Issue: 2
Friday 11th September 2026
Celebrating 175 Years of Catholic Education

St Mary's Mail

Welcome, Hard work, Service Celebrating 175 Years of Education

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our Community

This first full week back has certainly been a busy one and, I suspect, many of us will be ready for a well-earned rest this evening.

Our assemblies this week have focused on behaviour and forgiveness: how we interact with one another, take responsibility when things go wrong, and refocus on doing better. It was wonderful to hear each year group in full voice during our assembly hymns, a reminder of the strength of our shared identity and values.

As we celebrate 175 years of St Mary's, high standards of uniform continue to play an important role in our school culture. They help create an environment where respect, belonging and learning can flourish. Thank you to all families for your support in ensuring students arrive each day ready to learn. Together, we strive not only for excellent academic outcomes, but also for the development of character and community.

It has been a privilege to visit lessons this week and witness the focus and determination of our students. Many are already "locked in" for the year ahead. This morning, I met with our student leaders over breakfast to discuss what is going well and where we can improve further. They then led staff briefing, demonstrating maturity, confidence and leadership. They are a credit to themselves, their families, and our whole St Mary's community.

Fidem serva – Keep the Faith

Patrick Shields
Headteacher

Reflection

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that forgiveness should have no limit. God is always ready to forgive us, and he asks us to show that same mercy to others.

This connects closely with our values of Welcome, Hard Work and Service. We welcome others by giving them the chance to begin again. Forgiveness can be hard work, especially when we have been hurt. By showing mercy and kindness, we serve others and help to build a stronger community.

We pray for all of our new pupils this week as they settle into life here at St Marys, may Our Lady watch over them each day.

Whats happening at St Mary's...

Year 11 Journey Begins with Faith and Focus

On Tuesday 8 September, we were delighted to welcome our Year 11 students and their families to our Year 11 Welcome Mass and Information Evening.

The evening began with a special Mass celebrated by Father Patrick from St Mary's Catholic Church, who joined us to mark the start of this important and significant year for our students. Father Patrick encouraged Year 11 to embrace the opportunities ahead, remain focused on their goals, and trust in God's guidance as they prepare for their GCSE examinations and future pathways.

The Mass provided an opportunity for students, parents, carers, and staff to come together in prayer and reflection, asking for God's blessings on the year ahead. It was a meaningful occasion that reinforced our shared commitment to supporting our young people academically, spiritually, and personally throughout their final year at school.

Following the Mass, families attended the Information Evening, where key information was shared about Year 11 expectations, attendance, revision strategies, examination preparation, and the support available to students throughout the year. Parents and carers were also given practical advice on how they can help their children achieve their full potential during this crucial stage of their education.

We would like to thank Father Patrick for leading such a thoughtful and inspiring Mass, and we are grateful to all the families who attended. We look forward to working in partnership throughout the year to ensure every Year 11 student has a successful and rewarding final year with us.

We wish all our Year 11 students every success as they begin this important chapter of their journey.

St Mary's Catholic High School

St Mary's Stars of the Week

St Mary's Stars of the week, for being shining examples in demonstrating our values of Welcome, Hard Work and Service

Bernadette House		
Shennoya	11B	For consistently demonstrating a helpful attitude
Jessica	10B	For always being ready to help staff and peers
Dilpreet	9B	For showing a warm welcome to all members of our community
Adwoa	8B	For a brilliant start to year 8 lessons
Gabrielly	7B	For making effort and working hard during lessons

John Bosco House		
Preye	11J	For helping the year 7s and being a good role model
Miracle	10J	Always has a positive attitude to learning and encourages her peers to remember routines and stay on task
Chibuifem	9J	For being very focussed in tutor time.
Bianca	8J	Supporting with Year 7 students.
Mercy	7J	For being a good role model and participating in singing during assemblies

St Peter House		
Neveah	11P	For supporting several lost Year 7 students this week
Chima	10P	For leading on morning prayer
Michael	9P	For consistently volunteering for tasks during registration.
Ethan	8P	For demonstrating our core value of Hard Work in all lessons.
Geneive	7P	For always ready to help others & excellent reading in class

Therese House		
Georgi	11T	For demonstrating consistent effort in form and lessons, volunteering to help teachers and new students
Morrison	10T	For approaching the beginning of his GCSEs with a serious academic rigor.
Mira	9T	For speaking up in Assembly and being very welcoming to new staff
Margaret I	8T	Maintaining a wonderful, positive attitude all throughout the week
Favour	7T	Demonstrating bravery and a willingness to learn in a new school

Parent Noticeboard

Key Dates
Tuesday 15th September (9.15am)
Open Morning
Monday 21st September
KS4 Exams Begin
Tuesday 22nd September
Open Morning (9.15am)
Tuesday 22nd September
Year 7 Welcome Evening

Expanded entitlement for families on Universal Credit

From the start of academic year 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of earnings.

Please check your eligibility here

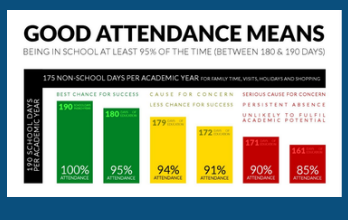
Free School Meals Checker - Check Eligibility Online | LGfL FSM

Attendance

As parents and carers, you have a legal responsibility to make sure your child attends school regularly.

Good Attendance matters because your child and their education matters to us as a school community.

Treat every day as IMPORTANT and this will ensure your child keeps up with their learning



Attendance					
	B	J	P	T	Total
7	94.29	100	93.55	100	97.18
8	100	93.75	91.92	93	94.57
9	78.57	80.77	78	84	80.29
10	73.87	87.5	91.38	81.03	83.45
11	81.25	91.67	83.93	81.48	84.73
Total	84.31	90.12	87.32	87.1	87.21

Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. Our staff are always approachable, and students or parents can share any concern— big or small—with us at any time. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead and pastoral team are here to listen and support. Together, we can make sure St Mary's is a safe, caring lace for every child.

Contact us at St Mary's

We believe that strong partnerships between home and school are essential for student success. We want to remind all parents and guardians that we welcome your questions, feedback, and concerns.

Whether it's about your child's progress, school events, or anything else, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us either by telephone : 0208 686 3837 or email: office@stmaryscroydon.co.uk