

# Mount St Mary's Catholic High School

Educating The Individual For The Benefit Of All

The news magazine for Mount St Mary's Catholic High School



**Spring 2019**  
**MSM Messenger**

As we approach our Spring break we find ourselves slightly out of sync with some Leeds schools and yet still a little while from the Feast of Easter. Our students continue to throw themselves into a whole range of activities and learning opportunities every chance they get.

This term we have launched our new MSM **ASPIRE** Award, an online log which allows all our students to record their development through; **A**ttitudes to learning, **S**uccess in their student graduation challenges, **P**SHCE and CEIAG, **I**nvolvement in all aspects of life, **R**egistration and assembly roles and lastly **E**videncing their contributions and giving back in school, at home and in the community. Students and staff have embraced this new initiative to bring together all these aspects of school life in which our students excel.

Shortly after Easter Year 11 will find themselves entering the world of GCSE exams and we will amend their timetables to provide focused preparation for each subject's exam. I am sure you will all join me in wishing them well and supporting them at this stressful time.

We wish Mr Addison, Assistant Head teacher and SENDCO, well as he moves to a new role in Bradford at Easter. Whilst I am sure he is excited he will also miss the MSM community. Mr O'Brien will join us after Easter in this role and we look forward to his contribution to our school family.

I hope you have a restful and Holy Easter season and look forward to welcoming everyone back safely for the Summer term.



Mark Cooper  
Headteacher

## Our Mission

The community of Mount St Marys is called to develop the full potential of each person - spiritually, academically, Socially and Physically - and to create a safe and happy and caring school.



We received the following email from Emily Clark, a Senior Fundraiser for St Gemma's Hospice:

Thank you so much to you, all of the staff and students who stood out in the freezing cold to raise money yesterday. I bumped into another member of staff at the Light up a Life concert at Immaculate Heart Church last night and he said the students had been fantastic.

We've counted the buckets and there was a total of £1590 in them, which is fantastic! I hope you're all pleased with that as it's enough to pay for 6 patients to receive visits from our Community Nursing team, who care for patients in their own homes. This is especially valuable over Christmas when patients and families rely on our 24 hour support.

I'd be really happy to come into school in the New Year to give an assembly to thank the students for their incredible hard work and commitment. It's an amazing achievement and they should all be really proud of themselves.

Thanks so much,  
Emily.



## Mount St Mary students set to IGNITE YORKSHIRE

Mount St Mary students are working with Canal Connections to take a leading role in a 4-year long, Heritage Lottery funded, programme called "IGNITE YORKSHIRE". This will create a revolution in how Yorkshire's industrial heritage is viewed, understood, appreciated and engaged with by current and future generations of young people and their communities. The programme will probe and challenge the use of historic assets and develop exciting ways to ignite a new passion and pride for these iconic structures and environments - engaging new communities and audiences.

Our students are focusing on Leeds' historic canal environment, in particular the 300 year-old Aire & Calder Navigation. They have been learning to drive canal boats, manage locks and getting involved with ideas for transforming the neglected, post-industrial waterways environment into community friendly, quality places and spaces for leisure and culture.

Some of their activities have included boat maintenance, recycling planks from a waterside office building ready to reuse as outdoor benches and tables at the site of a proposed "City Beach"; carrying out a clean-up of waterborne litter at the site of a proposed "Heron Garden" within the Leeds South Bank area; and beginning to develop ideas for transforming Knostrop Lock in Stourton into a family picnic destination.



# World Book Day 2019

MSM hosted our annual World Book Day celebrations on 5 March 2019. Year 7 students and staff got into the spirit of the day by dressing up as their favourite book characters. Our guest visitor Andy Brooks, aka Testament, premiered a new show for the students, followed by a Mad Hatters Tea Party for the best-dressed book characters; to end the celebrations students went home with a goody bag. What an amazing day!



## Year 11 Football

League Champions! The Year 11 squad have just been crowned the South Leeds Champions and will now progress to a play off against teams from other areas of Leeds to produce a Leeds Champion. Having won every league game this season, conceding only 3 goals and scoring 15+, the scene is set for more success after Easter.

On top of this they are still in the hunt for the Leeds KO cup championship. We have a 1/4 final against Cockburn coming up and if we progress through that it could potentially set up a semi-final against our rivals Abbey Grange. Watch this space...

## Skipping Festival

Once again MSM opened its doors to support the Catholic Schools Annual Skipping festival. Six of our feeder primary schools attended for the afternoon to compete in a variety of skipping associated events. Nine prospective Young Leaders from Year 9 were chosen to support the event to help with their Young Leader applications.

This event has been hosted by MSM for over five years now and I can honestly say I have never had so many adults (parents and staff) make a point of coming to tell me how amazing our Young Leaders were and how proud we as a school must be of them. They could not believe my response when I told them this was their first ever event and they were not yet fully trained Young Leaders! Well done guys!

Leaders -  
James Edwards, Josh Gilmore, Julia Asante, Jason Burke,  
Ester Matondo, Kaleb Fitzpatrick, James Jones,  
George Jordan, Analord Pephrah.



## Year 10 Football

Unfortunately the Year 10 cup run has come to an end following defeat to Cockburn. The team has been an amalgamation of the best players from Years 9 & 10. Mixing year groups can sometimes be difficult but thanks to our schools ethos around community this has proven to be a successful coming together, with both sets of students working hard for one another and respecting each other's talents.

## Year 8 Football

The Year 8's have continued their development in their debut season. Recent performances have shown signs that they are beginning to gel as a team and settle into their own style of play.

## Special Offers on School Uniform & PE Kit

Design School Uniform is offering the following discounts on uniform and PE kit during June and July. Save 10% off uniform by quoting discount code "Headrow". This applies when buying in store and online (this discount does not apply to the PE kit). They are offering a PE "starter pack" which applies to purchases in store only.

The pack is £30.00 and includes every item of kit. This is a saving of £10.00 if you were to buy each item separately. After 31 July items can only be bought separately. The above offers are open to all year groups and end on 31 July 2019. Design School Uniform is located at 21-23 The Headrow, Leeds LS1 6PU (opposite Sports Direct). They can be contacted on 0113 243 6642 or at [www.designschooluniform.co.uk](http://www.designschooluniform.co.uk)

## The Year 7 Netball Team

On 7th March, the Year 7 girl's netball team participated in the Notre Dame Girls netball tournament. We competed against 4 other strong teams - Cardinal Heenan (1st and 2nd team) and Corpus Christi (1st and 2nd team). With very little match experience in netball, we managed to win every game and also achieve an amazing trophy for winning the tournament, gaining 12 points. All of the team made a huge difference on the court, with every player working extremely hard in their first ever netball tournament.

All of the girls are looking forward to the netball matches to come in the future, to show off our individual talents and fantastic teamwork. Thank you for holding an amazing event for us and for making us feel very welcome Notre Dame. Well done girls!

Oluwamayokun Omidele  
Eunice Knode  
Pauliane Wambalu  
Medhin Medhane  
Lorna Kirkwood-Thompson (Captain)  
Daisy Jones  
Leigha McDowell  
Hermila Yohens  
Melawit Kesate



## Sky Try 9's

This year's Sky Try 9's has kicked off with our Year 9 team competing in the opening qualifying round. There were some new faces in the squad this year. The team has maintained its fighting spirit and camaraderie, finishing 2nd in their pool. We now wait to see where they will be placed for the finals night. Next up will be the Year 8 squad followed by the Year 7 squad making their debut. We wish them all the best for their upcoming fixtures.

# Year 11 Revision Retreat

Over a wet and windy weekend in mid-March, 26 of our Year 11 students enjoyed a revision retreat at West End Outdoor Centre near Thruscross Reservoir, Harrogate. We left school on Friday lunchtime and after unpacking, we were straight into our first academic session of the weekend. This was followed by tea, skilfully rustled up by Mrs Turner, Mrs Campleman and Mrs Grayston! After our meal, we ventured out on a night walk around the reservoir along with Mr Walker and Mr Day – luckily, we had a lovely, starry night and the rain held off!

Saturday, (as has always been the case for our Year Groups residentials!) was a day of torrential rain from sun rise to sun set. Impressively, 6 students went on a very wet 6.00am run with Mr Day – rather than me! The less energetic of us began the day at 8.00am with breakfast, followed by a full morning of academic sessions in English, Maths, and RE delivered by Mr Walker and Mr Day along with Mrs Rudge and Mrs Johnston who visited us for the morning. After lunch, we had to abandon our plans for a walk to Bolton Abbey due to the weather and instead went 10 pin bowling in Skipton followed by an American Diner tea at Billy Bob's Parlour. As the weather wrecked our plans for an outdoor camp fire we had to settle for watching a film and eating popcorn and pizza instead!

Thankfully, we awoke to a sunny Sunday morning which began with a cooked breakfast followed by a service in a lovely room with the sun shining through stained glass windows. This was a poignant moment for many of our students as they were given back the letters that they wrote to "My Future Self" when they joined MSM in September 2014. The letters jogged many memories and created a few emotional moments but none more so than our students singing "One more step along the world I go", a song they sung at their Year 7 Welcome Mass and one that is so pertinent to the here and now as they head in to their GCSE exams.

After our service Mr Cooper, Mrs Coluccio and Mrs Wylam arrived to deliver the last Maths and Science revision session - Mrs Coluccio and Mrs Wylam got lost on the way - thankfully, they are much better at teaching than they are at reading a map! After lunch, we finished our weekend in style with a group walk in the sunshine – another (and final) residential completed with our Year Group and more happy memories added to the mountain that we have created over our 5 year journey.



# Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the season of Lent. Lent is the season of the Catholic Church leading up to Easter and reminds us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert before his Ministry. On Ash Wednesday Catholics around the world receive ashes on their foreheads in the form of a cross, along with the blessing, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." Our students received their ashes during a series of Liturgies throughout the day.

During the liturgies, students listened to readings from Matthew's Gospel, recounting a passage from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. This gives us clear guidance regarding what we are called to do as Christians, and especially during the season of Lent - Charity, Prayer and Fasting. Through these acts we are taught to focus not on the riches of the earth (material possessions) but to focus all our attentions on Riches in Heaven.

Your Challenge - How are you going to prepare for Easter?

Create in me a clean heart, O God.



## Intergenerational Project

A group of Year 9 students went to Green Acre's Care Home where they have each formed a link with an elderly person. Initially they wrote a letter to the person before Christmas and they then received a Christmas card back.

When they went to visit the Care Home they spent some time with the elderly people outside, completing a questionnaire on their way of life when they were younger. The Year 9 students then had conversations with them to find out more information about the communities they used to live in. Both the elderly people and the Year 9 students shared their own life experiences, and spent the afternoon getting to know each other.



## Business Enterprise Challenge 2019

On Wednesday 24 January, 40 students were selected to participate in the Business Enterprise Challenge, which is a national competition that sees schools compete against one another to create their own business concept, using an interactive online software programme.

On the day, students worked in small teams alongside a business mentor from the local community who will offer support throughout the programme, as well as advice of key aspects on running an ethical business.

It is a great pleasure to announce that one team consisting of five Year 10 students were successful in progressing to the next stage of the competition. Indya Fletcher, Mekhseb Osman, Lemari Mayhew, Feruz Tesfay and Connor White will represent Mount St Mary's at the Regional Final in March 2019 at KPMG, where they will present their business concept to various industry professionals, including a winner from the BBC programme, "The Apprentice".

This is an amazing achievement, particularly as only 5 teams from participating schools in Leeds can progress to the Regional Finals. Congratulations to those that have been involved and long may Mount St Mary's success in the competition continue!



Mount St Mary's Catholic High School  
English and Performing Arts faculty proudly presents

# MAMMA MIA!



This term Mamma Mia hit our stage. It was an amazing insight into the wealth of talent our students at Mount St Mary's possess. The story of Sophie Sheridan and her quest to find her real father, saw a spectacle of dancing, acting and singing which blew the audiences away. From 'Dancing Queen' to 'Waterloo' the cast of 61 students showcased their skills as performers. The teamwork and dedication shown in rehearsals and backstage absolutely showed what it meant to the students to be involved. So many of the cast had solo numbers requiring complicated vocal work and the ensemble and Greek chorus within the piece had to commit to every one of the 20 musical numbers in the show. Every year group in school was represented and we were fortunate to be able to utilise the talents of a student band which took the performance to another level.







The story followed Sophie's quest to find her father so that he can be present at her wedding to Sky. After reading her mother, Donna's diary from the year she was born, Sophie discovers she could have three potential fathers. Sophie played by Erin Shortell (Year 9) and Sky played by Connor White (Year 10) showed amazing chemistry on stage as the couple in 'Lay all your Love on Me', and Harvey Butlin, Kane Carey and Will Cullingworth (Year 11) each played outstandingly as the three potential fathers. Highly professional and outstanding performances, adding comedy and high octane dance routines, were seen with Donna's old band mates, Rosie and Tanya played by Hannah Woodhead and Gabby Gano (Year 10) in numbers such as 'Does Your Mother Know' and 'Chiquitita'. The stand out performance was from Kendall Palfreyman (Year 11) in the role of Donna who led the audience on an emotional rollercoaster - from fun and dreamy 'Money, Money, Money' to the emotional tidal wave of 'The Winner Takes it All'. Her performance commanded standing ovations every night which were well deserved for her performance and leadership of the cast.



The annual production is the highlight of our calendar and we are thrilled so many students took the opportunity to get involved with this year's spectacular show Mamma Mia. This year's production has been the most challenging so far, with more dance routines than we have ever attempted and with the exciting addition of a live student band. The students worked extremely hard and dedicated hundreds of hours to the show; they are a credit to the school. The level of talent and dedication shown was of a highly professional standard and they showed how they are proud to be a part of the Performing Arts Faculty. The cast were incredible and over the three sell out performances showed complete commitment and energy. The number of staff who supported the students was phenomenal, many gave up their time for the whole three night run, supporting technical and stage management, but many more as paying audience members. We are extremely proud of all those involved and we are privileged to work with such inspiring and motivated individuals.

Thank You For the Music! - The Performing Arts Team.

# NCOP + Careers



Helping you navigate your Higher Education options.

**JAN //** Some of our Year 9 students visited the **Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust** to find out more about the Further Education and Higher Education options available within the NHS. Students found out all about the different careers available within medicine and what grades they will need to achieve to get there! Students also developed their communication and teamwork skills.



**JAN //** **Leeds College of Music** hosted a Music Production taster day for some of our Year 9 and 10 students. Students got the opportunity to use

industry software to create their own music and ask questions about University life at **LCoM**.



**JAN//** Miss Hetherington recently started a course for Year 10 students interested in pursuing a career in Art and Design or Performing Arts. The Media Makeup course ran for 9 weeks and saw students recreate designs onto live models. Students amazed us with their natural talent and focus throughout the course!



**FEB //** 20 Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit the **First Direct Bank** offices to partake in a business in focus day. Here students were able to tour the offices and ask questions about different career routes. The students split into two teams and competed against one another to host a fictitious sporting event. Students were given career roles such as; CEO, Advertising Manager, Finance Manager and many more!

**FEB//** Mount St Mary's students can currently be found playing in unison down in the Performing Arts department. Miss Hetherington and Mr Bromwich have launched the first Ukulele club for students, in order to create an ensemble to perform at future events. Stay tuned!

**MSM Careers** is now on **Twitter**. Follow us to keep up-to-date with NCOP events and opportunities to get involved in! **@CareersMsm**



# MSM Debate Mate Students Victorious!

On Tuesday 5th February, Mount St Mary's hosted the first round of the Urban Debate League as part of Debate Mate. Students have been attending after school sessions since November, developing their public speaking skills ready for the competition.

6 teams of students competed in 2 rounds against Allerton High School and Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School; the students taking part were a mixture of those who were new to the competition and those who were more experienced debaters. In each round, students received the motion and had 15 minutes to prepare their speeches, before competing against their opposing side.



In the first round, students debated the motion "This House believes that digital technology has done more harm than good". Overall, 4 out of 6 MSM teams won their debates - an incredibly impressive first round! In the second round, students debated the motion "This House would teach arts subjects through modern rather than classical works". In this more challenging motion, 2 out of 6 teams won their debates. Once all the debates around the country have been completed, scores are put into the Urban Debate League and published online. The results are in: MSM are 1st in Leeds and 14th in the country after the 1st round!

On Wednesday 13th March, MSM once again hosted Allerton High and Cardinal Heenan in the 2nd round of the Urban Debate League. Students debated 2 motions, including the challenging pre-prepared motion "This House believes that Proportional Representation is a better voting system than First Past The Post". Results will be released in the coming weeks; good luck MSM!

## Final Debate For MSM Students At The Tetley

On Wednesday 30th January, Miss Evans and Mr Hinchley took 4 students to The Tetley to compete in a Debating Matters competition against Woodkirk Academy and Outwood Grange.

In the first round, Agata Wroniecka and Serena Banka Pianta debating in proposition, arguing that we should build on the green belt. Both students were praised for their spark and passion by the judges, as well as their in depth research prior to the competition, and were praised for their improvements from the previous year.

In the second round, Evenezer Sultan and Matthew Francisco debated in opposition, arguing against the motion that plain packaging for tobacco products is a good idea. Both students were praised for their animated, passionate, bold and quirky style, with a skill for thinking on their feet. Again, they were praised for their improvements from last year.

Unfortunately Woodkirk Academy were declared winners overall, but all 4 students put in outstanding performances in their last ever debates as part of the MSM community. All 4 students have committed to debating in their years at MSM and have been incredibly successful as part of Debate Mate, having all competed in national finals in London.



We wish them all the best in future competitions in sixth form and in their future careers!

# Christmas Fair 2018

Students and Staff celebrated together with our PTA Festive Fun Christmas Fayre. The stalls were full of homemade gifts for sale including MSM Tombola with prizes galore. Also tempting aromas, the festive glow and delicious yuletide treats like homemade shortbread, mince pies, hot chocolate with cream and non alcoholic mulled wine.

Students had fun playing games like pin the tail on Rudolph and piglet racing. We look forward to seeing you all at our Sizzling Summer Fayre soon.



## Mock GCSE results

I would like to begin by congratulating our Year 11 students on delivering a wonderful set of Mock GCSE results. They dealt admirably with the pressures of the intense two week exam period, especially as this was straight after the Christmas holiday. I hope that this experience will stand them in good stead for the challenges that lie ahead of them.

Unbelievably, when we return from the Easter break, we will be just 3 weeks away from the start of our GCSE exams! We would encourage all of our Year 11 students to attend as many after school booster revision sessions as possible in order to maximise their potential in their results. As always, please contact the Year 11 Office for any help, information or advice.

We wish them all good luck as we begin our final journey at MSM!



## Technology and Creative Arts News - Art Link Project West Yorkshire

Four of our Year 7 students - Yvonne Owusu, Vanessa Cudjoe, Mario Tomsen, Miguel Smart - have had the opportunity to work with Artlink West Yorkshire, an arts and health based charity delivering creative workshops across diverse communities, together with professional artists. The students worked at the Richmond Hill Centre with 2 professional artists, Ellie Tillotson and Musarat Raza, and supported 7 adults with learning difficulties to make a collaborative project where they explored visual arts, storytelling and performance.

This opportunity gave the students an awareness of disability issues as well as looking at identity, communication skills and confidence development. The students got to attend a celebratory event and have brought their art work back to Mount St Mary's to be displayed in the technology department.



# OAP Christmas Party

The OAP Party is an annual event dedicated to the Senior citizens in our local community of Richmond Hill. This year, Year 10 had the opportunity to host the party and give back to our Community. It started off by welcoming the citizens and inviting them into our school, making them feel welcomed during the festive season. The party consisted of fun activities, such as bingo and a raffle which everyone enjoyed. It was also accompanied by the School choir, who sang a variety of Christmas songs, and were able to lift people's spirits. Most importantly we were able to give food and drinks which were donated by our staff and students. We created food hampers, prizes for the winners and catered the event courtesy of the Year 10 young leaders. This was an amazing experience to participate in and we were able to embellish our school motto: Quid Retribuam which means "how can I repay the Lord". Many senior citizens said that the afternoon was "absolutely amazing!" and all the young leaders thoroughly enjoyed it.



by Weza Madeira and Harriet Owusu-Nsiah,  
Year 10.

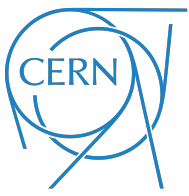


# Christmas Smackdown 2018

We ended our Autumn term in the best way we know how... The Christmas Smackdown with Years 7 and 8. Staff and students were equally excited about the Jolly Santas, the 'Snowball' Fight, Shake It Up! as well as a few 'interesting' interpretations of Last Christmas, Baby Shark, The Greatest Showman and Lady Leshurr, before the event was finished with the customary Christmas video from Mr Fox.

Ultimately, someone had to walk away victorious... Congratulations to staff and students in St Matthew who won narrowly ahead of St Mark. Well done to all involved!





## CERN Trip to Geneva

In January, two of our Year 11 students were given a fantastic opportunity to attend the world's biggest physics laboratory, CERN, in Geneva, Switzerland. CERN stands for European Centre for Nuclear Research, and it was founded by a handful of visionary scientists in 1954, to unite European scientists and enable international physics research collaboration. In 2008, CERN started up the Large Hadron Collider, or LHC, the world's biggest and most powerful particle accelerator. It consists of an 18-mile ring which is buried under the Swiss-French border. Two beams of protons are accelerated in opposite directions and made to collide at speeds very close to that of light. This can produce new subatomic particles, which enables scientists to expand our knowledge of how the universe works. Moreover, we can thank CERN for the invention of the system that all of us use daily nowadays – the Internet.

Our Year 11s, together with Dr Prisutova joined 13 students from Fulneck School for a three-day trip to Geneva. They had a guided tour of the facilities and got to see some very impressive equipment at the laboratory, as well as having a chat with scientists that work at CERN. They learnt a lot about the exciting research that is being conducted in physics, as well as brilliant career opportunities that studying physics can offer. In addition, they enjoyed a guided tour of the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, an exciting treasure hunt around the city on a sunny Saturday, and of course the Swiss chocolate.



## STEM Club 2019

If you are in Year 7, 8 or 9 and still haven't checked out what happens in the Science Department every Wednesday after school, then you are missing out on some amazing activities! This year, we have researchers from the University of Leeds come to Mount St Mary's every week to deliver a STEM club. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, but the STEM club is very different from your usual Maths and Science lessons. In the sessions, our students discover how our world is shaped through a range of fun practical investigations, such as building a jelly volcano, making your own fizzy drinks from scratch and testing coastal defences in a wave tank. Every session involves at least one practical to perform, and it links science and technology concepts to everyday situations. Moreover, it demonstrates to students that the world of STEM

is much wider than what is presented in lessons, and that there are a lot of exciting career opportunities in STEM for every taste. If you still haven't attended any sessions, you are welcome to give it a go!



## Year 9 Art Trip

In January the Art department took both Year 9 art classes to the Tetley Art museum. Here they got to explore the work of Simeon Barclay and created art work inspired by his work. For a lot of the students this was their first time visiting an Art Gallery and was an exciting, eye opening experience into seeing how an artist explores themes around dance, music and cultural identity.



# The history of Mount St Mary's

In the 1780's there had been very few Catholics in Leeds, approximately 50. Due to the devastation caused by the potato famine in the 1840's, there had been a large influx of Catholic families from Ireland – people seeking a new start – looking for work in building canals and railways, as well as millworkers.

By the time Robert Cooke arrived in Leeds in 1851 to begin his new 'Mission of St Mary's', the Irish immigrants had swelled the Catholic population of Leeds to nearer 10,000 – The Bank, being their home. Robert Cooke was born and lived in County Waterford Ireland. He studied medicine and law, and practised as a doctor for a short time. In 1843 he joined Oblate Fathers in France, living in Marseilles in 1840's before moving to England in 1846, and Leeds in 1851. Fr Robert knew that it was essential that a school would be required to support the work of the St Mary's Mission, this at a time when there was no legal requirement for children to attend any form of schooling.



Fr Robert Cooke

He sent for support from the church in France. The Sisters from the order of Mary Immaculate of l'Osier were given the mission...

*"to occupy themselves actively with the instruction of children and converts, in visiting the sick and generally in all the works of zeal and charity which are proper to their sex ... to afford our missions in that country what help they can..."*

The four Sisters arrived on 14 February 1853. A convent had been prepared for their reception. Their first work, along with visiting the poor and sick in their homes, was a night school for factory girls, which was opened in the basement of the convent. They also helped with the day school students in local schools. This marked the beginnings of the work of the Holy Family in Bordeaux in England. Construction of the Church started in May 1853, and was officially opened in 1857.

The tireless work carried out by the Sisters salvaged the whole community, taking away the desperation of these people and offered them hope, whilst also looking after those who were too sick or poor to look after themselves. Many families ended up under the care of Leeds Workhouse authorities who were reluctant to make any special provision for religious instruction. By 1858 the Catholic community eventually raised funds for a more permanent convent to be built, and by 1863 the convent building had to be extended to house the St Mary's Orphanage for Roman Catholic Girls – the first girls being admitted in October of that year. In 1871 the Orphanage was accredited as a Certified School allowing it to provide homes for girls, and by 1884 the building could accommodate up to 100 girls aged between 4 and 10 on admission.

The older girls were trained for domestic service which lead to employment in the laundry service. As the quantity of girls coming through the school increased, so did the need for teachers. Pupil-Teachers were essential in the development of the early school system. Initially they were simply the older students supporting the younger students, but in time the position of Pupil-Teacher was a highly sought-after position, as it were seen as a stepping stone on the way to becoming a Teacher. Training for this position required students to attend tuition in the centre of Leeds. The Sisters, however, decided that St Mary's School should continue to train their own, and so established their own independent centre of learning for Pupil-Teachers.

As the school, now named St Mary's College, was classed as a 'Voluntary School', funding was required to maintain its operation. The decision was made to introduce fees for students. Funding also came from Church collections, some government grants. This, however, made it impossible for the poorer families to pay. The school for girls, St Mary's, continued to grow, as did the work of the Sisters with the Orphanage, known as St Marie's. There was also the building of an infant school as well as a school for boys. The St Mary's, the school on the Mount, was the place to be.



The Education Act of 1944 saw the introduction of the three tier system of education – Grammar, Technical, and Secondary Modern. It also saw the introduction of the 11+. Due to new government

policies regarding children in care came into being, large institutions such as St Marie's were gradually closed. By the time the Orphanage did close in 1954, over 3000 children had passed through.

During an inspection in 1955 it was reported that the facilities in the boy's school were completely inadequate. The boys' school closed in 1958, the boys being rehoused in the brand new school building named as St Kevin's – now the site of St Theresa's Primary School. This would allow for much more freedom and the development of the sports. The closing of the orphanage allowed for the building space within St Marie's to be adapted into more much needed classrooms. This became used for the education for 14+ girls in vocational studies, whilst St Mary's became a Catholic Grammar School for Girls.



Leeds 1780



Leeds 1850

Throughout the 1960's the school saw a lot of change including the new building of a teaching block across Church Road housing a swimming pool and gym and the modernisation and re-opening of St Marie's as St Marie's RC Secondary School. In 1978, St Marie's Secondary School and St Mary's College amalgamated to form for the first time Mount St Mary's High School. Boys were reintroduced in 1979 and the school continued to grow.

Sadly, the Church was closed in June 1989. In 2005 St Michael's College closed, the building taken over by Mount St Mary's – known as the West Site... Staff teaching on both sites for 3 years until the full move over to this site from St Michael's in 2008. Since then the school has seen more development in the building of new facilities to the school we see today...

Mount St Mary's Convent, Orphanage and School  
 "Founded in 1853 by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, to serve the Catholic community displaced from Ireland by famine and which came to live on the Bank, an area of severe poverty and deprivation."



Do you think all those years ago, when Fr Robert Cooke called on the support of the Sisters to help develop his Mission, he knew of the legacy he was leaving Leeds?

## MATHS+DOCTOR

**Do you have the following symptoms?**

- Phobia for maths and persistent headaches learning the subject
- Difficulties with certain topics
- Homework problems
- Difficulties completing tasks in lessons and at home
- Confidence issues with learning maths
- Problems solving past exam questions

**Worry no more, a cure is at hand! See the doctors in the maths department.**  
**All welcome, from Year 7 - 11 Thursdays 3:10 - 4:10**

Make a date with us. What's more? You will earn house points for attending!!!



### What is a Parent Teacher Association (PTA)?

Most schools have a Parent Teacher Association (PTA), which is an organisation of parents and staff. It's role is to encourage closer links between home and school. PTA's are best known for their fundraising events provide an opportunity for parents, staff and students to get together.

### How is the PTA organised?

At most schools all parents/carers and teachers are automatically members of the PTA.

### How can I be involved in my PTA?

There are many different ways you can help with the PTA, whether you have lots of time to offer or not. Some of the roles are time-consuming, although also rewarding. If you can't commit to a big job, look out for the things you can do less frequently (e.g. running a stall at the summer fair, baking for a cake sale) and you can always support PTA events by simply turning up.

For more information please contact  
 Mrs Malone (l.malone@mountstmarys.org)  
 Mrs Doughty (g.doughty@mountstmarys.org)



## MSM ONLINE

**Maths Department**  
 @MathsMattersMSM  
 fb.me/mathsmattersMSM

**English Department**  
 @MSMEnglish

**Performing Arts Department**  
 @MSMPAI  
 youtube.com/MSMpai

**Science**  
 @MSMPrepRoom

**Physical Education**  
 @mountstmaryspe

**Careers**  
 @msm\_careers

**Year 8**  
 @makeitcountmsm

For more information, to visit the school or to contribute to the next edition of the Messenger, please contact the school.

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School  
 Ellerby Road  
 Leeds LS9 8LA

t 0113 2455248  
 f 0113 2005114  
 thehub@mountstmarys.org  
 www.mountstmarys.org

