



# Mount St Mary's Catholic High School



Educating The Individual For the Benefit Of All

## Summer 2019 Messenger

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



## Diana Awards article featured on page 4



- ▶ Throughout this year, Year 8 students have had the opportunity to take part in the Princess Diana Award's mentoring programme. The Princess Diana Award is a highly respected programme that works with young people all around the UK.

## Debate Mate National Champions! Featured on back cover



- ▶ Well done to those students who competed, as well as all of the nearly 100 students who have taken part in Debate Mate over the course of this year. You have shown that we as a school have the right to call ourselves a 'debating school'. Congratulations MSM!

Racing to the end of yet another year at Mount St Mary's we reflected upon all the achievements of our community over the last year. The number and range of events we engage in grows ever greater and reaches more and more of our students, irrespective of age and ability. I am sure you will join us in applauding their achievements and thanking the staff that enabled these events to run. National champions and finalists, friends of royalty, wonderful ambassadors, tomorrow's leaders and politicians, we have nurtured and supported them all!

With Young Leader and Higher Education residential experiences for Years 9 and 10, we continue to stretch the minds of our students and provide them with opportunities to aim high and explore pathways beyond our walls. I trust you enjoy reading about their achievements and recognition they have brought to the school.

As is often the case in summer, we had to say goodbye to a number of staff. This summer; Ms Auguste-Miles, Miss Carrizo-Nunez left our learning support team; Miss Johnson and Mr Khan from Maths and Science; Mrs Bruce from English and Mrs Floyd from Business Studies and RE. Mrs Oliver left her role in Student Support for Admissions after 14 years and Mrs Taylor from Technology and Health & Social Care after 12 years, we wish them all well for the future. Also leaving us after a combined service of 107 years (!) were Mr Floyd, Mrs Dickinson, Mrs Pearson and Mrs Flowers. We also thank Mrs Malone for her services for our EAL students over recent years, as she leaves us at the end of September - I am sure we will see her again. Finally, a huge thank you and best wishes to Mr Oliver in his retirement. He has worked tirelessly over the last 14 ½ years in his role as Facilities Manager, overseeing the school improvements and bringing archaic engineering into the modern day - we wish him a long and healthy retirement. We wish them all well in their next ventures and retirements and send them on their way with our thanks for their dedication and hard work, and our thoughts and prayers for the future.

As we commence the new academic year we welcome the following staff on the next stage of our exciting journey. Miss O'Brien and Mr Lawton join our Student Advocate teams in Years 10 and 8, Miss Finucane will be the Student Support Worker with Year 8, Mrs Campleman will now lead on Admissions and Educational Transition whilst Mrs Burdon will support the school in her reprographics role. Mrs Bentley joins us to lead on our EAL provision, supporting students and staff in the challenges which may present themselves. In English we welcome Miss Coen and Mr Passey; Mrs Murphy to Technology, Mr Charles to Science, Miss Rodgers to PE and Mr Walker to RE. Mr Hawkins now takes on a permanent post in Humanities and both Mr O'Brien, Assistant Head and SENDCO, and Mrs Sohel, Faculty Director for Maths and Science, will hit the ground running, having been with us during the summer term. I am sure you will welcome these colleagues to our community when you meet.

I am sure staff, students and parents alike have used the summer break for some relaxation and recharging of batteries. The pace of work is unlikely to slow this term, and I am sure every stakeholder in our community will continue to strive for the recognition we deserve. We look forward to sharing our work as we continue to excel in all aspects of our provision.



**Mark Cooper**  
**Headteacher**

## Our Mission

The community of Mount St Mary's 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.

Congratulations to Mrs Dickinson and Mrs Pearson, who are retiring after completing 33 years of service in the Leeds Diocese. It was a great honour for them to be presented with The Diocesan Silver Medal for their "prayerful help and devoted service in furthering the works of the Church in the Diocese of Leeds".



## Catholic Care Mission Statement

In everything we do we strive to show how the teachings of Christian love, charity and justice can shape the way we live together. We aim to achieve this by taking the caring Church into the community and offering practical services and support for anyone who is disadvantaged, vulnerable or marginalised, regardless of their faith.

## Good Shepherd Appeal 2019

Bishop Marcus Stock invited representatives from all the Catholic Schools to share in the Annual Good Shepherd Celebration, held at Leeds Cathedral on Friday 24th May, led by Holy Family, St Michael's and St Joseph's Pontefract.

Wiktorja Dusik, Mateusz Grabowski, Lily Wigglesworth and Isaac White represented Mount St Mary's at this year's event, and were able to present a cheque for £1,200, raised from fundraising events at school. All the monies collected from this event provide support for the charity 'Catholic Care'.



## St Patrick's

Our School Motto is "Retribuam" and we aim to 'give back'. On Sunday 30th June 2019 students from our school joined with the Community of St Patrick's Catholic Church in celebrating the Feast of St Peter and St Paul. The students led the Mass by reading, taking part in the Offertory and joining in with the singing. Fr Eugene spoke highly of the staff and students at Mount St Mary's Catholic High School. Ann Norman, School Governor and an active member of the Parish, thanked the school for their continued and ongoing support before presenting a very generous donation of £100 towards our Lourdes Fund. We look forward to developing even stronger links between the School and Parish in the near future.



## Wheelchair Training

As part of our preparation for our Lourdes Pilgrimage, students were instructed in the safe usage of wheelchairs. This is an important and vital training session as it ensures the safety of pilgrims in Lourdes. Students showed a level of maturity and responsibility whilst managing to negotiate obstacles such as flat surfaces and slight kerbs!!



## UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

60 of our most able Year 7 and 8 students took part in the multiple-choice quiz, aimed at the most able mathematicians in the country, with 11 students achieving a bronze certificate (top 40% of entrants), 3 students achieving a silver certificate (top 20% of entrants) and 1 student achieving a gold certificate (top 6.67% of entrants). As well as his gold certificate, Samrawi Mehreteab qualified for the Junior Kangaroo follow-on round, gaining a certificate of merit for achieving in the top 25% of qualifiers. Well done to all who took part, and Samrawi in particular!

## Princess Diana Awards @ MSM

Throughout this year, Year 8 students have had the opportunity to take part in the Princess Diana Award's mentoring programme. The Princess Diana Award is a very respected programme that works with young people all around the UK.

"Throughout all of our programmes and initiatives 'change' for and by young people is central."

"Our mission is to foster, develop and inspire positive change in the lives of young people."

"We're thrilled to have you here with us – we certainly can't do it alone."

The 90 students were divided into three groups of 30 students, each group focussing on different issues in the UK at the moment. With each group came different ideas, different thoughts and different personalities that thrived. In total this year's Princess Diana Award cohorts have raised a whopping £740 for chosen charities, relating to the issues they chose to impact. Every student involved this year has been a fantastic credit to Mount St Mary's, showing just how amazing they are, constantly aiming over and above, wanting to be the change they want to see in the world.



Due to the hard work and dedication from the students that have taken part this year, MSM were invited to London to take part in the National Youth Mentoring Summit organised by the Diana Awards. This was the first of its kind and we were a part of it! This prestigious event was fantastic, showing the impact students can make to the environment around them.



These are just some of the hundreds of photos from this year's Princess Diana Award cohorts.





## Piglet Racing

Our students have been participating in the sporting event of the year, recently - 'Piglet Racing'! Students were given the opportunity of choosing their very own piglet to be pitted against 5 other little piggies in an effort to reach the finishing line first, claiming their Piggy Treat as a prize! Much fun was had by all those who joined in!



## GCSE Artwork

All 63 of our Year 11 Art students worked extremely hard to produce their GCSE Artwork. This year we had a whole range of medias and techniques used, from various 3D and 2D work, expressed through clay, photography, observational drawing, painting, videography and various other mixed media techniques.

Here is just a sample of the projects our students worked tirelessly to create. Well done to all the Year 11 Artists, an extremely dedicated hard working group of students. Miss McNally and Miss Greaves are extremely proud of you all!



## Bun Sale in aid of Lourdes

Our students are in competition with the Bake Off!!

Mary Berry would be proud! Many students showed off their culinary skills as part of this fundraising activity for Lourdes. The cake sale was a great success, raising over £180. Well done everyone!



## Year 7 IntoUniversity Visit

The IntoUniversity team returned to support a group of 30 Year 7s to develop their knowledge of what core skills and qualities are needed to be successful in life. Activities ranged from identifying skills and abilities which can be easily improved, to team-building activities which required individual and group skills to solve problems. Both the Year 7s and the IntoUniversity team had a really enjoyable time and are already looking forward to their first session in Year 8.



**IntoUniversity** 

## Year 8 IntoUniversity Visit

Throughout the school year, 30 students in Year 8 have taken part in several workshops to find out more about Higher Education. The workshops have been led by a company called IntoUniversity who aim to encourage students to go to University. As part of this programme our students were invited to spend the day at The University of Leeds. It was an informative and insightful visit for our students; the day was led by a group of third year undergraduate students who were able to share their experiences through a question and answer workshop and who gave a thorough tour around the University, including the student union, theatre and halls of residence.

During the afternoon our students competed in groups in an engineering project. It was great to watch their leadership and teamwork skills being demonstrated. The winning students were; Ayobami Fasuyi, Ruth Mavungosala, Secy Nkounkou, Jude Dickinson-Hall, Yuel Biniam, Delight Ashirifie, Preston Campbell-Quinn. They had all not only designed and produced an effective invention, but had clearly presented their ideas in a professional manner.

## Fitness Club

Devoted members of MSM's 'Friday Fitness Club' took to the 'Kapow!' 5km obstacle course in July to raise money for the diabetes research charity JDRF. All were keen to get well and truly stuck into this great physical feat, and test their skills.



## Employer Interview Day

Year 10 students were recently taken outside of their comfort zone. Employers from a range of businesses and organisations across Leeds kindly gave up time to come into Mount St Mary's to conduct individual interviews with students. The experience replicates the situation all our students will find themselves in, whether it be a college, apprenticeship or job interview. The feedback from the employers was glowing. The students gave a confident and articulate account of themselves and certainly have benefitted hugely from the experience.

An employer who interviewed students reflected on the day and said this;

"Just wanted to say thank you again for asking us to be part of the interview day. Once again I have personally taken a lot from the experience and it makes me feel extremely humble to be involved. It was great to meet another bunch of inspirational young individuals. You have amazing students who should be truly proud of themselves."



## Year 7 School Publisher and Author

Year 7 welcomed representatives from the Speakers4Schools charity, which was founded by ITV's Political Editor, Robert Peston. Our guest speakers were Sharmaine Lovegrove (Britain's first BEM book publisher) and Season Butler (a writer, performance artist and teacher) who talked to the year group about their experiences and life achievements. The whole year group participated in the talk by asking a range of challenging and probing questions about how they could emulate the women's success and how they could develop their own creative writing. The talk was followed by a session with students from 7C who were asked to think about the challenges they face when writing stories. Sharmaine and Season offered their insight, guidance and support into how to overcome these challenges. Both sessions were an enormous success with many students requesting autographs and asking if they could send in their creative writing for feedback. We hope to develop our relationship with Speakers4Schools and build closer links with Sharmaine and Season so that all our students can have access to leading figures and engage with influential people who can share inspiration on pursuing their ambitions and broaden their horizons.



## Year 9 Art class

Some of our Year 9 Art students recently had a class with Miss McNally on photography skills. They spent some time in our little secret garden photographing all things weird and wonderful that they could find, with a particular focus on pattern and texture!



Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting our **Make A Difference** foodbank scheme. All the proceeds from our monthly collections have been warmly welcomed by the **Franciscan Sisters of Renewal** in Halton Moor, caring for the needs of those people who are in need.

Throughout the year, we have collected different food items, including...

...**Pasta, Soup, Tinned Meats and Fish, Biscuits, Tea and Coffee, Desserts and Puddings...**

We look forward to continuing our support of this worth cause. **Thank you.**

## Italian Exchange Students

Mount St Mary's recently hosted a group of Italian students and staff from Genoa. They arrived for a week long exchange from Sunday 28th April to Sunday 5th May. During their stay they visited the beautiful city of York, spent time shopping in Leeds, went bowling and to the cinema. The students also had an extra special trip down the Leeds and Manchester canal on a local barge. Each student also spent time in many of the school based lessons, in order to improve on their already good standard of English. The hope is that that Mount St Mary's students and staff will visit Italy in the near future.



## Year 9 Women of the Future

A small group of girls from Year 9 were given the opportunity to visit a huge new development in the centre of Leeds called Wellington Place. This is an office development, including retail, leisure and residential, and when it is complete there will be 12,000 people working there. The girls were taken around different offices, which included the Google offices. The aim was to raise aspirations and look for different career opportunities for the future. There were opportunities to work alongside many different women in leadership roles within the offices, from apprentices to CEOs.



"I liked how it was very female empowering and we got to see a different kind of office environment."

"It helped me realise that office jobs are not boring, and there are so many exciting job opportunities that you don't realise."

## Staff Ethos Day Art Activity

As part of our recent staff ethos day, some staff took part in an art workshop. They had a very 'hands on' approach as you can see! Our staff got an opportunity to be creative with paint and their hand prints and created a collaborative piece which will be on display in school in the foreseeable future... Make sure to keep an eye out!



## GSAL

On Monday 1st July a group of our Year 7 students had the privilege of being invited to GSAL to listen to the Leeds Symphony Orchestra. The programme for the concert consisted of Haydn's Clock Symphony, followed by works from Beethoven and Mozart. The lead conductor explained many musical features of the pieces for students to look out for as they listened. All students enjoyed this opportunity and were inspired to develop further their musical abilities and talents.





## House Tournament

The Houses have been busy competing against each other this term. A Mario Kart tournament was held, which resulted in us getting to see our big 'house gamers' have an opportunity to shine! The overall winners of this were; Connor White, Joshua Duckworth, Kain Carey and Karl Carey well done boys!



Just before we departed for our Easter Holidays, we held our annual fundraising day in aid of 'The Good Shepard'. For this we held a non uniform day, face painting, an Easter Egg hunt and a film afternoon...yes all in one day! There was a great atmosphere and the day was a brilliant success! The final amount raised was £1032.52, a fantastic amount!



The next two exciting house events will be the greatly anticipated Sports Day event and Academic Smackdown! Make sure to take part and represent your house to help them win both! A new addition to our school this half term has been our House display board in the canteen. Make sure to have a look, you might see yourself up there!



## UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

On Thursday 7 February, eighty of our most talented Year 9, 10 and 11 students completed the UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge. Having continued our upwards trend in students receiving an award in the competition, we'd like to congratulate Resa Camille Sino Cruz for the best score in the school who, along with Maciek Filicha, Johanna Jermy, Danilma Paxigina and Bradley Stapylton, achieved the Silver award. Fourteen other students achieved a Bronze award and they have been added to the roll of honour on the maths corridor.

**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!!!

Well done to all involved!

## Year 9 Caddick event

In July, 60 Year 9s took part in an exciting project to develop an area of Leeds. It was run by a company called Caddick Construction. The students had to work in groups of 6 to produce an event which could launch a new area of East Leeds (south of York Road). They then had to present their ideas to 8 professionals from the company. The winning team has been chosen to go to the area of Leeds which is being developed and help plan the launch party, and they will also be taken on a tour of the site. This is a huge opportunity for some of our students - a huge congratulations to the winning team; Samantha Akpan, Ian Mahop, Analord, Tracy Onyia, Tracey Ocran and Jason Burke. I have no doubt that they will represent the school brilliantly. The feedback from the company about our Year 9 students was as follows; "We enjoyed the day immensely and thought the young people who took part to be extremely bright and engaging. They immersed themselves in all the activities and did themselves proud. The students were an absolute credit to you and the school. Their behaviour, attitude to learning and presentation skills were some of the best I personally have seen all academic year."

Well done, once again, Year 9.



# Lourdes 2019



This year record numbers of Year 10 students stepped up to the challenge of joining the 2019 Leeds Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes - 37 students! The theme of the Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Marcus was "Blessed are the Poor!" Our students certainly

lived out our MSM school motto of Retribuam throughout the entire pilgrimage, actively searching out any and every opportunity to "give back" through service to the needs of others.

Some of the highlights for our students included the Torchlight Procession, the Stations of the Cross, which we led for all the other Diocesan schools and pilgrims, and the International Sunday Mass attended by over 10,000 people - one of our students being privileged to lead the whole procession, carrying the Leeds Diocesan Banner.

The attitude and conduct of every single MSM student was impeccable throughout, and has been publicly acknowledged and commended by many teachers, clergy and pilgrims from across the Diocese - true ambassadors of all that Mount St Mary's Catholic High School believes in. Well done and Thank you!



## Year 9 Young Leader Results

After a whole year of preparation for our Year 9 students we finally released the results of the Young Leader process. The Year 9 students have worked extremely hard during the year to become Young Leaders, through a very tough process. They had to create a portfolio of all the things they have given back throughout the year to the school and wider community. They also had to pass a series of difficult criteria based on attendance, attitudes to learning and punctuality. Finally, they had to complete an application form and a rigorous interview process. I would like to say a huge congratulations to all those students who were successful, it is thoroughly deserved and you should all be really proud of yourselves.



The results day was an emotional experience for a lot of the students, I really hope those who were successful take this opportunity to represent the school and strive to be the best they can be throughout Year 10. For those who weren't successful, it is your chance to now understand how you can work on certain areas to ensure your Prefect applications are successful in Year 10.

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## Politics Matters To MSM!

On Thursday 17th January, Miss Evans took a group of Year 10 students to International Politics Matters at Leeds Beckett University. The day focused on the challenges and opportunities of international migration. Students learnt about the nature and scale of international migration and why it is such a controversial issue today, then worked together to create a presentation on their post-Brexit immigration policy.

Students created a pro-immigration policy, based on compassion for those forced to flee their own countries. They delivered their presentation with passion and confidence, especially those who were speaking of their own personal experiences. The judges were unanimous; Mount St Mary's were the winners of the International Politics Matters trophy!

Students later delivered their presentation to MSM staff during a staff training session; students received a standing ovation and many staff expressed to the students how impressed they had been with their delivery of their personal stories and their passionate for important causes.



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## Year 7 and 8 Students Find Their Voices!

Traditionally, it is our older students who are the most involved in public speaking; this year, however, our younger students are now interested, with a record number of students participating in Debate Mate. But that is not all!

On Thursday 18th March, 10 Year 7 and 8 students gave up a day of their Easter holidays to go with Miss Evans to take part in the RSPCA Great Debate. Students prepared before the day, researching a series of topics focused on animal welfare, and were tasked with presenting both sides of the argument. The Year 7 students participating were Ema Manusyte, Lily Wigglesworth, Eamen Nishat and Sammy Tate, with Sheila Nakimuli, Eleanor McQuillan, Urvi Motolall, Stecy Fouelifack, Lillian Appiah-Kubi and Sanjay Srinivasan representing Year 8. MSM students were praised for their exceptional preparation and debating skill, especially Ema Manusyte in 7DOE and Lily Wigglesworth in 7JUS.

On Thursday 4th April, 15 Year 7 and 8 students took part in the first MSM Spelling Bee. Students were given spellings to learn before the competition – many were seen practising in form time, as well as at breaks and lunches! On the day, students had 60 seconds to correctly spell as many words as they could. After all the students had competed, Jasmine Gantala in 7NIW and Sanjay Srinivasan in 8MAS were in joint 1st place. It took a further two rounds, but eventually Sanjay was declared the winner of the giant Easter egg, with Jasmine receiving the runner up prize. Students were also competing for their Houses, with St Matthew beating St John by 1 point!

## Year 9 Dementia Charity Day



Our Year 9 students organised a fundraising day for the Leeds United Foundation, focusing on their Dementia charity. During the day a group of Year 9 students went out to Green Acres Care Home and organised activities for the residents to enjoy throughout the morning. In the afternoon, we hosted a Dementia Café where our Year 9 band performed several songs, and played "getting to know you" games.



Throughout the week a small group of our Year 9 students led assemblies for every other year group, raising awareness of Dementia within the school, and offering ways in which we can help those suffering with the disease.

On the day we also raised money by selling cakes we had made through the catering department, selling blue sweets in the piazza,

and face painting the Forget Me Not flower, which is the well known Dementia Friends logo. Overall we raised a massive £500 for the charity. We are really proud of all the planning and hard work the students put into the day, and hope we have made a difference to those who are in need.

## Young Leader Residential Trip

On 1st of July, 84 year 9 students, along with members of the Year 9 team, embarked on our much awaited Young Leader Residential trip. We stayed at the wonderful Carlton Lodge for 3 days and had an absolute blast. This trip was for those students who had been successful in their Young Leader application and was to create bonds and memories to last a lifetime. The aim of the trip was to develop their leadership and team building skills whilst being out of their comfort zone. There was raft building, zip wires, problem solving, mindfulness workshops, bushcraft, strategy games...you name it, we did it! The students and staff both had a wonderful time and they represented Mount St.Marys to an exceptional standard – which we knew they would! We hope they can take their new found skills forward into Year 10 and further develop our already strong sense of Retribuam as a year group.

## MSM Campaign for the Environment

On Wednesday 12th June, Miss Evans took a group of six Year 9 students to Headingley Stadium to compete in Politics Matters. Students learned about pressure groups and political activism from Paul Wetherly, lecturer at Leeds Beckett University, and a political activist. They were then tasked with creating their own pressure group with a clear policy and actions for making change.

Our students – Michael Anyoka, Sam Kearns, Estelle-Elisa Ibhafidon, Anna Saine, Ellie Ullmann-Gregory, and Ezra Atwiman – decided to focus on the environment, specifically campaigning against deforestation. Our students delivered their aims with confidence and passion; although Allerton High were declared overall winners, our students were praised by the judges for their originality and passion.

## Leeds Partnership Concert

Over two nights in June some of Mount St Mary's talented singers joined together in a choir, to sing at Leeds Trinity University for their annual Summertime event. The event saw several schools coming together throughout Leeds to perform songs from summertime playlists. For Mount St Mary's it was our largest choir of students yet and the enthusiasm and commitment from all students was truly impressive. Students performed a few favourites such as;

'Walking on Sunshine', 'Best Day of my Life' and 'Speechless' from the new Aladdin movie.



## Craft Council

Over the last few months Miss McNally and Mrs Wilson have taken part in the craft council with Leeds Art University. They took part in various art print design workshops and brought a leading Artist, Caroline Pratt from Leeds Art University, into school to work with a group of our Year 7 and 8 students.



Throughout the four day workshop the students produced a collaborative piece which represents all of the elements of our Mount St Mary's Community. This piece will be on display in Leeds Art University over the summer and will then be put on display in Mount St Mary's for all to see!

## Sports Leader Opportunities

Our current Y9 cohort have already begun their Young Leader experience in PE. Following on from their success supporting the primary school skipping festival, the Young Leaders involved were asked to support the Leeds finals! Once again the feedback from the organisers and the schools involved was extremely positive, the students were a credit to the school. We also sent four students to support the Catholic Primary School Football Festival. Jarred, Kalvin, Josh and Jevic all had to referee games independently for the entire day. For anyone who has experienced refereeing a football match you'll understand what a tough job this is. All four of them were incredible, demonstrating strong leadership skills such as effective communication, decision making and working with others. The Headteacher at St Theresa's commented on how amazing they were and would like us to support them again next year. In July we supported the Catholic Primary School Netball competition.

## Rugby National Finalists

Our Y8 Rugby squad travelled to Warrington for the national trophy final for emerging Rugby schools. Although six members of the initial championship winning squad were absent, the remaining squad members did the school proud. Throughout the day they won 4, drew one and lost one. The margins at this level are fine and the draw meant we missed out on the playoff for the trophy by a whisker. The team received praise throughout the day for their grit, determination and physicality, whilst maintaining the highest standards of sportsmanship. I am so proud of this team who were a joy to take this season and I look forward to the new season starting in September.



## Farewell Y11, Going out as Champions!

We say goodbye to one of our strongest football teams in recent years. Led by Joshua Thompson they have been a privilege to work with. A strong group, who worked hard for each other and played with a brilliant attitude. Last year they were finalists in the Leeds Cup. This year they managed to win the league and reach two semi finals. The talent in this team was high and spread all around the squad. Look out for Jimiel in the future who starts his Leeds Utd scholarship in the summer, a definite future pro. Good luck to all the squad and thanks for being a great team to manage.



## Sky Try 9 Champions



It was another successful year for our Y8 and Y9 rugby squads in the nine aside format. With both Sky Try 9 Champions teams again qualifying for the trophy finals there was real optimism that we could get a win. Unbelievably, both

teams went unbeaten on the finals night, bringing back two trophies! The next day we were contacted by the Leeds Rhinos foundation, who were so impressed with our Y8 team's raw ability, they wanted to nominate them to represent Leeds in the National finals for emerging rugby schools, to be held at the home of Warrington Wolves. Watch this space to see how they do. We look forward to more success in the new year for both these teams.

## Inaugural Girls Football Competition

For the first time, we competed in the Catholic High School Girls football competition. Our squad was made up of girls from Y7-9. All the girls showed a brilliant attitude in the first game against GSAL, working well together and supporting each other. Although we didn't win this game we came away really happy with our performance and had so much fun playing.



APRIL — JULY 2019

# NCOP + Careers



Helping you navigate your Higher Education options.



**MAR // Leeds Sports Academy** worked with Year 10 Mount St Mary's students on work experience to offer an experience of a lifetime! Students were tasked to plan, organise and deliver a full taster day for Year 4 and 5 students from Holy Family Catholic Primary School. Our students ran mini games and large group games. The Year 10 students made us extremely proud and were an absolute smash with the primary students!



**MAY//** We took 12 students to **Backstage Academy, Production Park** in Wakefield to find out about what goes on behind the scenes at concerts and festivals. Students learnt all about careers in stage design, finding out about roles and HE courses available in lighting, rigging, set creation and even visual display creation.



**MAR //** During work experience, **IntoUniversity** worked closely with some of our EAL students. Students took part in an enterprise challenge, employability workshops and also visited ASDA House, with the opportunity to ask questions and see a working business run!



**JUNE //** Year 9 students visited the **University of Leeds** to talk to professionals within medicine. Students had several hands on tasters where they found out more about the different careers available within the NHS.



**JUNE //** In June, 60 of our Year 9 students took part in a **Leadership and Reflection workshop**, discussing what makes a good leader and reflecting on their own leadership skills and qualities. Students looked at action planning for the future and discussed what skills they would like to improve.

APRIL — JULY 2019

# NCOP + Careers



Helping you navigate your Higher Education options.



**JUNE //** In June 77 of our **Year 10** students visited **Leeds Trinity University**. Students stayed at **Leeds Trinity University** over 3 days and 2 nights to experience what university life is really like! Students stayed in student accommodation, took part in team building activities, campus tours, societies evenings, subject tasters and even had their very own 'Fresher's Night'!

The visit to the university was extremely successful and provided students with the opportunity to experience a working Higher Education institution. They were able to familiarise themselves with a university campus, facilities, library, lecture theatres and interact with student ambassadors.





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

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## MSM are National Champions!

After two rounds of debating competitions in the Urban Debate League, Mount St Mary's placed 13th in the country, which secured our students a trip to the London finals for the 3rd year running!

On Wednesday 1st May, Miss Evans and Mr Hinchley took 4 teams of students to compete in the Debate Mate Cup at Leeds Beckett University. Students took part in 3 rounds of debating, until the finalists were announced: Cardinal Heenan and Mount St Mary's. After an intense debate with great skilled oracy shown on both sides, the judges faced a tough decision, eventually declaring Cardinal Heenan the narrow winners, with a split decision from the judges. Mount St Mary's students were praised for their resilience and confidence in their delivery and teamwork.

On Tuesday 21st May, Miss Evans and Mrs Gibson took our top team of students to the London finals: Johanna Jermy, Carmella Messu Pianta, Iliham Negash, Zoe Kirabo, Bradley Barker and Faith Odeyo. Students began by competing in two rounds of debating with the aim of progressing through to the semi-finals on the day. Competition was intense, but Mount St Mary's were one of the four schools chosen for the semi-finals. MSM demonstrated excellent skill and resilience in the semi-final against tough competition, but once again they were victorious and progressed into the Grand Final!

After a long day at the University of London, everyone moved to the prestigious offices of Shearman and Sterling for the Grand Final. Our students took everything they had learned from the day, performing to a standard of their own personal best, beyond anything they had ever shown before.

Prepared speeches and notes were pushed aside for impromptu moments of inspired speaking, with passion and determination clear throughout. The judges' decision was clear: Mount St Mary's were National champions!

Well done to those students who competed, as well as all of the nearly 100 students who have taken part in Debate Mate over the course of this year. You have shown that we as a school have the right to call ourselves a 'debating school'. Congratulations MSM!

