



ST MARY'S
COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

Headteacher's End-of-Year Message

As we come to the end of another academic year at St Mary's College, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly inspiring and vibrant year for our school community. It has been a year filled with creativity, achievement, and moments of shared pride—both in and outside the classroom.

One of the standout highlights was our Iconic Talent Show at Middleton Hall. It was a dazzling celebration of our students' talents. The energy, confidence, and camaraderie on display were a joy to witness and a testament to the nurturing environment we strive to create here at SMC.



Our annual Sports Day was another wonderful occasion, showcasing not just athletic ability, but team spirit, resilience, and good humour. Whether students were competing for glory or cheering each other on from the sidelines, the day captured everything that makes our community special.



In the music department, our Ensemble Evening Concert brought together students of all ages in a moving celebration of musical talent. The variety and quality of performances were breathtaking, and it was clear that the dedication of both students and staff has created something truly special.

We are also thrilled to celebrate the literary success of one of our own. Sue Baker, one of our English teachers, published her first book this year: *Calm*. It is an outstanding achievement and one that has inspired both staff and students alike. Her passion for language and storytelling has long been felt in her classroom—now, it reaches a wider audience.



World Book Day was another joyful occasion. Our halls were alive with the excitement of reading, from imaginative staff costumes to engaging book-themed activities. Events like these remind us that reading is not just educational—it's transformative.

We are especially proud of the staff and students who took part in this year's Lourdes Pilgrimage. Their commitment to service, reflection, and compassion truly embodies the values we hold dear at St Mary's College. The experience was both humbling and uplifting, and those who participated returned with a renewed sense of faith and community spirit.



It has been a privilege to watch our students grow, our staff thrive, and our community come together throughout the year. Thank you to everyone—students, families, and staff—who have contributed to making this such a memorable and successful year.

Wishing you all a restful and happy summer. We look forward to welcoming you back in September, ready for another exciting chapter at St Mary's College.

Work Experience

Lucas and Libby were catering assistants for the week, and put their absolute all into this job. They provided food to students with a smile on their faces and gave everything a great go. Libby was excellent at chatting to the students as they came into the canteen.

Rafey and Monika were TA's for the week and assisted with the Y6 transition week. They both made sure that students knew exactly where they needed to be and got to their lessons on time. Both students showed enthusiasm throughout the very hot week and did everything with a smile on their faces.

Alan and Jayden were the newest members of the site staff team during work experience. Both students worked extremely hard and gave every job their all. Even in the hot weather, both didn't give up once. Other members of staff even commented on how impressed they were with how grown up the boys appeared and also on their exceptional manners they showed around the site and also via the radio.

Kaline completed his work experience with Mr Lowe in the school garden. Kalinde showed great enthusiasm and work ethic during this week. Mr Lowe said that Kalinde showed great resilience, despite the long, hot week and was willing to give everything a good go.

A Technicolor Triumph

Key Stage 3 students dazzled audiences with their recent fantastic production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The show was a celebration of music, colour and storytelling, brought to life by the incredible talent and energy of our young performers.

Sharing the title role of Joseph were two outstanding young actors, whose performances captivated the audience in equal measure. They brought both emotion and humour to the stage.

Directed with creativity by Mr Wood, the production was supported by a live band made up of SMC students and staff, whose talent added excitement to every scene.

Huge congratulations to the entire cast, whose camaraderie, enthusiasm, and joy on stage shone through at every performance.

It was a production full of colour.

Bravo!



YEAIS

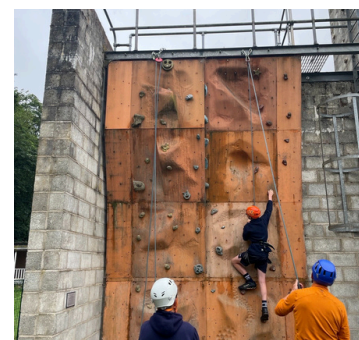
We are pleased to announce that the SMC submission was recognised as Highly Commended, in the school's category at the Young Engineers Awards for Innovation and Sustainability (YEAIS) 2025.

The awards are inspired by IChemE's mission to work together to make an impact and contribute positively towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.



Trips and challenges

We took the year 10 LifeSkills cohort to Skipsea Beach to interview the public and have some time on the beach and an ice cream! We have also completed a year 8 'Teamwork Challenge Day' trip to the local Scout park where students were able to complete rock climbing, archery and do some caving as well.



Hull 10k

The SM6 Sixth Form community came together with incredible spirit and determination to take part in the Hull 10k, raising funds for two meaningful causes: Dove House Hospice and KJA Kenya. Students, staff, and supporters united not only in running the race but in demonstrating compassion, teamwork, and a shared commitment to making a difference both locally and globally.



Hill reaction

Year 12 A Level biologists undertook a practical investigation at the University of Hull last week. Professor Mark Lorch hosted the Hill reaction whereby students investigated the effect of herbicides on the rate of photosynthesis. This enrichment opportunity allowed students to obtain criteria which contribute towards their Practical Skills Endorsement. Practical Skills Endorsement appears on students' certificates as a separately reported result, alongside the overall grade for the qualification



Intermediate Biology Olympiad

Following the success of the Y13 students who took part in the British Biology Olympiad earlier this year, a group of A Level Biologists in Year 12 recently participated in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad, a problem-solving competition for students in their first year of post-16 education.

Congratulations to them all for taking part alongside ~ 17,000 other students nationally. Students who take part in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad are encouraged to reference their participation in their higher education applications.

AIC Workshops

Back in April, Year 10 took part in a workshop delivered by real actors from Hull Truck Theatre. In the workshop, actors delivered key scenes from the English Literature GCSE text, 'An Inspector Calls' and students had the opportunity to direct how key lines would be spoken, how actors would move around on stage, and some students even got up on stage themselves to deliver the scene!

We were so impressed with the quality of acting (and directing, from our students) we hope to run the workshop again next year.

Live 'n Loud Festival

Looking for reading inspiration over the holidays? East Riding Libraries are running their wonderful Live 'n Loud Festival over the summer, and St Mary's English teacher and author, Mrs Sue Baker, is giving a talk on Young Adult dystopian fiction on 19th August. She'll be looking at famous examples of the genre and talking about her experience of writing and publishing her own YA novel, 'Calm', launched at St Mary's last September. She'd love to see some SMC faces there!



Event

Handmaids and Hunger Games

📅 19 August

🕒 6.30pm to 7.30pm

📍 Beverley Library

Work Experience

We are calling on local businesses and organisations to help inspire the next generation by offering work experience placements for our students in July 2026.

Work experience is a vital part of our students' education, giving them the chance to develop practical skills, build confidence, and gain a valuable insight into the world of work. We are keen to partner with employers from all sectors who can provide placements lasting one or two weeks for our enthusiastic and capable young people.

If you or your company can offer a placement, or would like to find out more, please contact kkirby@smchull.org

Your support will make a real difference to our students' futures.



The poster features a blue header with the St Mary's College logo and the title 'Year 10 Work Experience'. Below the header is a photograph of a male student in a white shirt and blue overalls, working with a tablet computer while a male adult in a blue work shirt looks on. The background of the photo shows a workshop or lab setting. Below the photo, there is a blue section with white text providing information about the work experience program and contact details. At the bottom, the words 'WORK EXPERIENCE' are written in large, light blue, outlined capital letters.

 **Year 10 Work Experience**

Work Experience is a key part of our careers programme. Please encourage and support your child to make the best of this opportunity.

If you are an employer and can support with a placement, please contact: kkirby@smchull.org

WORK EXPERIENCE

ICONIC

Annual End-of-Year Celebration Showcase

Friday 4 July, 7:00 pm • Middleton Hall Theatre

Last Friday, almost 400 friends, family and alumni squeezed into Middleton Hall to witness our brightest talents shine. This year's ICONIC wasn't just a showcase—it was a heartfelt farewell to our Year 13 leavers and a celebration of 100 students from Year 7 right through to Sixth Form, all performing numbers chosen for their lasting impact on pop and theatre history.

SCAN ME!



We will be posting production videos on our youtube channel



A Night of Timeless Classics

Every piece in the line-up carried the weight of its title. From classical ballet to cutting-edge commercial routines, the show was a masterclass in variety:

- Ballet to “Barcelona” (Freddie Mercury & Montserrat Caballé). Our dancers graced the stage in spanish pastels, echoing the operatic highs of Mercury’s duet. A perfect blend of grace and power kept the audience utterly spellbound. (Photo 2)
- Commercial mash-up “Abracadabra”. In a bespoke fusion of Lady Gaga’s daring pop and contemporary flair, our commercial dancers lit up the stage with bold lines and formations. The crowd couldn’t look away. (Photo 3)
- Musical Theatre Highlights: From the heart-wrenching “Mama Who Bore Me” (Spring Awakening) to snappy jazz-hands in Chicago and high-spirited belt-outs from Grease, each group brought its own flavour, showing just how broad our department’s talents really are.
- Show-stopping Finale—“Our Time” (Stephen Sondheim): In a brilliantly motionless curtain-closer, our Sixth Formers poured everything into Sondheim’s anthem, leaving not a dry eye in the house as they said their farewell to the faculty and audience. (Photo 1)

Many students clocked over 10 hours of after-school per week during the rehearsal process, led by our in-house choreographers and directors as well as welcoming guest tutors.



Mama who bore me was professionalism personified. (We) looked at each other with ‘Wow’ eyes – Audience feedback



“A fitting tribute to a very successful department ... fantastic to see just how much they do each and every year.”
– Audience member



Hull Performance Academy just keeps getting better and better -
Alumni Feedback

We’ve already got some unmissable events on the horizon—dates to follow!

Christmas by Candlelight

An evening of popular Culture Festive

Favourites, Performed by our full cohort of Sixth Form students.

The Annual Pantomime

Showcasing the talent of students across every year group, our pantomime is set to be a laugh-a-minute spectacle—complete with slapstick, song and plenty of audience participation.



Hull Performance Academy

HULL PERFORMANCE ACADEMY

A Prayer from our Chaplaincy Team

God of all beginnings and endings,
we thank you for the gift of this school year.

As we enter this summer break,
we ask for your protection and guidance.

Grant us refreshment of mind and body.

May we constantly strive to make a meaningful
difference

in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.




HELPFUL CONTACTS

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 Facebook: @smchull  Instagram: @sm6_sixthform

Please note: we are unable to reply to queries and comments on our social media accounts. Please do not reply to text messages sent by the school and instead use the email address here to contact us.

www.smchull.org