21 October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

This is week 29 in Ordinary Time

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. John 14:27
Dear Lord, calm the storms within me and fill me with the assurance of your presence; that I may hold your hand and feel your loving embrace.

As we reach the final week of Half Term 1, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our parent/carers for the excellent support and engagement shown at our Year Group Information Evenings and other school events. The PowerPoint slides from these sessions can be found on our school website and/or by clicking here. We are always keen to ensure families have access to the information and support they need. If there is anything you are looking for that is not available on our website, please get in touch with the school. We truly value your partnership and look forward to continuing to work together to support every student to thrive.

Sixth Form Open Evening – Wednesday 21 October 2026, 6:00pm-7:30pm
We are very much looking forward to welcoming our Year 11 students, their families and external visitors to our Sixth Form Open Evening. For more information about our sixth form provision please click here.

We would also like to extend an invitation to prospective parents/carers and pupils considering joining St Mary's in September 2027 who may have been unable to attend our Whole School Open Day last month. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in visiting the school, please contact admissions@stmarysmenston.org and we will be happy to make arrangements to welcome you.

JCQ Guidance
The website links below have been shared with students in Years 11, 12 and 13 and contain important information and guidance relating to examinations. Please could parents/carers check that their child has received Mrs Jennings' email and take a few moments to read through the information provided. Thank you for your continued support in helping students prepare for their examinations.

- https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/09/JCQ-Social-Media-Infographic-v6.pdf
- Information for candidates – Written exams – Joint Council for Qualifications
- Non-examination assessments – Joint Council for Qualifications
- https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2026/09/IFC-AI-Asessments-2026.pdf

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Information for Candidates: Non-Examination Assessments (NEAs)
Families of students in Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form are encouraged to watch this short video, *Information for Candidates – Non-Examination Assessments* with their child. The video explains the important rules and expectations that apply to coursework and other assessed work completed outside of formal examinations. Taking a few minutes to watch the video together will help students understand how to complete their work honestly and independently, avoid malpractice, and ensure they receive the marks they deserve for their own efforts. Thank you for your support in helping students approach their assessments with confidence and integrity.

Thank You for Supporting Wear It Pink Day – Friday 16 October 2026
A huge thank you to our students, families and staff for their generosity and for fully embracing Wear It Pink Day. We are incredibly grateful for the support shown towards this important cause and for helping to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research and support services.
Thank you for helping make the day such a success.

St Marys Music Department Musical Instrument Amnesty
Do you have any musical instruments gathering dust? Are they in a reasonable condition? If yes, then the Music department would love to take them off your hands. Please contact Mr Scholey p.scholey@stmarysmenston.org, or drop off in visitor reception. Many thanks Mr Scholey, Subject Leader of Music

St Mary's Cross Country Club
Why not join our Cross Country Club? It is a fantastic opportunity to stay active, make new friends and prepare for exciting inter-school competitions. We welcome runners of all abilities and look forward to seeing new faces this season. Further information will be shared with parent/carers by Mr Clancy later this week.

TechFirst Girls Competition
The Computer Science Department is inviting Year 8 girls to take part in the upcoming **TechFirst Girls Competition**, which aims to inspire young people with an interest in technology to explore future careers in Computing and Cyber Security. Mr Ashraf, Subject Leader for Computer Science, wrote to Year 8 parent/carers on Tuesday 13 October 2026 with further details about this exciting opportunity. Please contact the school directly if you did not receive Mr Ashraf's letter.

Caritas Food Pantry Appeal
We are collecting donations for the Caritas Food Pantry Appeal and would be grateful for any contributions of non-perishable food items, including tinned goods, pasta, rice, cereal, tea and coffee. Your donations will help support local families experiencing hardship through the valuable work of Caritas. Thank you, as always, for your kindness and generosity.

The Lourdes Roadshow and Quiz Night
Please find attached to this week's letter information about the Lourdes Roadshow and Quiz Night, including dates, venues and how to get involved.

Exploring Catholicism
Starting on Wednesday 21 October 2026 at 7.15pm a series of weekly talks and presentations, with occasional visits from guest speakers, are being held in the Parish Centre at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church. These meetings will be useful for parents who may not be full members of the Church but want to know more about the Catholic faith and those wishing to deepen their knowledge of the Faith, the Church and its teachings. These meetings are free and open to all. Further details may be obtained from Canon Tim or Deacon Martin on 07948828721.

Formation Opportunity: Guiding Hearts to Christ – The RCIA Journey
The Diocese of Leeds Vicariate for Education is hosting a formation and accompaniment day, Guiding Hearts to Christ: The RCIA Journey, on Saturday 7 November, 10.00am-4.00pm at Hinsley Hall. This free event is designed for parish volunteers, catechists, and anyone involved in supporting adults who are exploring the Catholic faith through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) or OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) process. The day will offer practical guidance, shared experiences, and ideas for accompanying those discerning life in the Church. Participants will explore how effective RCIA programmes combine sound catechesis with prayer, discussion, personal witness, and hospitality, helping others encounter Christ and grow in faith. To reserve a free place, please book by 23 October via the Diocese of Leeds website or email formation@dioceseofleeds.org.uk.

October Half Term 2026
St Mary's will be closed to all students on Friday 23 October and will reopen on Monday 2 November 2026. Further information about term dates and school closure dates can be found here.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We wish all of our students, families and staff a wonderful and restful half-term break.

Yours sincerely

M. Hattersley.

Miss M Hattersley
Headteacher

St Mary's Menston Extra-Curricular Clubs Timetable Autumn 2026

	Activity or Cub	Year Group	Time/Location	Member of staff
Monday	Active Monday	All welcome	Lunch, Middle Yard	Mr Dempsey & Mrs Bird
	Football	Year 7-11 Girls	2.40-3.40pm, Grass	Mrs Thornton
Tuesday	Football	Year 7 Boys	2.40-3.40pm, Grass	Mr Thornton & Mr Shields
	Netball	Year 7 Girls	2.40-3.40pm, Yards/Sports Hall	Mrs Thornton
	Book Club	Year 7	Lunch Time, Library	Ms Hall
	School Drama Production	Years 8-13	2.40pm-4.30pm, H7	Miss Andrews
	A Choired Taste	Years 7-9	2.40-3.30pm, H3	Mr Scholey
Wednesday	Wellbeing Wednesday	All welcome	Lunchtimes, back of H22	Mrs Findlay & Mrs Harrison
	Volleyball	Sixth Form	2.40-3.40pm, Sports Hall	Mr Thornton
	Football	Years 8-11	2.40-3.40pm, Grass	Mr Pringle & Mr Clancy
	Running Club	All Welcome	2:40-3:40, Yards	Mrs Harrison
	Idea Award – Computing Enterprise Challenge	Years 7-9	Week B, 2.40-3.40, H17	Ms Nightingale
	School Drama Production	Years 8-13	2.40pm-4.30pm, H7	Miss Andrews
	Jazz Band	All years, Grade 2+	2.40-3.30pm, H3	Mr Scholey
Thursday	Netball	Years 8, 9, 10, 11	2.40-3.40pm, Top Yard	Miss Marsh
	Games Club (chess, cards, board games)	All years	2.40-3.40pm, H26	Mrs Miller
	School Drama Production	Years 8-13	2.40pm-4.30pm, H7	Miss Andrews
	Vocalise	Years 10-13	2.40-3.30pm, H3	Mr Scholey
Friday	Come and Play Drums, guitars, keyboards, tech	All years	2.40-3.30pm, H3	Mr Scholey
	Flourishing Friday Homework Club	All years	Lunchtime, Library	Mrs Nunn

- In addition, the Music practice rooms will be open for bookings by individuals and groups for practice/rehearsal every day from 2.40-4pm. Please see Mr Scholey to organise.
- Lessons are now open for booking on the following instruments - Guitar, Bass, Drums, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Violin, Viola, Piano. Lessons take place on a rotated timetable during the school day, payments are made directly to the private tutors. To apply, please email p.scholey@stmarysmenston.org.
- Bambisanani Award for years 7 & 8 – see Miss Wood to get involved.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award – see Mr. Dootson or Miss Mason to get involved.
- All students are welcome at extra-curricular sports clubs regardless of if they are in the selected teams or not.
- Students usually meet in the top changing rooms straight after school at 2:40pm unless directed otherwise by their club teacher.
- Students simply use their PE kit for the extra-curricular session unless told otherwise by their club teacher.
- After school sessions finish at 3:40pm unless stated otherwise, and students are responsible for making their own way home after this time.
- If a club is to be cancelled for any reason, teachers will let students know as far in advance as possible. If it has to be on the same day, then a pop-up message will appear to all students during their lessons. They can go to pupil services or M5 at break or lunch if they then need to contact home.

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.