Issue: 1
Friday 4th 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 the School Community

A very warm welcome back to all members of our St Mary's community. Although it has been a short week, it somehow feels as though we have already packed a great deal into it. Staff spent Tuesday and Wednesday engaged in training, preparation and reflection, ensuring that everything was in place for a successful year ahead. It was then wonderful to see our corridors and playgrounds full once again with the energy, friendship and enthusiasm of our students.

I have been particularly pleased by the way the vast majority of students have returned displaying the discipline, courtesy and community spirit that are hallmarks of our school. These qualities are essential if we are to build on the superb examination results achieved this summer and continue the tradition of excellence established over so many years.

There is much to share about the exciting year ahead. Over the coming weeks, I will write separately to each year group with more detailed information and plans. For now, thank you for helping us make such a positive start. Together, let us make this another exceptional year for St Mary's.

Fidem serva – Keep the Faith

Patrick Shields
Headteacher

Reflection

As we begin a new school year, Jesus reminds us that we belong to a community and have a responsibility to one another. He teaches us to listen, forgive and work together when things go wrong.

This connects closely to our values of Welcome, Hard Work and Service. We welcome everyone back and especially those joining our school for the first time. We commit ourselves to working hard, making the most of our gifts and opportunities. And we look for ways to serve others, remembering that a strong community is built when we care for and support one another.

Jesus promises, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." As we begin this new year together, may we recognise Christ in our school community and help one another to make it a happy and successful year.

Message to Parents

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

St Mary's Pupils return
From Summer Silence to School Buzz

A Positive Start to the New Academic Year

St Mary's Catholic High School welcomed students back for the start of the new academic year, including our new Year 7 cohort. Our Michealmas Term began with a whole-school liturgy and assembly, bringing everyone together in prayer and reflection as we embark on another exciting year.

Our Year 7 students were warmly welcomed into the St Mary's family, spending time meeting staff, exploring their new surroundings, and making new friendships. Returning students quickly settled back into school life, and before long the corridors were buzzing with conversation and activity once again. It felt as though they had never been away.

This academic year is particularly special as we celebrate 175 years of St Mary's, marking a significant milestone in the history of our school. As we honour our rich heritage, we look forward to creating new memories and achievements together throughout this anniversary year. We wish all our students and staff a happy, successful, and faith-filled year ahead.

Key Dates for September

Tuesday 8th September
Year 11 Welcome Mass and Information Evening
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

St Mary's Catholic High School

Grade Expectations: St Mary's Best Results

There was a real sense of pride and excitement at St Mary's as we welcomed back our former Year 11 students to receive their GCSE results. Their achievements marked a record-breaking year for the school and reflected the commitment, perseverance and ambition shown throughout their time with us.

Among the many success stories was Moyo, who achieved an outstanding nine Grade 9s, including full marks in GCSE English Literature, an exceptional accomplishment of which we are immensely proud.

Seeing students reconnect with friends and teachers, share their news and celebrate their next destinations was a wonderful reminder of what makes our school community so special. Whether progressing to sixth form, college, apprenticeships or other exciting opportunities, they leave St Mary's with much to be proud of and every reason to look forward to the future.

Our Chair of Governors Mr Tomkins said "*I felt privileged to be with you this morning to see so many smiling faces, not just the students".*

We congratulate all of our students on their achievements and thank the staff and families whose support helped make these successes possible.

Congratulations to:

John Bosco House Winners of 2025/2026

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