



The Holy Family Catholic High School Newsletter December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

As Christmas approaches we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. It has been an extremely busy and productive term, as you will see from this newsletter!

Through their thoughtful acts, fundraising and charitable donations, our students continue to embody our Catholic ethos, virtues and values in their daily lives. We are incredible proud of them and their service to this community.

More students have achieved the good and outstanding attitude to learning and behaviour grades at this data collection and the large majority of our students are on track to succeed. Students who need more guidance and support will be targeted with intervention programmes in the new year.

On 29th December, during the Christmas break, we celebrate the feast day of the Holy Family. Our liturgies will follow this theme on our last day and during the first week of our return to school in January. This celebration reminds us all that the Holy Family is the patron and model for all Christian family life.

Holy Family School Prayer

God you have made us your Holy Family,
with Christ, the Church and each other.

In Jesus may we learn the joy in forgiveness;

Mary the Mother of God let us find comfort through our love of others;

May the example of Joseph help us grow as we serve.

Make our family an instrument of your peace, guided by your wisdom
and strengthened by your grace.

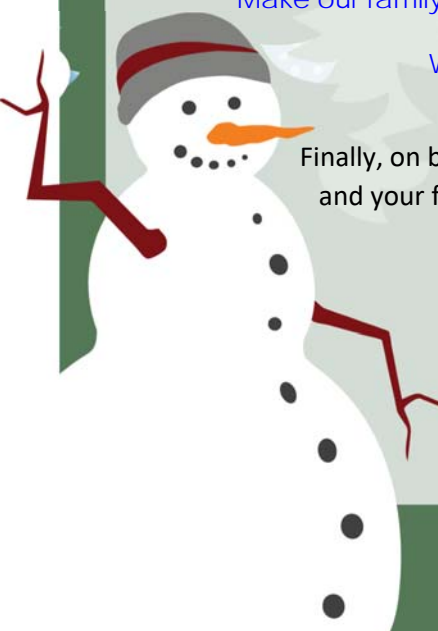
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

Finally, on behalf of our staff, governors and students, I sincerely wish you and your family peace and joy this Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

D Mitchell

Mrs D Mitchell
Headteacher



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



On Friday 25 October, most of our Year 7 set out for a three day residential at Caythorpe Court in rural Lincolnshire.

Despite non stop rain from arrival, the sun eventually put in an appearance on Sunday and a fun time was had by all.

The activities included kayaking, vertical challenge, zip wire, archery, ambush and evening campfires all of which tested, at times, the pupils' teamwork, courage, problem solving and perseverance.



On Tuesday 29 October, during the half term break, our cadets had their first action packed training day that included a young drivers course where they were able to drive Mrs Mitchell (and the instructor) around the track at Normandy Barracks!



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Prize Presentation Evening 2019

On Thursday 29 November we welcomed back the class of 2019 to receive their GCSE certificates and school awards.

A big Holy Family thank you to Mr Craig Storton, our Enterprise Advisor, for a fantastic speech to our 2019 leavers, making the Prize Presentation Evening a great success.

Well done class of 2019!

Pictured right: Mateusz Depka-Pradzynski (Head Boy), Mr C Storton and Mrs Mitchell.



SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY



On Tuesday 17 December, we held our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party. Guests were provided with a buffet lunch and seasonal goodies prepared by our students.

They were also entertained by the school choir singing carols and other Christmas songs.

It was a wonderful event and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

Each guest also received a free raffle prize ranging from Christmas hampers to luxury beauty products; thanks to the generosity of parents, pupils and staff.



CAREERS & ASPIRATIONS



On Wednesday 20 November, a number of year 10 girls had the opportunity to attend the Women Of The Future event at Drax Power Station. It was great to meet so many successful women. It has inspired our next generation of professional females!

[#My Future My Career](#)

On Wednesday 04 December, a group of Year 11 pupils visited St Catharine's College, Cambridge University where they received advice on A' level subject choices for university applications.

It was a wonderful experience and our students also enjoyed a lecture on Nuclear Magnetic Resonance!

[#Raising Aspirations](#) [#Challenging Stereotypes](#)
[#Widening Participation](#)

We also recently launched our 2019-20 Year 10 work experience programme to our pupils and their parents with the help of [@Drax News](#) and [@NYBEP](#).

[#My Future My Career](#) [#Work Experience](#)



CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

The Dowry Tour – Over the past two years, the renowned Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham has been visiting every Catholic Cathedral in England with a mission to pray for the Re-evangelisation and Conversion of England. All of England have been invited to renew their own personal “YES” to the Lord Jesus. This has been done through parish communal acts of preparation for consecration to Jesus through Mary and a pledge to commit to regular confession. As well as , through the praying of the Angelus, the Rosary and prayerful invocation of the Saints and Martyrs of England as on-going prayer for our Nation and the entire British Isles. As a school, we were invited to take part in various activities as part of this tour in November at Leeds Cathedral. It was a great day out. The pupils represented our school really well. Jayden Martin was particularly impressive; answering lots of questions.



Mother & Baby Hampers—Our KS3 Catholic Life pupils have worked really hard to prepare hampers that will be distributed to families who do not have the money for essentials at Christmas time. The pupils have done a great job and we were overwhelmed with the amount of donations so thank you to you all for your generosity.



Remembrance in Forms

Form groups created special pieces of art work for Remembrance Day. They looked beautiful and it was clear that pupils had put in a lot of effort. The art work was processed into the Remembrance Service which was led by Mr Walter on Monday 11/11/19. Catholic Life pupils also decorated the School Chapel for the month of Remembrance. A special table was created in order to remember those who had died within our school community. Pupils said prayers and lit candles in the Chapel in remembrance of all the people they have loved and lost.



CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Selby Food Bank Donations - Year 8 Catholic Life group dropped off the generous food donations to the local Food Bank in Selby. The group had done so well, bringing in donations they went to Costa afterwards for a little treat.



World Gifts: Forms have arranged fundraisers in order to raise money for World Gifts. There have been many different ideas from bun sales to throwing sponges at the teachers.



Preparing for Advent: Catholic Life pupils decorated the Chapel in purple and pink for Advent. An Advent wreath was created for the reception and instead of one wreath in the chapel the candles have been decorated with their own individual wreaths. The Chapel looks lovely. The group are doing really well and are very enthusiastic about the work they do. Many forms decided to purchase an Advent Calendar for pupils to open each day in the countdown for Christmas. These calendars follow the Christmas story.



Service of Light: The Year 7 Service of Light took place on Friday 13th December. Pupils took part in various ways including reading and processing. In preparation for the service, pupils created Advent stars which included the names of people for whom they wanted to pray.

Pupils also wrote bidding prayers and produced some beautiful art work for the service booklet. The work for this project was so good that it was difficult to choose who should go into the booklet. Year 7 did themselves proud at the service. Father Wilson was particularly impressed with their participation and conduct.

Ms S Lambert - Lay Chaplain

SPORTING EVENTS & NEWS

SPORTS LEADERS: Twenty six students have signed up for Sports Leaders this year. Training has been ongoing in preparation for the Primary Festival Calendar which will be delivered at Holy Family over the coming academic year. Leaders were straight down to business leading 135 Year 5/6 pupils in Sports Hall Athletics on Monday 04 November. The leaders helped with their running, jumping and throwing. The overall team event was won by St Mary's who will now go on to represent the Carlton Cluster in the area games in February.

Delivery of the Sports Leaders T-shirts proved popular with all the leaders looking smart in their official kit. Leaders continued their training designing Agility, Balance and Co-ordination stations for neighbouring pupils from Carlton Primary. The Year 4 teacher, Ms Marshall said it was a pleasure to see how much all our leaders joined in and how much pupils enjoyed it.

December saw Panathlon Ambassador, Val French deliver training to all leaders on 9 different Panathlon activities for young people with disabilities. All leaders are now qualified to deliver these at Holy Family and further afield.

The leaders are ready to support the 14 festivals due to be held over the next two terms.

Mrs Hunt is delighted with their attitude and performance; all sports leaders have been totally engaged from the onset and are a credit to the school.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS: Kassie Martin 9HN and Freya Sheppard 11HN (below) both took part in the Special Olympics Swimming Gala in Harrogate in November and came away with a number of medals. Both girls are members of the inclusive swim squad Stingrays which trains every Wednesday evening in Tadcaster. **Congratulations to them both!**



Diary Dates



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. Thank you also to everyone who has sent in mince pies for our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party and Carol Concert. Your support is very much appreciated.

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| Thursday 19 December | Carol Service |
| Friday 20 December | School closes 3pm |
| Monday 06 January | Staff Inset / School Closed |
| Tuesday 07 January | School opens |
| Monday 13 January (2 wks) | Yr 11 Mock Exams |
| Wednesday 29 January | Yr 10 Parents Evening |
| Thursday 13 February | Yr 11 Parents Evening |
| Friday 15 February | School closes 3pm |
| Monday 24 February | School opens |

Flood Fundraiser

Members of student leadership team organised a cake sale to raise money for people who were affected by the floods in November. The team raised over £170. Great work!



School Governors

New Governors – We are pleased to report that two new applicants have recently been appointed to our governing body.

Dr R White has been co-opted and Mrs C Ainley joins as a parent governor. Congratulations to them both! For more information on our governors, please see the school website: www.holyfamilycarlton.org

The staff, governors and pupils, of our school wish you and your family peace and joy this Christmas and a very happy New Year.