



Dear Parents

4 October 2011

General Letter No 4

Open Day: Saturday 8 October

We look forward to welcoming visitors to St. Mary's from 11.00-2.00 on Saturday. The whole school is working to show visitors how highly we value our students' learning and achievements and there are displays, stalls and activities covering all areas of the curriculum and beyond. Please join us on Saturday.

Students who have volunteered specific help should return their signed permission slip to pupil reception by Wednesday 5 October.

Information Evening: Tuesday 11 October

A reminder that our Information Evening for prospective Year 7 parents (admission September 2012) will take place on Tuesday 11 October at 7.00 pm.

World Challenge Promise Auction for Project in Lushoto Tanzania.

55 students will be raising £4,000 each to journey out to Tanzania for one month next July. They will be working on a local project to bring about a more pleasant existence for the local community with prospects of developing the area, improving education and health.

We are holding a **Promise Auction on Thursday 6 October at 7pm** in the main school hall to support the project. This is a positive way of giving something to another community in conjunction with the huge learning benefits this journey will have on the participating students, who will be forgoing many home comforts in order to achieve this goal. The attached information gives details of the lots available. Please attend the Auction, if you are able. Alternatively, return the attached bidding form with your details, your bid(s), the lot number(s) and enclose a cheque for the amount stated made payable to St. Mary's R. C. School. You will be notified of any unsuccessful bids and your cheque will be shredded as confidential waste.

Year 7 Mass of Welcome

The Mass of Welcome was a special occasion where the school community welcomed new students and new members of staff. The Mass was very well attended by Year 7 students and their families. Thanks to all who organised, attended, and participated. Please return the Transition Review Questionnaire to pupil reception, by tomorrow, in the envelope provided.

Data Collection Sheets for Year 7 Students

Thank you to all parents who have already returned this information. We would be grateful to receive any outstanding forms by Thursday.



This is a nationwide initiative that gives all Year 7 pupils the opportunity to choose a free book from a varied list of 12 titles. Book selection takes place during English lessons over the next fortnight with delivery towards the end of November. More information, including author interviews, extracts, and recommendations from other children, is also available from www.bookedup.org.uk, a lively website supporting the scheme.

Year 8 Residential

Year 8 students have been issued with a letter about the Outward Bound Residential week planned for the end of February next year.

Photos Deadline

Please ensure that all photo orders are returned to Pupil Reception by Thursday morning registration. They can then be processed. Late orders should be sent directly to Tempest photographers.

Prompt Arrival at School

A polite reminder to students, especially those local to school, that school starts at 8.35 am. We would like a prompt start to learning and your cooperation would be appreciated.

Sports News

- On Saturday, 24 September, Year 11 student Georgia Malir ran in an England vest for the first time at the Commonwealth Mountain and Ultra Distance Championships in Llanberis, North Wales. Georgia ran in the U16 England team in the Home Countries Championship Mountain Race – an up and down course of 315m ascent covering 6.31km. A great performance saw Georgia placed fifth and second England counter. The England U16 team of three runners won UKA Champs gold medals. Well done Georgia!
- Congratulations to Year 12 student Dan Le Roux who has been selected for the West Yorkshire Under 17 Rugby squad for the forthcoming Yorkshire Development Programme.

Extra-Curricular Sports Fixtures Participation Consent

Students will be given opportunities throughout the year to represent the school in extra-curricular sports fixtures. It is a legal requirement that we obtain signed parental consent before students take part in such activities. If your son/daughter has already been given a consent letter at an extra-curricular training session, please return the signed consent slip to the PE Office as soon as possible so that your consent can be recorded onto a central database. A copy of the parental consent letter can be found on the school website in the "Weekly Letter" section, <http://www.stmarysmenston.com/documents/ExtraCurricularParentalConsentLetter.pdf> Please note that one signed consent slip will cover students for all sports and for the whole academic year.

Our Lady of Kirkstall Parish of Sanctuary

This Patronal Feast Day event will take place on Saturday 8 October from 6.30pm. There will be music, drama and prayer with the pupils of Holy Name, Sacred Heart and St. Mary's Primary Schools and the 'Ice and Fire' Drama Group, following by a 'Pot Luck' supper. All are welcome to attend. Please see attachment for further details and reply slip.

Yours sincerely



R Pritchard

Headteacher