



The Holy Family Catholic High School Newsletter December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We come to the end of the first term of this academic year and we give thanks for the support of our whole community. Together we have ensured that our young people have continued learning, supported by dedicated teachers and teaching assistants and caring families. Our students have been able to enjoy the social aspects of school in their year group bubbles and get back to some 'normality'.

We feel blessed that we have only had to contact a couple of students to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case in school. Our school attendance is well above the national figures, we have had 94% attendance this term compared with the national average of 87%.

We have continued our school calendar with virtual events:

Open Event	Y7 Welcome liturgy
Y7 Parents Evening	Parent meetings
Carol Service	Whole school and year group assemblies
End of term talent show	Staff training

Everyone in school has learnt new technology skills! Staff have taken part in training on Microsoft 'Teams' and 'Loom' to enhance our remote and 'in-school' teaching and learning. Our students have also improved their skills including uploading work, using 'Teams' and Classcharts as well as GCSEPOD and Kahoot. A group of our students have also edited our Carol Service and Talent show! We have had overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents who accessed the virtual parents evening, many felt it was better than coming into school as it was more private and less frantic!

Our students continue to 'grow in wisdom and grace'

We are really proud of their positive attitude to their learning and their continued involvement in school life and community work.

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

Next term sees new hope with the rolling out of the vaccine across the country and the news yesterday of plans to offer testing in schools. Information is starting to come through about the testing that will be made available to us.

Continued on back page



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



This year we launched our first ever Christmas card competition which was open to all year groups.

We had a lot of excellent entries and it was very difficult to select the winners. Four designs were finally chosen to be professionally printed and prizes have been awarded to each of the successful entrants.

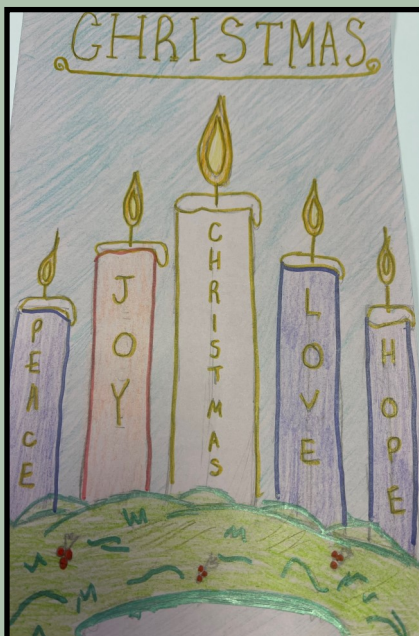


The Christmas nativity scene by Harvey Jardine Y11 was the overall winner and his design has been made into this year's school Christmas card.

The runners up: Alfie Keeble Y7, Abigail Bird Y8 and Edith-Mae Jardine Y8 all had their designs printed on postcards for use with our hamper and gift donations.

Well done to all those who entered!

By Harvey Jardine Y11



By Alfie Keeble Y7

By Edith -Mae Jardine Y8



By Abigail Bird Y8

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



This year, due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to hold our annual senior citizens' Christmas party.



A much loved event which was sorely missed by guests, staff and students alike. Instead, our students and staff have very generously donated lots of lovely gifts to make up hampers for our elderly local community. Thank you to all who have contributed to the Christmas hampers.

Mrs Oliver & Mr Walker delivered the gifts on Tuesday and Wednesday this week with the help of some Y7 & Y8 pupils: Samantha Bugg, Adam Coult, Liliana Kowalska and Harrison Muxlow.

Mrs Oliver said the students "were an absolute asset to the school. It was quite an eye opener for them in many ways and it was lovely to spread some Christmas cheer. The joy on the faces of all the recipients said it all."

Liliana said: "It is nice to see people happy during these hard and difficult times."



Birthday Surprise

Mrs Mackintosh (pictured left) was overwhelmed to receive a hamper and on her birthday as well! Many happy returns from all of us at Holy Family.



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Combined Cadet Force - A brief update from our cadets:

“Since returning after lockdown, we have done many things to bypass the hardships that Covid has brought upon us. We have learnt plenty of things in the past 4 months; the NATO alphabet, numbers and the date in the army, COM SEC (Communication and Security), numeric COIL, security qualifications, 6 figure map



readings, plotting points, finding quadrants on maps and using compasses. Despite not being able to be in the field for practice, we could still accomplish enough things to get us back on track after this pandemic has passed. We have been stuck indoors for the most part, although next year we do hope to be able to get some hand-on-hand qualifications with things like COM SEC, using codes, and we will be placing our focus on field crafting.”

Helena, Immy and Joss.

Further Maths Club

My name is Neve Whitehead, I am currently in year 11 and am a member of the Level 3 Maths class. Level 3 Maths is a course that is designed to help to bridge the gap between Maths at GCSE level and Maths at A-Level. It takes place every Wednesday after school for two hours.

Since September, I have been attending this group with 9 other students in order to further our Maths education. Many of us intend to continue our study of Maths further than GCSE whether that be as A-level, Further Maths A-level, Physics A-level or even Engineering. However, even for those who do not wish to continue their study of Maths beyond high school, the course still has great benefits at GCSE level. Further Maths is a great way, not only to get a taster of the sorts of topics that you will cover past GCSE, but also to aid and boost your accessibility of the harder, grade 8/9 questions that you will face at GCSE. The group is run by Mr Walter. His love and passion for the subject (along with the weekly tub of chocolates that he brings) makes learning the subject so enjoyable, even when it can be very difficult! So far, we have covered around 2/3 of the total course, including areas such as binomial expansion, integration and differentiation, polynomial division, and many more things that up until now, I did not have the faintest clue existed! At the end of the course, we have the choice whether we would like to sit an exam or not. From the very beginning, it has been clear that there is no pressure for us to sit it, as even just learning the course can give us a massive boost when taking Maths at higher level.

The exam takes place around the same time as GCSE and it is acknowledged by colleges & also universities as it warrants UCAS points. I have really enjoyed the course and would strongly suggest to the younger year groups, who are given the opportunity, to seize it. Whilst it may be challenging, and often leave you many times lost for words, learning more about Maths and the way the world works is something that not many people truly get the chance to understand and appreciate.

After the short break, we have taken over the mock exam period, I cannot wait to get back and learn all about ‘calculus applications to kinematics’. I would also like to thank the entire Maths department for providing this opportunity to us. It goes to show that, despite being a small school, we still have just as many opportunities as others, if not, more! **Neve Whitehead Y11**



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



US Presidential Debate

“During the first half-term, Will Kucherka & I lead a debate within 7 Hinsley about who we thought should be the next US president. Will was speaking for Donald Trump and I was speaking for Joe Biden. Each week we would have a different topic to go home and research. Then in form time, we would take turns speaking in front of everyone. The class would vote for who they thought would be the best president on the basis of the argument we'd given. One week we spoke about their views on 'The Economy', the next week on their 'Response to Covid 19', and in the final week we talked about them as 'A Person' In the end I won the debate (Joe Biden had the most votes from the class)” **Eleanor Quinn - 7 Hinsley**

Our GCSE ASDAN students have been as busy as Santa's elves, getting everything ready for the ASDAN Christmas Party! This end of year party has become quite the tradition and one on which the ASDAN students work incredibly hard. Festive food and delightful drinks were to be had and it was particularly wonderful that staff received personalised invitations to attend the event. It was a very Merry way to end this first term and a huge well done to all of the students who took part! Also a huge thank you to Miss Schager and Mrs Dale for everything they did to make this happen.



Below are some wonderful examples of art from our talented students. The figure with sunglasses was drawn by Imogen Snowden Y9 for a project during lockdown. The Christmas present image by Daniel Kilgar Y11 is included in our Christmas show and the angel by Molly Soar Y7 forms part of our Christmas Liturgy.



CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



CAFOD Workers– Our Catholic Life group have been busy making and sending Christmas cards to brave Cafod workers around the world who risk their lives on a daily basis to help others less fortunate than themselves.

CAFOD World Gifts: Thank you so much for your very generous donations via Parentpay. To date, over £580 has been raised. The money will be put to good use helping families in need across the world.



Virtual Carol Service: Thursday 17 December

Staff and students have been working hard to prepare our annual carol service. Obviously this year we are unable to meet in person, so you can access a pre-recorded video of the event at your convenience by clicking on the following link :

<https://vimeo.com/491179480>
and using the password which will be sent to you via Groupcall text.



We have had a wonderful response to our Christmas appeals. Thank you to all the parents, pupils and staff who have donated so generously to our Mother & Baby Appeal, CAFOD, and Christmas Hampers.



Virtual Welcome Liturgy: The Year 7 Welcome Liturgy was made available by video link on Thursday 22 October and was very well received by those who participated and those who watched. Pupils took part in various ways including reading and writing of bidding prayers. Year 7 did themselves proud at the service.



Academisation Update – The latest date we have been given by the DfE for Holy Family to join the Bishop Konstant Catholic Multi Academy Trust is now 01 March 2021

Continued from front page

Initial information states that this will be for students who have been in close contact with a positive case in school. Parents can choose for their child to be tested and they would not have to self-isolate if the test was negative. Staff will be offered weekly tests. When we have the 'finer detail' we will be in touch.

Please note that the testing in schools will not start immediately in the new term.

When we have all the information, training and resources we will send out further details. Please be assured that no child will be tested without prior consent from parents. It is also clear that we also have to remain vigilant and continue all the things we have in place in line with the national guidance:



Washing hands, using sanitiser and wearing face masks in corridors and on buses. Windows and doors open for ventilation, extra cleaning regimes in school, year group zones and staff staying 2m apart from other staff and students.

Over the holiday... If your child develops symptoms in the 48 hours from when they break up and they test positive you need to inform us of full details via the enquiry email which will be monitored up to Christmas Eve. Schools have been instructed to contact the close school contacts of a positive case and ask them to self-isolate for 10 days. If your child is asymptomatic and tests positive it is close contacts in the 48 hours before the test who have to self-isolate. We also ask that you inform us, via the enquiry email, if your child will not be returning on the 5th January due to self isolation. enquiry@holyfamilycarlton.org

One of the difficulties faced by school leaders during this year has been hearing announcements at the same time as everyone else. We thank you for your understanding and patience as we navigate the many pages of guidance and directives that eventually follow.

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women." Pope Francis

Yours faithfully,

D Mitchell

Mrs D Mitchell,
Headteacher

The staff and governors of our school wish you and your families a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing our students return on Tuesday 05 January 2021.

Diary Dates

Thurs 17 December	Virtual Carol Service
Thurs 17 December	School closes 3pm
Mon 04 January	Staff Inset / School Closed
Tues 05 January	School opens
Tues 05 January (2 wks)	Yr 11 Mock Exams
Thurs 29 January	Yr 11 Virtual Parents Evening
Fri 12 February	School closes 3pm
Mon 22 February	School opens
Thurs 11 March	Yr 10 Virtual Parents Evening