9 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

This is week 23 in Ordinary Time

This week's letter contains a number of important updates for parent/carers, some of which may require your attention or action. Thank you for the continued support you give to our students and to our wider school community. We greatly value the strong partnership between home and school and know that by working together we can provide the very best support for the young people in our care.

New School Rebuild
I am delighted to share that significant progress has been made with the new school rebuild. Last academic year, we were granted planning permission for the build. This now means the Department for Education and BAM (construction company) have exchanged contracts. Work on site has now commenced. I look forward to you seeing the progress.

Traffic Calming
Last half term, we wrote to parent/carers about the changes to the school site and the traffic management measures now in place. As a reminder, these arrangements are outlined below. We kindly ask all members of our school community to adhere to them to help ensure the safety of everyone on site.

- No vehicle should travel above the 5mph speed limit
- Pupils must not walk through or across the car parks or bus lane
- All pupils and visitors should use the designated zebra crossing points
- Parents/carers should remove vehicles from the school site immediately after drop off
- No vehicles should enter the bus lane at any time, including for drop-off or collection

Safeguarding Support
Our first priority as a school is to safeguard and promote the welfare of our students, to minimise risk and to work together with key stakeholders to ensure rigorous systems and processes are in place to support and keep our students safe.

All staff within school are trained on how to support both children and families and it is our legal responsibility to act upon any concerns we may have about our students or a family. We want to ensure that every child in our care is safe and well looked after. We know, as parents, that this is what you want for all of our families in our community. We ask that if you do have any concerns at any time, or are yourselves struggling and would like additional support that you do speak to us and we will offer help and support where we can. If we are not able to then we will do our best to put you in touch with the right agency. We have good working relationships with a range of external agencies designed to help and support. For clarity, if we receive a concern relating to child protection, we will share the information with the relevant agency and/or local authority team. The school is notified of any issues relating to domestic violence that are reported to the police.

We know that these issues are very distressing and not easy to talk about. However, please be assured that we are here to help and will do everything possible to ensure the right support/advice and guidance is made available. So please do speak to us if there is anything you feel we can do to help. We deal with all information sensitively.

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

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 on 0113 222 4403 Further information can be found here.
- Bradford Children's Social Work Services 01274 435 400 Further information from Bradford local authority can be found here.

On our school website you can also access outside of school support via external agencies.

A reminder of our Pastoral Inclusion Teams for 2026/2027 are as follows:

Year Group	Staff Team	Contact Email Address
Year 7 and Year 8	Mr Nield, Assistant Director of Progress Mrs Bird, Inclusion Support Worker (Year 7) Mr Dempsey, Inclusion Support Worker (Year 8)	contactyear7@stmarysmenston.org contactyear8@stmarysmenston.org
Year 9	Mrs Hayes, Assistant Director of Progress Mr Dempsey, Inclusion Support Worker	contactyear9@stmarysmenston.org
Year 10 and Year 11	Miss Marsh, Assistant Director of Progress Mrs Baines, Inclusion Support Worker	contactyear10@stmarysmenston.org contactyear11@stmarysmenston.org
All year groups	Mrs J Findlay, Lay Chaplain and Senior Inclusion Support Worker Mrs M Harrison, Senior Inclusion Support Worker	Please contact via admin@stmarysmenston.org address

Emergency Contact Details
To help us keep all students safe and ensure we can contact families quickly in the event of an emergency, we would be grateful if you could take a moment to check the emergency contact information held for your child on the Arbor Parent App. We kindly ask all parents/carers to ensure that **at least two emergency contacts** are listed for their child whenever possible. If it is not possible for your child to have two emergency contacts recorded, please contact the school so that we can discuss your individual circumstances and ensure we hold the most appropriate information for your family. Please log in to the Arbor Parent App and review your child's details. If any information needs updating, including adding an additional emergency contact, please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain accurate and up-to-date information for all students.

Free School Meals Important Changes
In July 2026, Mrs Collard wrote to parent/carers about the important changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility. For ease and to remind parent/carers of the changes, Mrs Collard's letter has been attached. If you have any questions and/or require support, please contact fsm@stmarysmenston.org

External Exam Information
Up to date JCQ exam information has been emailed out to all of Year 11 and Year 13 (a copy has been sent to Year 11 parents/carers). Please ask your son/daughter to read the information so they are aware of all the rules and regulations. Information will also be on the school website under Examination Information.

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.

Football Lessons and Appropriate Footwear
In previous years, football lessons were held on the Astroturf pitch, allowing students to wear trainers. As work on our new build progresses, many football activities will now take place on the school fields. Students will be informed by

their PE teacher when their football lessons are due to take place on the grass. On these occasions, students will be expected to bring football boots to ensure they can participate safely and comfortably. Thank you for your continued support in helping students come prepared for their PE lessons.

Parent Governor Vacancy
On 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

Students Support for Mary's Meals
Daniel Harris, Year 9 and his brother James along with Roberta Campbell, Year 9 volunteered for Mary's Meals again helping the fundraising team at an event at a church in Ilkley. There was a craft stall and a vintage stall. Jason Brooks the Regional Development Officer for Mary's Meals was full of praise for our students enthusiasm to raise funds for this very worthy charity. Mary's Meals provides life changing school meals to children who are living in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings children into the classroom where they can gain an education and better opportunities for the future.

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

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 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.

School Drop-off/Pick-up
We kindly ask all parents/carers to be considerate of our local and surrounding community when dropping off or picking up their child(ren). We have received reports of disruption to nearby residents and obstruction to passing vehicles, which has led to unnecessary congestion and could potentially delay emergency services. Thank you for your understanding and continued support in helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

M. Hattersley.

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:

- Time for Young People - Time For Young People is a free emotional wellbeing service for young people aged 11 to 18 in Leeds.
- **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.