



**ST MARY'S
COLLEGE**

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6 - FEBRUARY 2022



Teaching & Learning at SMC

As we approach the mid-point of the school year, and with plans for Parent/Tutor day well under way, it is a fitting time to reflect on the remarkable work of students and staff so far this academic year.

Teaching and Learning is at the heart of all we do at St Mary's College and it has been an absolute privilege to see students so engaged with their learning and making excellent progress across the school. This doesn't happen by chance. All of our teachers regularly participate in high quality professional development and work collaboratively to engage with research and share best practice. Likewise, our approach to Teaching and Learning – with carefully sequenced Learning Journeys and the SMC Learning Cycle, ensures that we have the highest expectations of what students can learn and remember over time.

What we are most proud of however are the remarkable attitudes of our young people. Whether it be persevering with problem-solving in Maths or engaging in debate in a Literacy for Life lesson, our students continue to astound us with their positive attitudes to learning and commitment to their studies. The support from yourselves as parents and carers should also not be underestimated as this can make a significant difference to the progress your child makes.

In my first term and a half as Vice Principal at St Mary's College, it has been a pleasure to see the exceptional work of our students first-hand and I would encourage you to ask your child to share this with you regularly. There have been examples of outstanding work across the curriculum but for me, some of the key highlights have been the BBC News Reports created by our Year 7 Core Group, the excellent academic essays produced by Year 12 RE students exploring the topic of Science vs Religion, and the Globe Theatre tours presented in English.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to pass on our huge congratulations to the five SM6 students who have been offered Oxbridge places for September 2022. This is testament to the hard work and commitment of these students and we are very proud of their achievements so far, they really embody our "world class" ethos.

As you reflect on Parent/Tutor day with your own child, I would encourage you to celebrate all of their successes – big and small, and we look forward to welcoming them back after the half-term break.



**MRS ADAMS -
VICE PRINCIPAL: TEACHING & LEARNING**



SEND SPORTING SUCCESS!



The Humber Area Boccia Championships took place on Thursday 20th January 2022 at the Hull University Sports Centre. St Mary's College organised the competition as part of our role as the Youth Sport Trust Lead Inclusion School for the Humber Area.

Boccia is a game similar to boules or petanque. The aim of the game is to throw leather ball— coloured red or blue (as close as they can to a white target ball, or jack. The jack is thrown first, then the first two regular balls are played (first, the player who threw the jack then the opposing side), after which the side furthest away from the jack goes next in an attempt to either get closer to the jack or knock the opposition's ball out of the way. In this fashion, each round, or end, will continue until one side has played all their balls, at which point, the opposing side will play their remaining balls.

Twenty teams from nine schools including four from St Mary's College were grouped into three competitions- COMPETE, DEVELOP and ENGAGE based on playing experience. This is the format used in all one day tournaments across the city in all sports and activities. This is to ensure all students have a positive experience and want to engage in regular physical activity post event.

St Mary's College B team were third and St Mary's College A team were fourth in the Compete tournament. In the Develop tournament, St Mary's College C team were second and in the Engage tournament St Mary's College D team were third. Students demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and respect for others whilst interacting with other schools' students alongside teamwork and communication skills whilst playing. Sixteen Year 9 sports leaders umpired the competition and were outstanding.

The competition is part of a comprehensive programme of opportunities delivered by the Hull Active Schools Sports Partnership located at St Mary's College.



World Book Day is coming !



At St Mary's College, we are proud to have created a wonderful reading community where the importance of reading is never underestimated.

Every year we love to celebrate the joy and power of reading by celebrating World Book Day and 2022 will be no different. In the first week back after half term, students can look forward to a range of activities from quizzes to book hunts, and there may be some gifts from the Book Faeries around the site - so keep your eyes peeled!

The very first World Book day was celebrated in the UK in 1997 and has since then become a firm favourite in schools across the country. At St Mary's College we love to see students joining in with the activities we promote for World Book Day, but of course you can participate from home too! Gathering as a family to share your favourite stories, or even making up stories of your own are fantastic ways to ensure that every child is able to celebrate this most magical of days!

So make sure that you have bookmarks at the ready as we prepare to celebrate our first World Book Day in person since 2020 - we are encouraging our Key Stage 3 student body to dress up on **Friday 4th March**.

We will also be having a themed bake sale on the Wednesday 9th March to raise money for the Roald Dahl Children's Charity - there will be prizes available for the most creative literary bake!

This year our overall theme is "The Magical World of Books" and we would love our students to consider all types of magical characters from Lord of the Rings, the world of Narnia to Alice in Wonderland or even A Christmas Carol!



ARE YOU IN YEAR 11 AND INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN HEALTHCARE OR SOCIAL CARE?



Make sure you have put your name forward for the Medical Health and Social Academy. Interviews for those applying will start after half term.

See Mrs Connell in the LRC for further details or come along and see us at the upcoming SM6 Open Event on the 10th of March.

You can talk to staff and students currently enrolled on the programme, and some of our healthcare partners including representatives from the City Health Care Partnership, Hull University and Hull York Medical school.

Listen to the MHSCA podcast too, to find out how medical professionals support our students:

LUNCHTIME CLUB CREATIONS



Our DT lunchtime club are in the throws of making decorative Easter gifts. They've had a lot of interest from staff wanting orders for Easter. More entrepreneurial activity from SMC students!



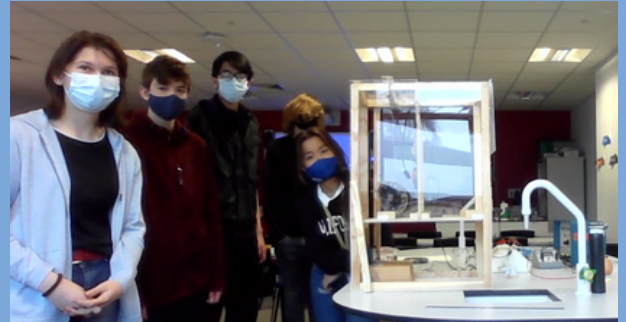
SUPER SAFE CRACKERS

A team of Year 12 safe crackers from St Mary's College were amongst the winners of the Weizmann UK's tenth annual physics tournament. It was a close competition with a total of 16 teams from UK schools taking part in the virtual tournament on Sunday 6 February 2022.

Almost 80 Year 12 students from 9 schools competed testing their physics knowledge by designing a safe which could be cracked only by solving two physics riddles. Each team had to explain the concept behind their safe, the physics behind their riddles and how to crack into their safe and reset. Judging was followed by an exhibition where teams could present their safes to their peers.

The five St Mary's students, team name 'Vortex', achieved the Best Newcomer prize, allowing them to take their skills to the next level in the international final. The safe in questions used physic challenges based on the refraction of UV light, precessional motion and a resistor box.

The Virtual International Safe Cracking Tournament will take place online 4-6th April 2022 from the Weizmann Institute of Science.



YOUR VIEWS MATTER

Your opinions count, we have a number of opportunities for you to give your feedback and ideas.

For the first time in 2000 years, the WHOLE church is being asked

"What should a 21st Century Church look like?"

Pope Francis has started a two year process of consultation. A process that will shape the face and direction of the Church for the future. This has happened in the past many times, but in the past only the clergy had a voice. Never before has "The Crowd" been asked.

So let us know what you think. Follow the link below:



Our Parent Voice survey is an easy way for us to gather essential feedback from parents and carers on key aspects of our school life and how they are impacting upon pupils and their families.



<https://forms.office.com/r/wwZFsQ7s8Q>

<https://tinyurl.com/ParentVoiceFeb22>



And finally...

RECOMMENDED READS !



Mrs Kelly, Teacher of English recommends some exciting reading for the half term holiday. Scan the QR code above or go www.theschoolreadinglist.co.uk to seek out the next exciting read to match your age and interests !

VISITORS FROM ARGENTINA



This month we welcomed Newlands Colegio from Argentina. The boys played a football match against SM6 & the girls attended Spanish lessons with our Year 9 cohort.

A PRAYER FOR THE HALF TERM HOLIDAY

May God's blessing go with us today,
At the end of this half term we pray.
That you keep us safe and give us rest
So we start again renewed and refreshed.
Full of health, full of fun
Ready to come and learn again.
May God's blessing go with us today,
As we begin our school holiday.
May God's blessings await us,
To embrace each new challenge without fear.
Fill our school with your love, and guide our hearts
from above.
Full of faith, full of hope, full of joy, and full of love.
Amen.

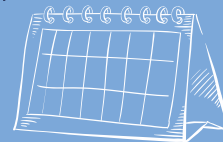


KEY UPCOMING DATES

- Monday 28th February - school re-opens for the second half of the Spring term
- Wednesday 2nd March - Ash Wednesday
- Friday 4th March - celebration of World Book Day. KS3 character dress up day
- Thursday 10th March - SM6 Open Evening 6.00-8.30pm



- Thursday 24th March - Year 8 Options Evening
- Wednesday 30th March - Saturday 2nd April - 'Chicago' Performing Arts production
- Friday 8th April - school closes for the Easter holiday



HELPFUL CONTACTS

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Please note-we are unable to reply to comments on our social media accounts. Please do not reply to text messages sent by the school and instead use the email address above to contact us.