



St Margaret Ward
Catholic Academy



ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

As we break for our summer holidays, we take a look back on everything our students have achieved over the last few months.

As usual, our students have made us proud and demonstrate the Saint Margaret Ward Way every day. Here's some of the things they've been doing in recent months ...

Stanley Head

In March, our students enjoyed a visit to Stanley Head.

They took part in lots of activities, including abseiling, climbing, rifle shooting and axe throwing.

Take a look at all the photos on our website here.



Spark Learning Eco Day

On Friday 22nd March a group of Year 9 students, alongside Miss Holdcroft, attended a day led by The Spark Group at Staffordshire University.

They experienced an interactive workshop about sustainability where they were given the opportunity to run and save the world from climate change, which they did spectacularly!

Read more and see photos here.



CyberFirst Investigators

In April, thirty Year 9 students took a trip to Keele Hall to participate in the CyberFirst Investigators day!

On this day they learned about cyber security, hacking, and network forensics. They took part in activities that mimicked a real cyber security company.

Read more here.



Bletchley Park

In April, 33 students in Years 7 to 12 visited Bletchley Park!

This amazing site was the home of codebreakers in World War 2, and pioneered many of the discoveries that gave birth to the world of Computer Science as we know it today! Bletchley Park was a hugely important site, not just in England but across the world, too.

Find out what they got up to and see photos here.



VNation Outreach Assemblies

Following their success in winning the First Tech Challenge Qualifying Tournament in March, the VNATION robotics team have been on tour!

They visited Our Lady & St Benedict Catholic Academy and St George & St Martin Catholic Academy to deliver assemblies to the whole school. They also visited Year 5 from St Joseph's Catholic Academy.

Read more and see photos here.



Our Junior Musician of the Year!

Congratulations to Henry in Year 7 who won the Junior Stoke-on-Trent Young Musician of the year competition in April.

Henry won the Junior Brass class at the start of the year and then competed against the other winners on the night.

He then performed at the Victoria Hall in June. Well done Henry, we're so proud of you!



Myths and Legends project begins

28 linguists spent a day at Keele University Language Centre on 24th April. They began their work on an exciting 'Myths and Legends' project and took part in various fun language based activities. They were also treated to a tour of the campus and lunch in the Student Union!

[Read more here.](#)



Drama Students visit Harry Potter!

On Thursday 2 May, our students visited the "Harry Potter Warner Brother Studio Tour".

They were able to explore the original set, costume and props from the Potter universe alongside special FX, which students have been exploring in their Drama lessons.

[See the photos here.](#)



Working with the Mac

Recently, SMWCA students visited the Mitchell Arts Centre in Hanley to take part in the theatre's youth board meeting chaired by MAC Education Officer, Caroline Sherratt.

This is our second visit to the MAC Youth board meeting, and we hope for it to be a regular event on our school calendar.

During the visit, our students had a full tour of the theatre and took part in workshops based around designing and writing the aims and objectives of the Mitchell Art Centre's youth work. The Mitchell Arts Centre have recently been awarded £98,280 of National Lottery Community funding which will support a programme of new MAC community days.

[Read more here.](#)



Grotto Blessing

We recently had a statue of Our Lady donated to the school by Father Michael Miners. It had previously been in the church of Our Lady of Sorrows in Knutton prior to the church closing.

[Find out more and see the photos here.](#)



Lourdes 2024

A big thank you from Alice, Matilda, Phoebe, Sasha and Matthew for all the donations to our Lourdes pilgrimage.

They had an amazing time developing their relationship with God and themselves.

They spent the week taking part in daily masses celebrating God, Mother Mary and St. Bernadette and the Birmingham Diocese. They also spent time volunteering – helping sick pilgrims in the Accueil. They took them to mass, explored the local area and made sure that they enjoyed their pilgrimage. This was a

great opportunity to work alongside diocese members and form friendships and lifelong relationships with people that they wouldn't ordinarily have met.

[See photos and find out more here.](#)



Lino's on track for the Olympic Games after winning highly acclaimed athletics competition

St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy student, Lino Goodwin brought home gold after competing in the Mason Trophy Athletics competition at Northwood Stadium on Saturday 16th June.

Lino won the 300m track and field race beating the best athletes from ten counties from the midlands and northwest.

[Read more here.](#)

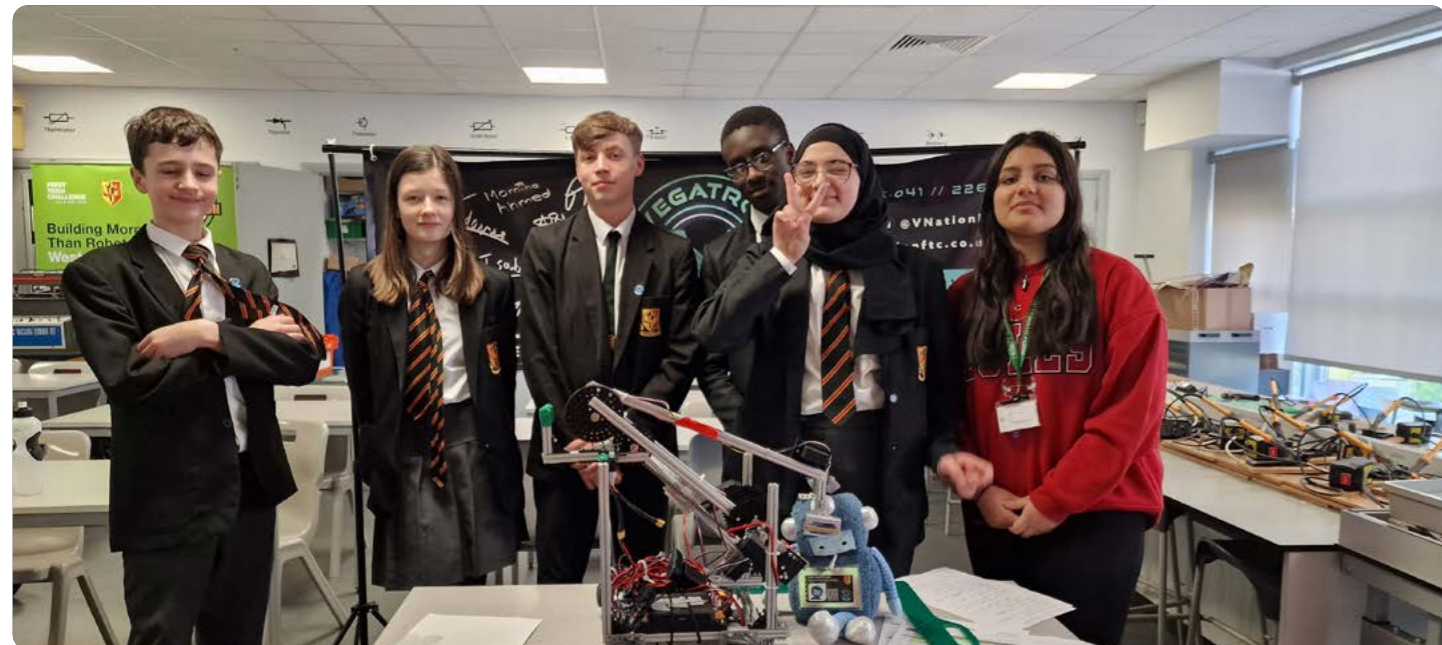


VNation proudly represent SMWCA in First TECH Challenge

VNation returned home after an exhausting yet excitable day of STEM Champs.

They have loved networking, engineering, competing, and sharing knowledge and merchandise with fellow teams.

[See the photos and read more here.](#)



Congratulations Matilda!

We're so proud that Matilda has been accepted to be part of a team on the Lasallian Projects in July and August 2025.

She will be working with a group of volunteers building schools and touching hearts with communities in rural Africa. We wish her well in the raising of funds for this truly life changing experience.



Mock Elections

Our 6th form A level politics students organised a mock election on 4th July, with the school library acting as the polling station. All staff and students had to register to vote. Voting took place during the day and voters were turned away if they didn't bring ID with them (student planner).

The SMWCA election was fairly reflective of the national outcome - with the result being a landslide to Labour and the other parties having a similar proportion of the vote to the general election results.



Archbishop celebrates Mass at St Margaret Ward

As the country took to the polls on 4 July, St Margaret Ward hosted a VIP visitor.

Accepting the invitation from Principal Dominic McKenna to visit the school, Archbishop Bernard Longley celebrated a special Mass to mark the end of the school's year of mission.

[Find out more and see a selection of photos here.](#)



A photograph of three people jumping joyfully in the ocean at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow and splashing water droplets in the air. The people are silhouetted against the bright light, with their arms raised in celebration. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds.

And finally ...

As we end the school year, we thank God for all the gifts He has given us. We voice our gratitude for the good things He has done for us and for all who shared in the work of our school.

Enjoy the summer holidays and we'll see everyone when school re-opens:

Wednesday 4th September – Y7 and Y12

Thursday 5th September – all other years

See the letter from Mr. Johnson for more details.

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 follow us on:

