

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

Dear St Mark's community,

As the autumn term draws to a close, I want to reflect on what has been a truly successful and inspiring half-term at St Mark's. Together we have celebrated academic achievements and embraced opportunities to fulfil our God-given potential. Our mission 'to live out our faith' continues to be at the heart of all that we do.

We are delighted that the Department for Education has ranked St Mark's as the 14th highest-performing secondary school in the country and the second-highest Catholic school. Our outstanding GCSE results and our Progress 8 score of 1.35 – the highest of all local schools – are a testament to the hard work and dedication of both staff and students.

Looking ahead, our Year 11 students have completed their first set of mock exams with maturity and dedication. They will receive their results in January and year 11 parents will have the opportunity to discuss these with teachers at the upcoming parents' evening.

We also celebrated achieving 'Outstanding' in all categories during our recent CSI Inspection. This recognition reflects our commitment to Catholic values and the exceptional efforts of staff and students in living out their faith. I encourage you to read the full report as it captures the excellence of the RE department and our whole school Catholic Life and Mission and Collective Worship.

Our Excellence is also reflected in recent awards that we have achieved. Our National School Attendance Award celebrates St Mark's for being in the top 10% of schools for attendance, and the PE department achieved two recent awards: the School Games Gold Award and the Girls' Football School Partnerships award, which recognises St Mark's as an 'Equal Access' school.



We are proud of the diverse opportunities offered this term which included:

- **Black Swimming Association Visit:** Students in Years 7–10 heard an inspiring talk on water safety, and many have signed up as Water Safety Ambassadors to support a school-wide campaign.
- **Year 10 Speak Out Challenge:** This encouraged students to develop their public speaking and communication skills.
- **Year 11 Well-Being Events:** Activities like baking, climbing, and golf supported our students' mental health during this important year.
- **Scholars' Success:** The History Scholars Programme celebrated eight awards, while Biology Scholars attended a well-received lecture by Mr. Shore. The Brilliant Club continues to flourish, with students preparing to graduate at Oxford University in February.
- **Celebration of National Poetry Day:** Congratulations to our KS3 winners: Jayzel (Y7), Vanessa (Y8), and Stella (Y9).

Advent has been a season of giving and service. Our Faith in Action students and RE department have been incredibly active, organising initiatives such as the senior citizens' party, the Year 7 Christmas fete, and a toy drive for children in foster care. Together, we have raised over £1,500 for CAFOD through events like Cultural Dress Day and the Soup Lunch.

The Advent Carol Service and accompanying fete were wonderful celebrations of our school community, raising funds for our school initiative, 'In This Together'. The generosity of our community is inspirational, and we appreciate your support with these events. You can read more about these events in our chaplaincy newsletter.

Finally, our second House Event, Ready, Steady, Create!, showcased students' creativity and teamwork. Congratulations to Pole House for their winning Christmas cracker design!

As we approach Christmas, I want to thank you for your unwavering support. I wish you and your families a joyful and peaceful Christmas, and a very Happy New Year.

Ms Waugh-Lucas
Headteacher

KEY dates

6th Jan - The Feast of the Epiphany & Inset Day

7th Jan - Year 12 & 13 PPE's begin

16th Jan - Year 11 Parents Evening

6th Feb - Year 13 Parents Evening

14th Feb - Break up for half term

HOUSE

LEADERBOARD

1st - More

2nd - Fisher

3rd - Clitherow

Bedrock Winners

Congratulations to our winning

Bedrock classes

7 Champion & 7 More

8 Clitherow & 8 Pole
and 9b1

and our individual winners

Y7 Nikitha, Y8 Keziah, Y9 Carys

SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

[Safeguarding
Bulletin](#)

CHAPLAINCY UPDATES

[Chaplaincy
Newsletter](#)

[CSI Report](#)

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

[Alumni
Newsletter](#)

