



'To grow in wisdom and grace.'

## Holy Family Catholic High School Weekly Newsletter

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Friday 10 July 2020

### Headteacher Updates...

Dear Parents and Carers,

We will be posting and emailing a 'Return to School' booklet for each year group next week with more specific information for September.

To help you start to plan, the following key points will be useful for you to know now. We are confident that our plans are robust and within the current guidelines but we recognise that we will have to be adaptable to make adjustments as guidelines change.

To ensure all students return full time, while following DFE guidance, all schools are having to adapt to their individual situations. This will involve compromises and 'school life' will not be exactly as it was.

Our whole community wants all students and staff to come back as safely as possible and we ask that you trust us as these plans are put in place. We will regularly review provision to 'tweak' and improve things as we go along. This is new territory for all of us and we appreciate your support while we navigate these unknown waters!

#### September Start

We are starting to return our students on the 8<sup>th</sup> September and will return further year groups each day over the first week. This will allow us to do a thorough 'induction' with each year group to ensure their safety.

#### Arrival and Departure

School still starts at 8.45am and ends at 3pm. Each year group will receive specific instructions on how to enter and leave school.

To help parents/carers we are extending our opening times to allow parents to drop off students from 8am and pick up students up to 5pm. The provision before school will be supervised by staff, the provision after school is our 'homework club' where students can use the computers and ask for support with homework. This should help ease the amount of cars at any one time and allow students to come in and leave in a sensible, socially distanced manner.

Buses – North Yorkshire are looking at the school and service buses for all schools and we will forward information when we receive it.

We will be sending a group call early next week for you to indicate what 'transport' your child will be using in September.

There will be more details in our booklets next week. We ask that you wait until you have read the booklet before asking for further information as it should answer queries to most things!

If you have more questions at that point we ask that you email our enquiry email.

The DFE information for parents and carers is on this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

The last four months have impacted people in so many different ways. We appreciate everything you have done in very difficult circumstances and feel blessed that we have all of you in our 'family'.

### GCSE Exam Results

Due to restrictions on schools regarding the number of visitors entering school, results will be issued to Y11 students by appointment only this year. The results issue date for Y11 GCSE is Thursday 20 August. Appointments will be sent out this week to students.

### Uniform

The Government expect all schools to maintain usual uniform policies in the autumn term, and for all of our reassurance have stated, 'Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often or using different methods than usual'.



Uniform shops are open and our uniform policy is the same. On a practical note, please be aware that we will have to open windows in classrooms for ventilation so we recommend buying a **school jumper** for your child. Please remember that **no hoodies or other jumpers** are allowed as that would undermine the great

standards you have all helped us to achieve. In Y11 the school blazer is optional but they must wear the **black school jumper**.

Under current guidance we will not be able to use the changing rooms. On the days that students have a practical PE lesson they will need to come to school in their PE kit. This can be the 'Holy Family' PE kit or plain black or blue leggings/tracksuit bottoms/shorts and a plain white top. **These must be without logos**. If for some reason they are unable to physically take part in PE lessons parents/carers must inform their teacher.

<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Staff Training Day
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	New Y7 and New Y11 return
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	New Y8 and New Y10 return
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b>	New Y9 return

*'Together we step out in faith, knowing that Christ is with us and united as a holy family.'*

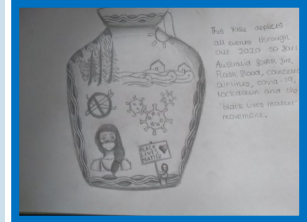
**Leeds Pilgrimage to Lourdes with Mr Walter**

Mrs Selway attended the Lourdes Pilgrimage Mass on Sunday as a representative of The Holy Family

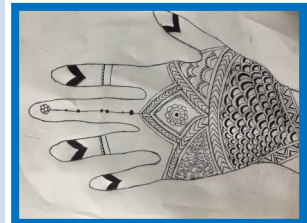


Catholic School. Last Thursday, a group of our Year 10 students would have set off on pilgrimage to Lourdes. I know, from speaking to our year 10 students, that they were very much looking forward to the experience. It is far from the normal school trip. It is an experience that is very difficult to put into words. Participation in the many spiritual liturgies and events is the only way that the mystery of Lourdes can be revealed to us. Lourdes truly is the world in microcosm.

Prayer to Our Lady:  
*Hail, holy Queen,  
 mother of mercy;  
 hail, our life, our  
 sweetness, and our  
 hope!  
 To thee do we cry,  
 poor banished chil-  
 dren of Eve;  
 to you do we send up  
 our sighs, mourning  
 and weeping in this  
 vale of tears.  
 Turn then, most gra-  
 cious advocate, your  
 eyes of mercy to-  
 wards us;  
 and after this our  
 exile, show unto us  
 the blessed fruit of  
 your womb,  
 Jesus. O clement, O  
 loving,  
 O sweet Virgin Mary.*



Headteacher Award		
Imogen	S	Art
Grace	O	Art
George	M	Art
Aaron	M	Science
Victoria	S	Science
Tom	M	Maths
Will	J	Maths



I had the privilege of accompanying our year 10 students for fifteen years, on the annual pilgrimage and in my last year, 2011, as I journeyed back, I tried to sum up, in words, our experiences. Our hearts were full of stories of pain and joy, of some dark moments but many bright ones and the glimpses of the mystery of our human spirit where we became part of the human story of Lourdes.

On February 11, 1858, Bernadette Soubirous, a child of poor parents, in the town of Lourdes, in Southern France, went with two other children to gather firewood by the banks of the River Gave. She was fourteen years of age. It was on this date that she experienced her first apparition of Mary. The apparition happened in a cave with a small opening at the top. The exact point is pictured in the image above. Over the course of the next five months, Mary appeared to Bernadette a further seventeen times, the last apparition being on July 16, 1858. Throughout the apparitions Bernadette was questioned on several occasions, by the authorities, and accused of making the whole story of the apparitions up. It was during the sixteenth apparition, on March 25 that Mary disclosed to Bernadette who she was.

***'I am the Immaculate Conception'***

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception had been proclaimed by Pope Pius IX, on December 8 1854, only four years earlier. Such proclamations, at that time, were reserved for the hierarchy of the Church. Bernadette had no way of knowing the existence of this proclamation. When Bernadette announced to the authorities what Mary had told her she was immediately believed as having told the truth. At the age of 25, Bernadette moved to Nevers, just outside Paris. There she joined the convent of St Gildard. Unfortunately, she continued to suffer with her health and died in 1879 aged 35 years. Her final words, as she died, reflected her immense love for Mary.

***'Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me, a poor sinner, a poor sinner.'***

Today, Lourdes is a metropolis of teeming emotion. Everything is turned around. It is a place of divine contradiction. One begins to realise that God's ways are not ours. I think of the hints and clues revealed to us by a God of surprises. This God is always different. Why are we so surprised that the God who once took the shape of a tiny vulnerable helpless baby at Bethlehem, should once again amaze our thoughts by touching us through Mary at Lourdes?