Stella Maris Leadership Award

Stella Maris means "Star of the Sea" and is a traditional title for Mary. Just as a star can guide someone on a journey, Mary can inspire us to lead with faith, courage, compassion and service. The *Stella Maris Leadership Award* gives our 6th Form learners the opportunity to develop and demonstrate leadership through the way they serve and support others. This award aims to help learners shine and thrive to be well-rounded individuals.

What does leadership look like?

Leadership isn't just about having a title or being in charge.

You can demonstrate leadership by:

- ⭐ Taking responsibility and showing initiative
- ⭐ Supporting and encouraging others
- ⭐ Being a positive role model
- ⭐ Helping younger learners
- ⭐ Getting involved in charity, fundraising or community work
- ⭐ Supporting Chaplaincy, worship and school events
- ⭐ Speaking up for what is right
- ⭐ Using your talents to benefit others
- ⭐ Showing courage, compassion and kindness

The Stella Maris Leadership Award is not something separate from your 6th Form journey. It is about recognising the positive things you are already doing as part of everyday life at St John Fisher.

Everyone can achieve this award.

REACH FOR THE STARS...

There are three levels of the award: Bronze, Silver and Gold.
Each award is recognised by a star shaped badge, and certificate.



In order to complete each stage of the award, learners need to achieve virtue commendations. These are awarded by staff around the school and are documented electronically. You will also record your progress in your Stella Maris logbook, recording reflections on your experiences and the ways you have contributed to our community, through chosen virtues.

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Your attendance and engagement in Core RE lessons will also contribute towards the award, giving you another opportunity to develop your understanding of faith, leadership, service and your role within the wider community.

Below is a breakdown of what virtues and activities you would need to complete for each stage of the award.

	Virtue Commendations & Awards		Evidence & Tasks
Gold Award Focus: Innovation | Caritas - Love	Achieve the criteria for the Bronze **and** Silver Awards.	Achieve at least **four** virtue commendations: at least **one** from **each of the four** virtue categories.	Complete the **Gold Award initiative** or organise an event independently and provide evidence for this. Speak to your Core RE teacher for more information. Achieve excellent Core RE attendance – showing outstanding commitment to developing yourself emotionally, spiritually and intellectually beyond your chosen academic courses. Complete a logbook including four virtue reviews *and* **a reflection on your Gold Award initiative.**
Silver Award Focus: Leadership | Fides - Faith	Achieve the criteria for the Bronze award.	Achieve at least **four** different virtue commendations, from any virtue category.	Complete at least **5-6 hours of volunteering** or participation and provide evidence for this. Achieve excellent Core RE attendance – showing outstanding commitment to developing yourself emotionally, spiritually and intellectually beyond your chosen academic courses. In your log book, complete **four** detailed virtue reviews.
Bronze Award Focus: Service | Spes - Hope	Achieve at least **one** civic virtue commendation for **service** or **responsible citizenship**.	Achieve at least **one** other virtue commendation, from any category.	Excellent Core RE attendance – showing outstanding commitment to developing yourself emotionally, spiritually and intellectually beyond your chosen academic courses. In your log book, complete **two** detailed virtue reviews.

There are four virtue categories for you to explore throughout your Stella Maris Leadership Award. You will choose a selection of virtues and look for opportunities to put them into action within our school and wider community.

You will record your experiences and write personal reflections on how you have lived out these virtues. Your reflections will be supported by staff commendations, recognising the positive contributions and leadership you demonstrate along the way.

As you progress through the award, this may include organising events, supporting other learners, serving our community, taking on leadership opportunities, getting involved in charity and Chaplaincy activities, and using your gifts and talents to make a positive difference to others.

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Virtue Category	Virtue
Intellectual Virtues 	**Temperance** **Humility** **Love of Learning** **Sense of Humour** **Attentiveness** **Creativity**
Moral Virtues 	**Justice** **Gratitude** **Honesty** **Respect** **Compassion** **Forgiveness**
Civic Virtues 	**Courtesy** **Responsible Citizenship** **Service** **Integrity** **Generosity** **Loyalty**
Performance Virtues 	**Courage** **Confidence** **Perseverance** **Resilience** **Determination** **Self-Discipline**

These four virtue categories encourage you to reflect on your own strengths, recognise areas where you can grow, and develop the qualities you will need as you move beyond sixth form.

Intellectual virtues encourage you to remain curious, open-minded, creative and willing to keep learning throughout your life.

Moral virtues help you to develop strong values, make thoughtful and ethical choices, and build positive relationships with others.

Civic virtues challenge you to understand your responsibilities to others and to contribute positively to our school and wider community through service, generosity, integrity and responsible citizenship.

Performance virtues help you to develop the courge, confidence, perseverance, resilience and self-discipline needed to navigate challenges, take opportunities and pursue your goals.

Together these virtues provide a framework for learners to consider not only what they achieve, but who they are becoming and how they can use their strengths to make a meaningful contribution in the wider world.

In partnership with *Notre Dame Sixth Form College* in Leeds, the Stella Maris Leadership Award is a nationally recognised leadership programme, and St John Fisher Catholic College is proud to be one of just fourteen 6th Forms across the country to offer it.
It is also endorsed and supported by all UK Catholic Universities.

Leeds Trinity University · St Mary's University Twickenham London · Liverpool Hope University 1844 · Birmingham Newman University

Achieving the award is a fantastic way to demonstrate your leadership, initiative, service and personal development. It can make a strong addition to your CV, UCAS application, personal statement and future employment applications, helping you to show the skills and experiences you have developed during your time in 6th Form.
Most importantly, the award recognises the real contributions you are already making to our school and wider community.

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IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS...

Support staff during Open Evening/Morning

Help to set up/clear away for school Masses

An active member of your Parish. A reader, Alter Server etc.

Be a captain or member of a sports team in or out of school.

Volunteering at a youth group, charity shop or Foodbank.

Mentoring younger learners in school.

Help a member of staff around school.

Help organise a school or charity event.

Being a member of a club or team.

Helping an elderly neighbour/parish member/family member.

Representing our school at an event.

Being on the Leadership Team.

Going on a Pilgrimage or taking part in a retreat.

Help create a display/video/ presentation/ resource for the school community.

Taking part in Community outreach or Environmental projects.

Taking part in a litter pick/environment clean up.

Identify a need within school and oragnise a project to respond to it.

Help with a charity eg. CAFOD, SVP, ACN

Organise small fundraisers.

Organise a 6th form social event/trip.

Help produce content for the school's social media accounts.

Support a family member in their learning.

Plan and deliver worship in your form.

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