22 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

This is the 25th week in Ordinary Time

On Tuesday 22 September 2026, in their Mass of Welcome, Year 7 will present their Hopes and Dreams for the future to Fr Sean Elliott at St Mary's Church, Horsforth.

Pope Leo X1V teaches that hope and dreams are vital gifts from God that give human life purpose, urging people – especially the youth – never to settle for a mediocre life or give in to despair but to see hope as the desire and expectation of good things to come.

We are looking forward to welcoming prospective students, families and members of the wider community into St Mary's on Saturday 26 September 2026, between 11:00am-2:00pm, for our Whole School Open Day. The event provides a fantastic opportunity to celebrate and showcase all that is good about St Mary's and our wonderful school community of which we are so proud.

Early Finish at 1.00pm on Friday 25 September 2026
As part of our preparations for the whole school Open Day on Saturday 26 September 2026, pupils will finish school early on Friday 25 September at 1.00pm. School buses have been notified and will be ready for the earlier pick-up. Please note that there will be no lunch service on Friday 25 September 2026, but pupils will be able to purchase snacks during break time. Thank you for your support.

Year 7 Day of Welcome
On Friday 18 September 2026, our Year 7 students came together for their Day of Welcome. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to spend time with their new form groups, get to know their Form Tutors and classmates better, and learn about their Form Saint and the values that will guide them throughout their journey at St Mary's.

During the day, students enjoyed a range of activities including games, creating key rings, reflecting on their hopes and dreams for the future, and learning more about their form communities.

The day concluded with a special Liturgy of Welcome, during which each form shared presentations and bidding prayers, celebrating the beginning of this exciting new chapter. Year 7 have already become an important part of our school community. They have settled in exceptionally well, and it has been a joy to witness their enthusiasm, confidence and willingness to engage fully in school life.
As Millie Sangha (7F) reflected, *"The day was very welcoming, a nice calm environment. Everyone listened to each other and I loved being with my form."* We look forward to seeing our newest students continue to flourish in the months and years ahead.

The Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust is a charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales.
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Year 7 Day of Welcome

Lourdes Reunion

Last week, our Year 10 Lourdes students, accompanied by Mrs Findlay, gathered at Corpus Christi with students from across the Diocese of Leeds for their Lourdes Reunion. The afternoon provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Mass, reflect on their pilgrimage, share testimonies and reminisce about the special memories they made together.
It was lovely to see students come together again to celebrate such a meaningful and memorable experience.

KS3 Art

We have been really impressed by our KS3 Art students' first homework submissions over the past couple of weeks. The skill, passion and enthusiasm they have shown has been fantastic! Mrs Hanson has been particularly impressed by the quality of the work, praising students for their imagination, creativity and attention to detail. A wonderful start to the year, well done to all our talented Art 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.

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.

The Guild of St Stephen
The Guild of St Stephen is an International Catholic Organisation of Altar Servers founded in England in 1904. On 3 October 2026 Roberta Campbell, Yr 9, Daniel Harris, Yr 9, and Joshua Lowry, Yr 7, all from Ss Peter and Paul Parish, Yeadon will make their way to Westminster Cathedral for this event. Not only do they serve in their church but in school also and are wonderful examples of faith in action. There was a cake sale at Ss Peter and Paul at the weekend to raise funds to support their travel and expenses. Should you wish to make a further contribution, please visit ParentPay, where we have created a dedicated donation link.

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.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Miss M Hattersley
Headteacher

STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

Golf Junior Finals

Congratulations to Harry on his fantastic success at the Junior Finals Day at Otley Golf Club. Harry won his category round, received a trophy for the second consecutive year, and won both the ‘Closest to the Pin’ and putting competitions in his category. A wonderful achievement. Well done, Harry!

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.