

Chaplaincy News

We are still celebrating May as Mary's month, so pupils have been invited to pray the rosary at various times during the week and it has been really lovely to see pupils volunteering to take part and remembering to bring their own rosary beads with them.

In addition, one of our prayer themes has been about caring for creation. The idea of caring for creation is part of Catholic Social Teaching which encourages us to look after other people and the planet we all share together. This was the



focus of our prayers last week. Prayer should lead us to action, so our pupils have been invited to collect empty crisp packets and empty drinks bottles so that they can be recycled. The crisp packets will be donated to a charity which makes blankets out of crisp packets and donates the blankets to homeless people. We'll continue this until half term and beyond.

We pray:

O God, we praise you
For the world sings
Of your infinite love.

Forgive us the times
That we do not care for creation as we should.
Inspire us to act for climate justice and a better world for all.

Guide our leaders
And all who can effect change
To set aside their own interests
And to act in the interests of all,
Especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

Strengthen our faith
That we might never lose hope
So that we might rise up
And take action for your creation.
Amen

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a parent governor which we need to fill as soon as possible. Governing boards are the key strategic decision makers and vision setters in every school. They are a key part of the overall system for school accountability. Governing boards have a vital role to play in driving up school and pupil performance and ensuring that resources are used well to give every child the best possible education. Further information about the role of a parent governor is attached to this letter and information about our governing board can be found on the school website.

Parent governors are valued members of the team. We are particularly interested in nominations from parents with knowledge of SEN and additional needs for pupils, a commitment to learning, knowledge of safeguarding procedures, as well as time to undertake Governor Visits into school. However, we are ultimately keen to have parents and carers who are committed to driving forward the school's vision and ethos, and enhancing outcomes for our children. We welcome parents from all backgrounds and experience and would particularly welcome parents from ethnic minority groups.

We feel sure that there are parents and carers prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the school's performance. Training is available for all newly appointed governors, and there is an expectation of the governing board that you will attend these induction sessions within the first year of your appointment.

Please note you will be required to undergo an enhanced criminal record check and you must not meet the disqualifying criterion that is included with this letter.

If you think you have the time, skills, expertise or commitment to join our governing board, please complete the nomination form via this link by 9.00am on Monday 3rd June 2024: <https://forms.office.com/e/CamHyt6dab>

You can also email your nomination to Ms J Langham, Senior Assistant Headteacher - j.langham@st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk. Please put 'Parent Governor Nomination' in the subject. Nominations received after 9.00am on Monday 3rd June will not be accepted.

Please provide a statement about why you would like to become a governor in no more than 300 words. The statement should include:

- Evidence of the extent to which you possess the skills and experience the governing board desires.
- Your commitment to undertake training and participate in the development of the governing board.
- How you plan to contribute to the work of the governing board or if seeking re-appointment how you have contributed to governance during your term of office.

If there are more nominations than vacancies, an election will be held and all parents will be sent a voting paper with your name and statement and be asked to vote.

If you have any questions or would like an informal conversation with either our Chair of Governors or our Headteacher, about the role of a governor, please contact the Headteachers P.A by emailing: r.coll@st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Dr N Gredecki
Chair of Governors

Mrs D Brahms
Headteacher

Mental Health Event

We were delighted to welcome Dan Sarginson into school during Mental Health week to talk to our Key Stage 4 and 5 pupils. The recurring theme of vulnerability as strength permeated the discussion. Dan openly shared his journey, underscoring how suppressing emotions can detrimentally affect well-being. Dan delved into vulnerability as a crucial element for building strong relationships and fostering personal growth. The examples given gave inspiration to our pupils enabling them to understand themselves better and the intention behind doing certain things, urging students to break free from unhealthy societal expectations. Dan addressed the concept of low self-worth, offering practical strategies for students to reclaim their self-esteem.



Chinese Cookery Masterclass

On Tuesday a selection of our Year 7 pupils had the exciting opportunity to immerse themselves in Chinese culture and cuisine during a cooking masterclass. The pupils demonstrated their culinary expertise making authentic vegetarian spring rolls. They received a tutorial from our Mandarin teachers and instantly got to work! The pupils made a perfect batch to take home for the whole family to enjoy! It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm in embracing culture from our exemplary students. The Mandarin team were massively impressed with the finished products and the pride in which our students work. We are looking forward to the class next week! Keep an eye out for future workshops!



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

Ofsted
Good
Provider

Wigan Borough family hubs

Are you a parent/carer?

Are you passionate about shaping services for families in Wigan?

We are looking for parents and carers of children aged 0-19 or children up to 25 years old with a special educational need and disability (SEND), to join our Family Hub parent/carer panel.

Working together to support families



What is the Family Hub parent/carer panel?

The parent/carer panel is where parents and carers work together with local service leads and commissioners to help design, deliver and evaluate services.

Why should you join?

You could make a real difference in your local Family Hub for you and your child. You will be given the opportunity and environment to share your thoughts and ideas, and be a voice for your local community.

There will also be activities in place to support you including access to free training opportunities to assist you in your role as a panel member.

What will I have to do?

As a member of the parent/carer panel, you will be kept up to date about developments across the Family Hub network.

You may also be asked to:

- Share personal knowledge and experiences of services
- Take part in meetings, workshops and other projects to help shape the way services are run in your area
- Complete surveys and on occasion, help to design surveys

If you have any further questions or want to be part of our parent/carer panel, please contact us by emailing earlyhelpvolunteering@wigan.gov.uk or visit www.wiganboroughvolunteerhub.co.uk/vo10378

www.wigan.gov.uk/FamilyHubs



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

Thank You!!!

Last week we were delighted to receive a donation of 20 laptops from Lyondell Basell.

Mrs Clouston (grandmother of St. Mary's alumni) and Mr Andrews, father of a current student both work for LYB and when Mrs Clouston suggested that the school could benefit from laptops, Mr Andrews worked to make that happen.

We will be able to use these laptops to benefit our community and in particular our students for whom laptops are a great expense. We are so grateful for the company and our wider St. Mary's family for thinking of us.

Message from the company:

“Today, the donation of laptops to local schools exemplifies our commitment to advancing tomorrow's workforce, our planet, and our communities. We are committed to creating equitable access to education at all levels. By providing these resources, we not only empower students with the tools but also contribute to environmental sustainability by giving second life to electronic devices, thus reducing waste. This initiative embodies our holistic approach to creating positive change for future generations.”



Standards

We are delighted by the number of students who have received rewards and recognition points within their year groups and congratulate them for maintaining high standards and being the best they can be, some of whom have been treated to a breakfast with the Headteacher!

We continue to monitor punctuality carefully and politely remind you that all students should be on their yard for 8:30 each day. We appreciate that Manchester Road is extremely busy in the mornings - please make allowance for this so your child can fully benefit from the time with their form tutor and the programme of activities through out the week.

As a school, we constantly monitor attendance of pupils. Please aim for 100% attendance in the final summer term. The curriculum is carefully crafted and sequenced so it is important your child does not miss time out of the classroom. To this end, it is important they don't miss lesson time whilst in school as this has very negative consequences for their learning and is disruptive to teaching. Please support us in reminding your children that toilet visits (unless there is a medical need/exceptional circumstances) should be in social time, before/after lessons. This is also the same for filling water bottles.

Key Stage 4 News

Year 11 have continued to work very hard on their exams and have been exemplary in the examinations hall. A letter will come out today with details of the Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving (June 20th).

Year 10 have had their third exam preparation assembly this week and all of the resources have been placed on SMHW for them. They will receive a Topic Overview for each subject via SMHW today and this will also be placed on the KS4 Padlet (front page of website).

Final preparations for Work Experience are well underway; students will enter the world of work on the 10th of June!

Key Stage 3 News

We have all things transition happening at the moment in Key Stage 3 with visits to primary school taking place from next week and Year 9 students getting ready for their move after the holidays to Key Stage 4.

Some of our Year 7 students will be buddying up with primary school pupils when they visit us for their transition day to help them feel settled. Some of our Year 10 students are also on hand to help anyone who may be worried/anxious about their move into Key Stage 4.

A Rewards Breakfast with the Headteacher took place this week for some very fortunate students to enjoy and to celebrate their achievements.

Sports News



Our Year 7 Girls' Rugby team have been to Oulton in Yorkshire to take part in a National final. They were unsuccessful in the match but played brilliantly and really enjoyed the experience. The Year 7 girls have shown a great commitment to training and the number of players has been ever increasing which is wonderful to see. The girls have a North West Counties final next week and we wish them good luck!



A group of our boys have just completed a 5 week block with an external boxing coach from Pool of Life Boxing in Leigh. They were taught a number of basic boxing skills as well as lots of conditioning and fitness work. The boys really enjoyed the sessions.



The year 9 Boys' football team were involved in a football tournament against Lowton, Cansfield and Golborne last week. They won all their respective matches – huge congratulations to everyone involved!