



Dear Family,

We have made it! We are at the end of Term 1 and can look forward to celebrating the joy of Christmas. I love Christmas; when I was little my mum and dad always made Christmas such a special time for me, my sister and brother. The house was always beautifully decorated (every room), mum made an amazing Christmas dinner (she still does) and we were lucky enough to receive some wonderful presents (we still do). The afternoon of Christmas Day would be punctuated by the Christmas Concert performed by all 3 of us children and went on for some substantial time – how our parents managed to keep smiling and encouraging us throughout this cacophony amazes me to this day. Yet it was Christmas Eve that always encapsulated the magic and wonder of Christmas for me, and this started with the Children's Christmas mass. The hymns, the candles and the celebration of Jesus' arrival always filled me with awe and a sense of great excitement. This has never left me, and it will be a highlight for me to go to the Children's Christmas mass at St John of Beverley next week. Hopefully, my boys will feel that same sense of wonder and Christmas spirit.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all families for their ongoing support and understanding in what has recently been a challenging time. The continuity of children's learning is an absolute priority for me, and I will do all I can to ensure that this is the case in the New Year. Of course, we will have to follow government guidance, but please rest assured, that at St Mary's, your child's well-being, emotional health and academic progress is our drive and focus.

Last of all, I want to wish all students and families a wonderful Christmas. Please enjoy spending time with the people you love and just being able to be together. You will all be very much in my thoughts and prayers and I hope that there is peace, love and joy in your house this festive period.

Please spare a thought for me, as I wrestled with several websites at almost midnight last night in an attempt to purchase a 190cm Cleo the Caterpillar for my youngest, Arthur, as this giant plush insect was disappearing from online retailers before my very tired eyes! However, the good news is that this multi-coloured, many-legged invertebrate is now on its way to my house. Happy Christmas and God Bless.



MRS STEAD - HEAD OF SCHOOL

### KEY DATES FOR NEXT TERM:

- Tuesday 4th January 2022 - school recommences after the Christmas break
- Half term break : Monday 21st - Friday 25th February
- Monday 28th February - school starts after half term
- Friday 8th April - last day at school of the Spring term. School closes for the Easter break.

2022

# BILINGUALISM

St Mary's College has International School Status. Within the school, there are over 50 nationalities and over 50 different languages spoken. It is for this reason, we have a support department dedicated to EAL.

**EAL** stands for **E**nglish as an **A**dditional **L**anguage.

## What is EAL?

- EAL refers to learners whose first language is not English. If a parent speaks a language other than English to their child, in its formative years, then the child has EAL.

## What is Bilingualism/Multilingualism?

In the modern world, the learning of different languages is extremely important. Even the process of learning another language stimulates the brain, improves problem solving and multi-tasking skills. There has been a lot of research into bilingualism over the years. Many studies have found considerable benefits of being able to speak more than one language. A trait that was once considered a hindrance, has now proved to have so many advantages for both children and adults. Here are some of the benefits of bilingualism:

1. Being bilingual has positive effects on the brain
2. Bilingualism gives you an educational advantage
3. Languages are highly valued in the workplace
4. Being bilingual has been linked to health benefits
5. Speaking more than one language makes you more open-minded
6. Speaking a foreign language can be highly beneficial when you travel
7. Being bilingual opens up new social opportunities
8. Knowing more than one language helps you to learn additional languages
9. Being bilingual means you can raise bilingual children
10. You are not the minority if you are bilingual

It is because of the above reasons, St Mary's places so much importance on the learning of foreign languages and encourages students to sit GCSE/GCE in their home language if such is available and if they can read and write to the required exam standard.



## HEADERS & FOOTERS...

### Football

- Year 8A football team have reached the last 8 of the ESFA Elite National Cup and last 32 of the ESFA National Cup
- Year 9A football team have reached the last 8 of the ESFA National cup and the last 64 of the ESFA National Cup

### Table Tennis

- Under 13 Boys, Under 16 Girls, Under 16 Boys have reached the last 32 in the Table Tennis England ESTTA National Schools Team Table Tennis Championships
- Under 19 Boys have reached the last 16 in the Table Tennis England ESTTA National Schools Team Table Tennis Championships

### Badminton

- Year 10 & 11 Boys and Girls Badminton Teams have reached the Humber School Games Finals by winning the Hull Active Schools Championships
- SM6 Badminton Team have reached the last 16 of the AOC Sport National Cup

### Dodgeball

- Under 13 Girls Dodgeball Team have reached the Humber School Games Finals by finishing in second place in the Hull Active Schools Championships

### Netball

- Year 7A and Year 10A netball teams have reached the Humberside Schools Netball Finals to take place in July 2022 at Hymers College

### Basketball

- SM6 Basketball team reached the last 32 of the AOC Sport National Cup

More importantly, it has been great to see the sports facilities since half term buzzing with activity at lunchtimes. On average 50-60 students engaged in activity on the 4G, table tennis sessions with 30 students in attendance in Years 7 and 8 and students attending physical activity sessions in the fitness suite at lunchtime and after school.





## NEW PODCAST !

If you are interested in hearing more about the work and experiences of the students and professionals who are part of our Medical, Health & Social Care Academy then why not listen into our new MedBlog podcast on Spotify. New episodes will be appearing throughout 2022.

Visit our channel on Spotify now :  
<https://tinyurl.com/SMCHullPodcasts>



## STUDENTS IN THE HEADLINES!



YEAR 8 STUDENT CYDNEY, HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH A CHEQUE FOR £250 FOR WINNING THE NADINE FUDGE 'ONE TO WATCH' YOUTH ENTERPRISE AWARD 2021

## CENTRE STAGE...

St Mary's College has been shortlisted as a finalist in the 'Outstanding School Drama Department' category for the Music & Drama Education Awards 2022.

This fantastic achievement recognises the quality and innovative nature of the work the teaching team are doing.

The awards ceremony will take place at the London Marriott Hotel Grosvenor Square in March 2022, where the winners will be announced by a celebrity host.



On Saturday the 27th November, the SM6 Dance company performed at the La Volta Dance Festival in Hull. This was the first venture the post-16 Dance Company has taken in terms of a public performance.

We were the only 6th Form group performing and competing against Dance schools.

The students walked away with the adjudicators' award for the **Most Outstanding Choreography** for their piece 'Wade in the Water'.



## CAREERS UPDATE



We are delighted to be re-introducing our programme of lunchtime careers talks in the new year. These will be held over Microsoft Teams with sessions arranged for our Year 11 and Year 12/13 students.

Further details will be given out to the at the start of next term.

### Year 11

- Wed 19th January – Thinking about Medicine? Presentation by Hull York Medical school.
- Thursday 20th January – Careers in the Armed Forces
- Tuesday 1st Feb – Careers in Construction, PBB Construction

### Year 12/13

- Wed 19th January – Careers with KCOM.
- Wed 26th January – Professional careers in the construction industry: Balfour Beatty

Students can email our Careers Adviser if they have any careers/employer talks they would like to request.

[vconnell@smchull.org](mailto:vconnell@smchull.org).

## MUSIC NOTES...

Thank you to all students and staff who have contributed to our Musical Advent Calendar this December.

If you haven't caught our daily updates as yet, then you are in for a festive treat.

Head over to the Music Department YouTube channel :

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StMarysCollegeMusicDepartment>



We hope to reschedule our postponed Tea Time Music concerts in January all being well. Please follow the school Twitter and Facebook accounts for further details and dates in the new year.  
 #SupportLiveMusic



# And finally...

## JOLLY JUMPERS & SEASONAL SOCKS FUNDRAISER

*Thank You!*

A huge thank you to all who got dressed up and donated to our Christmas fundraiser.

We raised **£800** which will be split between our two chosen Advent charities:

**Welcome House Hull**

**&**

**Kingston Junior Academy, Kenya**



## SUSTAINABILITY SNAKES & LADDERS

Geography has been playing some snakes and ladders games with Year 8 to help explain the topic of sustainability.



They were really enthused and enjoyed the game and learnt some good solutions of how we can be more sustainable!

## A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS...

Jesus, the Light of the World,  
As we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the world in the light of understanding you give us.

As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart.  
May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving.  
Amen



## HELPFUL CONTACTS

St Mary's College  
Cranbrook Avenue  
HULL. HU6 7TN

### For main reception and enquiries:

Tel 01482 851136

Email: [admin@smchull.org](mailto:admin@smchull.org)



Twitter: @SMCHull



Facebook: @smchull



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.