



July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of the 2018/19 academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting our Holy Family community. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Headteacher of this amazing school and I am extremely proud of everything we have achieved this year.

In the recent Section 48 Inspection, we achieved an overall 'Good' judgement with an 'Outstanding' judgement for the Catholic Life of the school. There are some key quotes from the report which validate the progress we have made and really mean a lot to us...

'The Catholic Life of the School is outstanding'
'Pupils take great pride in their school and all it has to offer.'
'They show immense consideration and respect to others, demonstrating ability to love and care for those around them.'
'There is a great team spirit within the school.'
'The new Headteacher, along with other key staff, has worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition towards a more stable platform in which to ensure improvements across all areas of the school.'
'The school's provision of Collective Worship is good and sometimes outstanding.'

Our whole community should be extremely proud of this report.

The recent 'Enrichment Week' gave our students a chance to shine! It was an opportunity for them to have a range of experiences which challenged them, developed leadership skills, promoted teamwork and helped prepare them for life beyond school. There were moments in the week that were truly awesome...

Students working across Year groups in the Faraday STEM challenge. They designed, built and presented some brilliant devices!

Year 7 composed and performed their songs during our music workshops.

Father Wilson said mass for Years 7, 8 and 9 at St Mary's Church. Students led us in prayer. Stewardship was a theme throughout the week.

Year 7 visited Carlton Towers and did a variety of activities including orienteering.

Year 8 and Year 9 took part in a graduation ceremony to mark their start in Key Stage Four – they wore their caps and gowns with pride!

We saw great teamwork and leadership in the Army workshops, supporting each other and problem solving.

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Our student leaders took part in a workshop on leadership skills with the local Enterprise and Business Partnership (NYBEP).

Catholic Care presented on 'Refugees' and some of our students celebrated the publishing of their own poems.

Year 10 students took part in work experience and employers have given them excellent feedback.

At the start of the week a group of staff and Year 8 students visited the Opal Coast in France, they had an amazing time. The hotel emailed us to say how fantastic our students had been.

A Y10 group and three staff took part in the Leeds Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes in France. Again, our students and staff were praised for their care, contribution and commitment.

Sports day was EPIC! We saw our students excel in events, both individually and in teams. Watching them support everyone to get over the finishing line was inspiring.

Our rewards trip to Flamingo land was a great experience for staff and students.

Year 6 joined us for their transition day and took part in lots of activities to get to know each other before they start in September. They had a great day!

Other Events this half term

(Please also see our latest newsletter on our website and our twitter feeds!)

- Six of our Year 8 students reached the final in Edinburgh for the national 'Faraday Challenge'. They finished as runners-up which is a fantastic achievement.
- Our Year 8 students also achieved best overall school in Eurofest 2019.
- We are really proud to be one of the first schools to achieve the 'Careers Award' for our provision.
- A group of Year 10 students successfully completed the 'Diana Mentoring award', they were so impressive that we are one of only three schools to have secured the programme for another year!

Attainment and Achievement

In our final data collection of the year we can see the vast majority of our students making progress. Attendance, Behaviour and Attitude to Learning have also all improved over the course of the year. This shows how much potential our students have and we will be challenging them to aim even higher next year!

Goodbye

We say farewell and give our sincere thanks to Mrs Habberjam, we wish her well in her new post.

Mrs Walker, our SENCO, takes up a promoted post in another school. We thank her for her dedication in supporting our students.

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Mrs Hunt retires from teaching but will still be working with us and our local primary schools. We thank her for her contribution and commitment to Holy Family.

Miss de Benedictus leaves us to start her teacher training. We thank her for supporting our students and wish her well!

Welcome

Mr Lancaster joins us in the RE department.

Miss Agar takes over the role as our SENCO.

Miss Schager and Mr Wagstaff join our PE staff team.

Miss Dale joins our English department. She will also be teaching drama!

Key Dates/Reminders:

- **Friday 19th July – finish at 12.30pm** - Pupils need to be in uniform and will have a whole school liturgy and celebration award assemblies in the morning.
- Y11 Exam results day – Thursday 22nd August
- All students return to school on **Wednesday 4th September, school starts at 8.45am.**
- Our new uniform policy starts in September, a copy is on the website, if you need to check anything please contact us.
- Our new school day starts in September, a reminder of the new times is in the newsletter.

Finally, I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing summer on behalf of myself, our staff and our Governors. As a 'united family' we will go forward in September to even greater things!

Yours sincerely



Mrs D Mitchell

Headteacher