



Holy Family Catholic High School

Christmas 2023 Newsletter



December 2023

Thank you so much for your kindness and donations for our 2023 Christmas Appeal. This week we delivered lots of food and gift hampers to families in our community.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very merry and peaceful Christmas, and the very best for a happy New Year.



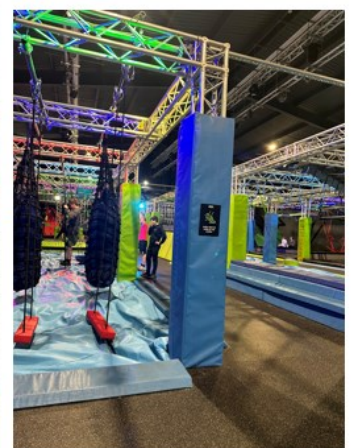
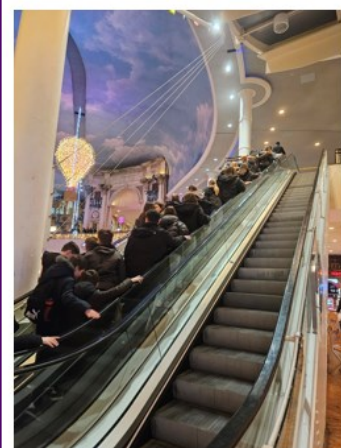
Best wishes and God Bless,
Mr Symes



THANK YOU!



Photographs from the rewards trips



Photographs from Christmas jumper day, Christmas market and Christmas lunch on Thursday 21st December



Year 7 – Visit to CHET

On Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th September, Year 7 visited Crosby Hall Educational Trust (CHET). The pupils took part in various activities including a low ropes challenge, problem solving and even an obstacle course. Pupils learned to work as a team and overcome seemingly impossible problems through determination and hard work. All agreed it was a very positive experience.

*I enjoyed
CHET
(because it
was fun and I
made friends)*



edl.ecml.at

European Day of Languages
26 September

Journée européenne des langues

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES
E C M L
CENTRE EUROPEEN POUR LES LANGUES VIVANTES

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

European Languages and Communication

On Friday 24th September we celebrated the annual European Day of Languages with most classes engaging in some activities that promoted the importance and variety of languages/language learning, such as designing t-shirts and making bunting.

Year 7 also took part in a treasure hunt, following language based clues.



PUPILS TURN THEIR SCHOOL YELLOW

IN SUPPORT OF MENTAL HEALTH



Pupils at **Holy Family Catholic High School** brightened their day with a splash of yellow for youth mental health charity YoungMinds' campaign in support of young people's mental health.

Students and staff dressed in yellow on World Mental Health Day (10th October) as part of YoungMinds' #HelloYellow campaign which called on people to stand together in support of young people struggling with their mental health, to show they matter and deserve the help they need, when they need it, no matter what.

The children at **Holy Family** raised **£672.62** which will help YoungMinds to support young people so they don't feel alone with their mental health. The pupils joined thousands of schoolchildren across the country swapping their school uniform for #HelloYellow at a time when more children and young people than ever before are struggling with their mental health. Over 1.2m under 18s were referred to children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) last year, an increase of 53% since 2019.*

Young people are experiencing a unique set of pressures for a generation growing up, living through a pandemic and cost of living crisis against the backdrop of global instability, combined with other factors such as academic pressure, all of which is taking a toll on their mental health.

YoungMinds is urging the Government to prioritise young people's mental health including providing early support in communities, increasing help in schools and reducing waiting times.

Laura Bunt, Chief Executive at YoungMinds, said: "We want to thank Holy Family for their support for #HelloYellow. By wearing yellow they've shown young people's mental health matters. This comes at a time when the young generation are facing a unique set of pressures with more young people than ever before needing support for their mental health and many facing long waits for help. The funds raised by Holy Family will help YoungMinds make sure no young person feels alone with their mental health."



"We have raised an impressive amount in 1 day for YoungMinds. The pupils got involved by wearing yellow, donating to the cause and most importantly talking opening about Mental Health. They should be very proud of themselves."

Mrs Skillen, Mental Health Lead

"The animals were my favourite part, especially the monkey. It was so exciting, I hope we can do it again soon!"
Year 7 Pupil

About YoungMinds

YoungMinds is the UK's leading charity fighting for young people's mental health. For more information please visit <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

* Data from NHS Digital

#HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

Captivating Performance of "Matilda: The Musical" Takes Centre Stage



The end of October half-term brought an enchanting theatrical experience to Holy Family Catholic High School, as the curtains rose for the school's production of "Matilda: The Musical" by Tim Minchin. The six performances left the audience in awe, showcasing the incredible talent and dedication of our students.

The fantastic portrayal of Matilda, coupled with Tim Minchin's musical brilliance, made each performance a resounding success. The Art department's creativity shone through in the visually stunning sets, while the makeup department added the perfect touch to bring characters to life. The choreography and dance moves were executed with precision, captivating the audience and adding an extra layer of magic to the production.

Behind the scenes, the collaborative efforts of the lighting and sound departments ensured a seamless and immersive experience for everyone in attendance. The culmination of these elements resulted in a truly memorable event for the entire school community.

Congratulations to all the students involved, as well as the dedicated staff who worked tirelessly to make "Matilda: The Musical" a highlight of the school year. The echoes of applause continue to reverberate, echoing the success of this remarkable performance.

For more photographs please see

<https://holyfamilyhighschool.co.uk/news/2023-10-19-matilda>



Sixth Form Trip to Tenerife

On Sunday 15th October a group of very tired students (and teachers) met in the early hours for a field trip to Tenerife.

After a four and a half hour flight, we landed at Tenerife airport and proceeded to collect our hire car and minibus. A short drive later, we arrived at our villa which was nestled high up in the hillside of Mount Teide. We then took a drive to Los Gigantes where we boarded a boat for a whale watching trip. Pods of whales could be seen close to the boat. We also took in some spectacular views of the coastline and cliffs.

From there we journeyed back to the villa and had an introductory lecture on the history of the Canary Islands and their formation due to volcanic activity. The evening was spent relaxing in the pool and sitting outside under the stars.

The next day was spent out in the field observing the native plants and animals and analysing the various volcanic rock formations. Back in villa for the evening, we were able to see an amazing night sky with the milky way clearly visible. We had a tour of the sky with the laser pointers. We also saw a handful of meteors!

The following day was a visit to Santiago Del Teide, where some of the islands most recent volcanic eruptions took place. We also went caving in the lava tubes which were left behind when the volcanic magma cools. We learned about the different types of lava and how the age of volcanoes could be worked out. We then stopped at Garrachico, the old capital of Tenerife, where some of the students took a dip in the warm Atlantic waters!

The following day was spent at Siam Park, where students braved the water slides and wave pools.

The evening was spent dining outside with a barbeque cooked by Mr Horne.

The final day was a trip to near the summit of the mountain and a seven mile hike up and down rocky terrain. Our guides, Ignacio and Alexis took time to explain the science behind the landscapes.

Students returned to a cold Liverpool as expert vulcanologists!

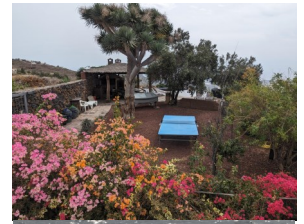
Students comments

"This was an amazing trip and I can't wait to go back"

"I learned so much about volcanoes"

"Mr Horne cooks the best steak EVER!"

"The trip was really informative and really good fun. The activities were well planned and our guides were fantastic!"

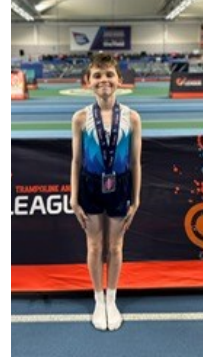




Congratulations to Jessica in Year 11, who in October performed at the British Gymnastics Championships and won a gold medal.

Congratulations to Dylan in Year 9 who competed at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield in the National League Trampoline Championships on Saturday 14th October, winning a silver medal.

Well done to you both!

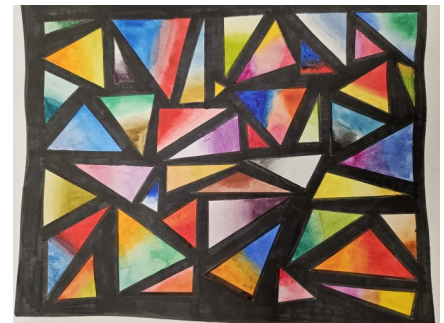


Maths Week England

During the week beginning Monday 13th November, Holy Family took part in a week of maths base events. Year 11 were invited to a maths talk online about how maths will influence their future careers.

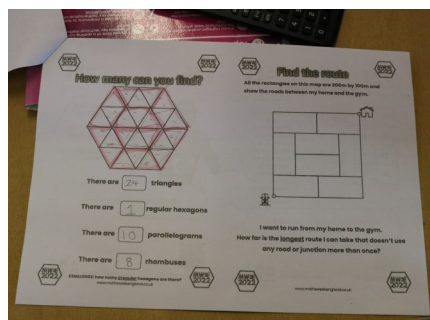


In Mrs. Connolly's art classes they created A3 pieces to celebrate the number 3!



In some maths classes they took part in [NRich Maths challenges](#), while others had maths puzzles to solve and pupils were given logons for

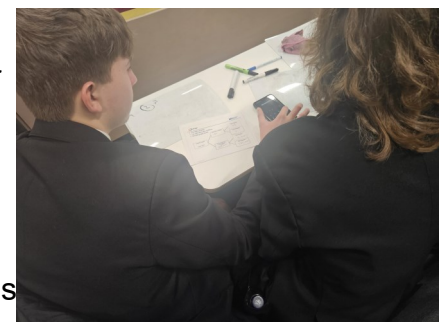
[10Ticks maths](#), which is a site to challenge your mental arithmetic skills.



Taking Maths Further

A small number of Year 11s attended a trip to Liverpool University for "Taking Maths Further".. They really got involved in the activities. In the morning there were three workshops:

- one designed around Lego and how mathematics is used to optimise the amount of profit is made
- next, the workshop looked at the theories behind 2 player games
- the third was designed around the probabilities or checking whether someone is truly psychic.



After lunch, there was a really inspiring talk from a successful mathematician and aspiring astronaut, Dr Jaclyn Bell, who discussed how maths paved the way to her success and hopefully will get her into space!

Then they competed against other schools in a Dragon Race Quiz, where they performed really well and came 4th! Keatyn said this was his favourite part of the day.



The History of Blues Music

In November, Year 8 went on a music trip to the International Slavery Museum to learn more about the history of Blues Music that started during the times of slavery, linking with our recent learning in our music lessons. We learnt about the hardships many people of colour endured for so long. We worked together to find the answers and different artefacts around the museum which sparked a lively discussions about inspirational people of colour and their impact on our society and the world we live in today. We learnt about so many important figures from Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks to Marcus Rashford and Barack Obama. We were truly upset and saddened about the injustice that had taken place and felt incredibly fortunate to be in the world we live in now where everybody is treated equally and fairly, though there still is injustice existing in the world today, but from what they have learnt we can help to make a difference.



We also visited the Museum of Liverpool, so we could develop our knowledge of music made in our City of Liverpool. We learnt about popular bands and music artists and the craze of Beatlemania surrounding the world famous band The Beatles in the 1960s. We were fascinated by all the different musical styles and history that came from our fantastic city. We learnt about incredibly talented musicians from Cilla Black, Atomic Kitten and Gerry and the Pacemakers to The La's and Frankie Goes to Hollywood. We discussed more recent musicians from our city

today such as Rebecca Ferguson and Jamie Webster who stand out in our times today for their unique and innovative music styles. We also remembered older musicians from our unique city who made such remarkable, pivotal contributions and achievements to the music culture and generated new musical perspectives.

Our trip has made an immense impact on our musical education and built strong knowledge for our future learning. We have discovered that music has made strong foundations of our culture and has unanimously impacted the way we are as a community and as such a great city. By Grace and Ava Year 8



Year 11 took part in a transition event with Year 13, to help them make their choices for post 16 education. They met with Year 13 students to gain advice and guidance on Sixth Form choices. The Year 13's did an excellent job of giving advice and guidance from a student perspective.



Performing Arts trip to London

Our journey kicked off with mesmerising theatrical performances of "Wicked" and "The Lion King" in the illustrious West End. The students thoroughly enjoyed the shows, and the vibrant atmosphere added to the overall excitement. The West End restaurants provided a delightful culinary experience, enhancing the trip's enjoyment.

Exploring cultural and artistic facets, we ventured to iconic locations such as the Globe Theatre, the National Theatre, and Shrek's Adventure. The visit to Shakespeare's Globe was a particular highlight, with acting classes held within the historic theatre itself. The combination of workshops, art galleries, and immersive experiences created a rich tapestry of learning and entertainment.

Notably, the engagement of both Year 10 and Year 11 students was exceptional, and their enthusiasm was palpable throughout the trip. The success of this endeavour reflects the dedication and planning of the Drama department, making it a truly fantastic and memorable experience for all involved.



Visiting local Artist - John Charles



We were lucky enough to have an amazing local artist - John Charles come in and talk to our Key Stage 4 Art students. The students got so much from him and were completely blown away by his talents and work. He was able to discuss his journey into the Art world and give guidance to the students about their own work. We were hugely grateful to John for giving up his time to come and talk to our students.

London Art trip - We had a great time down in London, visiting the art galleries. It was an excellent opportunity for the students to physically see some of the very famous and well known paintings that we have previously discussed in art and to appreciate all the different types of art that was exhibited. We had such an adventure negotiating the hustle and bustle of London life especially when we had to get 55 students on and off the tube - but we survived and the students were so well behaved.



Christmas Cards - Once again the Art students have created their annual Christmas Card design and this year they were beautiful. A big well done to all who got involved in the process of making them as we raised nearly £200 for The White Chapel Charity.

Geography Department Ainsdale sand dune investigation

This October our wonderful Year 11 completed their data collection for their sand dune study. For October the pupils were blessed with fantastic warm weather, and after a long walk along the Sefton coast enjoyed an ice cream after all their hard work.

Merry Christmas from all the Geography team.



Attendance

Congratulations to 120 pupils in years 7-11 who have achieved 100% attendance this half term and to 80 pupils who have received a certificate for most improved attendance. Each of these students has received a certificate and has been entered into a draw for Amazon vouchers.

The winners of the best form attendance were 7BB, 8GM, 9PJA, 10LE and 11EP. Each of the winning forms will receive a festive treat for the form to share.

Well done, everyone.

Attendance ladder

How much is your child missing?

100%	0 days off school	0 lessons missed	Perfect!
97%	Equates to 5 days off school each year	Equates to approx. 25 lessons missed	Good
95%	Equates to 10 days off school each year	Equates to approx. 50 lessons missed	Slight concern
90%	Equates to 20 days off school each year	Equates to approx. 100 lessons missed	Concern
85%	Equates to 30 days off school each year	Equates to approx. 150 lessons missed	Major concern

LJMU Step-Up Programme

The LJMU Step-Up Programme has been running for a number of years. This programme, which is fully funded by Liverpool John Moores University, offers visits to the University and the opportunity to attend workshops in school. These activities are available to a select cohort of 25 students in Year 9, 10, 11 and 6th form. Once pupils complete the programme and attend all sessions, they qualify for a reduced offer of a place on a degree programme at Liverpool John Moores University. In November, we welcomed a new Year 9 cohort onto the programme and welcomed back Year 10 and 11 with sessions which looked at goals and aspirations.

Year 11 Work Experience

In September, Year 11 completed a week's work experience. Companies hosting the placements included: Liverpool Football Club, Berry Street Motors, Pharmacon, St William of York Primary School, Plaza Cinema, Rufford Vets, University of Liverpool, HMRC, Crosby Library, Prose on Pixels, and many more.

We had fabulous feedback from the companies they went out to and some were so impressed with our pupils that a few were offered apprenticeships or jobs when they leave school. Pupils were able to get a good understanding about the world of work and potential career paths. If you would like to find out more about our work experience programme, please email

careers@hollyfamilyhighschool.co.uk

The best way to spread Christmas cheer is to sing loud for all to hear...

The Holy Family Choir has been spreading the Christmas spirit through music over the past few weeks. We have enjoyed singing Christmas songs and bringing festive cheer at time which can be difficult for some people.

First, the whole choir visited the Royal Hospital and performed in the foyer for patients, staff, and visitors. Not only did we raise some smiles we raised some money to purchase gifts for patients who will be spending Christmas time in the hospital. We sang a selection of carols such as "Oh Holy Night" and "Away in a Manger", and we also performed some popular Christmas hits for example "Merry Christmas Everyone".

Then, some of the choir visited two care homes to bring joy and happiness to the elderly residents. Acacia Court, where an ex-pupil is the manager and Byron Court where the events coordinator is an ex-pupil – we sang a programme of Christmassy music which got everyone into the Christmas mood (and there was even some dancing!). One of the choir members said, "It was heartwarming to see the smiles on their faces".

It was a privilege to spend time sharing music and joy this Christmas, the Holy Family choir hopes everyone has a "Merry little Christmas" filled with peace and love. By Zoë Bennett 10EF



Year 7 Sleepover

Once again, the school hall was filled with excited Year 7s taking part in the annual school sleepover. The aim of the sleepover is to raise money for the Indian Hope Orphanage and this year saw a record amount of money being raised – over £3000 on the night and this will hopefully increase to over £4000 when all the pledged money is received.



The night's activities began with the forms coming together to make their donations followed by a 'Bongo's Bingo' style quiz. After a break for soup, the quiz continued late into the night, then pupils rolled out their sleeping bags to watch Christmas films on the big screen.

The break of day saw lots of bleary eyed, sleep-deprived pupils and staff head to the canteen for breakfast. The next school day felt long for all those involved but there was a fantastic sense of achievement knowing how the children in India will benefit from our night of fun. It is a night that Year 7 will remember long after they have left Holy Family.



Finally, we must say a huge thank you to Mr Jamieson, Mr McTeague and Mr Walmsley for their organisation and to the staff who supported the event. But the biggest thanks must go to all the pupils and their families for supporting this charity so generously. Well done, Year 7!

Pensioners' Christmas Party

On Friday 8th December the school hosted the annual Pensioners' Christmas Party. The school, pupils and staff welcomed visitors from Nazareth House Care Home and James Horrygan Court. Year 10 ambassadors alongside staff put on a Christmas Party for the residents to remember. This included plenty of tea, coffee and pastries, Bingo, a performance from the school choir, and even a gift from Santa and his Elf. It was amazing to see the students who had worked so hard enjoying themselves and it was because of this the residents had a brilliant time. There was even time for some dancing! We would like to say thank you to both care homes, we look forward to seeing them again next year and wish everyone at Nazareth House and James Horrygan Court a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



The ski trip to Passo Tonale, Italy—December 2023

Forty five Year 9's spent last week in Italy skiing. There was lots of snow when we arrived and it snowed during the week giving the children excellent conditions. The pupils all travelled up in the gondola to 3000m, the top of the Glacier, for some breathtaking pictures.

The pupils skiing improved every day and on the last afternoon they took part in a slalom race on the timed gates. Each ski group got medals for 1st, 2nd and 3rd and there was also a special prize for star of the week nominated by the ski instructor.

The Year 9's smashed the karaoke night with a special mention to Jake Livingstone for his performance of Dignity, Deacon Blue with the staff. Very impressed!

We finished the week with a disco and we were all very sad to be traveling down the mountain on Friday as the sun was shining and the snow looked incredible. I think they all have the ski bug now and would love to go back.



Visitors to Holy Family



Tim Abraham speaking about his career in the media and as a journalist



Visit from the very inspirational and talented Alex Krol



Kooth's live chat hours over the holiday period

24th December (Christmas Eve) - 4pm - 8pm
 25th December (Christmas Day) - 4pm - 8pm
 26th December (Boxing Day) - 4pm - 8pm
 31st December (New Years Eve) - 4pm - 8pm
 1st January (New Years Day) - 4pm - 8pm

Other days over the holiday period will follow our usual live chat hours of 12pm - 10pm on weekdays and 6pm - 10pm on weekends.

kooth.com



Dates to Remember

22nd December 2023	Term ends—years 7-8 at 12.00pm, rest of school 12.15pm
Monday 8th January 2024	Spring term starts
Wednesday 10th January	Year 11 Campus Visit to LJMU 9.30am -3pm
Tuesday 23rd January	Year 11 Mock results day
Thursday 25th January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 6th—Thursday 8th February	Music trip to Manchester
Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024	Half term
Wednesday 28th February	5.30pm Year 7—PGL Parents' meeting
Thursday 29th February	Year 12/13 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 6th– Friday 8th March	Year 7 PGL Trip
Wednesday 20th March	Careers Fair
Thursday 21st March	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 27th March	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Thursday 29th March – Friday 12th April 2024	Easter break

