



# Mount St Mary's Catholic High School

Educating The Individual For the Benefit Of All



**January - July 2021**  
**MSM Messenger**

The news magazine for Mount St Mary's Catholic High School



## Welcome to Mount St Mary's Catholic High School

### Our Mission

The community of Mount St Mary's is called to develop the full potential of each person - spiritually, academically, socially and physically - and to create a safe, happy and caring school.

Welcome to our latest edition of the MSM Messenger, and I would like to start by asking you to reflect on the general scale of content in this edition. Whilst I live and breathe Mount St Mary's, it's students and what goes on inside and outside its walls, I cannot believe the depth and breadth of experience our students have engaged in this last 6 months! It is all the more incredible when we consider that for a significant period of this time, we were experiencing the restrictions of a second lockdown!

For those who read with a critical eye, I am sure you will comment on one of my most used statements in these introductions, that of "I am totally humbled by the efforts of our staff and students." At a time when it would be easy to batten down the hatches and focus merely on the academia of school life, our staff recognised this would not be enough. They have pulled out all the stops, initiated new extra-curricular clubs, planned incredible events, invited in outside providers who were delighted to be with us, and always gone the extra mile. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their efforts and wishing them a restful and healthy summer break! Even then there is a long list of staff wishing to join our Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Summer School, their commitment and desire to support all year groups knows no bounds!

Covid has not beaten Mount St Mary's and we are bouncing back in all aspects of school life ever stronger. Our only slight amendment may be a switch to twice yearly editions of the messenger rather than termly, but I hope you would agree this will simply make each edition all the more exciting to look forward to.

I wish all our students, parents, governors and staff a calm, relaxed and recharging summer and we are already looking forward to what the Autumn term holds.

Kind regards

Mark Cooper



## Year 9 Creative iMedia

Year 9 Creative iMedia have spent the first term of this academic year developing their skills to create graphics for a range of different target audiences and purposes. They have been using industry standard software such as Adobe Fireworks and Photoshop to create portfolios of work with a creative and original flair. This is the software that professional graphic designers use so it has been really impressive to see how they have got to grips with it in just one term. Each project involves them having to read a brief and work out what the client requires, then they have to research and plan before creating a graphic to meet the specific criteria. A winner is selected from each project by a set of judges, who might be a group of staff or a class from another year group. The key is to make sure the graphics are eye-catching and visually pleasing whilst also meeting the requirements of the client. Prizes so far have been chocolate, fancy gel pens and Amazon vouchers. Keep up the good work Year 9!



## Geography Staff Training

Up to date in the world of Geography!

Our team of amazing Geography teachers have been wasting no time in taking every opportunity available to make sure they are prepared and fully up to date with all things "Geography"! It has been difficult to access training and moderation courses in recent months and so our dedicated team have relished the change to undertake additional online training with AQA. This vital training will ensure that they have a fully up to date understanding of the mark schemes and moderation practices of AQA Geography, something that is now more important than ever given the need to provide CAGs. Well done to the team!



## Year 8 Block Printing



Year 8 students have been designing and making a Henri Rousseau inspired cushion. In this lesson they were

making printing blocks that will be used to create a repeat print on their tie dyed material!



## Year 7 Coding Skills



Since returning to school Year 7 having been making the most of the opportunity to use the computers in the Cyber Café to practice their coding skills using Scratch.

After spending some time learning about the theory of programming they were able to have a go for themselves during lockdown, through remote learning lessons set by the Computing Department, and this is being continued back in lessons.

Scratch is a great programme to start learning the basics and is freely available for anyone wanting to develop their skills further.



In school students are putting together sequences of code to create animations and games, designing their own concepts and having fun seeing their ideas come to life.





The Coronavirus and resulting restrictions have created many hardships and challenges, especially for our young people. Take for example the students involved in the Scramble Academy boxing programme, who have been unable to hone their skills in the usual ways – no pad work, no sparring, no interclub competitions. How do you train boxing if you're not allowed to box? Yet these students have shown unbelievable resilience and dedication to their sport over the past months because they know boxing is about more than winning rounds.

During the pandemic they have shown how deeply embedded their teamwork and leadership skills have become, as well as demonstrating their ability to cope with levels of frustration and deal with challenging situations. As their coach, I am immensely proud of how resilient they have been in the face of setbacks and how confident they are when trying new things. They have not been fazed by the gruelling training regime or the shadow boxing and solo footwork drills. In fact, they have even helped invent some new training techniques that develop specific skills related to boxing, while adhering to the Government and school policies on social distancing.

Our team has been very productive during the pandemic and, when the time comes, we will be ready to get back in the ring!



## Year 9 Bread Making

In the Year 9 Hospitality & Catering lesson we made savoury bread. Students were able to prepare the dough using the kneading skill and left the bread to prove over their break time. They then experimented with flavours like Mixed Herbs, Chives and Black Pepper. They used presentation techniques and boxed them up so they could take them home to bake.



## Retribuam - Leeds Irish Health and Homes Community

As part of our end of term Retribuam and celebration event our Year 7 students spent the afternoon creating Easter Cards and writing Easter messages to send to the Leeds Irish Health and Homes community, a community we as a school work closely with.



We even had some of our Where's Wally characters deliver a virtual Easter message, which was well received.



# Year 11 Guest Speaker – Employability Skills



We were introduced back to school with a brilliant speech by Phil Fraser. Phil is a very successful business man who told us about his long journey to earning millions. He inspired us by telling us the long list of jobs he went through and how we should still take a skill from everything we experience. He also told us the skills that are most important for employers and showed us that a simple job such as stacking shelves can teach us multiple transferable skills such as showing initiative. It was very inspirational to us students as it showed us that even if we don't know what we would like to do as a career yet, or if we are not the most academically intelligent,



we can still reach success in the future. We also learnt that applying for jobs is only the first step and that the most important thing is to show your personality and interests as much as possible, even on your CV – Mabruk Yusuff, 11CQU



## Year 7 Textiles

Year 7s have been brushing up their sewing skills on the Ugly Dolls project, creating soft toys aimed at young children. There have been some great examples of Tech work produced, using felt and different styles of thread.

Each Ugly Doll is a unique design developed by the individual student and we can't wait to see them once they are fully finished and ready to go home.



## Mindfulness

The Creative Arts, Computing and Technologies Faculty undertook some training on Mindfulness, Mindset and Motivation on Zoom, with a prominent Life and Success Coach from London who has worked with charities such as 'Mind' around better mental health.

The session was aimed at staff development and wellbeing and provided some theory around the science of positive thinking and motivation, as well as practical tips to boost understanding and harness mindset for success.

The training session was a great opportunity to get together as a faculty and focus on some team building for the afternoon. With discussions around practicing gratitude, improving self-talk, body language and making time to reflect, the session really allowed everyone to take some time to think about building and sustaining a growth mindset and how that could be used moving forward.



We had a representative from Leeds City College hold an assembly for our Year 11 students. The students were introduced to the various campuses and courses that Leeds City College have available and were also shown impressive video tours around their facilities. The representative explained that it is mainly vocational courses which they offer,

however, they also have apprenticeships and a sixth form for A Level applicants. The students were impressed to hear that the college has a Student Union where they can go for support and to get involved with clubs and extra-curricular activities.



# Year 11 Rewards Assembly

Earlier in the term we took the time to reward over a 100 of our Year 11 students.

They were all fantastic in attitude during their "Evidence Enhancement Week". Each subject chose students who had gone above and beyond in their area regarding revision and preparation for the evidence week. We are really proud of all of our Year 11 students and it was a pleasure to give away so many awards. Well done and keep up the good work moving forwards.

*WELL DONE!*



This week Year 11 had a visit from members of the NCS (National Citizen Service) to talk about how they could get involved in the local community this summer.

For more information or to contact NCS please go to their website at [www.wearencs.com](http://www.wearencs.com)



# Year 7 IntoUniversity

"In this university session we did many things like starting to know how to get better teamwork and help each other with what we were doing. We did some work on a blind fold maze that helped our teamwork, a guess the word from hints which helped us communicate better and we also did some work on whether something is a skill or not. It was really fun because we sat with some people we might not have known and we did a lot of teamwork activities too. Overall I found this session very good and enjoyable because of how friendly and kind the people were and because they taught us many different things. It was fun having them teach us a lot of fun stuff and overall I really liked it and will definitely consider going to their university. Overall I think many people liked it and enjoyed it."

**Pawel Wroniecki – Year 7**



"In the Into-University workshop on Thursday 22nd April, we did a variety of activities which would help us enhance different necessary skills. The activities included a blindfolded maze, with a partner guiding us around the maze; a speech activity where we had 2 questions and we had to answer the questions and talk to our partner for exactly a minute; a third activity where we had to describe a certain career, or thing to our partner without saying the word, or using a couple of other words. Some skills that these activities helped us improve are our time management skills, teamwork, resilience and many other skills that would be required to be a good student. My favourite thing to do in the workshop was being able to freely express my opinion and also the fun we had while playing the games. Overall, the workshop was extremely exciting, and I would like to work with Into University again."

**Urte Koskute – Year 7**



# Year 9 & 10 Hospitality



This week our Year 9 and 10 have made Jam Lattice Tarts to develop presentation skills.



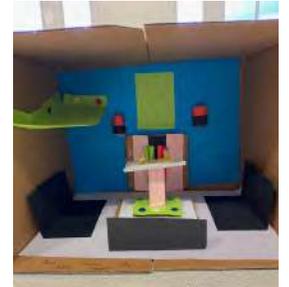
Students made the tarts and then carried out a taste analysis to develop future pastry products.



# Year 9 RE – Synagogue

In RE, 9W1 spent a lesson consolidating their understanding of the features of a synagogue and their uses.

We created model displays of the features and students had to present their creation to the rest of the class. Mr T Walker, RE Teacher



We were excited to relaunch our “High Performing Professionals” programme to a new cohort of our non-teaching colleagues.

The programme consists of a number of units enabling our colleagues to explore what it means to be a High Performing Professional along with the desired ‘characteristics’ of highly effective people. The programme explores the different

leadership styles and habits of such effective people. The cohort will explore the importance of time management along with how to prioritise what is important, while balancing and responding to what is urgent.



All this is done whilst exploring the benefits and impact of a positive mindset and mindfulness.

Participants are assigned a senior leader mentor and complete a project which allows them to experience aspects of school life, which are not normally part of their everyday roles and responsibilities within the school setting. Through their project, the group are encouraged to practice and develop all aspects of their learning experienced throughout the programme.

## Year 8 Printing Lesson

Year 8 printing lesson, which was inspired by Henri Rousseau.

The students made the printing blocks and dyed their materials earlier in the year.

Then in last week’s lesson they used material printing ink to print onto their dyed fabric. This will then be manufactured into a cushion with an applique design.



## 9SAK Coffee Morning

As part of Year 9 Retribuam week on 10th May an idea was born as 9SAK decided to host their first coffee morning as a way of giving back to their teachers. Students from within Ms Kay’s form organised their stalls and gathered their supplies as they served hot drinks and biscuits throughout the morning. The staff enjoyed the morning so much that the form have decided to repeat it at different points throughout the year. Thank you for all your hard work 9SAK!



# ASDAN Camping Trip

Monday 5th June saw the Year 9 ASDAN students pack their camping bags and venture into to the wilderness as part of their expedition project. Students had planned their activities, created equipment lists and even practiced how to cook their meals before they set off.

Joined by several selected students as a reward, all students got fully involved and had an amazing time. Taking part in kayaking, archery, climbing, go karts, an assault course with a slip and slide and much more, there was not a moment spare in an action packed day. Even Mr Flynn couldn't resist sliding down the hill in a once in a lifetime experience.

Night time came and students put up their tents (with a little help) Once this was done it was time for a barbeque cooked around the campfire, finished off with marshmallows and ghost stories in the dark. As students scared each other Mr Flynn put his Drama skills to the test and caused one student to throw his marshmallows in the air in fear. All students settled in for the wettest night on record. Resilience was the skill of the day as some of the tents leaked due to so much rainfall. The rain didn't stop students though as they got up early the next morning to take part in more activities.



## Drop Down Day Year 7 - Careers

We strongly believe that it is never too early to start thinking about hopes, dreams and aspirations for the future. Having only just joined us last year, and being faced with prolonged periods away from school, we decided to support our Year 7's in helping making decisions for their future by arranging a Careers Day. The aim of this day was to help our students explore their dreams and explore which paths they would need to take in order to reach those dreams. With the help of staff, students were able to go online to conduct their own research into their chosen career paths and establish just what skills and expertise they would need to be successful in their chosen field. This was a great learning experience for our students as they thought about where their own strengths and weaknesses lie.

We kick started the day with two aspirational talks from two very different career paths; beauty & football coaching. Both talks were led by our guest speakers and were very successful. Our students demonstrated excellent Mount St Mary's values showing Respect and Responsibility whilst being fully engaged during the talks. Towards the end, our students had their opportunity to ask their own questions, which they had the chance to prepare a few days prior. The last talk was from University of Leeds with the intent of helping students overcome barriers and discuss ways to get into University. Interestingly, the popular questions related to funding. Our Year 7's were very impressed with the response they received from our guest speaker, and we are hoping this will encourage them to consider what further options are available to them. It was fantastic to see them working towards their future choices and essentially considering what options are best suited to their talents.

There is still a long journey ahead at Mount St Mary's for our Year 7's but if we can get them thinking now, imagine the impact this will have on their decision making skills further on in the school journey!



## Drop Down Day Year 8 - Healthy Lifestyle



Year 8 took part in a drop down day aimed at improving their knowledge, understanding and experiences of a healthy lifestyle and the choices they could make to support this.

All students took part in a series of workshops that included relaxed yoga, self defence and a 30 minutes Hiit workout.



The school have recently engaged with an external partner, Rethink Food. Part of the day was given to exploring how this partnership can support our school and local community in developing sustainable food, healthy diets and reduce the impact of climate change.

In the final part of the day, students discussed the impact of screen time on their health and actions they could take to incorporate 'healthy' screen time into their everyday lives.



## Drop Down Day Year 9 - I Can Talk with Richard McCann

Today saw our final Drop Down Day of the year with a focus on Respectful Relationships and overcoming challenges in life. Students were incredible throughout the day, creating a real buzz within the classrooms and approaching all topics with great maturity, energy and enthusiasm. The day started with an incredibly powerful speech from Richard McCann who talked to students about how he has overcome a great deal of adversity in his life. Richard shared not only his emotional story but also the secrets behind his success and his "I Can and I Will" attitude. Students listened in awe at such a powerful story before leaving the hall and beginning their lessons with a renewed sense of self-motivation and belief. The day was an amazing success with students leading conversations, pushing each other to contribute and creating excellent reflections in the afternoon.

Many students left school with a keen thirst for more PHSCE sessions like this in the future and we cannot wait to see what they can achieve next year.



# Year 10 Your Future First

As part of Year 10s work experience this year staff organised a practical, in-depth two week programme aimed at providing students with the opportunity to gain experience in their career of interest. The first week saw students partaking in sessions based around experience in the work place, practical experience in a career sector of their choice, cv writing, confidence and teamwork building and A level taster sessions. In the second week students focused on further and higher education and took part in sessions based around student well-being, student finance, personal statement writing and student ambassador Q and A.

The aim of this programme was to prepare students for the world of work and also for their post 16 options. Students had the opportunity to gain hands on experience in an industry they are interested in working in, whilst at the same time getting to find out more about their college and university options. Students were supported throughout by school staff, college and university staff and employers to ensure progression and to inform decision making. This was a true collaborative event with support from Leeds Trinity University, Leeds United Foundation, Temple Moor High School, IntoUniversity, NHS, West Yorkshire Police, and the iCan Academy.



## Forensics:

Forensics was a really exciting session. The students were engaged throughout and it was great to see them doing science investigations again. The students had to find out about who committed a murder, what had happened and use different practical skills to find an answer. They used flame tests, foot casting, finger printing and blood splatter investigations. It was really enjoyable and lots of the students had some fantastic questions about careers in forensics and detective work.



## Carpentry:

In this session students learnt how to correctly hang a door and fit hinges. Students learnt how to create a corner using skirting board and also had the opportunity to plane doors to build on their experience in carpentry.

## Social Media:

The social Media session explored the themes of internet safety, trolling, how to build your brand and influencers. They were a lot of discussions around if social media is a necessity for a celebrity and the devastation it can cause. The students were able to easily identify and discuss their social media role models and the best way to use social media for their brand/employability.



## Public Services:

Students learnt all about the different jobs available within public services and heard from a CSI professional about crime scene investigation. Students took their own finger prints and were put through their paces during the police fitness test.

## Construction:

This session included how to construct a plasterboard wall to a timber frame, how to correctly mix and apply plaster and finish, and how to apply the correct paint or wallpaper. Students also learnt how to correctly hang a radiator.



## Music Technology:

Students have been investigating the Music industry and gaining the composition, arranging and production skills needed to create their own music. Using BandLab a 'Digital Audio Workstation', combined with a MIDI keyboard students have used the online music package to create songs and develop their understanding of Music Technology. The software allows students to choose their own musical style, using digital instruments and samples. Students can then share and collaborate on musical ideas together with their friends at the click of a button. This learning has extended beyond these workshops as students are able to access this free music package from home on a smart phone, tablet or laptop/computer.



## Catering:

Students were tasked with completing a full bake of shortbread biscuits and had to manipulate the biscuits into the shape of their desired career. Students followed a technical bake method and worked in pairs to create their masterpieces!

## Sports Coaching:

This session focused on showing students first-hand what it is like to work as a sports coach. Leeds United worked closely with our students to build their confidence in leading small groups and spoke to students about their experience in the sporting industry.

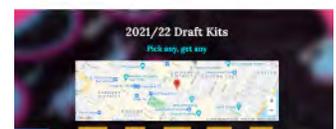


## Law:

In this session students were tasked with simulating a real trial in their group. Students were appointed with different roles within the trial and were challenged to improve their improvisation skills and public speaking.

## Website Design:

Our web design session involved looking at different uses for websites and how different themes and colour schemes can help information stand out. A quick Q&A helped us to determine the level of knowledge in the group and then they were tasked with creating their own webpage. After the sessions were finished we presented some prizes to the students who had put in a great deal of effort. These were not only the students who already had prior knowledge but also students who persevered and worked hard to overcome challenges whilst designing their pages. A special mention for Neve Husbands 10SRC, Hope Wilson-Poyner 10MAS and Lisandro De Sousa 10MAS for their fantastic efforts.



Over the last two weeks, I have learnt and experienced many different things. The research that we put into further education really helped me fortify what I want to do in the future. Being given the chance to do research into colleges and universities helped me decide what I want my future to look like. We also had multiple visits and workshops from various different colleges, sixth forms and universities which gave me the knowledge of all my possible options. One day, we had a full day to solely focus on healthy relationships which taught us important topics which we had missed. Overall, it was a great experience.



Jaleel Shahin

Over the past two weeks, Year 10 have participated in a variety of different workshops, which focussed on our future after we have left Mount St Mary's. All students engaged and completed all tasks set by numerous visitors, demonstrating our motto – Quid Retribuam. We gave back to the school by making people feel welcomed and also helped our future selves. During the mornings, a large group of students had the opportunity of going into town and asking different companies about their jobs and how to achieve that career path. This gave us more of a practical insight into a variety of careers. The remaining students at school would complete tasks set on 'Employable Me' and 'Start'. These programs allowed students to explore different career options and the qualifications they would require to get there. This was a great opportunity for students as they were able to be independent whilst discussing with their peers about their future. This really helped me because it enabled me to put time and effort into considering all choices and knowing all the grades I will need to achieve my goals.



Paris Tchokwako

Throughout the past two weeks I have been able to gain experience whilst boosting other skills such as my resilience and confidence. In the 'Your Future First' course, I particularly enjoyed listening to colleges, sixth forms and universities as this allowed me to expand my knowledge of future options. For instance, I have been able to learn what would be best suited for me as I am unsure of what I want to do in the future. So by having these places talk and give taster sessions I have been able to cement what path I want to take in terms of BTEC's, A-Levels and apprenticeships. Furthermore, these experiences have helped me to decide my first, second and third options for sixth forms. During this experience, I also enjoyed the guest speaker, Richard McCann, from iCan. Overall, I have enjoyed these two weeks as they allowed me to prepare for my future.



Eleanor McQuillan

Through the past two weeks of drop down days, I have had a lot of fun and learnt new things that I did not know previously. For example, I was not aware that courses such as X Levels existed but now I have all the knowledge surrounding this. I now know how to research for what job I would like to have and I especially enjoyed the time I was able to get involved with the 'Employable Me' program as it really helped me to decide what type of job I was suited to. I really loved the sessions we were able to take part in such as law, music and catering. I especially enjoyed the law session as it made me understand the different aspects of the course and how it would work if I was to study this in the future. I would thoroughly enjoy it if we were to do this again and would recommend it to other year groups moving forward.



Ayonimofe Osimokun



# Year 7 Art and Technology



In May we launched the Royal Mail's Special Stamp Programme to our Year 7 students. During their Art and Technology lessons, our students have been working on developing stamp designs to be entered into a national competition, where 8 winning designs

will be produced in honour of the community effort shown throughout the coronavirus pandemic.



From the healthcare professionals who selflessly put their own personal safety at risk to provide care to those in need, to the unsung heroes who kept the country going, these lessons gave our students the opportunity to think about who their hero or heroes have been during this difficult time. Our school motto 'Quid Retribuam' is firmly at the heart of our community and it was humbling to see students reflect upon the importance of giving back, before creating their own designs.



Students showcased their talents and skills in design and creativity, and we are incredibly proud of the work our students have done so far. The Creative Arts and Technology Faculty are delighted to give our own community a preview of some of these fantastic creations.



## Year 10 Revision in the E-Zone

We have had a busy time in E-Zone with the Year 10 students revising for their mock exams. After a busy morning studying Maths we spent the last few minutes enjoying a game of bingo.



Mr Flor Madueno is working with the new to English students, teaching them how to tell the time on a digital and analogue clock, as well as the importance of arriving to lessons on time!



## Heroes of the Library

Since our full time return it has been business as usual for the library, students have been eager to borrow books and reading has never been more popular. Making sure students could order and receive books while following restrictions, we set up an order and delivery service. Helping to make all this work have been our fantastic group of library monitors. Each form was assigned a monitor who volunteered to help order, deliver and collect books. They have taken their duties very seriously and as a result the library has lent out over a 1,000 books and counting. They are our true heroes of the library going above and beyond what has been asked of them.



Year 9 Library Monitors  
L to R — Isabella Hall, Victoria Sedrak, Larissa Lopes, Wilkoria Nowinska, Aicha Camara, Jonathan Dos Santos, Akwasi Kyerematenig, Adam Adwan, Faris Saheeh



Year 8 Library Monitors  
L to R — Logan Goldthorpe, Amelia Higginson-Milne, Rodas Fitwi, Divine Ighinovia Abuhlimen, Connie Harrison, Jerrilyn Mensah, Joshua Marshall, Kevin Almeida, Adil Bakari, Mason Rutlerford, Kamo Musa, Mamuk Negas, Miah Smith



Year 7 Library Monitors  
L to R — Emmaella Bello, Zainab Jaliloh, Bethany Simon, Lucy Houlahan, Harry Carter, Elouise Griffin, Chris Shaji, Harry Stanley, Zainab Jaliloh

## MSM Read-Cycle continues to grow

Since its launch in September 2019, MSM Read-Cycle has continued to expand and now includes over 600 second-hand books, all containing reviews by staff and students. Books are donated to the library (or bought from charity shops with money raised in school) and all books are either reviewed and placed in the library or given away to the community in our 'free books' stalls. Almost 200 books were given away to students at our Year 6 induction day!

This sustainable approach not only provides books for our school community, but it reduces our carbon footprint and impact on the environment.

If you wish to be involved in this project, either donating or reviewing books, please contact Miss Evans.



## The Big Splash - Bastille Day

July the 14th is the French national holiday known as Bastille Day. It is a French national celebration which is also celebrated in French territories and French-speaking nations. At Mount St Mary's Catholic High School students in Years 7-10 collectively explored the meaning of Bastille Day, the French national anthem (the Marseillaise) and learned some French to put into practice around school.

The Languages department enlisted GCSE French students to contribute to a video talking about their hobbies in French and all students were encouraged to learn and use French phrases to talk about the French National Anthem. The day was a huge success with numerous Golden tickets awarded to all year groups for their use of French. There was a real buzz and excitement from students to put into practice what they had learned.

Special thanks to the GCSE French students in Years 9 and 10 for contributing to our celebrations and to Gabriel C in Year 9 for recording a video explaining the significance of Bastille Day



## Stand to support with Year 9

At the end of June students in Year 9 put down their footballs, stopped their conversations and made a fantastic statement as a year group. After working with several students looking at how we show our support to each other as a school community, Stand To Support was created.

At the sound of the whistle at 12:15pm students were asked to stand on the half way line of the football pitch as a united line. The aim was to show that they would support each other no matter what issues they faced throughout their time at Mount St Mary's and beyond. Whether this was supporting mental health, tackling racism or supporting LGBTQ, our students did not disappoint.



As a Year Leader it was an incredibly proud moment to see such a strong sense of community as we move forwards on our Mount St Mary's journey.



# Debating returns to Mount St Mary's

After the government announced that extra-curricular activities were able to resume, there was much excitement for the return of Debate Mate! Years 7-10 have been developing their communication skills and confidence in sessions after school, run by trained MSM staff.

Students have debated a range of topics from the banning of fast food to the importance of Black History Month. They have developed skills in constructing arguments, counter-arguing and styles of speaking.

There will be new opportunities to sign up in September for all year groups!



## COVID Film Festival

Throughout the months of April and May students worked hard to try and walk the red carpet globally.

The World Covid Film Festival allowed students to try their hands at writing, directing and starring in their own films. With 21 different categories from sport and action to music and dance, students could create a two minute film of their choice.

With all seven continents submitting entries, and thousands of films being submitted from schools around the world, the challenge in front of our students was not an easy one, but one they stood up to with an excellent level of creativity, skill and resilience.

First up were our Year 7 and 8 students who committed to attending after school every Friday to try their hands at film making, with great success, creating a Covid related murder mystery film.

Next up it was the turn of Year 9 Performing Arts students who created several entries that can be seen on the school YouTube channel. All films were fantastic, but two Covid horror trailers from Year 9 managed to achieve 3rd and 4th place in their category globally - not an easy achievement.

Now that all the films have had their moment in the spotlight one thing is for sure, there is a great deal of talent at Mount St Mary's both on and off the camera. Well done to all students who worked hard on this project. We can't wait to see our students walk down the real red carpet one day in the future.



## Target Setting Day

On Monday July 12th we held a Target Setting Day and here are some of the responses we received from parents to our 'Parent Voice' survey.

"I would like to thank you for being so kind to my kids."

"I would say Mount St Mary's is the best high school!"

"They are great teachers who really look after their students."

"It is a really caring and supportive school."

"Thank you for supporting my child"

# Year 11 Enrichment Day

The Year 11 Well-Being and Enrichment Day gave students the chance to spend some time in a relaxed and friendly environment learning some new skills and developing their knowledge in a range of different practical and creative areas.

Students could choose between a range of sessions that allowed them to do something a little bit different, take some time out to focus on their well-being and have fun with their friends. Students chose from the following sessions which were put on by MSM staff:

Forensic Science  
Jewellery Making  
First Aid Skills  
Ukulele Music  
Batik

Baking breakfast muffins  
Football  
Quizzing  
Media Make Up  
Debate Mate  
Glass Painting



There was so much positivity in the different sessions with students and staff alike having a great day all round!



## Helping The Homeless

Vocational Studies is an option subject taken by a number of our Year 9 students. This offers a whole range of topics and initiatives for the students to take part in. A focus in the term leading up to Christmas was to give back to charity. As a group the students decided that they would like to do something to help the homeless in Leeds and the surrounding area. These students were Lily, Jonathan and Taneka, who all worked together to launch this to their year group.

They began by creating a list of essential items that they believed were needed by those less fortunate than ourselves, and were facing the extremely harsh and cold winter on the streets. This included sleeping bags, blankets, scarves, gloves, hats and more. From this point, the students rallied their peers in a bid to collect as many of the 'essential items' as possible. This became the year group's focus for the coming weeks, where in the end we collected over 100 items which could then be donated to a local homeless charity.

This, without a doubt, made a huge difference in our community both in school and in Leeds City Centre. The students showed fantastic enthusiasm to make a difference to those less fortunate than themselves, and once again demonstrated the importance of Retribuam within our ideals as a school.



## Year 7 Joinery with Mr Clarke

A cohort of Year 7 students were invited to participate in a Joinery class run by Mr Clarke. The aim of the project is for the students to learn some basic joinery skills and then put them to good use on several larger projects in the future.



Students are learning to use hand tools, how to mark out wood correctly, safety whilst using tools and making various types of wooden joints.

Their first bigger project will be to make a scaled down wooden house, complete with a roof and working door with all the fittings. This project is going to be long term and will carry on next year when the students are in Year 8.

Before arriving at Mount St Mary's in 2008, Mr Clarke spent ten years working as a joiner and is now passing on his skills to students.

# Sweet Treats for Year 7



As part of our end of spring term celebration, Year 7 students were rewarded with a visit to the Ice Cream Van, as Mount St Mary's way of giving back to students for their continued hard work, commitment and resilience throughout what has been a very challenging transition and start to MSM. We are extremely impressed with how you have adapted and responded to the challenges you have faced, and continue to face during these ever changing time. We look forward to celebrating more successes throughout the year.





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Just before the May half term, we collaborated with our local Morrisons and were able to secure a generous donation of delicious doughnuts! There was a choice of two toppings; pink icing and chocolate icing, but the icing on the cake would have to be that they all came with sprinkles on! As a year group, and keeping in mind our school's motto is "Quid Retribuam", we made a decision to mirror the expectations we have of our students, and so we gave our Year 7's a doughnut each to enjoy after lunch. We thought it was extremely well deserved as they continue to show us dedication and resilience in all aspects of their school life, and this was a small way for us to say "you're demonstrating a great attitude to learning, keep it up!". The doughnuts went down an absolute treat which was evident because of how quickly they were demolished!



A special mention has to be given to Geraldine and Jo, the Community Champions at Morrisons who agreed, without hesitation, that our fantastic Year 7's deserved this treat after hearing about all their hard work. So we, as a school, would like to say a big thank you to the whole team at Morrisons for their wonderful donation.

We are, and continue to be, super proud of our Year 7's and can see very bright futures ahead of them. WELL DONE TEAM YEAR 7!



## East vs West Football Match

To celebrate the end of Year 11, all of the boys requested a final football match between East and West band to celebrate the five years they have spent playing together. With Mr Rimoldi refereeing, we had around 35 boys show great sportsmanship and team spirit which ended in a win for the East band 8-3!



## Return of sports clubs

Since the return to school we have slowly been re-introducing our extra-curricular sport provision. This started with a small pilot to test our COVID protocols and has now grown to cater for Year 7-9. We have loved seeing the students back in action outside in the fresh air just having fun in a variety of sports. We have played football, volleyball and netball so far. We have also secured a fantastic opportunity to allow some Year 7 girls and Year 8 boys to be coached by Leeds United foundation coaches. These sessions are free for our students and they have loved every session. This will carry on until Christmas and will be open to new students to come and try in September. Our after-school provision is centred around having fun and being active, you do not need to be a top sports performer at all, everybody is welcome.



## Year 9 Retribuam

Retribuam After Hours is a new initiative taken by Year 9 to give back to the school community on a weekly basis. Back on 10th of May we focussed on how to give back both at school, home and in the community as part of a 'Retribuam Week'. This began with tutor groups discussing ideas during their weekly PHSCE lesson and then implementing them both during school time and at home. Alongside this, 'Retribuam After Hours' was created and launched on 13th and 14th May to allow students to stay after school and give back, through different activities, which would have a positive impact on staff here at Mount St Mary's.

There were three different job roles available, which included litter picking, preparing hot drinks for staff who were still working in the building, and also helping the cleaning team tackle the 60 plus classrooms across the site that require cleaning on a daily basis. There was an overwhelming response to this event from the year group, with a fantastic number of students giving up their time to take part, and show how thoughtful and caring they are to the rest of the school community.

One member of staff said 'After such a long day, it was so lovely to have the students come and offer tea and coffee to us all as we continued to work. It gave me a real lift for that last part of the day, and I'm sure it will have for the other staff too.' Another said " This is better than Christmas!" It is feedback like this that has made 'Retribuam After Hours' become a weekly club within our Year group, which continues to go from strength to strength, helping the many staff here at Mount St Mary's. An hour of the students' time really does make a huge difference to the community, and at the same time, emphasises our school motto of 'Quid Retribuam'.



## Options Day Year 8

Year 8 are now at the point of their Mount St Mary's career where they start thinking about the subjects they would like to study at GCSE. To help support them in making the right choices, all our Year 8 students took part in an Options Drop Down Day, targeted at giving them practical experience of the subjects on offer to them.

Staff within the Creative Arts and Technologies Faculty delivered some amazing sessions aimed at giving our students a taste of what it is like to study different subjects at GCSE level. Students had the opportunity to experience learning within specialist spaces, which is something our students haven't had the chance to do recently due to covid restrictions. Sessions were delivered in the Cyber Café, the Main Hall, the Workshop and the Kitchens to give students hands on, practical experience of subjects such as Hospitality and Catering, Drama, Design and Technology, Health and Social Care and Business Studies.

It was fantastic to see so many of our students embrace the challenge of a new subject area and even more encouraging to see them so engaged in taking responsibility for making an informed choice about their future pathway. Students experienced using a range of skills that included baking shortbread, using machinery to make wooden keyrings, applying their creativity skills in Design, building their confidence through Performing Arts and testing their entrepreneurial skills and business knowledge.

Our Careers Department also delivered an informative session around the types of jobs and career paths various subjects and qualifications could lead to. Year 8 are now reflecting on the day to help them make their choices regarding which subjects they feel are best suited to them and their future aspirations.



## West Leeds Activity Centre

This term, the Year 9 bubble have teamed up with West Leeds Activity Centre to give our young people some fantastic opportunities as a well done for all their hard work and effort. WLAC aims to get students out of the classroom and into the outdoors with a whole host of group activities that encourage team building. From climbing the high ropes together, and competing as a team across the assault course, they will start to build confidence and grow in their abilities and team working.

On Tuesday 25th May, a group of students from the year group were nominated by their form tutors to have a day taking part in the different activities at WLAC. The criteria to be nominated related to the students' engagement, attitude and effort on the Young Leader Application day just the day before, and the lucky students were announced live in classes at the end of the day. There was a real buzz in the corridor as students worked tirelessly to impress, bringing an extra level of commitment and excitement to the afternoon.

The students left school early to ensure a full day was spent taking part in the various activities such as wall climbing, archery, go karting, motor biking and learning bush craft skills. It was fantastic to be able to give the students an instant reward for their work, and this was only emphasised when we got to see how much the students enjoyed the day.



# Sports Day

We have finally been able to begin our Sports Days having missed them in 2020. Our Sports Days have complied with the guidance keeping students in their bubbles as each year group competed on a different day. Our events included, Athletics, Lineball, Basketball, Rounders, Boccia/Targets and Dodgeball (when it rained!). Every student takes part as the emphasis is on inclusivity. Students are able to select the activity they would like to compete in and spend the time accruing points for their Houses. It has been great to see all our students coming together in their houses to have fun and try and win some medals!



# Yorkshire Wildlife Park

On 30th June 11 students visited the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Strolling around the park students were amazed by the lions and tigers (even though they were all sleeping).

Whether it was the wallabies holding their babies or the monkeys protecting theirs, students were treated to some great wildlife moments, including getting up close with a giant polar bear.

The trip was a prize, won by the students, as part of a competition linked to the new social media account celebrating achievements of Year 9 students. All they had to do was get their family members to follow the school social media accounts, or follow the accounts themselves, to be entered into the draw. If students didn't have a social media account then they could simply create propaganda to advertise and promote the account to all the students in the Mount St Mary's community, and they were also entered into the draw. The students were chosen at random and could then select a friend to join them on the trip. Their behaviour was incredible and it was a thoroughly enjoyable day for all.



# Year 10 Interview Day

On 14th May 2021, 14 employers from national and local businesses met our Year 10 students to give them real life experience of a formal interview process.

The prestigious event, which is run annually for our Year 10 students, prepares them not only for future interviews they will have with colleges and further education, but also for the world of work. The Interview Day itself focuses upon building resilience in our young people to ensure they are equipped to thrive in an unfamiliar environment such as a formal interview, whilst preparations leading up to the event encourage them to take responsibility and be reflective about their skills, personal qualities, strengths and future aspirations.

Students took part in a series of careers-based workshops prior to the event to develop their personal statements, compose their curriculum vitae and fine tune their interview skills, and it was no surprise to see them execute all they had learnt with excellence on the day. From the opening handshake to the articulate portrayal of their qualities and strengths, it was unsurprising that many of the interviewers commented positively regarding the employability of Mount St Mary's students. It was also incredibly humbling to see students reflect on their experience post-interview and highlighted furthermore the passion our students have to succeed.

Further recognition and thanks go to our senior student leadership team for offering valuable support to Year 10 on the day. Once again, the powerful importance of our school motto 'Quid Retribuam' shone through when we saw our older students reassure, support and guide students through a process they had experienced just a year before. There was a real sense of community spirit and camaraderie that was felt by all on the day.



Finally, it is without doubt that these unique experiences and opportunities are invaluable to our students and without the volunteers who selflessly give up their own time and expertise to give back to our students, this event would not be as successful as it is. It is with growing thanks and gratitude to the employers involved on the day that we can say we look forward to welcoming everyone back next year for another incredible opportunity for our young people.



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## West End Actor Visit

On 5th May 2021, the students of Mount St Mary's experienced something spectacular, when West End Actor Rich Gittins visited school to run a series of Covid secure workshops. Each workshop covered a range of Drama scripts and styles, and Rich was astonished by the talent, commitment and dedication shown by our students.

Year 8 and Year 9 got a first-hand taste of professional Drama, with Rich delivering amazing stage combat workshops. Students focused on developing control and awareness by practicing hair pulling, stage punches and the dreaded arm twist, all with hilarious and convincing outcomes. The workshops included several exercises aimed at building trust and confidence among each other; skills that will be valuable to them as they continue to grow and progress through school. It was clear to see our students demonstrated they have an enthusiasm for working together on developing new skills and ultimately this highlights furthermore their ability to succeed.

Following this, it was time for our Year 10 Performing Arts students to light up the stage with their energy. Performing extracts from Matilda and Les Miserables, Rich was once again blown away by the commitment, talent and enthusiasm of our senior students, who were very nearly invited to make the trip back to the West End. There is no doubt that these performances will be a valuable contribution to their coursework, as well as providing students with a clear pathway of where their talents could lead them in the future.

The day was a massive success and one thing is for certain, at Mount St Mary's, we most definitely have the stars of the future!



## Business Enterprise Event

On 10th and 11th June Year 9 said hello to the world of business thanks to the Yorkshire Young Enterprise team sponsored by Hammersons. On each day, half of the year group filled the hall to become young entrepreneurs. Students showed off their skills when innovating and relaunching an existing business and pitching to investors for money to support their ideas. The real highlight came at the end of the day when groups stood up in front of the business experts and their peers and pitched their ideas. Students were asked to cover all areas from marketing, launch events, product appearance, advertising slogans and many more. Our Year 9 students rose to the challenge with two groups – BBS Wheels and Body Oddie – taking the crown as overall business champions. The effort of all students involved was fantastic as they developed key transferable skills to take into future employment.

Ruth – Marketing Manager, Leeds Victoria Quarter said, “I had an absolutely fantastic day in your school – it was so well thought out and executed. The kids were amazing, a privilege to have the opportunity to help them in any way we can”



## Clean Up Project

Jack Attrell (8THW) took it upon himself to devise a way to keep the school site as tidy as possible.

In order to ensure the outside space was pleasant to spent time in Jack put a plan in place to have stewardship over the school environment and show two of our school R's; Responsibility and Respect.



Jack said – “I spoke to Mr Walker to get ideas together and start the “Clean Up Project”. I organised a team of students within my form and gathered the necessary equipment. My next step is to roll my project out and get more students involved. After a couple of weeks the team really noticed the impact of their work.”



## IntoUniversity Year 8 Into University

On Thursday 22 April, 28 Year 8 students took part in a session run by Into University. The session focused on providing students with different methods to recall information, as well as a range of revision techniques and memory games, giving them valuable skills to use as they progress into KS4 and begin studying GCSE courses. All the students who were involved approached the sessions with an overwhelming sense of respect and responsibility, and it was great to see the active participation by everyone to learn the Japanese numbers from 1 – 10.



Special recognition went to James Anderson for his outstanding efforts and contribution, but the most heart-warming moment was the Retribuam shown by Kwadwo Sarpong, who nominated Benny Asante to receive his prize to recognise the effort he had made during the sessions. We look forward to welcoming Into University for more sessions in the future



## Year 11 Leavers



On Tuesday 22nd June, we had our Year 11 Leavers' Mass. This was a beautiful occasion filled with prayer, thanks and hymns celebrating and reflecting on the wonderful 5 years the students have had in school.



Then, on Wednesday 23rd June, we said our final goodbyes to our Year 11 students. This was a fun filled assembly with lots of fond memories and laughter, and a few tears! Looking back over their time with us at Mount St Mary's, they have achieved so many amazing things, formed an outstanding student leadership team, and will hopefully have made friends that last a lifetime. To our leavers' class of 2021, we wish you all the luck in the world!



## Year 11 Photoshoot

Unfortunately due to the uncertainty surrounding restrictions we had to cancel our Year 11 Leavers' Ball. As you can imagine this was frustrating and upsetting for a number of our students and we didn't want them to leave Mount St Mary's without a special way to mark the occasion.

As such we decided to hold a Photoshoot in the main hall! This gave the students the opportunity to put on their prom dresses and evening suits and say farewell to their peers, whilst having a photo to mark the moment.

A special thank you to SK Luxe Events who created a balloon arch, towers and personalised mirror in our school colours to use for the event!



@SK.luxeevents



# Extra Curricular Is Back!

Following on from our successful pilot in PE, we are pleased to announce the return of some extra-curricular opportunities for our students.

Subject areas including STEM, Debate Mate, Maths Doctor, Art and much more. All sessions are operating in line with the strict COVID protocols. For more information please head over to our new and improved Extra-Curricular & Clubs page at:

<http://mountstmarys.org/school-life/extra-curricular-clubs/>

**BOOK CLUB**  
Year 7  
Every Friday  
3:00pm - 4:00pm  
Room - ENH  
Staff - Miss Pratrice

**STEM**  
Year 7 - Exam S.C.G.  
Thursday 3pm - 4:00pm  
Student Meeting Room - 10000  
With Mr Dennis, Mr Charles, Miss Barry, Mr Robin & Mr Brown

**FILM FESTIVAL CLUB**  
Year 7 - 4  
Monday 3:00 - 4:00pm  
Year 8  
Tuesday 3:00 - 4:00pm  
Year 9  
Wednesday 3:00 - 4:00pm  
Year 10  
Thursday 3:00 - 4:00pm  
Year 11  
Friday 3:00 - 4:00pm  
Student Meeting Room

**LUF Girls Football Club**  
YEAR 7 Wednesday 3:00pm - 4:30pm  
With Miss Smith in the sports hall

**ART**  
Year 10  
Tuesday  
3:00pm - 4:00pm  
Rooms  
A121 & A122  
Staff  
Miss Pratrice & Miss Pratrice  
3:00pm - 4:00pm

**Keyboard Club!**  
Year 7 Keyboard Club  
With Mr Bromwich  
Tuesdays  
3:00pm - 4:30pm EN2

**DRAMA CLUB**  
Come join Mr Evans  
Year 7 - Tuesday EN1  
3:00pm - 4:30pm

**MULTI SPORTS**  
Y7 - Every Wednesday 3:00pm - 4:00pm  
Y8 - Every Tuesday 3:00pm - 4:10pm  
Y9 - Every Thursday 3:00pm - 4:10pm  
Multi Sports  
Football (Sports Hall)  
Mr Dennis, Mr Smith, Mr Brown  
Y10 - Every Wednesday 3:00pm - 4:00pm  
Y11 - Every Thursday 3:00pm - 4:10pm  
Multi Sports  
Football (Sports Hall)  
Mr Dennis, Mr Smith, Mr Brown  
Sports meet includes  
Soccer, Football, Golf, Volleyball, Tennis, Basketball, Badminton, Table Tennis

**Boys Football Club**  
YEAR 8 Tuesday 3:00pm - 4:30pm  
With Mr Walker in the sports hall

**Year 9 Media Make-Up Club**  
Staff - Miss Hetherington  
Tuesdays: 3:00pm - 4:30pm  
PA 1

**DEBATE MATE**  
Wednesdays  
3:00pm - 4:15pm  
With Miss Evans, Year 7 - LA1  
Mr Hinchley, Mr Year 8 - MUS  
Lawson, Miss Year 9 - BE2  
Pratice and Mr Year 10 - BS1  
Woodward

**Health & Social**  
STAFF -  
MRS BRADSTON & MRS MURPHY  
EVERY WEDNESDAY 3:00PM - 4:15PM  
IN ROOMS 114 & PE1  
FOR YEAR 10'S

**MATHS DOCTOR IS BACK!!!!**  
(YOUR AFTER-SCHOOL MATHS CLUB)  
SUITING YEARS 9 AND 10 STUDENTS (OTHER YEAR GROUPS TO JOIN LATER)  
You're invited to join the Maths Club for extra tutoring, while mastering your maths skills. Maths is fun, Enjoy!  
Your club officers help with the following:  
This and  
Thursday  
10th to 15th  
- Revision Exam techniques  
- Homework  
- Boost your confidence in Maths  
- Cover extra content  
- Solving past exam questions  
- Problem solving skills  
- Consolidate understanding  
- Just enjoy learning Maths!!!  
Make a date with us and learn some extra house points too!!!  
Follow the Maths department on Twitter @MathsMattersMSM  
Maths team

**GUITAR CLUB**  
EVERY THURSDAY  
3:00PM - 4:30PM  
MR DENNIS  
1114

**AFRO FLAME DANCE CLUB**  
Every Friday after school at the activity studio  
Time: 15:30 to 16:20  
Bring trainers and a change of clothes if you want to  
Year 10 ONLY!  
If you want to join come talk to one of the members

**YEAR 10 MSM SHOWS**  
Every Friday  
with Mr Fox in the Marquee

To keep up to date on all things Mount St Marys why not visit our school website:

[www.mountstmarys.org](http://www.mountstmarys.org)

Or scan the QR Code



Designed and printed in the Mount St Mary's Reprographics Department

## MSM Online

Mount St Mary's  
Catholic High School  
@MSMHub

Performing Arts Department  
@msmpai  
[youtube.com/msmpaichannel](https://youtube.com/msmpaichannel)

MSM Careers  
@CareersMSM

English Department  
@MSMEnglish

Maths Department  
@MathsMattersMSM  
[fb.me/mathsmattersmsm](https://fb.me/mathsmattersmsm)

Science Department  
@MSMPrepRoom

ICT Department  
@MSMICT

Physical Education  
@mountstmaryspe

For more information,  
to visit the school or  
to contribute to the next  
edition of the Messenger,  
please contact the school.

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