

Life at Mary's Summary:

As we rapidly approach the end of a fast-paced Michaelmas Term, we can finally take a pause and reflect upon the plethora of exciting events which have taken place in all aspects of college life.

Winter Ball, this year themed around The Great Frost which struck London in 1709, was a culmination of all the hard work put in by the Winter Ball committee, led by Lewis Robinson. The night was a roaring success and the talent on display throughout the various entertainment acts showcased just a small fraction of the talent we have on offer at Mary's.

Michaelmas Dinner was another major college event this term that was not to be missed. Our fantastic JCR Vice President Helen Paton did an amazing job of hosting the formal which celebrated Mary's as a college on its centenary year. The night had a huge turnout and featured speeches from former Principles and alumni about their years spent at Mary's. Other highlights included the extravagant multi-layered cake complete with purple icing and college crest, as well as a lively ceilidh after the meal. Thanks to the generosity of those attending an impressive £307 was raised for ActionAid, in collaboration with Mary's DUCK.

Turning to the Arts, a definite highlight in November was undoubtedly Foot of the Hill Theatre Company's production of The Importance of Being Ernest. The two nights of the play were jam packed with audiences enjoying a brilliant performance from a talented cast. (For an in-depth review of the production, see our Arts and Culture section). Aside from this, we've seen a revival in the Fine Arts and Crafts Society this term, who have hosted a range of successful and popular events including canvas painting and origami workshops.

WAM have led two highly informative campaigns this term; the first highlighting the importance of breaking down barriers when talking about mental health and the second focusing on body and sexual positivity. Both weeks featured a range of ways to get engaged with such important topics which aren't often talked about enough or in the right ways and proved huge successes.

With Christmas now most definitely around the corner, it's clear from the impressive fir tree standing in the dining hall that festivities in college have well and truly begun. Arts Society did a fabulous job of decorating the tree in what's become a definite annual tradition for the college. And what better way to celebrate the imminent arrival of Christmas than by our Mary's carol service, excitingly held this year in the cathedral. The evening was one of festive celebration and was led by our talented college chapel choir.

Hoping everyone has an enjoyable Christmas break and arrives back in January ready for what promises to be a busy and event-filled Epiphany Term!

Politics Summary:

The end of term is almost here- well done to everyone making it through first term! It's always such a hectic term, and this year's has been no exception, particularly in relation to politics. This term has been extremely turbulent politically, on a national scale as well as what we have been reporting on in college. The General Election falls the day before the

end of term and there has been a huge amount of information bombarding us towards the latter end of this term; it seems you can't go an hour without hearing something new, and whilst this is obviously great, and amazing at encouraging political engagement, it has also definitely been exhausting! There's been a huge push for students to register to vote, with more than 100,000 people registering to vote in the UK in 48 hours, which is amazing.

On a college level, politics has been just as busy, with articles on Durham's political history, the politics surrounding Remembrance Day, and covering Durham's climate change strike. WAM has also been doing some great campaigns in college throughout this term, including their most recent one on body positivity which was amazing!

All in all, this term has been very busy regarding politics, on a national scale as well as college level, and I hope everyone enjoys the lead up to the General Election, and has a great Christmas after that.

Sports Summary:

By Nidhi Unnithan

St. Mary's College Men's Football

Mary's A Team

With only one loss, our A Team have shown strong spirit this term. They had stellar performances in their matches against St. Cuthbert's B Team and Van Mildert C Team walking away with scores of 6-1 and 5-0 respectively. They also fought hard in their matches against Hill Bede A and B Teams but after the 90 minutes, they ended with a draw of 1-1 both times. With only two losses against Van Mildert A Team and top of the table, John Snow A Team, they currently stand at fifth place on the league table. They still have a number of games left in the upcoming term which can bring them up the table but promotion to the Premiership is looking a bit difficult at this moment in time.

Mary's B Team

Mary's B Team have had a mixed bag of results over the course of the term however, they have worked to get some vital points to secure their mid table position in the league table. Despite some losses and ties, the men in purple have had positive spirits throughout. We hope to see this being carried forward into the next term to secure more wins.

Mary's C Team

Unfortunately, due to the weather, the Mary's C Team have had 4 games cancelled. However, this hasn't stopped them from winning all the other matches that they have played. They beat Trevs C Team 4-0, St. Aidan's D Team 7-0, and Hill Bede D Team 4-1. With such a scorecard, they have earned their mid table position. Hopefully they will have more matches taking place in the next term which will allow them to move up the table.

Mary's D Team

Big shoutout to the Mary's D Team who picked up their first win of the season this weekend. They are clearly on the up and potentially moving up the table; we can't wait to see more from them!

St. Mary's A Team Women's football

This term, the women in purple have not had too many opportunities to play due to the weather. They have played two matches out of which they beat Hatfield College A Team 7-2 but sadly, they lost to St. Cuthberts College in their first Floodlit Cup Match. However, they showed determination and resilience throughout the whole match, with only eight players on the pitch against a team of eleven (with rolling substitutions). They currently stand in fifth place on the league table. We hope that with the Mary's spirit that they are known for, they manage to fight their way to the top of the table with their matches next term.

St. Mary's College Ultimate Frisbee

Mary's A Team

Mary's A Team have only had one match but that was enough to put them at the top of the table this term! Despite the extremely rainy and cold weather, they managed to get an overall score of 8-4 against the Collingwood College B Team. Adam Greenback showed true fighting spirit by scoring two fabulous points in the end zone and was very deservedly awarded Mary's Man of the Match.

Mary's B Team

Mary's B Team have had 4 matches over the course of the term. They won two and lost two which currently leaves them at fourth place on the league table. In one of these matches against Stephenson College A Team, Mary's absolutely destroyed the opposition and walked away with a final score of 13-0. They also won against Hatfield College B Team with a score of 8-6.

We look forward to seeing both teams move up the league tables in their respective divisions over the course of the next term.

St. Mary's A Team Men's Rugby

Mary's A Team have had a good term; they have won two matches and lost one. In the two matches against Castle A Team and Hatfield B Team, our men in purple dominated with final scores of 40-0 and 18-0, respectively. With a strong attacking line in both matches, they ensured that they walked away with a clean sheet. Currently, they stand at fifth place on the league table but once the weather clears up and our injured players recuperate over the Christmas Holidays, we are sure they will take on all their opponents by storm. We wish a speedy recovery to all players!

Arts and Culture Summary:

Michaelmas term has been full of fun events, with multiple exciting formals, the Winter ball and the Christmas Panto 'Alice in Durhamland' being highlights. Creativity and artistic talent

have been rife, being showcased at events throughout the term within college and in the city of Durham itself.

In Durham it was the Lumiere Festival's 10th anniversary during November, being a wonderful exhibition of art for all students to enjoy and experience, located in all areas in the city Centre of Durham.

Mary's Dance and Basement Jazz performed at The Great Frost Fair Winter Ball, invigorating the Christmas Spirit within everybody. Basement Jazz were as amazing and polished as always with a new set list, the incredible instruments blending smoothly with the strong vocals. The decorations at the ball were extraordinary, featuring a crafted, sizeable elephant. There were various live lounges that featured so many talented individuals of both students and staff members. Maggi Dawn, the new Principal, took to the stage with an exciting performance. Mary's art society really brought the Christmas spirit alive with their Christmas tree decorating event. With a combination of Christmas music and mince pies, the event was truly a good start to the festive period!

The creativity of Mary's has been a great start to the new academic year, and will continue and progress with the start of the new decade.