

“ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me to be a safe, happy, proud, loving person who flourishes in life. ”



“ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me ”



We pray...



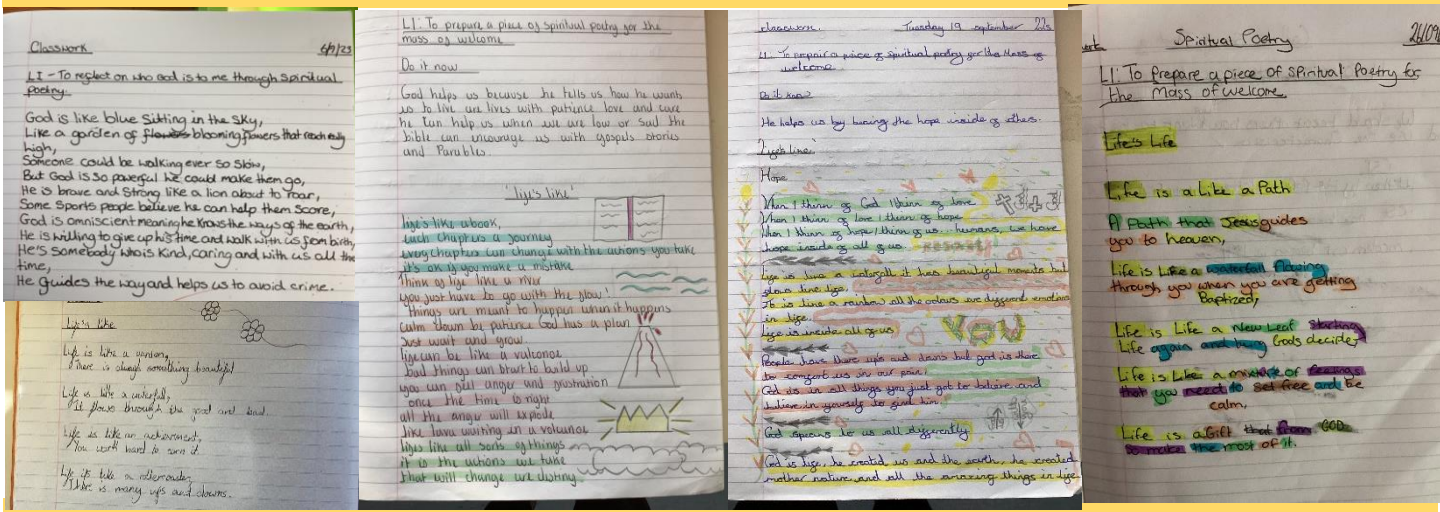
Lord,
 When we follow Jesus's teachings and love and forgive our neighbours, whomever they may be, then we belong to the family of God.
 We pray for the strength to follow Jesus; to forgive and love the sinners, to be merciful to those that need mercy, not just those that want it. We pray for the strength to be a part of the family of God.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord,
 Amen

Chaplaincy News

In the last two weeks we have had assemblies from Miss Jump on 'Forgiveness' and Mrs Dewhurst on 'Follow me', which built on the assemblies on 'Belonging' and 'Love your neighbour' in the first two weeks of term to develop the ideas in our new Belonging Prayer. Mrs Dewhurst ended her assembly with a lovely prayer that summed up the messages of our assemblies so far.

Many thanks to all those who attended the Y7 **Welcome Mass** last night, and to those who worked so hard to make it such a wonderful event. Photos to follow!

At the Mass of Welcome students shared spiritual poetry which they had written during class on the theme "God Is Like". Some examples are below:



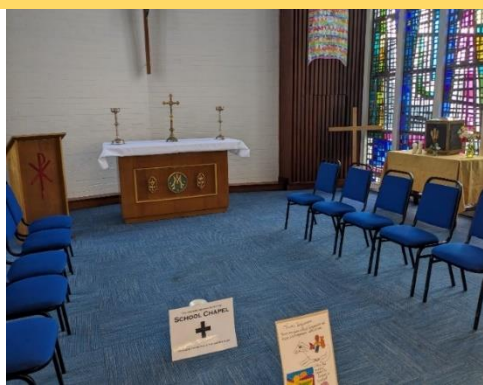
We made a big step forward this week in the process of renovating the school chapel, with the installation of a tabernacle, altar and lectern. There's still more work to do before we're finished, but the school community has certainly started to notice the change.

October is traditionally a month devoted to Our Lady, and we will be praying the Rosary on Mondays. If you would like to pray for particular people or intentions, please use the links to we will be please use the link or QR code to submit a prayer request by Sunday 15th. <https://forms.office.com/e/UZQKWYsn1M>

Many congratulations to the four Y13 CAFOD Young Leaders who received their certificates at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral today

“ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me ”

Belonging
Love your neighbour
Forgiveness
Follow Me



Interview with Deacon Paul



We have welcomed our new chaplain, Deacon Paul, to our school since term began and he has been busy getting to know our pupils and staff and seeing what a great place St. Mary's is! A school chaplain is a really interesting role because there are lots of different elements to it, including helping us with the prayer life of the school, developing how we live out our Catholic faith in our school community and beyond and working pastorally with pupils and staff.

Some of our pupils interviewed Deacon Paul, to help us all get to know him a bit better.

What's a deacon?

In the Catholic Church, there are three types of ordained men and one of those is a deacon. I'm a permanent deacon. The word deacon comes from a Greek word meaning *service*. You have to study to be a deacon, part time for around four years.

Why did you become a deacon?

I felt God was calling me.

What's your favourite piece of scripture.

It's the bit from St James, which is *faith without works is dead* because it sums up being a deacon pretty well.

What's your favourite book of the Bible?

Luke's Gospel because I like the style of storytelling.

What's your favourite hymn?

Hail, Queen of Heaven

What's your favourite prayer?

The Our Father.

What do you like doing as a school chaplain?

I really like talking to people – that's the best part.

What are your hobbies?

Cooking and crosswords. I really like to cook a good Sunday dinner!

Interview with Deacon Paul (Continued)

Would you rather have chippy, Italian, Indian or Chinese takeaway?

Italian, I think, although for a takeaway, maybe Indian food and my favourite would be lamb biryani.

What's your favourite colour?

Dark blue, but I don't know why!

Do you have a lucky number?

I don't have a lucky number but I have a favourite number – 64 – because it can be divided into lots of things, which was useful when I used to swim a lot because 64 lengths was a mile.

What was your favourite subject in school?

It was history because I enjoyed it.

Do you speak any other languages?

No, but I'm trying to learn Latin! I bought a GCSE Latin textbook to help me learn.

Do you like travelling?

Yes, but I also like being at home.

What's your dream car?

One with a chauffeur! I don't really like driving!

Do you have any pets?

Yes – I have a small dog called Percy.

Where are you originally from?

Bristol.

What's your favourite season?

Spring, because it's warm and bright and I like gardening and that's when things start to grow. My favourite flower at the moment is probably Dahlias.

If you could choose to watch only one thing to watch in you life – movies, theatre or TV – what would it be?

TV, I think.

Considerate Parking

Please could we remind parents to be mindful of how and where you are parking at drop-off and pick-up times.

It is important to ensure the safety of our students and also to be considerate of our local neighbours.

Thank you for your support.



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Co-Curricular

The full range of co-curricular activities are now in full swing at St Mary’s, it’s been great to see how many pupils have been attending. If you have any queries please get in touch.

We held a Co-curricular Fayre for Year 7 students this week during form time to allow them to gather information about the co-curricular activities on offer.

The Year 7 choir performed beautifully at the Welcome Mass yesterday evening.

St Mary’s Catholic High School Co-curricular Timetable Autumn Term

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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Quiet board games (C1)	Choir Y7 (MUSIC)	Drama club (drama theatre)	Chess club (L12)	Confucius film + music (C6)
	Football Y7 (ASTRO)	Quiet board games (C1)	Boys choir (MUSIC)	Choir Y8-11 (MUSIC)	Quiet board games (C1)
	Table tennis Y7 (YARD)	Creative Prayer 1.25pm (R4)	Keyboard club (MUSIC)	Chinese handcrafts (C6)	RE Ambassadors 1.25pm (R4)
	Art/photography GCSE (Art)	Football Y8 (ASTRO)	Chinese Calligraphy (C6)	Quiet board games (C1)	Football Y11 (ASTRO)
		Table tennis Y8 (YARD)	Geography Y11	Football Y10 (ASTRO)	Table tennis Y11 (YARD)
	Art/photography GCSE (Art)	COP 28 Climate group (G1) *	Table tennis Y10 (YARD)	Art/photography GCSE (Art)	
	Cyber First Competition Y8 girls (CP4)	Philosophy club 1.25pm (R4)	Art/photography GCSE (Art)		
		Football Y9 (ASTRO)			
		Table tennis Y9 (YARD)			
		Art/photography GCSE (Art)			
Afterschool	Rock school (MUSIC)	Chamber choir (MUSIC)	Boardgames club (LIBRARY)		
	Homework club (LIBRARY)	Chess club (LIBRARY)	Rugby Y7-8 boys (FIELD)		
	Book club (LIBRARY) *	Homework club (LIBRARY)	GCSE PE practical (SPORTSHALL)		
	STEM club (L11/T2)	Netball Y8-11 (SPORTSHALL)	Football Y10-11 (ASTRO)		
	Netball Y7 (SPORTSHALL)	Football Y7 (ASTRO)	Debate club (C10)	Staff meeting night	
	Football Y8-9 (ASTRO)	Rugby Y9 (FIELD)	Girls Rugby (FIELD)		
	Music appreciation society (R1)	Rugby Y10 (week A only) (FIELD)	Art/photography GCSE (Art)		
	Gymnastics Y7-11 (GYM)	Art/photography GCSE (Art)			
	Art/photography GCSE (Art)	Girls Football Y7-11 (ASTRO)			

*Book club (once per half term book club as well 1st week b staff; 2nd week b KS3; 3rd week b KS4) *COP 28 Climate group (starts 4th oct, Y8-11 6 students)



Confucius Classroom

On Tuesday we celebrated International Languages Day. Over 100 students from KS3 visited to embrace the Chinese culture with food and had the opportunity to write their name in Chinese on a book mark. This worked in conjunction with the MFL department. It was very busy and students left with information on the lunch clubs that run on Wednesday - Friday. We are adding the Confucius Classroom onto the school website soon to share any updates and information on what is taught on the curriculum/at lunch.

Sports News



In sports news a number of rugby and football matches have already been played.

The Year 11 rugby team achieved a 28-14 victory over Bedford High, the Year 11 football team also secured a victory over Cardinal Langley High School winning 3-2 on Tuesday. Well done to all involved!

We have Netball, Football and Rugby fixtures coming up in the next few weeks for both girls and boys.

Standards, Behaviour and Attendance

Thank you for your support in ensuring the Pupil Code of Conduct (https://stmaryschs.org.uk/docs/policies/Pupil_Code_of_Conduct.pdf) has been read and signed as part of the whole school agreement contract.

If you have not yet signed this document please could you do so and confirm via the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/QjLEjvxAGG>

The Code of Conduct document provides clarity and transparency about our expectations and standards in school. We teach aspects of this each week through the new weekly form assembly content for all Key Stages so that pupils and students have a clear understanding of it. The form assembly has been well-received by the pupil community and parents and carers are able to view the weekly presentations on our website - <https://stmaryschs.org.uk/Information/Letters-to-Parents/>

Last week, students celebrated International Languages Day and focused on the importance of attendance and punctuality.

Social Behaviour

As we move forward over the next few weeks, we will be covering the importance of social behaviour particularly around public transport and on route to and from school as well as adhering to systems in school to avoid congestion which could result in harmful physical contact. We will also be exploring child on child abuse and physical space and not tolerating any dismissive reaction to challenge of anti-social behaviour with 'it's just banter' or 'that's my mate.' We will be reinforcing what child on child abuse is (in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023), how this manifests and that it's never acceptable so that we can ensure a safe community for all.

Attendance News

The number of students who have achieved 100% for attendance during the month of September has been impressive. You will be able to access on Edulink your child's attendance and punctuality to lessons. It is of the utmost importance to us that your child receives the very best education so please reinforce the school's message at home '**Right Place, Right Time**'. If your child is absent for any reason, please contact school and the expectation is that they catch up on the work. If your child is late in the morning, they are missing out on the set up for their lessons ahead and a whole programme of study during form time including: form assembly, attendance conversations, liturgical assembly, life lessons and the literary canon.

Uniform

As the weather starts to get colder please note that outer school coats should be plain black or navy and not have sports logos. Half zipped sports wear or hoodies are not allowed.

Sixth Form Parental Support Evening

It was good to see so many parents attending the support evening in college last week. Mr Rayner went through the routine and expectations we have in sixth form and highlighted the ways that parents can support their child in college. The presentation is available on the sixth form area of the school website if you were unable to attend.

This week we will be continuing our transition for Year 11 students with an assembly highlighting the upcoming Open Evening and Taster Day. Full details for both these evens will be sent home for parents shortly.

SEN - Introduction to Learning Support

We would like to welcome you to Learning Support where we support pupils with different needs. We work with pupils inside the classroom but also in targeted interventions. We are delighted to welcome three new Teaching Assistants to our growing team this year who will enable us to further support our pupils. Teachers are trained to support pupils with different needs and how to de-escalate behaviours. Teachers support pupils by giving them reasonable adjustments. If you have any concerns about your child's additional needs or you would like advice please contact the SEN team at SEN@st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk

Transition Update

Over the last couple of weeks we have welcomed a number of our primary schools into St Mary's as part of our transition process. Students have engaged in a number of different lessons and activities to have a taste of what is come! The feedback we have received so far has been really positive with lots of comments about the warmth shown to our YR6 students and primary staff from everyone here at St Mary's.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This month our Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students have taken part in their Qualifying Expedition for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. This year 85 students are taking part in the award. Split over two weekends students and staff braved the elements to navigate, hike, camp and cook self sufficiently in the idyllic location of the Forest of Bowland. With students walking between 10-15k a day with their backpacks full the relief on their faces each night when they reached camp was clear. Despite all the hard work during the day the camp was filled with laughter in the evenings as students sat down to cook their evening meals with their friends. All the students that took part showed resilience and determination to complete the award and hopefully will use their experiences throughout their lives.

