Issue: 4
Friday 25th September 2026
Celebrating 175 Years of Catholic Education

St Mary's Mail

Welcome, Hard work, Service

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our Community

It was a privilege to end the week at St George's Cathedral, joining Archbishop John Wilson and representatives from over 160 schools across the Archdiocese for the Beginning of the School Year Mass. Our students were impeccably presented and represented the school with great pride, reverence and maturity. We were delighted to be joined by Foundation Governor Mr Hennessey and had the opportunity to meet Mrs Doran-Hanon, Director of Education for the Diocese. Following Mass, students enjoyed lunch by the River Thames and took in views of the Palace of Westminster before returning for their final lessons.

The week has also been busy with assemblies, open mornings and student leadership meetings. Students continue to impress with their conduct and commitment to school life. However, after a busy first month of term, many are beginning to feel tired. Please support them by ensuring they get plenty of sleep and maintain healthy routines as we approach the halfway point to half-term.

A reminder that the school advocates the use of brick phones only rather than smartphones, including on journeys to and from school, as student safety remains our highest priority.

Thank you for supporting our Open Events and helping spread the word. We also look forward to welcoming around 100 alumni back to school this week to support careers education and celebrate our community.

Fidem Serva

Mr Patrick Shields
Headteacher

What's happening at St Mary's...

A Faith-Filled Beginning: Welcoming Our Year 7 Families

On Tuesday evening, we were delighted to welcome our Year 7 families to St Mary's for our first Year 7 Information Evening and Welcome Mass of the academic year.

The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for parents, carers, students and staff to come together as a school community. Our Welcome Mass gave us time to reflect on the exciting journey ahead and to celebrate the beginning of our Year 7 students' time at St Mary's.

Following the Mass, families attended the Information Evening where key information was shared about the year ahead. Parents were able to learn more about our expectations, curriculum, pastoral support, enrichment opportunities and the many ways we work in partnership to ensure every child thrives both academically and personally.
We would like to thank all the parents and carers who attended and for the positive engagement shown throughout the evening. Building strong relationships between home and school is central to the success of our students, and we look forward to working together throughout the coming year.

this starts a journey where we see our newest members of the St Mary's family continue to grow, achieve and flourish during their first year with us.

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Father Ambrose Ohene from St Chad's Parish in South Norwood

Reflection

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the story of two sons who are asked by their father to work in his vineyard. One refuses but later changes his mind and goes, while the other promises to help but does nothing. Jesus reminds us that what matters is not simply what we say, but what we actually do. We are all capable of making mistakes, but God gives us the opportunity to change our hearts and make better choices.

This message reminds us of the importance of working together for the Common Good. In our school community, we are called to put our faith into action through Welcome, Hard Work and Service. Whether we are helping someone who is struggling, keeping our promises or taking responsibility for our actions, even small acts of kindness and service can make a real difference. Jesus challenges us to be people who do not simply talk about doing good, but who put their words into action for the benefit of others

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

Student Stars of the Week		
B House		
7B	Blake	Hard work, for consistently attempting all work in every lesson
8B	Elias	Service, for working hard to develop his English and take part
9B	Brigette	Service, for offering to play the piano for the whole House
10B	Abel	Welcome, for always showing generosity to all students
11B	Ismael	Hard work, for thoughtful contributions to class discussions
J House		
7J	Taffy	For excellent reading at Mass
8J	Louwana	For superb singing at Mass
9J	Maya	For a positive start to Year 9
10J	Chidi	For a very studious approach to mock exams
11J	Bethel	For an excellent attitude to revision and exams
P House		
7P	Andric	Polite, helpful and caring - Very good reading
8P	Eva	For making an excellent start since joining the school. Demonstrating our core value of Hard Work in all of her lessons.
9P	Tiwa	Hor her commitment to registration routine.
10P	Lenin	For always having all resources on him, correct uniform, punctual and polite
11P	Daveisha	For supporting tutor time, offering to lead prayer, hand out resources and papers
T House		
7T	Kivein	Service - Kivein keeps a daily log of how tidy the classroom is.
8T	Timi	Hard Work – For her dedication to hard work throughout lessons.
9T	Godswill	Hard work – For working hard in all lessons
10T	Nana	Hard Work - has been working very hard recently for these exams and been very focused and helping others succeed in lessons!
11T	Louis	Hard Work – Has been working really hard to do revision for his GCSE's and has stayed back to get the help from teachers.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We are currently seeking enthusiastic and committed parents/carers to join our Governing Body as Parent Governors.
This is a rewarding opportunity to play an important role in the strategic leadership of the school, helping to support and challenge school leaders to ensure the best possible outcomes for all students.
Parent Governors bring valuable perspectives and help strengthen the partnership between home and school. No specialist qualifications are required, just a commitment to the school and a desire to make a positive contribution.
If you are interested in applying, please see the attached letter for further information about the role, eligibility, and the application process. We encourage all interested parents and carers to consider this opportunity and look forward to hearing from you.

Parent Noticeboard

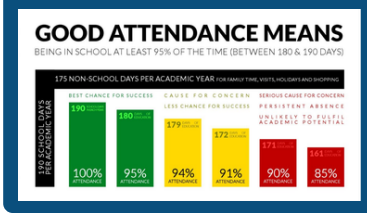
Key Dates
Thursday 1st October
St Therese House Feast Day
Friday 2nd October
Year 11 Hindleap Warren Residential
Tuesday 6th October
Open Morning 9.15am - 10.15am
Thursday 8th October
Open Evening 4.30pm -7.30pm
Tuesday 13th October
Open Morning 9.15am -10.15am
Friday 16th October
Macmillan Coffee Morning
Wednesday 21st October
Year 7 Residential
Thursday 22nd October
St John Paul II - Enrichment Day

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
Please ee below attandance by form and house



Attendance					
	B	J	P	T	Total
7	93.5	98.89	93.88	93.33	94.78
8	98.46	98.84	93.85	89.96	95.27
9	88.52	84.03	93.85	93.89	89.91
10	90.67	92.45	96.9	94.31	93.57
11	97.19	91.44	86.07	91.9	91.67
Total	93.61	92.52	92.85	92.69	92.92

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

St Mary's
Catholic High School
Headteacher: Mr P Shields

St Mary's Catholic High School
Woburn Road, Croydon CR9 2EE
Tel: 020 8686 3837
office@stmaryscroydon.co.uk
www.stmaryscroydon.co.uk

29th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Parent Governor Election

I am writing to invite nominations for two Parent Governor vacancies on the Governing Body of St Mary's Catholic High School.

This is an exciting time for our school. Through the dedication of our pupils, staff, governors and families, St Mary's continues to go from strength to strength. Strong examination results, a positive school culture and high expectations provide an excellent foundation as we plan the next stage of our development. We are therefore seeking two new Parent Governors who can help support, challenge and shape the future direction of the school.

What does a governor do?

Governors provide the school's strategic leadership. Working together, they:

- Set the vision, values and strategic direction of the school.
- Hold leaders to account for educational standards and pupil outcomes.
- Monitor safeguarding, inclusion and pupil wellbeing.
- Ensure that finances are managed effectively and provide value for money.
- Support the school in meeting its statutory responsibilities.

Governors do not manage the day-to-day running of the school. Instead, they provide support, challenge and oversight, helping to ensure the best possible outcomes for all pupils.

What is a Parent Governor?

Parent Governors have the same responsibilities and voting rights as other governors. They bring a valuable parental perspective to discussions and decisions, but they do not act as representatives of individual parents or specific groups.

We are looking for parents and carers who:

- Care about education and young people.
- Can work constructively as part of a team.
- Are willing to ask thoughtful questions.
- Can bring personal, professional or life experience to the role.
- Want to contribute to the continued success of the school.

No previous governance or educational experience is required, and training will be provided.

Catholic School Governance

As a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Southwark, our Governing Body includes Foundation, Parent, Staff and Local Authority Governors. Foundation Governors are appointed by the Diocese and have a particular responsibility for maintaining and developing the Catholic character of the school.

Parent Governors are not required to be practising Catholics, although they should be willing to support the Catholic ethos and mission of St Mary's.

Who can stand?

Any parent or carer of a child currently attending the school may stand for election, subject to the usual eligibility requirements.

The term of office is four years, which may be particularly attractive to parents of children in the lower year groups. However, nominations are warmly welcomed from parents and carers of pupils in all year groups.

If more nominations are received than there are vacancies, an election will be held. If not, candidates will be appointed unopposed.

If you would like to become a Parent Governor, please complete the online form by scanning the QR Code below.

The deadline for nominations is 4.00pm on Friday 9th October 2026.

Serving as a governor is a rewarding way to support our Catholic mission and help ensure that St Mary's continues to provide an outstanding education for all our young people.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P Shields
Headteacher

St Mary's Catholic High School - Parent Governor Nomination Form - September 2026