

8 July 2022

Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this finds you well. As another wave of warm weather approaches, next week will be a 'blazers off' week – please see the additional letter regarding exactly what this means.

I see too many students without water bottles and this worries me in the hot weather. Staff and students are not allowed to carry open-topped cups/beakers around school for safety reasons. Covid restrictions have been lifted and water fountains re-opened, and we have updated them so that they easily fill water bottles (and, for hygiene reasons, make it difficult to drink from directly). There are also plenty of fresh water jugs in the Dining Room for students to use. **Please ensure your child has a water bottle to use in school and that they use it!**

Geography

In Geography recently Year 10 students spent the day carrying out fieldwork in two different locations. Some students spent the hottest day of the year at Epping Forest investigating the flow of the river using techniques such as velocity and width and depth. The other half of the group spent the day in Stratford carrying out human fieldwork such as asking questionnaires and completing environmental quality surveys. Both groups of students had a fantastic time and represented the school really well in the way they carried out their learning.



WE BELIEVE EVERYONE IS EQUAL: EVERYONE DESERVES THE BEST

Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN7 5FB t: 01992 629124 f: 01992 643354

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“Club 9” is a Geography Club that puts on activities to help students achieve higher GCSE grades. The Year 9 Club 9 students were captivated by a talk from a Middle East Education charity. Two speakers, one Jewish and one Muslim spoke of their own personal experiences and the wider political setting of the current Israel Palestine situation. Students were able to ask thought provoking questions and gain an understanding of the complex experiences of people living in that area.



PE

Year 12 Sport students travelled to Fairfield’s primary school to support with their sports day. This year, the students have completed units of work on sports coaching and skill acquisition. This was the ideal opportunity for them to put this in to action and they excelled in leading the young children in sporting activities.

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SPANISH CLUB

Thank you to all the Year 7 students that have participated in the Spanish Club this year. We have had a fabulous group of students that were really excited to meet every week and learn interesting things about Hispanic culture. Students listened, sang and danced Spanish music. They also made creative cards, hand fans, traditional Spanish tiles, played games, quizzes and had so much fun!



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Wellbeing

To mark Mental Health Awareness Day, St Mary's took inspiration from the TAKE A MOMENT 2022 photography exhibition by artist Ray Burmiston, who had recently taken over the West End to raise awareness for mental health.

Ray Burmiston has captured hundreds of photographs of stars with their eyes closed over the last 10 years highlighting the importance of taking a moment for themselves to focus on their mental health.

The spectacular exhibition featured a huge number of famous faces photographed with their eyes closed. Featuring portraits of A-list stars including David Walliams, Kylie Minogue, Stephen Fry, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden, Kate Moss, Richard Ayoade, Helena Bonham Carter, Ricky Gervais, Grayson Perry, Mel B, James Corden, Nish Kumar, and many others from the worlds of entertainment and sport. Spectators had the opportunity to be part of the movement, and see their faces up on the Piccadilly Lights alongside iconic celebrated stars. The public could post an eyes closed selfie on Instagram, in a moment of reflection for the chance to appear on the Piccadilly Lights along with much-loved celebrities and 'famous faces' of the West End.

St Mary's took this idea and now have their own TAKE A MOMENT exhibition displayed in the school's Wellbeing area, with photos of staff and students highlighting the importance of looking after your mental health.

For more information about the original exhibition please use this link <https://takeamoment.uk/about.html>



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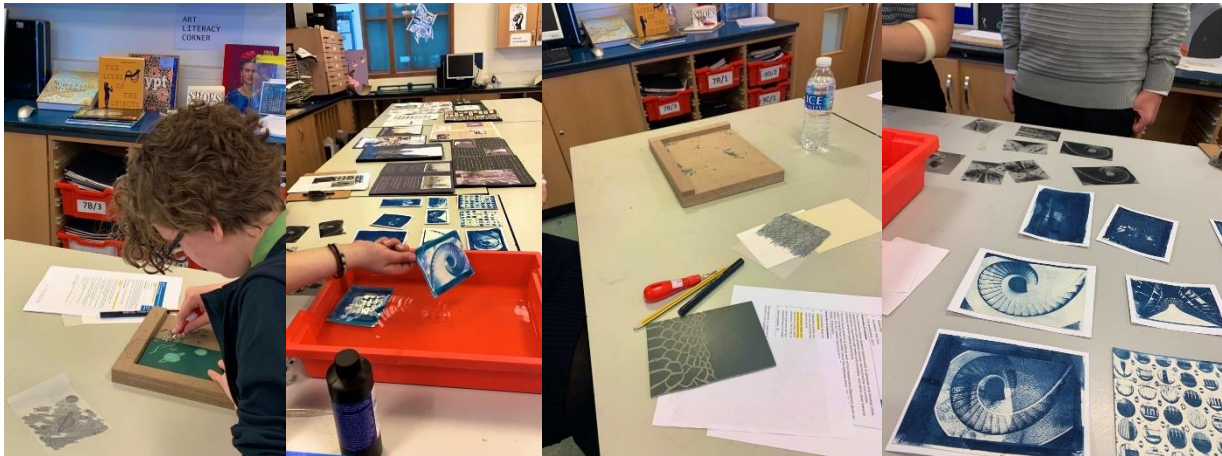
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Art

The Art department would like to congratulate its Year 10 artists, on the completion of their 'Identity' final exam pieces. The 5-hour exam produced a selection of exceptional and confident final ideas.



The Art Department were incredibly pleased to welcome back its Year 11 artists this week. Students were given the opportunity to create Lino prints in art and design and cyanotype prints in photography. Here is a little taste of the processes and outcomes.



Charity event

Bullying is rare at St Mary's and one of the reasons for this, is that a select number of students from Years 7-10 are trained as Anti-bullying ambassadors through the Diana Award Charity. Students were keen to raise money for the charity and worked hard baking cakes, cookies and blondies to sell at break and lunchtime. The goods were a hit and sold out on both occasions with the Ambassadors really enjoying the sale and making a total of £50 for charity.

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Science - STEM

This week saw was the last session for STEM club this academic year. We had the STEM awards session and then rocket launch, although (as with the best experiments) we had some technical difficulties! This year in total we had 40 students coming to at least one of the 23 sessions, and each session averaged 10 students. We did different activities covering Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Five students (Tara and Ruby in Year 8, Gabriela, Sam and Leo in Year 7) were also rewarded with a Bronze CREST award for their projects. For next year we expect to have more students participating in CREST awards and also coming to STEM sessions.



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Sixth Form

Year 12 UCAS Fair

The sixth form team were pleased to be able to take Year 12 to the University of Bedfordshire this half term for the UCAS university fair. With over 125 universities and Higher Education Institutes exhibiting, as well as a series of presentations and demonstration activities, it was a fantastic opportunity for the students to investigate their Post 18 options. The campus looked great, the exhibitors were full of knowledge and we even had an opportunity to speak to an ex-student who was there as an exhibitor.



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Sixth Form Induction

It was fantastic to see so many Year 11 students return for the Sixth Form Induction - our first face-to-face event in a few years. Students were able to experience 'a taste' of the A Level options they have selected, explore their options and hear all about life in the sixth form. The team are ready to welcome the students back and Mrs Hunter and the tutors are looking forward to supporting the students when they return in September.



Year 13 Leavers

After a busy year, it was lovely to bring the Year 13 students together one final time to celebrate their time with us; to reflect on the journey they have been on (starting with the online, virtual induction) and celebrate their successes. This group of young people epitomise the role models that we wish our students to be and through their hard work and dedication to every step of their journey, we believe that they will, indeed, be successful. We are looking forward to sharing their successes in August as they collect their results and transition on to their university places, apprenticeship roles and employment opportunities.

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Thank you in advance for your support

I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

Nicholas Simms
Headteacher

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