

25 September 2024



Dear Parent/Carer

**This is week 25 in Ordinary Time**

**We pray that we can all follow the example of our form martyrs, so that we may be kind, caring, loving and loyal. To stand up for what is right, to persevere in dark times and to be courageous in what we do. We thank you for the safe environment of St Mary's where we can learn and flourish under the protection of Our Lady.**

**Taken from the Year 7 Day of Welcome - Prayers of the Faithful**

**Bambisanani Partnership Visit Update**

I am pleased to report that our visitors from Mnyakanya High School arrived safely on Sunday 22 September 2024 and on Monday, during their visit to St Mary's, we held a very special welcome breakfast for them. It was such a happy and special moment, particularly as we were able to finally put faces to the names we have heard so much about. I hear such wonderful stories from my colleagues and our students after their visits to South Africa and on Monday I was able to fully appreciate what the Bambisanani Partnership means to them and to the St Mary's community. I was delighted to hear from Mrs Chattoe that their first day was a success but particularly because of the amazing turn out to the first social event. Mrs Chattoe and Miss Wood were overjoyed with the number of students, past and present, that turned up and helped make sure our visits felt welcome and part of our community. It really is a privilege to be part of something so special. As the week continues, our visitors will be able to take part in lots of different activities and events, including our very own Year 7 European Day of Languages and whole school Open Day on Saturday, as well as visit some local areas including Saltaire and York. A big thank you once again to Mrs Chattoe and Miss Wood for all their hard work in ensuring the visit is a success.

Yesterday evening, Tuesday 24 September 2024, we held our Year 7 Mass of Welcome at Ss Peter and Paul Church in Yeadon, it was a real pleasure being able to meet our Year 7 parent/carers again. A special thank you to Fr David Murray and Fr Melaku for kindly celebrating Mass for us and to Mrs Findlay, Mrs Taylor and Mr Scholey for organising and preparing our Year 7 pupils for what was a special evening.

**Year 7 Day of Welcome – Friday 20 September 2024**

It was a most enjoyable day for everyone involved. There were games, activities around belonging and hopes and dreams, ice creams, a walk and then a closing liturgy.

Harriet Spillane, 7P, says;

*I liked how there was a liturgy at the end which helped us reflect on what we had done in the day.*

Millie Campbell, 7P, Says:

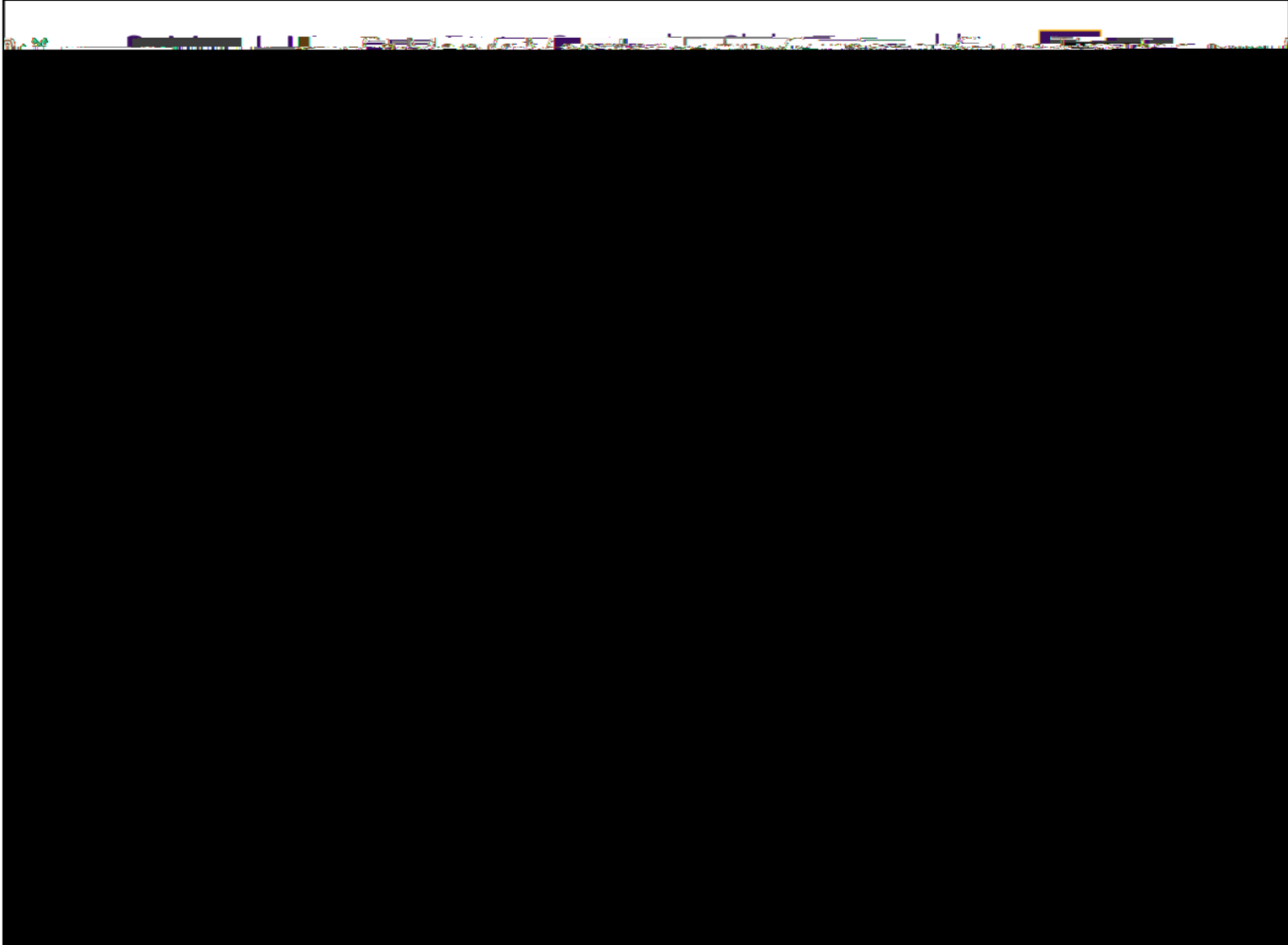
*I enjoyed spending more time with my form, getting to know everyone better and going to the new school. I liked the games and the walk. I enjoyed the liturgy and the new friends I made.*





### **Annual Leeds Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2024**

The Pilgrimage to Walsingham this year will take place on Saturday 28 September and is led by very Rev Canon Mathew Hebron. The day starts with the Angelus and the celebration of Holy Mass at 12.00noon at the shrine near the Slipper Chapel. The Mass is followed by a break for lunch before processing the Holy Mile into the village of Walsingham, concluding with Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the ground of the ancient shrine. There will then be time to look around the many churches, enjoy an ice cream or afternoon tea before returning. St Mary's is looking at putting on a coach open to all who may want to go. Parents, students, parishioners. Departure time around 6.30am returning at approx. 9.30pm. For more information or to register your interest please email: [j.findlay@stmarysmenston.org](mailto:j.findlay@stmarysmenston.org)  
Cost for adults IRO £30, £25 for Youth.



## PE and Sport Extra-Curricular Timetable

September 2024 to Easter 2025

Week Commencing 9 September 2023, 2.45pm - 3.45pm

	Sports Hall	ATP	Other
<b>Monday</b>	Girls' Football All Years Mrs Thornton		Basketball Club Leeds Basketball Gym <b>(starts 4 November)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Netball Year 7 Mrs Robinson (starts 17 September)	Football Years 9 and 10 Mr Shields  Football Year 11 Mr Davies	Rugby Years 7 and 8 Mr Thornton
<b>Wednesday</b>	Netball Year 8 Miss Chrispin	Football Year 7 Mr Thornton	

**Thursday**

Netball  
Years 9, 10, 11  
Miss Marsh

Football  
Year 8  
Mr Pringle

## **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 on 0113 222 4403 Further information can be found [here](#).
- Bradford Children's Social Work Services 01274 433999 further information from Bradford local authority can be found [here](#).

### **NSPCC Helpline**

The Department for Education has commissioned the [NSPCC](#) to establish a dedicated independent helpline for people who have experienced sexual abuse in educational setting.