

# THE MESSENGER

from   
St Mary's  
Worcester's Girls' School

## Welcome

Welcome to our new newsletter which will bring you news of all our pupils' achievements and provides a small insight into the busy, vibrant and exciting world of St Mary's.

It is hard to believe that I have only been the Headmistress for half a term. So much has happened, not least an inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate!

On arrival at the school, I was immediately struck by the pupils' courtesy and the sense of purpose they displayed in their studies. I am delighted that the inspectors recognised this also, describing our pupils' behaviour as "exemplary", their social development as "exceptional" and their spiritual development as "outstanding."

The inspectors commented that: "Pupils grow into confident, thoughtful and articulate young women who embrace the school's ethos and the compassionate nature of the community." They are supported in this by "excellent pastoral care" together with "thorough and careful teaching in small classes" throughout the school which "contributes strongly to the pupils' successes."

I could go on but, as the staff and pupils know by now, I am not one to stand still for long! We are already putting in place plans to implement the recommendations of the report. We have introduced a number of new initiatives, including academic coaching in Years 11, 12 and 13 together with weekly timed assignments for Sixth Formers. This half-term, our library has also been wonderfully refurbished thanks to the generous support of our PSA – I really can't thank them enough!

Looking ahead, after our well-earned half-term rest, we have another busy few weeks ahead as we prepare for Christmas and all the joy and thanksgiving that this season of goodwill promises.

Mrs Jawaheer  
Headmistress



## Westminster comes to Worcester

Lord Tyler of Linkinhome, Liberal Democrat spokesman on constitutional reform in the House of Lords, met our Sixth Formers on Friday 15th October as part of the Peers in Schools programme – a national scheme which gives pupils the chance to find out about the role of the House of Lords in the democratic process.

The visit to St Mary's was one of 57 visits taking place across the country that day and it is estimated that Peers visited almost 3,000 pupils across the country.

Lord Tyler gave a fascinating insight into working life in Westminster whilst the girls were able to question him on a

range of issues, including his position on university tuition fees.

Lord Tyler's visit was followed in the afternoon with a presentation from Professor Francis Szele, a lecturer in Medicine and Physiology at St Anne's College, Oxford.

This provided those girls considering Medicine as a career with a fascinating insight into the subject at St Anne's College, a women's college, as well as offering essential advice on the process of applying to Oxbridge.

"We have a long and proud tradition of providing our girls with the academic foundations and self-belief to successfully apply to Oxford and Cambridge. Visits such as these, organised by our Careers department, encourage the girls to look beyond school to pursue a diverse range of careers and make a vital contribution to democracy in their community and their world."

Mrs Jawaheer – Headmistress

## St Mary's pupil Goes for Gold!

Congratulations to Sixth Former, Emily Lewis, 17, who won a drawer full of gold medals at the National Kayaking Championships held in September at the National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham.

Emily won four national titles, including individual gold over 200 metres and gold in the doubles over 200 metres, 500 metres and 1000 metres with her partner Kathryn Trotter. She also won silver in the individual 500 metres and bronze in the 1,000 metres.

These results followed on from an extremely successful 12 months which has seen Emily compete internationally

in the Czech Republic, France and Germany and represent Great Britain at the Junior and Under 23 European Canoe Championships held in Moscow.

Emily's long term goal remains to compete at the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil. In 2011 her aim is to represent Great Britain at both the European and World Championships.



## Award Winning Author Visits St Mary's

Julie Hearn, author of *Rowan The Strange* which has been shortlisted for the 2010 Carnegie Award for children's fiction, visited pupils in Years 7,8 and 9 in October. Described by The Times as 'one of the brightest new stars in the now star-studded world of children's fiction' Ms Hearn visited the newly refurbished library, hosted some workshops on creative writing and was interviewed by students for the school newspaper at lunchtime.



## The Emergency Services Call in on Early Years

As part of their 'Ourselves' theme, children in the Wise Owls and Reception have been visited by PC Ferreira and Nurse Flood this term. However, parents will be relieved to know that there were no accidents and no arrests made!



PC Ferreira talked to the children about keeping safe particularly on the road and children had the opportunity to ask questions and dress up in police uniforms. Nurse Flood talked to the children about the importance of personal hygiene and how to stay healthy and fit. The Early Years achieved outstanding results in a recent quality audit carried out by the Head of Early Years for Worcestershire.

## Understanding Eid

In order to develop the children's understanding about other cultures Miss Khazena brought in her Eid clothes and jewellery to show the children in the Preparatory School. She told us how she celebrated the festival of Eid and demonstrated the art of Mendi.



# St Mary's Celebrates the Visit of Pope Benedict XVI



Pupils throughout St Mary's prepared for the historic visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the UK through masses, prayers and assemblies.

They also learned about the Pope and in particular the life and work of Blessed John Henry Newman who was beatified by Pope Benedict at a mass in Cofton Park, Birmingham on Sunday 19th September.

Sinead Halpin Barnett, Grace Cleary and Bethany Randall sang in the 2000 strong choir at Cofton Park for the Beatification Mass whilst Sophie Gill, Rebecca Gill, Grainne Stewart, Maria Leith and Elizabeth Furber together with Mr Ross and Mrs McCumisky attended the mass.



## Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 24th September, we held our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone involved, both those who came and those who organised it. We are very grateful to everyone who contributed and helped to make the morning really special. This year we managed to raise £347.00, which is a fantastic amount of money. Thank you to those who bought cakes and raffle tickets, to Year 12 and also to the Prep School for their Copper Trail money.

Bethany Randall (Y12)



## Ben Nevis...no sweat for Jemima

Congratulations to Jemima Lloyd, from the Preparatory School, who this term managed to climb to the summit of Ben Nevis in four hours and 15 minutes returning to the base in just three hours!

Ben Nevis is the tallest peak in the UK at 4,409 ft. and represents quite an achievement for anyone, let alone Jemima who is only in Year 3! Apart from the last 20 minutes of the ascent she insisted on carrying her own backpack to the great relief of her parents who are extremely proud of her achievement.

Jemima is now setting her sights further afield to taller mountains. Next stop, Mount Everest perhaps?



## A Poignant Birdsong

When Trevor Nunn's eagerly anticipated adaptation of Sebastian Faulks's novel *Birdsong* opened in London earlier this month, St Mary's English students were one of the first audiences in attendance. To complement their AS Literature and Theatre Studies courses, students had read the novel and were excited to see how Nunn would reinterpret the work in the stage version, penned by Rachel Wagstaff.

Theatre critic Michael Coveney comments that they have "brilliantly distilled a three-hour play without losing the density of the subject matter or the poetry of the story." Based on the critically acclaimed 1993 novel, 'Birdsong' is a love story and a chronicle of horrendous conditions in the trenches of the First World War. It is a tale of amazing human courage and resilience. Our students were captivated by the power of individual performances, particularly Jack Firebrace, played by Lee Ross. John Napier's set design provided a backdrop that moved and

shocked in equal measure. It was an interesting study for the students as they had seen another World War One play, 'The Silver Tassie' at the Oxford Playhouse the week before. Irish theatre company Druid stunned the audience with Sean O'Casey's interpretation of events. While neither O'Casey or Faulks had experienced the front line, both manage to capture their own unique version of devastating proportions, highlighting the suffering of the individual to reflect the wider trauma.



Thank you to parents of the Early Years and Preparatory School who were so generous with their donations to the Harvest assemblies. Your kind donations have been given to Maggs Day Centre and H.E.L.P., both Worcester-based charities supporting the homeless, isolated and disadvantaged across Worcestershire.

## Choir perform at Gloucester Cathedral

The beginning of term got off to a musical start with the Chamber Choir performing at Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 3rd September. Also performing were The Forest of Dean and the Cotswold Male voice choirs, along with the stylish Lybrook Brass Band. It was a varied programme with an element of the last night of the proms. The choir sang two pieces and a joint performance with the other choirs of Morte Christie which was very moving. Gloucester Cathedral was a great place for the choir's first performance since returning from their successful tour of Ireland.



## Year 5 Go Back in Time

Year 5 travelled back in time to the Elizabethan period when they visited Baddesley Clinton in Warwickshire earlier this term. They experienced what life was like in the house during its heyday when it was used as a haven for persecuted Catholics and enjoyed dressing up in Elizabethan attire!

## Dates for the Diary

### 2nd November at 7.00pm

Performance by St Mary's of Faure's Requiem on All Souls Day in St George's Church, Worcester

### 19th November at 6.30pm

Lights of Love

St Mary's will be taking part in a concert at Worcester Cathedral in aid of St Richard's Hospice

### 20th November at 7.45pm

Remembrance

A meditation on the Four Last Things in music and poetry performed by St Mary's Chamber Choir at St George's, Worcester

### 12th December at 6.30pm

Pupils will be singing in the Spirit of Christmas Concert in aid of Muscular Dystrophy at Worcester Cathedral

### 14th December at 7.30pm

Carol Service at St George's, Worcester

## Prep Pupils Swim to Success

Last summer saw four of our then Year 6 swimmers, Emily Burton, Hattie Cook, Olivia Roberts and Megan Winfield reach the ESSA National Swimming Championships held at Ponds Forge in Sheffield, finishing in 20th place out of all small schools in England.

At the end of the summer term, our then Year 4 and 6 swimmers competed in the CTA gala. The under 9 girls' team, consisting of Year 4 girls Abigail Gill, Louisa Ridge, Harriett Rimmell and Isobelle Hill in Year 3, reached the final of the freestyle relay, finishing in 4th place so just missing out on a medal. Harriett Rimmell reached the final of the freestyle, as did Louisa Ridge for the breaststroke, with Isobelle Hill just missing out on a backstroke final finishing in 4th.

The under 11 girls' team, consisting of Year 6 girls Emily Burton, Hattie Cook, Olivia Roberts and Year 5 Sophie Monks, stormed through to the finals in the freestyle relay finishing 1st in the heats and 2nd in the medley relay.

Hattie, Olivia and Sophie competed in individual events where in the finals Hattie took second place in breaststroke, Olivia second in backstroke and Sophie sixth in freestyle.

St Mary's under 11 squad finished in 3rd position overall – an outstanding achievement!



## St Mary's Girls in County Netball Squad

Congratulations to Isabelle Dyer and Holly Carson who were recently selected from over 150 girls across the county for the Worcestershire under 14 County Netball squad. Isabelle and Holly will join 20 girls from across the county in regular training sessions at Tudor Grange Academy.

Isabelle, describing the moment she heard the news said, "when I got home and Mum gave me the letter telling me that I had been selected I couldn't believe it, I didn't expect to be selected for the U14s, I was so excited and pleased! I'm really looking forward to the coaching!"

Holly who already represents the county in indoor athletics and cricket is looking to make it four in a row as she is currently attending under 13s county hockey trials.

Holly and Isabelle are not alone amongst this year's cohort of Year 7. Honor Jeavons plays tennis for Worcestershire and Olivia Roberts and Hattie Cook represent the county in swimming. In other years, Emily Sale (Year 9) is a county player in badminton and cricket and Olivia and Harriet Hill (both in Year 8) are county and regional squash players. Whilst Georgia Greenwood (Year 10) and Georgia Williams (Year 8) have competed at county and regional level in athletics.

## Sixth Formers Sail the Seven Seas

Over the past five weeks, the Sixth Form have been trying their hands at different ways to sail the seven seas (or a random lake outside Pershore!) as part of their PE programme.

We began our epic adventure with kayaking which despite most of us ending up in the lake, turned out to be the easiest of the five methods. We then moved onto windsurfing which saw a few people displaying natural talent and the rest ending up in the same bunch of reeds no matter where we got to in the lake. In week 3, we attempted sailing and despite being told it was impossible to fall in and sink a boat, some members of Lower Sixth

managed to do just that! We then continued on open kayaks with four to six people in a kayak, this displayed many re-enactments of Pocahontas. For the final part of our journey we attempted to build our own rafts and although all of them managed to float by the end it did look like a scene from Titanic. A thoroughly enjoyable 5 weeks for all survivors and a big thank you to Mrs Warne and Miss Barber for taking us.



## Team captains

### Year 7

**Netball:**  
 Captain Holly Carson  
 Vice Captain Honor Jeavons  
**Hockey:**  
 Captain Tilly Milton  
 Vice Captain Hattie Cook

### Year 8

**Netball:**  
 Captain Lois Cerri  
 Vice Captain Katie Caldicott  
**Hockey:**  
 Captain Isabelle Dyer  
 Vice Captain Martha Milton

### Year 9

**Netball:**  
 Captain Christy Hong  
 Vice Captain Lucy George  
**Hockey:**  
 Captain Emily Sale  
 Vice Captain Stephanie Rowe

### Year 10

**Netball:**  
 Captain Jenny Evans  
 Vice Captain Georgina Greenwood  
**Hockey:**  
 Captain Kate Bowyer  
 Vice Captain Lydia Simpson

### Year 11

**Netball:**  
 Captain Olivia Marshall  
 Vice Captain Bryony Crossland-Davies  
**Hockey:**  
 Captain Charlotte Bowyer  
 Vice Captain Emma Pingstone

### Sixth Form

**Netball:**  
 Captain Gabby Flower  
**Hockey:**  
 Captain Shannon Baker

## Match results

### Week beg Mon 20th Sept

Yr 6 Hockey vs Heathfield:  
 Lost 2-1  
 Player of the match: Ruth Brewer

Yr 5 Hockey vs Heathfield:  
 Lost 4-0  
 Player of the match: Natalie Rowe

Yr 4 Hockey vs Heathfield:  
 Lost 5-0  
 Player of the match: Zara Khalid

Yr 7 Hockey A team vs St Richards:  
 Won 2-1  
 Player of the match: Kundai Chikosi

Yr 7 Hockey B team vs St Richards:  
 Lost 1-0  
 Player of the match: Isabelle Marshall

Yr 9 Hockey vs Dodderhill:  
 Won 4-2  
 Player of the Match: Charlotte Lewis

### Week beg Mon 27th Sept

Yr 9 Hockey vs Prince Henrys:  
 Won 3-1  
 Player of the match: Emily Sale

Yr 4 Hockey vs The Downs:  
 Won 4-0  
 Player of the match: Lucy Tasker

Yr 8 Hockey vs Dodderhill:  
 Won 3-0  
 Player of the Match: Hannah Wragg

Yr 7 Hockey vs Dodderhill:  
 Won 5-0  
 Player of the match: Holly Carson

### Week Beg Mon 4th Oct

Yr 11 played in the district netball tournament and got to the semi finals  
 Yr 5 vs St Albans:  
 Lost 2-1  
 Player of the match: Charlotte Crump

Yr 11 Netball vs Kings:  
 Won 18-9  
 Player of the match: Erin Clarke

Yr 11 Hockey vs Dodderhill:  
 Drew 0-0  
 Player of the match: Livvy Marshall

Yr 5 Hockey vs Springfield:  
 Won 2-1  
 Player of the match: Eilisa Helpin-Barnett

Yr 6 Hockey vs Springfield:  
 Lost 4-1  
 Player of the match: Olivia Meek

### Week Beg Mon 11th Oct

Yr 7 Hockey A team vs RGS:  
 Won 3-1  
 Player of the match: Honor Jeavons

Yr 7 Hockey B Team vs RGS:  
 Lost 1-0  
 Player of the match: Nina Clarke

6th Form Hockey vs Malvern St James:  
 Lost 3-1

Yr 9 Netball vs Dodderhill:  
 Won 11-10  
 Player of the match: Lucy George

Yr 10 Netball vs Dodderhill:  
 Won 16-8  
 Player of the match: Jenny Evans