

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

Diana Awards

Since September 30th, Year 8 students have been taking part in the "Princess Diana Awards".

During this time they have been developing and fine tuning different skills to aid them running a fundraising event in school for "YoungMinds". They were given the opportunity to go to HSBC in Leeds, where they walked around the different departments speaking to members of the team. They were then put into teams and took part in team building games.

The students decided to hold a bun and cake sale to raise as much money as possible with aid from their mentors from HSBC who were running the Diana Awards. On the day the students demonstrated great maturity and showed off their maths skills as all the staff and students came to buy buns. We were able to raise £316.64 for YoungMinds.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone again for their support. The students also hosted assemblies for the Year 8's and Year 9's where they spoke about mental health in students and racism within young people.

On 21st of November the Princess Diana Awards hosted a celebration for the students where they were given certificates for completing the award. Throughout the project the Year 8 students showed great maturity and respect towards each other and the mentors.



Autumn 2018
MSM Messenger

Lourdes 2018

In July a group of 13 Year 10 students joined the Leeds Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, an experience that changes lives... for the better.

This year, our Year 10 students have really stepped up... An astonishing 45 students from Year 10 have applied to join next year's pilgrimage! We might need to organise a bigger bus!?!



As we approach the Christmas break I am sure the whole community will welcome the opportunity to unwind, relax and recharge our batteries.

This has, as ever, been a very busy term at Mount St Mary's, one which has seen our staff and students throw themselves into a whole range of activities and events, on top of all their hard work around the curriculum and our core work of developing the talents of all our young people.

In the classroom students have bought into our "Red Zone" initiative, taking the opportunity to apply their resilience to the hardest concept in each lesson, without the input of staff or peers. This, coupled with an enhanced focus on iterative assessment methods, is reaping rich rewards and students are relishing the opportunities to demonstrate their learning and progress.

Away from the formal curriculum, our community continues to grow and reflect it's commitment to our motto, "Quid Retribuam" in our giving back. This has been to each other, those less fortunate than ourselves and, we would hope, to our families. The continued commitment to giving to charitable causes and events is humbling and every student has played their part.

We look forward to the new term starting on Monday 7 January 2019 when we will grab every opportunity opened up to us and strive to demonstrate our outstanding practice at every turn. I would like, on the behalf of the whole MSM family, to wish everyone a Holy and peaceful Christmas season and trust success awaits us all in our endeavours during 2019.

Mark Cooper
School 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, happy and caring school.

Student Supporting MFL

The MFL team welcomes two new faces in the department. Annabelle is our French Languages Assistant. She fell in love with city life after her year abroad in Coventry and has moved to Leeds from near Bordeaux in France, to gain experience in our school. She has been working with KS4 classes, supporting them with their speaking assessment and Year 8 have been talking about TV and the cinema.

Rhian is in her second year at the University of Leeds, where she is studying for a degree in Arabic and Spanish. She has just returned from her year abroad in Morocco which she has been telling the students all about. She is supporting staff as part of the 'Linguistics into Schools' module and plans to follow a career in education.



Thank you to all who supported the Cake sale, up to now we have made £231.15, all 4 raffle prizes have been claimed and 7SIW won the tub of Quality Street.



Open Day and Evening

One Community - One School, 929 students, 45 countries, speaking 47 languages, and seven diverse faiths.

On Thursday 27th September Mount St Mary's once again opened our doors to showcase the School's work and ethos. The theme of Community was the primary message to be perceived, and the open day/evening was a success.

Whilst the evening saw us open our doors to the wider community, the day was turned over to our feeder schools and their Year 6 students. With 200 students spending a large portion of the day with us, there was a fun excited buzz about the building and students reported they welcomed meeting up with the students with whom they could start Year 7 in September 2019.



GO HIGHER

West Yorkshire



Helping you navigate your Higher Education options.

OCT // Some of our Year 11 EAL students visited **Leeds City College** and the **University of Leeds** to find out more about their Further Education and Higher Education options.

Students found out all about student life and were able to tour the university campus and even student accommodation!



Here's what our students thought of the visit:

'The staff were very supportive to me and the others in the group, they helped us a lot. I had a lot of fun. In this experience I learnt the difference between high school and university. I went to the library, it was huge. The whole college was huge, I didn't expect that.'

'My favourite part when I went there was all of it, we went to different sections and I had more information about the subject and the visit helped me a lot in what I will choose in the future. I also liked the part when we went to the Leeds University Union. I had a great experience and would like to visit more sections. I would like to study Biology and Chemistry in the future. Thanks for the great experience.'



Left to right; Merhawi, Okubazgiher, Ryu, Joyce, Bastou

OCT// Miss Hetherington recently started a club for Year 10 students in **Jewellery Making and Robotics**.



Year 10 -Yordanos



Students had fun making pendants, keyrings and bracelets with Fimo and Resin. During Robotics students made robots from scratch using numbered instructions.

Here's what our students thought of the clubs:

"Technology has made me open my eyes to new opportunities in the future."

"Jewellery club is really fun. I usually don't do stuff like this but now I might reconsider."



Year 10 - Man

OCT // 20 Year 9 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 plan a fictitious charity event. Students were given career roles such as; Managing Director, Concert Manager, Finance Manager and many more!

NOV // Year 11 students took part in an after school support session for their **UCAS Progress applications**. Students were able to refine their personal statements and gain support from staff to apply to their chosen college.



GO HIGHER

West Yorkshire



Helping you navigate your Higher Education options.

NOV // Learner Voice Live—an NCOP celebration took place in November, aimed at celebrating all things NCOP and showcasing NCOP students’ talent from different schools around West Yorkshire. There were dancers, soul bands, interviews and of course a sports session demonstration from Year 11 Mount St Mary’s students.

The students led a sports session with 18 children to put the skills they gained from work experience back into practise. Two of our students even presented the entire 5 hour long event and interviewed NCOP staff and students about their experiences over the past year. The event is to be aired on the television channel; **Made In Leeds** some time in the new year!



Left to right; Jimiel, Kelvin (Year 11)



Year 11 student coaches; Kelvin, Gideon, Jimiel, Matthew, Daniel

NOV // The National Enterprise Challenge took place with 36 of our dedicated Year 9 students this year.

Students appointed a Manager within the group and had to compete in form groups to win a place in the finals,



Left to right; Karl, Reece, Jessica, Wiktorja

where they can compete nationally. Students had to come up with an advertising campaign to get more girls into

football. They then had to present their ideas to the entire year group and also a panel of judges. Students did an amazing job and the



Left to right; Feruz, Dominykas, Mr Stockton, Julia

winning team will be going to the Wembley finals in July!

NOV // IntoUniversity came in to work with a small group of focused Year 9 students to begin thinking about their career paths. The ‘Focus on Future’ workshops will run weekly right up until Christmas. Students will research their chosen career path and will present their findings to friends and family in December.

Miss Hetherington is our designated Higher Education Progression Officer here at Mount St Mary’s as part of the NCOP programme. It has been an amazing start to the year, full of informative workshops and visits!

s.hetherington@mountstmarys.org

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 11th November marked the centenary commemoration of the end of World War 1, the war to end all wars. Around the country, many people gathered to pay their respects to those who have paid the ultimate price in their efforts to bring peace to our nation, our world.

As a whole school community, we worked together to create our own tribute to these events in the form of a Wave and Weeping Window, as seen in many places around the country, in churches, halls, and other public places.



We were here for them, not us
Hands fly to helmets, pushing them down further
As mud and crud fly up around us
Sweat drips down our brows, staining our uniform
This god-awful uniform that kept us here,
Took my singularity and replaced it with consistency
We were here for them, not us

Home.
Meadows, Vineyards, Moorlands
Green and lively and colourful and
Home.

I wasn't going back there
We were here for them, not us

A signal, a white balloon, flying above us
A whistle, screeching through our ears
Men flowed over the top, overflowing into the unknown

We were dying,
We would continue to die, but
We were here for them, not us

Breathless, we walked into shells,
We walked into rapid gun fire, cutting through the air
Impassive, we kept the tears in as our brothers fell around us

I knew him – don't think about it
We have a job to do
We are here for them, not us

We retreat, heads hung low
No land gained, yet so many lost
Why are we here?

What is our purpose?
Why do we continue on?
We were here for them, not us

3 Christmases pass
Preparing for more disappointment,
More fighting, more death, more friends lost
They raise a white flag
A symbol of peace, an end
We were here for them, not us

Alone, I enter my house
Alone, I hug my wife, my kids
Alone I feel
I'm surrounded by warmth and love
Yet I'm alone, I realise
We continued for us, not them.

***We were here for them,
by Emma Rooley, Year 11***

Every student from every form group created a number of simple poppies which could then be added to a whole school display – the names of lost soldiers being added to the petals.

In all, there were over 2000 poppies placed side by side, as a mark of respect, and a mark of our solidarity to strive for a world of peace.

***“When you go home
tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow
we gave our today.”***

The Kohima Epitaph



What is war? A fight? A Battle? An internal struggle? How do we define such senseless violence and horrific deaths? What word do we use to define endless tragedies?

Never have I fought in a war or been part of a battalion.

Never have I enjoyed the camaraderie of my fellow soldiers- singing old songs and reminiscing of home And, never have I seen someone's life sacrificed for a greater cause.

However, I know what it feels like to grieve

To have a minute of solemn silence in honour of the lives lost in world war one

To be shrouded by this overwhelming sadness and sympathy.

Stolen innocence and robbed childhoods A perpetual cycle of danger and agony False promises and half-truths

This.

This is what I think of in this silence

I don't know what war is like but, I know what it creates:

Life changing experiences and heart breaking stories

Empty bedrooms and closed caskets

What is war? Honourable, yet tragic? Or simply, merciless?

What is War?

by Serena Banka, Year 11

History Report of Plaque Unveiling

On 7th of November, we were asked by the History Department to go to the plaque unveiling of George Edwin Ellison. He was the final British Soldier to die just 90 minutes before the Armistice was signed.



George Edwin Ellison

George was a miner by trade and he lived in Richmond Hill. The plaque was made in memory of 100 years since the end of World War 1. He is buried in Belgium resting opposite John Parr, who was the first British Soldier to die.

At the service, there were news reporters, the family of George and members of the Council. Everyone wore poppies to show respect and there were silhouettes of soldiers wearing poppies. The plaque will be mounted on the outside of Leeds train station and is to commemorate the 10,000 Soldiers that left and never returned.

by Holly Marshall, Year 9

The Big Sing



On Wednesday 7th November we hosted our Catholic feeder primary schools for this years 'Big Sing Liturgy Thing'; a feast of music, song, prayer, dance & liturgy.

A large group of our Year 10 Young leaders helped to lead around 300 children in singing and dancing. It was again a fantastic event, with students and staff from the primary schools leaving with a huge smile on their faces!



The Catholic Partnership Careers Evening

On Tuesday 13th November 2018 Mount St Mary's Catholic High School hosted the annual Catholic Careers Evening. It was another successful evening, with over 250 students and parents attending.

The purpose of the evening was to provide information and to identify the opportunities available in relation to the range of options, courses and progression pathways for our young people when they leave secondary school education at the end of Year 11.

The evening had a 'market place' format with a wide range of representatives from regional Further and Higher Education colleges, as well as local and national employers. The Careers Advisory services were also present in order to provide impartial advice and guidance.



Specialist Revision at GSAL

I wonder how many other high schools have their Year 11 students queuing up to revise for 4 hours on a Saturday? In the last month we have had over 100 Year 11 students spend their Saturday with our dedicated and selfless staff focusing on English, Science and Geography. Benefitting from use of GSAL's conferencing facilities, students and staff have followed intensive sessions to maximise their potential in January's mock exams. I am sure there will be more to come before the GCSEs in summer.



Summer School

To Support the challenge of moving up to secondary school, 24 of our new Year 7 students attended a short summer school. As well as a wide variety of on and off site activities, their literacy skills were showcased with Mr Woodley.



Presentation Evening 2018

On Thursday 15th November Mount St Mary's celebrated the success of students both past and present, at our annual Prize Presentation Evening. It was a very well attended event with over 500 visitors and was a real pleasure to see support from family and other students within our community.



We came together to celebrate the achievements of our diverse community and welcomed Sir John Townsley as our keynote speaker. Sir John Townsley began teaching in Leeds at John Smeaton High School, and his career has excelled since. In 2009 during his Headteacher role at Morley High School, Ofsted upgraded the ratings from Satisfactory to Outstanding. The school then became an academy under his leadership and in 2015 he was knighted in the 2015 New Year Honours for 'Service to Education'.



Rui De Sa Nogueira

*Shelagh Bartley Award
for Outstanding GCSE
Results*

Rui did exceptionally well with his GCSE Results and got 9's in History, Maths and Combined Science, along with 8's in English Language, Literature, Geography and Computer Science.



Adriana Dautaj

*Outstanding Contribution to
Performing Arts*

Prizes based on Individual Academic Achievement and Outstanding Attendance were awarded to students who are currently in Years 8-11. These were then celebrated amongst the achievements of our Year 11 Leavers 2017-18.

The Leavers were presented with subject prizes and their GCSE certificates. All the students involved fully deserve the recognition they received for their commitment to their studies and the school community.



Kafui Amenyeanu
*Outstanding Contribution to
Performing Arts*



Jakub Markiewicz
*Subject Prize for Computer
Science*



Mrs Liz Malone -
The Equalities Award

Parents, carers and staff were also treated to a sneak preview of this year's school production, Mamma Mia. As is always the case it was wonderful to see so many of our past students and hear about where they are now. We wish them every success in whatever path they choose to take.



Ada Lovelace Day/STEM Careers



The Creative Arts and Technologies Faculty celebrated 'Ada Lovelace Day' on 9th October 2018, with some guest speakers and sessions based on computing, engineering and robotics. Ada Lovelace Day (ALD) is an international celebration of the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). It aims to increase the profile of women in STEM and, in doing so, create new role models who will encourage more girls into STEM careers and support women already working in STEM.



Hannah England, a Mechanical Engineer in Space and Fine Assembly from Reliance Precision Limited came in to work with some Year 8s they made structures out of spaghetti and jelly babies to see which team could create the strongest and tallest tower.

Claire and Gemma, Digital Facilitators from Leeds Library, also came to run a session with Year 8s about programming and shared some information about Ada Lovelace and the influence her work has had on the field of Computer Science.



Cross Curricular Activities



The Art and Business Studies Departments have joined forces this half term for some cross-curricular activities. Year 9 Business Studies have been working on a task to create a new comic book character, aimed at 11-12 year olds, and had the opportunity to conduct some market research with a sample of their target audience.

Creating questionnaires and holding focus groups to get some feedback on their characters, and how well they had followed the brief, really gave the students a chance to see how important marketing and research are before launching a product. This was also a great opportunity for the Year 7s to get to work with some older students in a new subject and have a look at their character designs to help them with their own design work in Art.



Teaching Assistant Of The Year

Liz Carden, one of our Inclusion Learning Support Assistants was recently recognised in the National Teaching Assistants awards. She was presented with a certificate and a bouquet of flowers by award organisers; Teaching Personnel. Mr Addison, Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion nominated Liz in recognition of her outstanding contribution to having students at our school. Learning Support Assistants are so important in supporting students who need additional help, someone to talk to or just a friendly face in the mornings when they arrive to school. Liz has endless patience and dedication for supporting young people and even when she recently had some time off for an operation on her foot, still visited the school and returned from work in record breaking time. A Mount St Mary's legend!



Thomas Transition Programme

20 students from Year 11 are currently taking part in the Thomas Transition Programme (TTP), which aims to increase self-confidence and reduce some of the pressure felt about the final stages of Year 11 and summer exams. It also supports students with decisions about life after Year 11, providing workshops and advice about making the best choices for the future. As the Programme is delivered by the University of Leeds, the students will work closely with the link member of staff from the University's Student Talent Spotting Team. They will also meet and work with current students studying at the University, who will support sessions and be able to talk to TTP students about what it's really like to go from Year 11, through post-16 education, and on to university study.

The aims of the programme are-

To recruit bright students and support them through Year 11

To encourage students to go on to post 16 education

To support their transition to Year 12 by providing information regarding Further Education providers in the area and courses available, raising aspirations and achievements, and broadening horizons

To advise students about making appropriate and sensible course choices for post 16 study

Students are given the opportunity to experience life as a university student by taking part in a residential stay at the University of Leeds. Students have their own bedroom for the night in one of the on-campus Halls of Residence. They will discover what it is like to live in university accommodation, meet new people from other TTP schools and gain insight into the all round student experience.

During the day, students take part in a variety of activities designed to highlight the extracurricular aspects of university life. There is plenty of opportunity to speak with and get to know the university students who support the residential event. In the evening there will be a social event to encourage students to mix with people from other schools and have fun. This experience is the perfect way to find out more about the realities of university life, as well as to unwind after GCSE examinations.

Welcome Mass

The Year 7 Welcome Mass saw 350 attendees celebrate a fantastic start to the school year. The evening Mass was preceded by a 'Pastoral Day' which saw the students spend the full day with their Form Tutor, getting to know each other, and preparing celebratory gifts for the evening. Our Year 7 community is very diverse, with 29 different languages, 16 different ethnicities and 27 nationalities among our 181 students. Every student was tasked with thinking about their future self, their uniqueness within their form group and what they can all do to make the school year as successful as possible - all based around the year group theme of 'One Community'!

Special thanks go to Father Michael Doody for celebrating Mass with us, to Mr Stuart-Collins for his tireless work in preparing the students for Mass and thanks also go to Mr Fox and Mr Bromwich for their work in organising the music and to *Gundega Drevina* (7SAK) for creating the Mass booklet cover.

Since the Welcome Mass, the year group has continued to excel in all areas with high levels of participation in school activities such as lunchtime clubs, sports clubs, art clubs, Debate Mate, School Council, House Captains, La Coupe De Mazenoud and Mamma Mia. This participation is in addition to the exceptional generosity shown with food donations for the Senior Citizen's Party and pasta for M.A.D. (Make A Difference)

The Year 7 team would like to thank you and your children for all your support since September and we hope you will continue to help us develop our community to be even more successful.



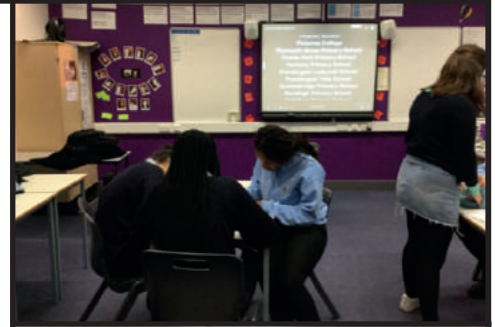
Debate Mate returns to MSM!

Debate Mate has returned to Mount St Mary's for its third year, with more students signed up than ever! On Wednesday 7th November Miss Evans and Miss Rathore took a new group of students to the Debate Mate Launch at Leeds University to introduce them to the concept and rules of Debate Mate. Fidel Chinyama and Isaac White performed exceptionally in their first ever debate, and Ema Manusyte, Eamen Nishat and Dennis Williams asked excellent questions from the floor.

Debate Mate's after school debating club started on Thursday 15th November, with 85 Year 7-10 students signed up to participate. Students develop their speaking and listening skills, building their confidence and preparing them for the world of work – as well as the first round of the Urban Debate League in January!

Any students interested in participating in the after school clubs should see Miss Evans as soon as possible.

@MSMEnglish



MSM students hold politicians to account!

On Friday 9th November, Miss Evans and Mr Stuart-Collins took a group of Year 11 students to School's Question Time at Leeds Minster. The event was in the style of the popular BBC show and the panel comprised of a number of local politicians, lecturers and community workers, including Hilary Benn MP. The panel were asked questions by members of the audience on issues of current affairs, ethics and religion.

Students were asked to submit their questions in advance and questions from 2 of our students were chosen. Harley Jones asked about the panel's attitudes to mental health issues, while Destiny Dean-Beaumont challenged the panel on the impact of Brexit on future generations. When the audience was invited for further response, both Evenezer Sultan and Agata Wroniecka made their voices heard and challenged the panel on their responses.

Students found the event useful and had the opportunity to meet the panel afterwards and discuss the topics debated during the event.

@MSMEnglish

MSM students visit the Houses of Parliament

On Monday 26th November, Miss Evans, Mr Wylam and Mrs Gibson took a group of Year 10 students to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. On the walk to Westminster, students had the opportunity to see Buckingham Palace and 10 Downing Street, before reaching their destination.

Students received a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster and visited a number of locations, including the House of Lords and the House of Commons, mere hours before a crucial Brexit debate. Students then had the opportunity to meet Hilary Benn MP and asked questions on Brexit, copyright law, women in leadership, the environment and a range of other issues.

Hilary Benn MP very kindly answered all of the students questions honestly and in depth, just before going into the House of Commons to question Prime Minister Theresa May. Students also presented Hilary Benn MP with a special birthday present – a signed photo and frame!

Students and staff very much enjoyed the day, appreciating the opportunity to develop their knowledge of political issues and procedure.

@MSMEnglish



Developing our knowledge of the world of law

On Saturday 17th November, Miss Evans, Mr Hinchley and Miss Rathore took a group of Year 10 and 11 students to Leeds Combined Court to complete in the Leeds Heat of Bar Mock Trial. Students were given 2 cases to prepare for: R v Forrester, where the defendant was accused of an acid attack, and R v Martin, where the defendant was accused of fraud. Prior to the day, barrister Jasmine Chan from Zenith Chambers returned to Mount St Mary's to prepare students for their day in court.



Across the day, students competed in 3 rounds, acting as lawyers, witnesses, jury members and court staff. Carmella Messu Pianta and Faith Odeyo made an excellent prosecution team, acting as lawyers in two of the three rounds. Agata Wroniecka and Bradley Barker competed in the final round as defence lawyers and were incredibly successful in their cross-examination of the witnesses from the opposing team.

Johanna Jermy acted as the defendant and was resilient under questioning; Harriet Owusu-Nsiah, Sophie Newton-Harvey and Yaniat Mengisha acted as the other witnesses, having learned their parts thoroughly and performing well under scrutiny. Evenezer Sultan, Matthew Francisco, Harvey Drummond and Serena Banka Pianta acted as the jury, listening attentively to each case and debating the outcome. Naturelle Tekam took on 2 roles; in the first two rounds acting as the court clerk, making the court aware of the legal procedures, then as the usher in the final round, guiding witnesses to the stand and swearing them in.

Mount St Mary's won 2 out of 3 of their cases, and so were unlucky to miss out on the final. Students were praised by the judges for their excellent questioning and their resilience. Well done MSM!

@MSMEnglish

MSM Seismometer

Have you seen the new exciting addition to the Mount St Mary's reception area? You might have noticed a transparent plastic tube with springs and loads connected to a monitor showing some strange signals, and wondered what it is. We now have our own seismometer! A seismometer is a very sensitive instrument that can detect movements from the Earth's surface. The surface is in constant motion due to natural and man-made phenomena. The most well-known seismic activity is earthquakes.

There are around 500,000 earthquakes each year. 100,000 of these can actually be felt. The largest earthquake ever recorded was a magnitude 9.5 in Chile on May 22, 1960. The world's deadliest recorded earthquake occurred in 1556 in central China. It struck a region where most people lived in caves carved from soft rock. These dwellings collapsed during the earthquake, killing an estimated 830,000 people. The normal average is 33 earthquakes of magnitude 5 and above per 7 days. The seismometer can also record man-made quakes, such as those caused by the testing of nuclear weapons. It has been installed with the help of Dr Caroline Neuberg from Fulneck School in Pudsey and has been funded by Ogden Trust, a charitable trust set up to promote the teaching and learning of physics. Mount St Mary's Science Department is thrilled to be recording our own seismic data and sharing it with schools all over the world. Stay tuned for some exciting earthquake recordings in subsequent issues!



Have Your Say... Join Friends of Mount St Mary's (PTA)

What is a Parent Teacher Association?

Most schools have a Parent Teacher Association (PTA), which is an organisation of parents and staff. Its role is to encourage closer links between home and school. PTAs are best known for their fundraising work, but they have a useful social function too. 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 things you can do less frequently (eg running a stall at the summer fair, baking for a cake sale), and you can always support PTA events by simply turning up.

Interested?



You Can Make A Difference

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

Safety Appreciation

These dedicated members of the school support staff have all engaged in additional training and have been accredited with certification from Leeds College of Building in the Safety Appreciation Course in the basic use of: Dim Saw, Narrow Bandsaw, Combination Planer, Chop Saw and the Portable High Speed Router. Without their willingness to engage, our student provision and condition of the premises would not be of the quality it is. Many thanks to them all.



Congratulations to: *Sarah Cosstick, Paul Latham, Raffaele Bellicoso and Lewis Browne*

Year 9 Update

Many thanks for your continued support at Year 9 Parents' evening. We had an amazing attendance of 95%. This is beneficial in moving forward towards GCSEs and understanding how you can support student learning. If you have any further comments or queries regarding what was discussed please let the Year office know.

Attendance

As a school we have started focusing on "streaks" for attendance. This looks at how many days in a row students are present at school. The current maximum streak number is 57, we currently have 123 students on this amount. Well done to them! It is more important than ever that our students attend every day to fulfil their learning potential.

Achievement Points

A huge well done to Kaleb Fitzpatrick (272), Sandra Owusu-Barnie (271) and Anna Saine (268) who are currently our first, second and third students for their top achievement points in the year group. This comes from a combination of golden tickets and positive contribution to school ethos (respectful, retribuum, responsibility, ready and resilience).



Kaleb Fitzpatrick Sandra Owusu-Barnie Anna Saine

Young Leaders

Our main focus in Year 9 is developing the skills and qualities needed to become a Young Leader. This is a prestigious role in school, which students have to apply for, meet criteria and finally have an interview with a senior member of staff. It was launched in assembly this week, and the criteria was shared with them as follows:

- 98% attendance
 - No more than 5 late marks
 - 450 achievement points
 - Attitudes to learning 4.0 or greater
- Year 9 students are already working hard to fill their portfolios full of evidence and examples of leadership in the community. We hope to see as many as possible on the Year 9 Young Leader residential in the summer term.

UK Maths Trust Challenge



The UK Mathematics Trust have run an annual Team Maths Challenge for some time. Historically we have entered our team of 4 students and they have experienced and grown as a result of the challenging and motivational event. However, in true MSM style we have decided to go one step further!

From 2018, during the first term, the Mathematics department are running their own 'House' competition, based upon the principals set out in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge. Named "La Coupe de Mazenod" after the school's founding father St Eugene de Mazenod, the event pits 2 teams from each House against each other, scoring points by answering difficult and testing maths questions. Each team consists of a student from each of Years 7 to 10.

In it's inaugural year, St John registered a huge 70 points with St Mark In second place with 44 points, St Matthew 33 points and St Luke 28 points. The Library provided a wonderful, atmospheric location and witnessing students from across the school, working together, was a joy to behold.



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.

National Young Mathematics

4 of our Year 8 students have participated in National Young Mathematicians Award at Explore Learning, sponsored by Nrich at the University of Cambridge. Throughout the first round they exhibited excellent problem solving skills and outstanding clarity, winning their heat and progressing to the next round on Thursday December 6.



All welcome, from Year 7 - 11 Thursdays 3:00 - 4:00



fb.me/MathsmattersMSM



@MathsMattersMSM

Year 7 Transition Homework

The Year 7s were asked to complete a piece of homework over the summer holidays which required them to think about their aspirations at the end of term one and the end of Year 7, an area of retribuum (giving back) and their three dream jobs. The standard of work was exceptional and it was overwhelming to see how much success our wonderful community want to achieve for themselves and for each other. Particular praise goes to the following students for producing work which was of an outstanding standard:

Laura Brun, Gabriel Chimielewski, Henry Dautaj, Chelsea DeGbalou, Gundega Drevina, Wiktorius Dusik, Jasmine Gantala, Aleksander Gwiazda, Cillian Heald, Breanna Higgerson-Milne, Lorna Kirkwood-Thompson, Tia-Bella Mabey, Rafael Matzinhe, Leigha McDowell, Eunice N'Kodia, Alex Peel, Salum Salim, Maximilian Sep, Mansour Shurkian, Sammy Tate, Robyn Thompson, Issac White and Lilly Wigglesworth.



Year 10 Art

Our year 10's have been very busy in Art over this last term. They have created mixed media fruit observational boards, moved on to character design and started to experiment making clay heads based on their characters!



PA Raspberry Pi Competition 2019

The Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE Computer Science classes have each entered a team in the PA Raspberry Pi Competition 2019. Our early entry to the competition saw us allocated with 2 of the 100 free Raspberry Pi development kits (including a Raspberry Pi, case, power supply, SD card, keyboard and mouse) that PA Consulting were giving away. The students are meeting after school every Tuesday to learn how the Raspberry Pi works, with a view to building something to meet the competition brief. The competition challenges entrants to invent something using the Raspberry Pi under the theme of "Transforming Travel and Transport". Entries have to be in by 18th March 2019 and will be judged on the simplicity and clarity of build instructions, world benefit, commercial potential and team passion. The teams are competing for a prize of £1,000 and are being supported by Mrs Barnes and Mr Finch.



INTO University



Delegates from the INTO University programme came in to school in early November to support 30 Year 7s with organisational skills and managing homework. The Year 7s worked with four highly trained mentors to explore different time management and revision techniques which, hopefully, will improve their attainment and independent study. Next term, there will be another session to help the same group of students develop some new and exciting learning techniques, all with the aim of encouraging them to aim higher and achieve their academic potential.

Fr Michael Doody

Hello! My name is Fr Michael Doody. In addition to my role as Priest Chaplain to MSM I am Parish Priest of St Augustine's in Harehills and Vocation Director for the Diocese. I enjoy reading and watching films in my spare time and anything which helps me deepen my Faith.

My first impression of MSM was the richness of its diversity; so many people here are from different cultures and speak different languages. My hope as a chaplain is to help the students and staff alike to come to know a little more the God who loves them, so that their faith will in turn build up the faith of others.

God bless

Fr Michael



Football News

During the winter months a number of schools have organised tournaments to ensure our football teams can still get some game time. The format is 7 aside and we entered two teams per year group into these.

The Year 7 squad played first at Woodkirk. Team 1 finished joint second in their league playing some fantastic football. Team 2 went one better and won the league 2 competition. A great start for what looks to be a very talented squad, watch this space!

Next up was Year 9, these boys are a fantastic set of players, all 18 of them! Their tournament was different in that all 8 teams were in the same league, meaning that team 1 had to play team 2 and compete for the league independently. Ironically the only loss from either team came when team 2 beat team 1. In the end team 2 were crowned champions with team 1 runners up. Incredible!



Our successful Year 11 team have started their season well, with a 7-1 victory over Cockburn. Last year's cup finalists are looking to go one further this year and bring back some silverware.



An outstanding effort from both the A and B team saw a huge development in the squad performance during each game. The stand out performer for the A team was Edilson and from the B team was Francis.

These Girls can!

This year's girls extracurricular programme has been a huge hit, we have over 30 girls now regularly attending netball training and we are now arranging fixtures against other schools.



Following our usual support from the Leeds Rhinos in curriculum time, there are now over 20 girls training for the rugby teams after school, with fixtures starting in January.

Every Thursday lunchtime we have allocated the sports hall to girls only. We offer multi sports for any girl who wishes to be active at lunchtime. Regular commitment is rewarded with a lunch pass allowing them to get their food quickly and have more time playing. Currently we have over 30 girls from Y7-9 regularly attending. The next step is to create a girls football team as demand for this is high. Keep up the great work ladies!



P.E Extra Curricular Timetable

After School 3:10 - 4:10

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
BOYS GIRLS MIXED				
Table Tennis all ages Activity Room PAF	Dance Y7 - Y10 Activity Studio Young Leanders	Racket Sports all ages Sport Hall REG	Fitness Boot Camp all ages Fitness Room SDA	
Rugby all ages Field DAM	Multi Sports Y7 - Y9 Sports Hall MAW	Netball all ages Sports Hall / MUGA YVP	GCSE @tec revision/catchup PE1 MAR	
Rugby Y7 - Y10 Field DAM / SDA				










New Pe Kit

The new PE kit has proved a huge success. Designed by students for students has meant that they have a real sense of pride in how they look and, as you can see, the result, looks amazing. As with anything new we appreciated your patience whilst we and the supplier got things up and running. Initial demand for the kit far surpassed our expectations as we initially set a deadline of Easter for all Year 7-10 to purchase. Already nearly 700 orders have been placed, this is a real positive. I am informed that a huge delivery is expected soon and moving forward there will always be high stock levels in store. The skirt option for girls has been a surprisingly popular choice!

Our PE kit is only stocked and supplied by Design School Uniform, now located on the Headrow. They are also now our team wear sponsors and have recently supplied us with a free full football kit for our KS4 teams. In the future we will also be receiving a new rugby kit too. Please remember that all students will need to have the new PE kit by the Easter holidays.



D

Design School Uniform & Workwear



WE HAVE MOVED!!!

NEW ADDRESS:

21-23 THE HEADROW

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(Opposite Sports Direct)

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Admission Policy 2020 - Consultation

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School is currently consulting on the 2020 Admissions Policy. The proposed policy can be found on the school website (in the Parents - Admissions section) and any responses must be sent by Friday 11 January 2019.

Please send any comments relating to this policy by email to -

s.oliver@mountstmarys.org or by post to

Mrs S Oliver, Admissions Policy Consultation,

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

MSM ONLINE

Maths Department

@MathsMattersMSM

fb.me/mathsmattersMSM

English Department

@MSMEnglish

Science

@MSMPrepRoom

Performing Arts Department

@MSMPAI

youtube.com/MSMpai

Physical Education

@mountstmaryspe

Careers

@MSM_careers

Year 8

@makeitcountMSM

St James wrote the following words.

"My friends, what good is it for one of you to say that you have faith if your actions do not prove it? Can that faith save you? Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. What good is there in your saying to them, "God bless you! Keep warm and eat well!"—if you don't give them the necessities of life? So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead. But someone will say, "One person has faith, another has actions." My answer is, "Show me how anyone can have faith without actions. I will show you my faith by my actions."

As all our community are well aware, our School Motto is QUID RETRIBUAM, "How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?"

Our students have been now given the challenge of going MAD each month, giving one particular, every-day item, which then can be offered to a local charitable organisation for their use and need in serving and supporting the needs of the less fortunate in our local area. November's MAD theme was DRIED PASTA, and students and staff alike went MAD. A whopping 73 kilos of pasta have been offered, in all shapes and sizes, big bags and small bags, which will certainly make a difference to a lot of families.



This Advent we have been focussing on the tradition of the 'Jesse Tree', sharing the story of Jesus' Genealogy, tracking back to the very beginning of Creation when God promised to love us for all eternity – looking back at the main characters and events within the Old Testament which lead to the people of God waiting for their Messiah to come.

Our Staff Liturgy was led by the Year 10 students who have applied to join next year's Leeds Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, students reading key parts of scripture and then leading staff in Prayers of Expectation and Thanksgiving for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. Our choir also provided a musical accompaniment for this event, sharing a number of festive hymns and carols throughout the service.

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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