



St Margaret Ward
Catholic Academy



ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN GETTING UP TO

As we near our Christmas break, we take a look at the wonderful things that have been going on over the last couple of months.

Our students make us proud each and every day and we love sharing our school news with you all.



CYBERFIRST GIRLS' COMPETITION 2023/24

We had five great teams that took part in the CyberFirst Girls' Competition 2023/24.

It was open to all girls in year 8 in England and Wales, year 9 in NI, and S2 in Scotland and included all manner of cybersecurity tasks and challenges.

Congratulations to Grace, Lexi and Eres who scored almost triple the next best team in the school.



HIGH NUMBER OF FIRST CHOICE UNIVERSITY PLACES FOR ST MARGARET WARD STUDENTS

Students at St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy celebrated during A-level results day this year after their hard work paid off.

It has been well documented that grade boundaries had all increased for this year's students. Despite this increase, many St Margaret Ward students have been accepted into their first-choice universities, many of these Russell Group. 91% of students have been successful compared with the UCAS national figure of 79%.

Our Principal, Dominic McKenna, said:
"We are all thrilled that so many of our students

got into their first-choice universities. This is a testament to not just the teaching but their hard work and ability to battle through adversity.

"We all believe that this group of Year 13 students is an inspirational one. Their aspirations are high and it's days like these when you see the impact of what we do here. These exams were the first formal exams for this year's cohort due to Covid, so they've all done tremendously well. They've worked hard and we're proud of their achievements."

Read more >> [A Level Results](#)



ST MARGARET WARD GCSE STUDENTS EXCEL

Students at celebrated their GCSE results earlier this year. Year 11 students achieved high results with a solid showing of grades that rewarded all their hard work.

Our students have achieved some impressive GCSE results with many choosing the Trinity Sixth Form at the school as their further education option.

Principal, Dominic McKenna, said: "We are all enormously proud of our GCSE students. We offer a broad and enriching curriculum, and the combination of the hard work of the pupils and high quality teaching has made a good combination during this year's GCSEs.

With students excelling in subjects across the curriculum, there were lots of happy faces.

See comments from the pupils >> [GCSEs](#)



FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

Our students have done a great job fundraising this year.

So far, they've taken part in the CAFOD Family Fast day – raising £28.98 and also did loose change collections for CAFOD's emergency appeal to send humanitarian aid to the Holy Land, raising £110.51.

Students have also been raising money for the Dougie Mac and following our Great SMWCA Bake-Off and Christmas Jumper Day, have so far have raised just under £600! A fabulous effort.

Some fabulous bake-off photos here >> [Bake-off](#)



THE SNOW QUEEN

This year just under 50 students from our school's after school Drama club have been working on a production of The Snow Queen.

Students have not only undertaken acting roles but have taken responsibility for writing scenes, directing their peers, designing and operating the sound and lighting for each show, alongside developing their theatrical make up skills.

The Snow Queen was performed to 285 of our feeder primary students, across five performances. After each performance the Year 3 students joined the cast in a range of Snow Queen related activities, including storytelling and face painting!

The performances were enjoyed by all, and we couldn't be prouder of our drama club students.

Read more and see the photos
>> [The Snow Queen](#)



THE ROBOTS ARE COMING!

Nearly 100 staff and students from across Staffordshire and Derbyshire gathered together at St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy for a scrimmage in the FIRST Tech Challenge on Tuesday 5th December.

The FIRST Tech Challenge is a robotics competition for students to compete head to head by designing, building and programming a robot to compete in an alliance against other teams.

The 11 teams, from eight schools, took part in the event, which saw them build their robots and then use the test field – think Robot Wars – to iron out any issues with functionality.

It also provided students with a chance to network and make new friends.

Get more info and see the photos here >> [Robots](#)



MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

We'd like to thank all the staff, Governors, and businesses that made our mock interview day a success this year.

Year 11 students had the opportunity to experience what it would be like to be interviewed, having prepped beforehand.

They were asked to consider things like what first impression they would make, then answer a series of questions which they'd had time to work on answers to. Our students all gave a really good representation of themselves and we're sure they will do well in real life situations.



LOCH EIL 2023

32 brave students departed for a week of winter mountaineering at Loch Eil in the Scottish Highlands. It proved to be an unforgettable experience for all involved. Activities included climbing, ice swimming, zip lines, canoeing and the highlight of the week, an expedition whereby students had to make their evening meal, put their tents up, build a camp fire and demonstrate survival techniques. All students were a credit to their families and the academy and were commended on their attitude and behaviour.

Read more and see the photos
>> [Loch Eil 2023](#)



AND FINALLY ...

We'd like to say thank you to all our staff and students for their hard work and determination during the last few months.

Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas. May joy be your gift at Christmas and may faith, hope and love be your treasures in the New Year.

Have a good break and we'll see everyone when school re-opens on **Tuesday 9th January.**

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:

