4 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

This is week 22 in Ordinary Time

A Prayer for the New School Year 2026 – 2027
God of our past, our present and our future,
God of our dreams, our designs and our decisions,
Be love in us as we journey through this new school year.
Be our inner vision, that we may see life through your eyes,
Be our inner hearing, that we may listen well for your call,
Be our inner judgment, so we may discern clearly that which gives life,
Promotes growth, and nurtures love.
As we move into this school year,
fill us with hope and abiding trust that you dwell in us,
So that, in both joy and sorrow, we radiate hope.
Amen

Welcome back to the new academic year. I hope that you and your families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break. This week has been wonderful, with students returning to school with such positivity, enthusiasm and a clear readiness to learn. It has been especially pleasing to welcome our new Year 7 students as they begin their journey at St Mary's. They have made an excellent start, settling in quickly and already feeling very much a part of our school community. We have been delighted by the positive attitude shown by all year groups and look forward to sharing with you the many opportunities, achievements and experiences that this academic year will bring.

Examination Results Congratulations
We are incredibly proud of our former Year 11 and Year 13 students and all they accomplished in their 2026 public examinations this summer. Their brilliant examination success reflects both their dedication and determination to succeed, and their personal growth has been equally impressive. As they look towards the future with confidence and ambition, we are delighted that so many of our Year 11 students are continuing their education with us in the Sixth Form and that an exceptional number of our Year 13 students secured impressive destinations with many progressing to the top Russell Universities across the country. Well done to them all.

School Calendar 2026-2027
As we begin the new academic year, we would like to remind parent/carers that all key dates can be found on the school website - St Mary's Menston - Calendar. This includes Parent Consultation Evenings and a wide range of school events and activities taking place throughout the year. We encourage you to refer to the website calendar regularly to stay informed of upcoming dates and opportunities.

School Open Day – Saturday 26 September 2026
Our Whole School Open Day will take place on Saturday 26 September 2026, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming prospective students and their families to St Mary's. It is always a pleasure to showcase the many things that make our school such a special community and to share the opportunities available to our students.

Parent Governor Vacancy
Earlier today, Friday 4 September 2026, information regarding the Parent Governor Ballot was sent to all parent/carers. Please take a few moments to read the four candidate statements and consider casting your vote. If you have not received the ballot information, please contact admin@stmarysmenston.org

Instrumental Tuition
Please find attached a letter from Mr Scholey, Subject Leader for Music, regarding instrumental tuition opportunities.

The Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust is a charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales.
Company Number: 8399801. Registered Office: St. Mary's Menston, A Catholic Voluntary Academy, Bradford Road, Menston, LS29 6AE

Leeds Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2026.
There will be a coach leaving St Peter and Paul, Primary School, New Road, Yeadon at 6.00am on the morning of Saturday 26 September 2026 returning approximately 9.30pm. This is open to everyone, adults, children, families. The cost per pilgrim will be in the region of £30. All expressions of interest and for more detail please contact: j.findlay@stmarysmenston.org or call 07969165277

Leeds Local Authority Monthly SEND Parent/Carer Information Events
Please find attached information from the Leeds SEND Local Offer Team regarding two drop-in sessions taking place in September.

12th Annual Martin Green Memorial Golf Tournament
St Mary's in conjunction with East Morton Golf Club will host the 12th annual Martin Green Memorial Golf Tournament on Sunday 20 September 2026. Places are strictly limited and will be offered on a *'first come, first served'* basis. This really is a fantastic day and all in aid of raising funds for Cancer Research UK.

Bambisanani Partnership
We encourage parents and carers to read the article below, which provides an insight into the faith, values and vision that underpin the Bambisanani Partnership. It has received significant international interest and highlights an important part of St Mary's mission and identity. **"Global Initiative Activating Faith and Sport" by David Geldart and Matt Hoven**

Bambisanani 20th Anniversary Black Tie Dinner
We are delighted to share that tickets are now on sale for the Bambisanani 20th Anniversary Black Tie Dinner, a special evening celebrating two decades of the Bambisanani Partnership and its inspiring work. The event will take place on **Saturday 3 October** at the **Howard Suite, Headingley Stadium**, bringing together students, alumni, supporters and friends of the partnership. **Tickets include a welcome drink, a two-course meal, and live music and entertainment.** Guests are invited to arrive from **6.30pm** for a **7.00pm dinner**, with tables available for groups of ten or individual bookings.

Ticket prices:
- £50 per person (Students)
- £60 per person (General Admission)
- £100 per person (Corporate Sponsorship Package*)

This promises to be a memorable evening celebrating the achievements and impact of the Bambisanani Partnership over the last 20 years. Further information can be found attached to this week's letter.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Miss M Hattersley
Headteacher

WELLBEING / SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Contact Telephone Number for Parents
The school office will be open during normal school hours: 01943 883000.

If you are outside of school hours or it is a holiday and you have a concern you can ring the local authority social worker team directly.

- Leeds Children's Social Work Services Emergency Duty Team on 0113 535 0600. Further information can be found on the Leeds local authority website.
- Bradford Children's Social Work Services Emergency Duty Team on 01274 431 010. Further information can found on the Bradford local authority website.

NSPCC Helpline
You can contact the NSPCC Helpline by calling 0808 800 5000 or emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk
The NSPCC Helpline is currently available 10am–4pm Monday to Friday, however callers may experience voice distortion due to technical difficulties. You can email help@NSPCC.org.uk at any time for free. You don't have to say who you are. If the NSPCC haven't responded to you and your concerns for the safety of a child increase, please contact the police or local Children's Services directly (as noted above). Please be assured that the NSPCC action all contact received via their Helpline.

NHS ChatHealth (chathealth.nhs.uk)
ChatHealth enables young people to access support and advice regarding various emotional health and wellbeing concerns. To find out more information about ChatHealth and how to access the support please use the above link. ChatHealth also offer a Text Service 07520 619750 (8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday) 11-19 year olds. Mental Health/General Health enquiries.

Young Minds Crisis Messenger - Provides free, 24/7 crisis support across the UK if you are experiencing a mental health crisis. If you need urgent help, texts are free to YM to 85258. All texts are answered by trained volunteers, with support from experienced clinical supervisors.

Wellbeing and Emotional Support
The following resources are available to support students:

- **Kooth:** Young people aged 10-18 are fortunate to have the Kooth service available to them. Kooth is an **online** mental health community where you can access **free, safe and anonymous support**, commissioned by Leeds NHS Clinical Commissioning Group. Further information on Kooth can also be found on our website under the Personal Development section of each Year Group Shell.
- **MindMate:** Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health. Online (https://www.mindmate.org.uk/) and via telephone 0300 555 0324.
- **Teen Connect:** Emotional support over the phone, through text messages, or online to young people in Leeds aged 11-18. They are open from 3.30pm -2am Monday - Friday, and 6pm - 2am on a Saturday and Sunday.
  By phone: 0808 800 1212
  By text: 0771 566 1559
  Online: www.teenconnect.org.uk
  Instagram: @lslcs_teenconnect or visit https://www.instagram.com/lslcs_teenconnect/
  Facebook: @TeenConnectLeeds https://www.facebook.com/TeenConnectLeeds/

Teen Mental Health – A Guide for Parents
https://www.mytutor.co.uk/blog/parents/teen-mental-health-a-guide-for-parents/

Safer Leeds - Domestic violence and abuse (leeds.gov.uk)

Safeguarding Resources/Information
The following resources, highlighted by the Leeds Safeguarding Team, are also available for parents:

- NSPCC Keeping Children Safe Online provides a useful guide to social networks, apps and guide.
- National Online Safety have produced a series of top tips guides to support remote learning for Parents, Children and Teachers
- Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline for different age groups and parents.
- Childnet has produced a Parent and Carer Toolkit which is a collection of three resources designed to help you talk to your child about their online life, manage boundaries around family internet use and point you in the direction of where to get further help and support.