

31 January 2012

Dear Parents

## General Letter No 18

### The Sound of Music

The stage is in place for "The Sound of Music". The School Community is very much looking forward to this sell-out production on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. Our partner primary schools are attending an exclusive performance today.



### Examinations

External examinations are completed on Thursday this week. Students have conducted themselves impeccably during the whole process. We would like to express our thanks to our Examinations Officer, team of invigilators and teaching assistants for their efficiency.

Year 10 internal examinations have taken place in all subjects, with a formal examination in English and Maths, to give students experience of the procedure. Please discuss the results of these examinations with your child as they are given feedback before half-term.

### Parental Consultation

- Y11 Parental consultation evening was very well attended. Discussion with parents and students is an integral part of the examination preparation process. Thank you for completing the questionnaires.
- Y8 CDFG parental consultations take place on Wednesday, 8 February. Y8 MPSW have been requested to return information by 7 February, for the consultation evening after the half-term break on Tuesday, 21 February.

### England Rugby Union Elite Performance Squad

Last Friday a group of 45 St. Mary's students and 3 staff attended the Open Training Session held at Weetwood Rugby Pitch (Leeds University) by the England Rugby Union Elite Performance Squad. The two hour session led by Stuart Lancaster (ex-Leeds Carnegie), Graham Rowntree and Andy Farrell, was watched by over 2000 local students, teachers and rugby club members. The tremendous potential on show was much appreciated by our students and bodes well for the development of English Rugby Union.

### Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Year 10 and Year 12 students have begun preparation for their Pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. The deadline for the £100 deposit is 3 February. Please send cheques, made payable to 'St. Mary's School', via the Finance Box outside the Small Hall, in an envelope clearly marked with your son/daughter's name and 'Lourdes 2012'. There are three spare places for any Year 10 student who may wish to join the group. Please see Mrs Findlay for more information.

### Zero Tolerance Petition

Many of you will be aware that James Still, one of our Year 12 students, was killed on New Year's Eve 2010 by a drunk driver. His family is campaigning for changes in the drink-drive laws. If you feel able to support them in this, please access the online petition for further details: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/zero---tolerance-for-drink-drivers-in-the-uk/>

### Erin: A Celebration of her Journey in Life

Thank you to all students who organized and participated in Friday's poignant service of celebration in memory of Erin Crotty. The planting of an oak tree in Erin's memory took place in the sunshine in the school's Memorial Garden.

## Trees

I THINK that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

This poem, by Joyce Kilmer (1886–1918), was said in the Memorial Garden for both James and Erin. Please include in your prayers all those whose memory rests in our Memorial Garden.

Yours sincerely



**R Pritchard**  
Headteacher