16 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

This is week 24 in Ordinary Time

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. Amen

2026/2027 Student Managers
I am delighted to introduce this year's Student Managers. Our Year 13 students have always been outstanding ambassadors for both our school and Sixth Form, and I am confident that this new team of Student Managers will continue that tradition with pride. Throughout the year, they will support a range of activities across the school, act as positive role models for our younger students and assist at key events, including our Open Days. We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy and commitment they give to our wider school community. I look forward to seeing them take on these additional responsibilities and to celebrating the unique skills and enthusiasm that each of them will bring to the role.

Congratulations to our 2026/2027 Student Managers: Emilia Armitage, Jacob Bartlett, Alex Briggs, Ursula Burrows, William Calvert-Wiley, Matthew Chamberlain, Libby Connor, Darcy Cost, Eloise Dawson, Esther Dooling, Kieron Farley, Harriet Kelly, Annabel McClelland, Zak McQuaid, Alice Megson, Mollie Rayner, Alanna Ripley, Luke Robson.

Parent Governor Ballot Result
Thank you to all parent/carers who took the time to read the candidate statements and participate in the recent Parent Governor Ballot. We are pleased to announce that Sara Mansoor was successfully elected as our new Parent Governor. We would like to thank all four candidates for their willingness to support the school community through this important role, and we are grateful to everyone who took part in the voting process. We look forward to welcoming Sara to the Academy Council and working together in support of St Mary's.

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.

New Lunchtime Support Available for Students
We are pleased to offer a range of additional support and intervention sessions for students during lunchtime on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays**. These sessions are available across all lunch periods and provide an extra layer of support for students who may benefit from guidance, encouragement or a quieter space to access help. Students are welcome to attend and members of our Pastoral Inclusion Team are available to offer support where needed. We encourage parent/carers to speak with their child about the support available and to contact the school if they feel their child may benefit from attending.

St Mary's Menston Extra Curricular Clubs Timetable
Please find attached the Autumn 2026 Extra-Curricular Clubs Timetable. The timetable includes details of the clubs and activities available this term, along with the days and times they take place. We encourage students to take advantage of the opportunities on offer.

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

Celebrating Our Students
We are always delighted to hear about the achievements, talents and successes of our students, both in and out of school. To help us celebrate these special moments, we have created a dedicated email address: **celebration@stmarysmenston.org** Whether your child has achieved success in sport, music, dance, drama, community work, fundraising, scouting, cadets, competitions, or any other area of their life, we would love to hear about it. By sharing your good news stories, photographs and achievements with us, you will help us recognise and celebrate the many accomplishments of our students. Where appropriate, and subject to space and suitability, some submissions may be featured in our social media communications, website or weekly parent letters.
We are incredibly proud of our students and the many ways they contribute to school and the wider community. Thank you for helping us celebrate their achievements by sharing your news with us.

Lourdes Reunion Mass – 15 September 2026
Our Year 11 Lourdes pilgrims made another coach journey to Corpus Christi Catholic Academy for their Reunion Mass. Thankfully it was a much shorter journey than the last one they had made on their return from Lourdes; there was much reminiscing of that and the outgoing journey. Our students joined with other pilgrims from Diocesan High Schools for the celebration of Mass and then to reacquaint themselves with one another, reflect, remember and celebrate what was a most fulfilling and faith forming time together. *Our Lady of Lourdes, St Bernadette, all holy men and women, pray for our students as their life and faith pilgrimage continues.*

Leeds Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2026 – *places still available, book now to avoid disappointment*
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

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

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.

Yorkshire Dyslexia Festival – Saturday 3 October 2026
The event is organised by Yorkshire Rose Dyslexia, a dyslexic friendly society, that enables every neuro-diverse person of all ages to reach their full potential. Further details can be found attached to this week's letter and by clicking here.

Classics for All
Classical Greek opens the door to the language of epic poetry, drama, philosophy, history, myth, and the ancient world. Highgrove Education's Online Beginners Classical Greek Course offers a friendly, structured introduction for students starting the subject from the very beginning. For more information please see attached poster.

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

School Drop-off/Pick-up
We kindly ask all parents/carers to be considerate of our local and surrounding community when dropping off or collecting their child(ren). We have recently received a complaint from a local resident regarding parking in and around Highroyds Drive, including reports of vehicles parking on double yellow lines and causing obstruction to passing traffic. Such parking can create unnecessary congestion, inconvenience local residents, and may hinder access for emergency vehicles if required. We respectfully ask all parents/carers to park safely, legally and considerately at all times. 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

STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

Dressage Success
Over the summer, Year 11 student Lucas enjoyed an outstanding achievement in dressage, securing a fantastic win in the Absolute Equestrian Collective Preliminary Silver class at Northallerton, riding his own five-year-old KWPN, Rhythm Island ('Lando'). The win secured Lucas direct qualification for the National Championships and follows a strong 7th-place finish in the Five-Year-Old Young Horse class at Hartpury. Lucas said: *"Winning at Northallerton means so much to us, securing a direct qualification here was a wonderful validation of all the hard work we've put in behind the scenes. It's a huge confidence booster heading into such a major championship."* We are incredibly proud of Lucas and wish him and Lando the very best of luck at the Nationals. Read more about Lucas's success here: **https://www.britishdressage.co.uk/news/from-team-quest-to-the-national-championships-northallerton-regionals-success**

Year 7 Netball
A fantastic well done to our enthusiastic Year 7s! Over 30 students took part in netball training on Tuesday after school, supported by our wonderful Year 12 coaches, Leila and Millie.

Mrs Thornton is very pleased with the positive start they've made and the enthusiasm and commitment they've shown in their first training session. We're looking forward to seeing them develop their skills and enjoy plenty more netball this year!

Student Success: Georgia's Equestrian Achievement
Congratulations to Georgia, who has qualified for the STARS Champion of Champions 2026 in both the *Mountain & Moorland First Ridden* and *Open Ridden Mountain & Moorland Small Breeds* classes. After overcoming a year away from competition due to her pony Barbie's injury, Georgia showed tremendous dedication, resilience and perseverance to achieve her goal. This qualification is a fantastic reward for years of hard work and commitment.
We wish Georgia and Barbie the very best of luck at the Championship in November and look forward to hearing how they get on. Well done, Georgia!

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.