Issue: 5
Friday 2nd October 2026
Celebrating 175 Years of Catholic Education

St Mary's Mail

Welcome, Hard work, Service

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of Our Community

This has been another busy and rewarding week in the life of our school. We waved our Year 11 students off on their Student Skills Outdoor Activities Weekend, an experience designed to build resilience, teamwork and confidence. We are extremely grateful to the staff who generously volunteered their time to make this opportunity possible for our young people.

On Wednesday evening, the school came alive with the sound of former students reconnecting and sharing memories. It was wonderful to welcome alumni from across the decades, including some who had not set foot in St Mary's for more than fifty years. We were also privileged to be joined by two of my predecessors, Bill Whitmarsh and Ejiro Ughwujabo, whose wisdom and reflections reminded us of the enduring mission and values of our school. Collectively, we have served as Headteachers of St Mary's for almost forty years.

Our student ambassadors were truly remarkable. Their confidence, warmth and professionalism made a lasting impression on our guests. It was a powerful experience for them to witness how proud former students remain of St Mary's and how deeply connected they feel to the school today. The event has already led to exciting opportunities, including future careers talks, mentoring and interview practice for our current students.

Fidem Serva - Mr Patrick Shields, Headteacher

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

A Legacy - Celebrating Celebrating 175 Years of Faith, Friendship and Achievement

Our 175th Alumni Evening was a wonderful celebration of our school's rich history and the strong community that has grown over the past 175 years.

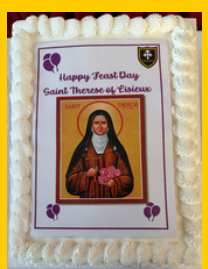
Former students and staff joined current staff and students for an evening of reconnecting, sharing memories and reflecting on their time at the school. It was a joy to see so many familiar faces return and hear stories from across the generations.

A highlight of the evening was hearing from both past and present Headteachers, whose inspiring speeches celebrated our proud heritage while looking ahead to an exciting future.

The fantastic turnout reflected the lasting affection so many people have for the school. As guests caught up with old friends and revisited familiar surroundings, there was a real sense of warmth and belonging throughout the evening.

As we celebrate this milestone year, we are reminded that our school is far more than a building. It is a community built on faith, friendship, achievement and service, where generations have learned, grown and thrived together.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening so special. Your presence showed that, 175 years on, our school community remains as vibrant, connected and inspiring as ever.



T House Feast Day

"*Doing the little things with great love*" remains at the heart of St Thérèse's legacy, and it was certainly reflected in the warmth and joy shared throughout the day.

On 1st October, students and staff of T House came together to celebrate the Feast Day of their House Saint, St Thérèse of Lisieux, with a day centred on faith, community, and joyful celebration.

The celebrations began with the entire year group attending Mass at St Mary's Church, where students gathered in prayer and reflection to honour the life and example of St Thérèse. Often known as "The Little Flower", St Thérèse is remembered for her simple but powerful message that even the smallest acts of kindness and love can make a great difference.

Following Mass, students and staff returned to school to continue the festivities together. The occasion was marked with delicious cakes and cookies, giving everyone the opportunity to celebrate as a House and enjoy time together outside the classroom.

The day was a wonderful reminder of the values that St Thérèse championed throughout her life: humility, compassion, and service to others. It was heartening to see the T House community united in celebrating their patron saint and the special spirit that she inspires within the House.

St Mary's Catholic High School

Reflection

As we enter the month of October, we entrust all our work, learning and relationships to the loving intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary. May her example of faith, humility and service inspire us in all that we do.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us.

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	Ayla	Welcome, for constant positivity and hard work
8B	Chloe	Hard work, for consistently doing the right thing in lessons
9B	Hanna	Service, for supporting in the classroom and being generous to all
10B	Lizzy	Hard work, for starting the year well in lessons
11B	Mateo	Hard work, for stepping up to the demands of GCSEs
J House		
7J	Clare	For her participation in form time activities and sharing her insights.
8J	Chikamso	For hard work across all subjects
9J	Trishan	For being a role model to pour school's core values.
10J	Mayokun	For making an exceptionally strong start to Year 10
11J	Sandra	For doing the right thing all of the time
P House		
7P	Kylie	Hard work in lessons and providing service when reading and contributing to form
8P	Jacobeth	Excellent start to the academic year. Demonstrating our core value of Welcome during tutor time. 100% attendance and 0 demerits
9P	Vesile	For his excellent contribution to the 9P assembly.
10P	Luke	Improved attitude and always following tutor time instruction
11P	Hemraj	Helped a new student feel at home in our form class completely of his own initiative.
T House		
7T	Chantelle	For helping pupils in class when they don't know what to do, demonstrating the core value of welcome.
8T	Isla	Who is always willing to volunteer in and out of class.
9T	Faith	For her excellent attitude, embodying the idea of service
10T	Angel	For her consistent positivity and ability to stay calm under pressure
11T	Ellen	Who has worked hard to push herself out of her comfort zone in lessons!

House Points					
	B	J	P	T	Total
7	148	123	167	253	691
8	210	229	202	194	835
9	229	195	185	177	786
10	20	21	14	15	70
11	72	41	11	22	146
Total	679	609	579	661	2528

Parent Noticeboard

Key Dates

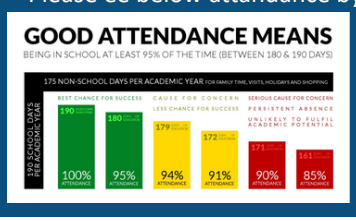
Tuesday 6th October
Open Morning 9.15am - 10.15am
Thursday 8th October
Open Evening 4.30pm -7.30pm
Tuesday 13th October
Open Morning 9.15am -10.15am
Friday 16th October
Macmillan Coffee Morning
Wednesday 21st October
Year 7 Residential
Thursday 22nd October
St John Paul II - Enrichment Day

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	91	98.33	97	95.24	95.32
8	99.63	98.85	95	86.15	94.95
9	87.32	85.36	90	95.38	89.41
10	91.33	91.55	97.3	96	94.04
11	96.55	94.33	91.89	93.1	93.96
Total	93.26	93.24	94.13	93.18	93.45

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