



St Margaret Ward
Catholic Academy



ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY

EASTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN GETTING UP TO

As we break for our Easter holidays, we reflect on everything our students have achieved over the last few months. We're so proud of their achievements and it's great to watch them succeed.

As usual, the students have been heavily involved in our school's Catholic life in many different ways. Here's some of the things they've been doing in recent months...



LAUDATO SI' CHAMPIONS DAY

In January 2024, a group of students from St Margaret Ward visited Alton Castle for a Retreat Day provided by the Kenelm Youth Trust looking at Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si'.

Students learned about the content of the letter, some context for the problems our planet is facing and what we can do about it. They were then encouraged to think about what they could do within school to take better care of our planet in a more local sense.

The students were excellent role models and represented the school well and were enthused by the content of the day.



KINTBURY RETREAT

During the last week of January, a group of our Y10 and Y11 students went on retreat to our Lasallian pastoral centre, St. Cassian's in Kintbury.

They had a great time, taking part in various outdoor activities, including archery and a low ropes course.

They also had time for prayer, reflection and discussion in small groups about the importance of faith.

Here's what some of the students had to say about their week...



"Kintbury 2024 was honestly one of the best school trips I have been on, and I would highly recommend it to others."

"AMAZING STAFF! Literally awesome as they helped us to reflect on how to be our best self."

"It was so good and a great experience, you meet new people and become really close with others."

"It really helps you emotionally and spiritually and you also get to meet new people."



MISSION MONTH

Throughout the month of March, we have welcomed visitors from the Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism into our school community. They have spent time sharing the Gospel with our students through engaging assemblies and visiting our students in their classrooms holding conversations about faith. They have also begun working with smaller groups of students to help us consider our Mission as a school community.

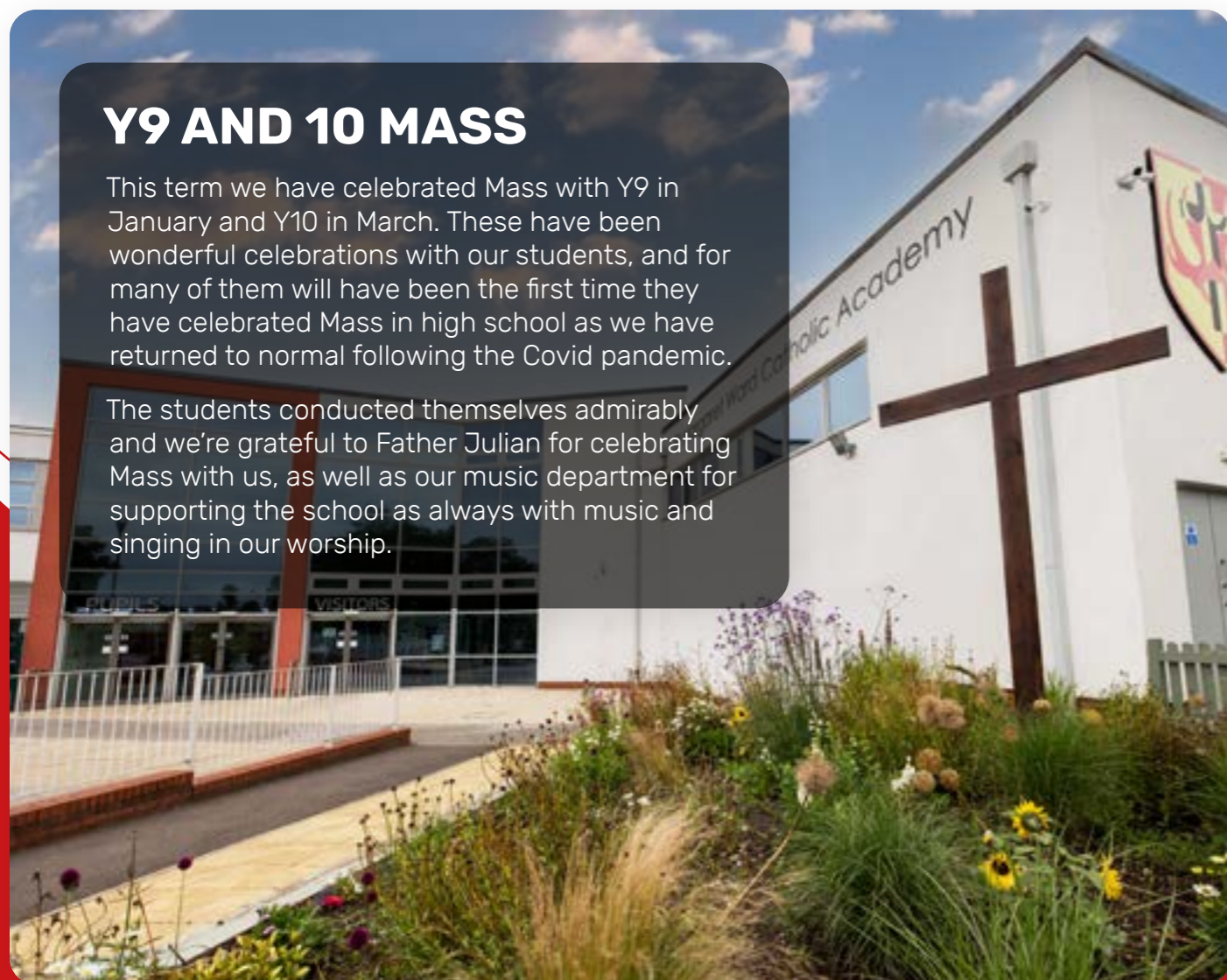
The students have responded really positively, and it's been really interesting to see so many students discuss what they believe and share their thoughts articulately. As the month continues, we look forward to seeing where this project takes us!



Y9 AND 10 MASS

This term we have celebrated Mass with Y9 in January and Y10 in March. These have been wonderful celebrations with our students, and for many of them will have been the first time they have celebrated Mass in high school as we have returned to normal following the Covid pandemic.

The students conducted themselves admirably and we're grateful to Father Julian for celebrating Mass with us, as well as our music department for supporting the school as always with music and singing in our worship.



LOURDES 2024

Following the success of our Lourdes pilgrimage last year, we have a new group of Y12 students who will be embarking on the pilgrimage in the May Half Term this year.

They've been hard at work with raising money, planning cake sales, sponsored silences and other activities to help raise the funds to cover the cost of the Lourdes Pilgrimage.

If there are any members of our wider Collegiate community who would like to support their fundraising, please see our GoFundMe page here: <https://gofund.me/d52066c4> we are always grateful for any support possible!



FIRST TECH CHAMPIONS!

On Thursday 7th March, 11 schools sent teams to visit St Margaret Ward to take part in the First TECH Challenge tournament.

Throughout the day, the teams showcase their robots, with judging interviews and inspections, qualifying matches, alliances, semi-finals and finals – with all teams hoping to take one of three places available at the National Championship.

See photos and read more >> [Competition start](#) | [Results](#)



SMWCA FOOTBALL ACTIVATORS DO US PROUD...

Our Y7, 8 & 9 girls' football activators represented St Margaret Ward at the city girls' football leadership sessions.

The girls were required to design drills and then teach and coach Y8 girls from other schools who hadn't played much football before.

Find out more and see the photos >> [Football activators](#)



WORLD BOOK DAY

To celebrate World Book Day 2024, our librarian, Miss Holdcroft, was out and about offering a selection of pre-loved books to all students.

With a wide selection of books in all genres, there was something for everyone.



Y10 WORK EXPERIENCE

During National Careers Week, on 4th - 8th March, all of our Y10 students had the opportunity to take part in work experience. Students sourced their own placement by researching companies that they would like to work for and writing letters of application. Work experience is a really valuable activity on our Y10 Careers calendar, allowing students the opportunity to hone their employability skills, skills such as communication, teamwork, organisation, and leadership.

We had over 200 companies involved in our work experience programme, and we are extremely grateful to them for taking the time and effort to support our students. Students enjoyed placements in local primary schools, day nurseries, care homes, pharmacies, GP surgeries, retail, hair and beauty, architects, gardeners, accountants, and many more.

The feedback from the companies involved was absolutely outstanding, with many praising the skills and efforts of the Y10 students. Some companies were so impressed with our Y10's work ethic that they paid our students for their time, whilst others asked if they could keep them for even longer! We are very proud of our Y10 cohort, what a fantastic impression they have made on our community.

In July our Y12 students are embarking on their first work experience placement, having missed out on the opportunity in Y10 due to Covid, and they are very much looking forward to the experience. If you think you can offer a placement in the future to either our Y10 or our Y12's, then please do get in touch with Mrs Page or Mrs Poole.



OUR DRAMA CLUB'S LATEST PERFORMANCE

Drama club students have been very busy this term preparing their own version of "The Wizard of Oz".

The show will be performed to several hundred of our primary students from across the collegiate.

All members of drama club have a role within the production, ranging from acting to costume and even lighting. Students have worked exceptionally hard during rehearsals and Miss O'Neill hopes they enjoy a well-deserved Easter break.

Good luck to our Y11 GCSE Drama students, who will have their practical exam the first week back after the Easter break.

Drama dates for the diary:

- The Woman in Black trip (Crewe Lyceum Theatre) Thursday 25th April.
- Harry Potter Warner Brothers Studio Tour trip Thursday 2nd May.
- Wicked Theatre trip (and museum/art gallery visit in Liverpool) Wednesday 26th June.



SCHOOL ART COMPETITION

Students have been invited to have a go at designing a poster for our summer production of The Wizard of Oz. So far, the entries have been fantastic.

The deadline for entry is **Wednesday 10th April**. All entries will receive a treat as well as some Lasallian points.

The winner will have their work used for the posters as well as winning a fabulous arty prize. For more information speak to Miss Terry or Miss Leese in the art dept.



STREET ART TRAIL COMPETITION

The local community need your help to design an art trail and cultural corner that will be created on Fegg Hayes Road this spring/summer. You can design decorated planters, signposts, small murals and other street decoration.

The winners will receive a £30 gift voucher and the runners up will receive a £10 voucher as well as having their designs used in the final project.

If students would like an entry form, they should see their art teacher or get more information about the competition on the Fegg Hayes Futures Facebook page.

Deadline for entry is **10th April** and they need to be taken to The Hub. If anyone has any questions about the competition or wants to find out more ways to get involved with the creation of the cultural corner, please contact andrea@fegghayes.org.uk.

LET GIRLS PLAY

We had an extremely successful #letgirlsplay inter-fidei tournament with Y7 girls on 8th March.

The girls were amazing and were part of the biggest girls' football session along with 475,000 other girls from all over the country. That number of girls would fill Wembley five times over!

So we're pleased to announce that they are all history makers as this was the biggest number of girls ever taking part at once since the concept began a few years ago! 7-5 were this year's champions as they won all of their games on the night but we'd like to send thanks to all of the teams and to Miss Ryan, Miss Leese and Miss Heath who all came out to support them!

#letgirlsplay #theseirlscan and did!



ST MARGARET WARD SUPPORTS ITS 200TH ASPIRING SCHOOL LEADER

St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy has mentored its 200th teacher since being selected as a Golden Thread Teaching School Hub partner for the third year running in September.

On Thursday 29th February, the academy hosted another face-to-face session delivering the National Professional Qualification Senior Leadership (NPQSL) to a room full of aspiring senior leaders from Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.

The academy is part of a national initiative to develop leadership programmes and to induct and train a new era of Early Career Teachers (ECTs) and the next generation of school leaders for middle and senior leadership teams.

SMWCA, which is part of the Newman Catholic Collegiate, also delivers the National Professional Qualification in Leading Teaching (NPQLT) and National Professional Qualification in Leading Behaviour and Culture (NPQLBC) at the school on Little Chell Lane.

Simon Jones – Director of CPD and Succession Planning at SMWCA said: "We're developing leaders of learning in classrooms. This course is a great way to encourage more people to join the profession, as it shows the level of progression and development which is available throughout your teaching career.

"Hosting teacher training is also a great opportunity to inspire pupils in our sixth form to join the profession too."

Simon added: "It's a really proud moment for me when I see teachers that I've trained go on to become senior leaders in their schools too."

Read more and see photos >> [Leadership training](#)



AND FINALLY ...

As we journey through Lent and towards Easter, we wish all those connected to the Newman Catholic Collegiate a prayerful and holy Lenten season.

Have a good break and we'll see everyone when school re-opens on **Monday 8th April.**



Keep up to date with all the news and events at
St. Margaret Ward Catholic Academy on our website:
stmargaretward.co.uk/news

Or you can
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