: ?

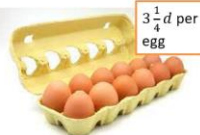
Find the total from the shopping list:


- x1 newspaper
- x3 loafs
- x4 eggs
- X1 crunchie

How much change would you get from a £1 note?


 $2 \frac{1}{2} d$


 $8 \frac{1}{4} d$


 $3 \frac{1}{4} d$ per egg


 6^d

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PE

Students took part in a retro Sports Day to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Students from all year groups got the chance to take part in tug of war, three legged, egg and spoon and sack races during their PE lessons. All that took part very much enjoyed the activities and experiencing what sports days looked like when Her Majesty would have been at school.

Some photos of the activities are below



Science

Before half term Year 10 students were studying the Chemistry unit 'Material Choices.' During this we looked at different allotropes (forms) of carbon, including diamond. We studied the structure and bonding of diamond and this linked nicely to our KS4 Jubilee lesson on The Crown Jewels.

Students learnt about the history and composition of the Crown Jewels and also used their Scientific investigative skills and ideas about density to decide how they would determine if Crown Jewels on display at the Tower of London are the real deal or a false copy!

KS3 students also got involved by linking the Crown Jewels to their work on Atoms, Elements and Compounds (in Year 7) and Metals and their Uses (Year 8). These students used their knowledge to design their own crowns.

Did you know? The Crown Jewels
comprise of over 23,000 gemstones.



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Textiles

Year 9 Textiles students made bunting as part of Jubilee Week.

Each student decorated a flag inspired by the Queen using fabric paint and batik and these were sewn together. Considering they only had one lesson to do this, they did really well! See below a selection of the work the students generated.



I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Nicholas Simms'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Nicholas Simms
Headteacher

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