****

**What do our staff have to say?**

"I enjoy working at St Mary’s mainly thanks to the strong sense of community within the school. It promotes close working relationships between students, teachers and administrators which results in a work environment that feels personal and collaborative. Small class sizes and an ethos that makes the students feel valued as individuals has created a positive learning environment where I am able to develop talent and share a love of my subject. The emphasis that the school places on valuing the individual extends to the staff as well as the students, where you feel part of the decision-making process and are encouraged to develop professionally within a supportive and inspiring team"

***Head of Art***

"I love working at St Mary's. One of the things I enjoy is that often when I tell local people that I teach here, they say, "Oh aren't you lucky - it's a lovely school," and I can agree with them. There is room to develop professionally with lots of support and collaboration between departments. You get to know all your pupils individually, the best part of my job is to see how the students develop and blossom until they are ready to go out into the world in Year 13"

***Head of Media Studies***

"The girls are the main reason I enjoy working here; they want to learn and their behaviour is exemplary and so I feel I have freedom to try out new teaching ideas. I have been able to improve my teaching and learning practice far more here than I have elsewhere and this is largely owed to the small class sizes and the positive attitude of the girls. The staff are incredibly supportive and friendly; from day one I have found all of the staff, without exception, willing to give advice or offer help. And there is always a lot of nice cake in the staff room!

As a part-time member of staff I feel very much ‘part of the team’; my contribution to the school is noted and valued. The Senior Leadership Team are aware of the demands placed on their staff and always support us. St Mary’s is full of busy, forward-looking, hard-working, but ultimately happy staff!"

***Teacher of History***

"The school is quirky and individual, providing a unique educational experience for both students and teachers alike - every member of the St Mary's community is encouraged to embrace their own individuality and explore their own talents and interests which always makes for engaging and interesting lessons. Furthermore, the strong sense of tradition adds value to the community of the school allowing for enjoyable shared experiences outside the walls of the classroom. The teaching staff are welcoming, supportive and inspiring and working at St Mary's really makes you feel part of a team"

***Teacher of English (completing NQT)***