

# Transition News

The newspaper for St Mary's Transition

## **Tutoring Terrific!**













#### Let's meet some of the Year 7 tutors Your tutor will help you settle in to St Mary's, they would like to welcome you to Year 7.

When you first arrive at St Mary's you will be amazed at how welcoming, friendly and inclusive it is. We treat everybody equally and with respect and our core values are to be kind, helpful and supportive. Despite this, we are sure you may have a few nerves about moving to a new school environment. This is where our fantastic team of tutors come in. Firstly, in most cases you will be in a tutor group with somebody from your primary school, so you can rest assured you will know at least one other friendly face.

In addition to this, you will have not one, but two tutors who will guide you through your first year at the school. One of your tutors will be a personal tutor and will meet with you once a term to check on your progress and set you targets. They're also the first port of call if you have any problems or need anything resolving. We also like to make sure we have a wide breadth of subjects across our tutors. As a result of this, you may have Miss Fox from Drama, Miss Rangeley from Maths, Mrs Walker and Mrs Jackson from P.E and Miss McMillan and Mrs Wilson from Art. We've

even got Mrs Burnett if you fancy learning a new language and Mrs Lawless and Mrs Dickinson from Science – so that should go with a bang!

As well as being subject specialists, some

are keen horse riders, fitness gurus, clarinet players and even long-distance runners. A lot of them have especially cute pets and we are sure they'll show you some pictures. Whatever their specialisms, your tutors are there for you. They will complete equipment checks, give you vital daily messages and keep an eye on your behaviour. We have challenges for the form with the most Good News Fridays and rewards for individual performances over each term. Your tutor group remains the same throughout your time at St Mary's and by Year 11, both tutors and their groups have an extremely special bond. Your tutor and tutor group are probably going to be one of the most important factors in your time at St Mary's, so join in, get involved in tutor activities and make sure you take advantage of all of the amazing things on offer.

2nd edition

#### Get ready, get equipped



Organisation and equipment are a key factor to your success at St Mary's College. Former U.S President Benjamin Franklin once quoted "by failing to prepare, you are prepar-ing to fail". As you can see from our excellent results, children at the College do very, very well. This is because we are well equipped and consistently organised. The most essential part of your equipment list will be your school planner. This is where all of the homework, important information, merits and detentions are written down. Merits are the rewards system in the lower stages of St Mary's and you can earn great prizes such as money off trips and gift cards and vouchers. Your planner can also be used to get your lunch if you forget your dinner card. The back of your planner has a handy timetable so you can track what lesson you have next and where you need to be. Homework should be recorded each week and completed in time to help you reach your full potential. Also, remember your basic equipment list of black and red pens, pencils, a clear ruler, eraser, pencil case, pencil sharpener and a reading book. There is a list on page 10 of your planner if you forget. You can also buy replacements from the LRC to make sure you're always well stocked. Your equipment will also be checked in tutor time, so ensure you have your things at

hand.

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# MEET THE TUTORS



Mss Rangeley-Maths
"I am really looking forward to meeting all of you and supporting you throughout Year 7".



Mr Haynes Geography
"Try lots of new
things and be open
to making new
friends".



Mrs Jackson - PE
"Always be yourself
and try a range of
different clubs. Enjoy
yourself, work hard
and have fun".



Let's go Clubbing at St Marvs

Here at St Mary's we are proud of all of the extra-curricular clubs we offer to our students. As a community, we want you to succeed not only educationally, but also physically, emotionally and spiritually. Whether you're a budding Harry Kane, Van Gogh or Nicola Adams, there will be sports or activities clubs to suit your needs. Some of the clubs we run are Football, Netball, Rugby, Trampolining, Art Club, Stage Management and even a Warhammer club. We also offer Chess and Jigsaw clubs, as well as help with homework and computers. We've also tried to keep a lot of these running with reduced number or virtually over the last year with great success. As you walk around college, you will see fantastic examples or Art, watch some amazing Drama productions and even get to witness some fantastic speakers from our debating society. Whatever your interest, we're sure there is a club to suit your needs. If there isn't, just ask, we're always looking for new and exciting opportunities.

We've recently added a Green Society club who have done some excellent work in ensuring we become eco-friendly and don't waste single-use plastic. If you like sport, Mr Arridge and the P.E department have a plethora of clubs for all levels, from football to rugby and netball to rounders. We also have trampolining, boccia and gym sessions to keep us all fit and healthy. We believe that everyone has that special talent which needs nurturing outside of the curriculum, so whether you're a dancer, baker, boxer or sewer, there's always going to be something of interest going on. You can sign up through your tutor groups, or just turn up when a session is on. It's a great way to make new friends with similar interests and a good way to get to know other members of staff. Whatever you choose, you'll be greeted by warm, friendly faces, a relaxed atmosphere and expert tuition in whatever you decide. What are you waiting for? Get involved!

### LRC- The centre of the reading universe

Mr Barratt's role here at St Mary's College is 'Learning Resource Centre Manager', which means he is in charge of the library and all of the learning resources within it. He joined at the beginning of lockdown and has managed to keep book bubbles and reading clubs active throughout. He loves meeting all of the new students, being around books and talking with students about the things they have read. Mr Barratt also loves that they do more than just read books in the LRC, they've had fundraisers, cake sales and even Harry Potter dress up days! Mr Barratt works very hard to make sure that the LRC is stocked with

the right books for students that they enjoy, and like to read, and that the library is up to date with modern 'trendy' books! If you have any recommendations, let him know and he might see what he can do! Mr Barratt told us "We're here to make reading a pleasurable and enjoyable experience for everyone." His top tip is to come into the LRC and introduce yourself, make sure we know who you are. Try to visit regularly, do not be a stranger, but make sure you read all of the time, not just at the beginning of the year – there are lots of stories to get through; experience as many as you can!