



Planners are an essential piece of your equipment at St Mary's

Ready and equipped.

Find out about the importance of the school planner in organising your studies.

Organisation and equipment are a key factor to your success at St Mary's College. Former U.S President Benjamin Franklin once quoted "by failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail". As you can see from our excellent results, children at the College do very, very well. This is because we are well equipped and consistently organised.

The most essential part of your equipment list will be your school planner. This is where all of the homework, important information, merits and detentions are written down. Merits are the rewards system in the lower stages of St Mary's and you can earn great prizes such as money off trips, gift cards and vouchers. Your planner can also be used to get your lunch if you forget your dinner card.

The back of your planner has a handy timetable so you can track what lesson you have next and where you need to be. Homework should be recorded each week and completed in time to help you reach your full potential.

Year 8 student Emma said "the planner is really useful as it helps to keep me organised. My parents have to sign it every week so they know what I've been doing and if there's any important messages". She also noted how

the information in there really helped with her lessons. When asked what she used the most, she added "the learning resources such as the maps, tricky words, useful connectives and maths equations really helped when I got stuck in a lesson. They helped me to become a more independent learner".

Also, remember your basic equipment list of black and red pens, pencils, a clear ruler, eraser, pencil-case, pencil-sharpener, and a reading book. A list is on page 10 of your planner if you forget. You can also buy replacements from the LRC to make sure you're always well-stocked. Your equipment will also be checked in tutor time, so ensure you have your things at hand. At the back of your planner are some coloured pages – red, amber, and green. These are also a fantastic way of letting your teacher know how you are getting on. If you put it on your desk with the red page up, they will know you need help and support. If it is amber, then you are okay and may just need a little checking and if you are green, you are good to go. This saves you having to put your hand up if you are nervous.

Meet Miss Tuthill, Year 7 mentor



- One of the most important people you will meet in year 7 in our fantastic learning mentor Miss Tuthill.
- Often found in the Year 7 office with Mr Dale and Miss Ramsden, she is here to be a guiding light to help you make responsible choices and support you on your academic journey. Any problems or queries are often dealt with by the Year 7 team, but you can also ask your teachers as well.
- The three main qualities Miss Tuthill believes will see students become successful at St Mary's are preparation, behaviour, and courage. She reminds you not to be afraid and remember that we are all here to help. You may feel a little nervous at first, but everyone is in the same boat. She also feels that St Mary's offers a real sense of community, and once you are here, you'll soon feel a part of something special. Therefore, if you are feeling a little lost, remember, there is always a smiling, friendly face to point you in the right direction. Miss Tuthill will also be able to guide you towards any clubs which may interest you and she is always interested to hear how you are settling in.

Advice



**Mr Hussey -
English**

"I'm looking forward to seeing some fabulous English work in September. Remember to get involved and make new friends"



**Miss Young - Art
and Design**

"Remember, your tutor is always here to help you with any problems you're having. We're always good listeners".



**Mr Townsend -
Science**

"Being a year 7 tutor is amazing. The class competitions and Good News Fridays really bring out the best in you"



**Let's
go
clubbing!**

Clubs are a great way to expand your skills, share interests and get to meet new friends.

St Mary's has lots of clubs to offer year 7 students.

Here at St Mary's we are proud of all of the extra-curricular clubs we offer to our students. As a community, we want you to succeed not only educationally, but also physically, emotionally and spiritually. Whether you're a budding Harry Kane, Van Gogh or Nicola Adams, there will be a sports or activities club to suit your needs. Some of the clubs we run are Football, Netball, Rugby, trampolining, Art Club, Stage Management and even a Warhammer club. We also offer Chess and Jigsaw clubs, as well as help with homework and computers. As you walk around college, you will see fantastic examples of Art, watch some amazing Drama productions and even get to witness some fantastic speakers from our debating society. Whatever your interest, we're sure there is a club to suit your needs.

If there isn't, just ask, we're always looking for new and exciting opportunities. We've recently added a Green Society club who have done some excellent work in ensuring we become eco-friendly and don't waste single use plastic. We believe that everyone has that special talent which needs nurturing outside of the curriculum, so whether you're a dancer, baker, boxer or sewer, there's always going to be something of interest going on. You can sign up through your tutor groups, or just turn up when a session is on. It's a great way to make new friends with similar interests and a good way to get to know other members of staff. Whatever you choose, you'll be greeted by warm, friendly faces, a relaxed atmosphere and expert tuition in whatever you decide. What are you waiting for? Get involved!

Focus on English the curriculum

The English department at St Mary's is a thriving hub of activity, challenges, and creativity. Lead superbly by Miss Smith, they aim to ensure your speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills are of the highest standard. With excellent links to the Royal Shakespeare Company, they also encourage your creative and dramatic flair. With regular trips to the theatre, and speaking and writing competitions, they try to make sure everyone gets involved with the core basics of language.

You'll have noticed that a reading book is part of your equipment check, and our well-stocked LRC and innovative programmes such as the Sora App and Reading Cloud mean you will never be short of something to indulge yourself in. Whether you are a fan of Dickens, J. K. Rowling or even Marvel and D.C, we encourage all aspects of engagement with English. There are even trips to the Stan Lee Excelsior Awards, where you can win excellent Marvel Comics goodies.