Issue: 6
Friday 9th October 2026
Celebrating 175 Years of Catholic Education

St Mary's Mail

Welcome, Hard Work, Service

Dear Parents Carers and Members of our School Community

The strength of a school community is often seen most clearly in moments of challenge. In its recent report, Ofsted observed that "*Leaders place strong emphasis on cooperation and the value of belonging to a community*." Over the past week, we have experienced the truth of those words in a profound way.

Learning of Daud's tragic passing last weekend brought great sadness to our community. At such times, however, the compassion, kindness and support shown by every member of our school family has been deeply moving. Staff have gone above and beyond, as they so often do, and our students have demonstrated remarkable care for one another. The way our community has come together has made me incredibly proud to be part of it.

Ofsted also recognised that "*This is a deeply caring school in which pupils treat one another, and staff, with great courtesy, respect and consideration*." My prayer is that we continue to show that same care, respect and consideration to one another in the days and weeks ahead. We continue to hold in our hearts and prayers all those who loved Daud, especially his family and friends, and we ask God to give them strength, comfort and peace.

This week, Mr Davis led assemblies on the theme of paying attention to the things that matter most and being ready to embrace the opportunities that come our way with focus and purpose. It was a timely reminder of the importance of living each day with gratitude, intention and care for others.

We also enjoyed a fantastic Open Evening on Thursday. It was wonderful to welcome so many prospective families to our school and to see our students act as such outstanding ambassadors. Their pride in the school, their confidence and their willingness to give up their time to help others were evident throughout the evening. Thank you to all the families who supported their children in taking part.

As we enter the final two weeks before half term, I would also like to remind families of the importance of excellent attendance. Every school day matters. Regular attendance ensures that students can fully engage with their learning, build strong relationships and make the most of every opportunity available to them. Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting your child's educational journey and helping them to thrive.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership, support and trust. Together, we continue to make our school a community in which every young person is known, valued and encouraged to flourish.

Fidem Serva - Mr Patrick Shields, Headteacher

Whats happening at St Mary's

Last weekend, Year 11 students headed to Hindleap Warren for the annual residential trip, combining GCSE revision with a weekend of adventure, challenge and friendship.
Students took part in a range of activities, including climbing, team-building exercises and the famous Forest Adventure, pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones and showing great courage and determination throughout.
Evenings were spent around the campfire reflecting on the day, while the much-anticipated night forest walk added an extra sense of excitement. The trip gave students the opportunity to build confidence, strengthen friendships and create lasting memories ahead of their final GCSE year.
Our students were a real credit to St Mary's, demonstrating maturity, resilience and enthusiasm throughout the weekend.
We would also like to thank the staff who generously gave up their weekend to make the trip possible.
The annual Hindleap Warren trip remains a highlight of the Year 11 calendar, and this year's students made St Mary's proud every step of the way.

A **Wonderful Showcase of Life at St Mary's**
On Thursday 8th October, St Mary's was delighted to welcome prospective students, families and members of the local community to our annual Open Evening. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase the vibrant life of our school and give visitors a glimpse into what makes St Mary's such a special place to learn, grow and flourish.

The evening included a presentation from Headteacher Mr Shields, who spoke passionately about our school's commitment to academic excellence, faith and the opportunities available to every student. Visitors then had the chance to tour the school, guided by our exceptional pupil ambassadors, who proudly shared their experiences and offered an honest insight into life at St Mary's. Our student ambassadors were undoubtedly one of the highlights of the evening. Their confidence, maturity and genuine pride in St Mary's shone through as they welcomed guests, answered questions and shared their stories. They were a true credit to the school and demonstrated the values that sit at the heart of our community.
The Open Evening reflected the warmth, ambition and sense of belonging that define St Mary's. We would like to thank all the staff, students and families who contributed to making the event so memorable.
We look forward to welcoming many of our visitors back in the future as the newest members of the St Mary's family.

St Mary's Catholic High School

Reflection

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) - Matthew 22:1-14 – CST Dignity of Work and Participation
In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the wedding feast, where the king's invitation is extended to everyone. The invitation is a gift, but it also calls for a response. Those who accept are expected to come prepared, showing by their actions that they are ready to share in the celebration of God's kingdom.
This Gospel reflects the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Dignity of Work and Participation. Every person has a unique part to play in building a community where all can flourish. God invites each of us to contribute our gifts, talents and efforts for the good of others. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, in music, or through acts of kindness and service, our participation matters. By giving our best and encouraging others to do the same, we help to build a community that reflects the joy and generosity of God's kingdom.

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Parent Noticeboard

Key Dates

Tuesday 13th October
Open Morning 9.15am -10.15am
Friday 16th October
Macmillan Coffee Morning
Wednesday 21st October - Friday 23rd OCtober
Year 7 Residential
Thursday 22nd October
St John Paul II - Enrichment Day

Free School Meals

From the start of the 2026/27 academic year. The Government has expanded eligibility so that all children in households receiving Universal Credit will now qualify for Free School Meals, regardless of household earnings.

Free School Meals Eligibility Check 2026/27 – Fill out form

Free Parent Webinar

Live Parent Webinar: How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking
Tuesday 13th October 6:00-7:00pm
How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking

Tuesday 13th October October 6:00-7:00pm

Click here to register for free

Student Stars of the Week	
B House	
7B	Usaim - Hard work, for always volunteering to help others and starting lessons with a *"can do attitude"*
8B	Lily - Service, for having achieved the highest number of achievement points and no behaviour points. She is always in the right uniform, brings all the equipment and follows instructions the first time.
9B	Dilpreet - Hard work, as he has worked consistently and earned the most house points from his form
10B	Sarah - Service, for always doing the right thing and earning an impressive number of house points and not a single demerit
11B	Vanessa - Welcome, for greeting students with a smile on her face and her help in student leadership team
J House	
7J	Sultan for hard work and perseverance
8J	Bianca for not giving up
9J	Destiny for working hard all term
10J	Prisha for always having a positive attitude to learning
11J	Nethindu for showing resilience and perseverance always
P House	
7P	Daniel - Excellent reading in class and is always polite and considerate
8P	Ramin - 0 demerits and excellent display of our core value of service to others through his communication and actions.
9P	Mayowa – For being an enthusiastic reader
10P	Illiana – For Always following the school rules
11P	Elisha - Showed a willingness to try new things, pushed herself out of her comfort zone on the Hindleap Warren trip. Was very supportive of her friend
T House	
7T	**7T – Zeniah** - For Welcome and trying something new
8T	**8T - Margaux** – for always approaching a problem with a smile on her face!
9T	**9T - Zain** – For a very positive start to his Year 9
10T	**10T - Leonish** – For his consistent enthusiasm towards his form and the house
11T	**11T – Razal** – For the hard work he continues to demonstrate throughout all of his lessons

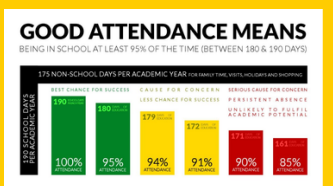
Attendance

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	97.78	99	99.52	97.34
8	98.55	93.08	94.23	87.97	93.5
9	86.97	83.57	92.59	92.96	88.95
10	90.67	92.33	96.33	94.33	93.42
11	95	90	89.26	93.67	91.97
Total	92.79	90.83	93.98	93.46	92.77



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