



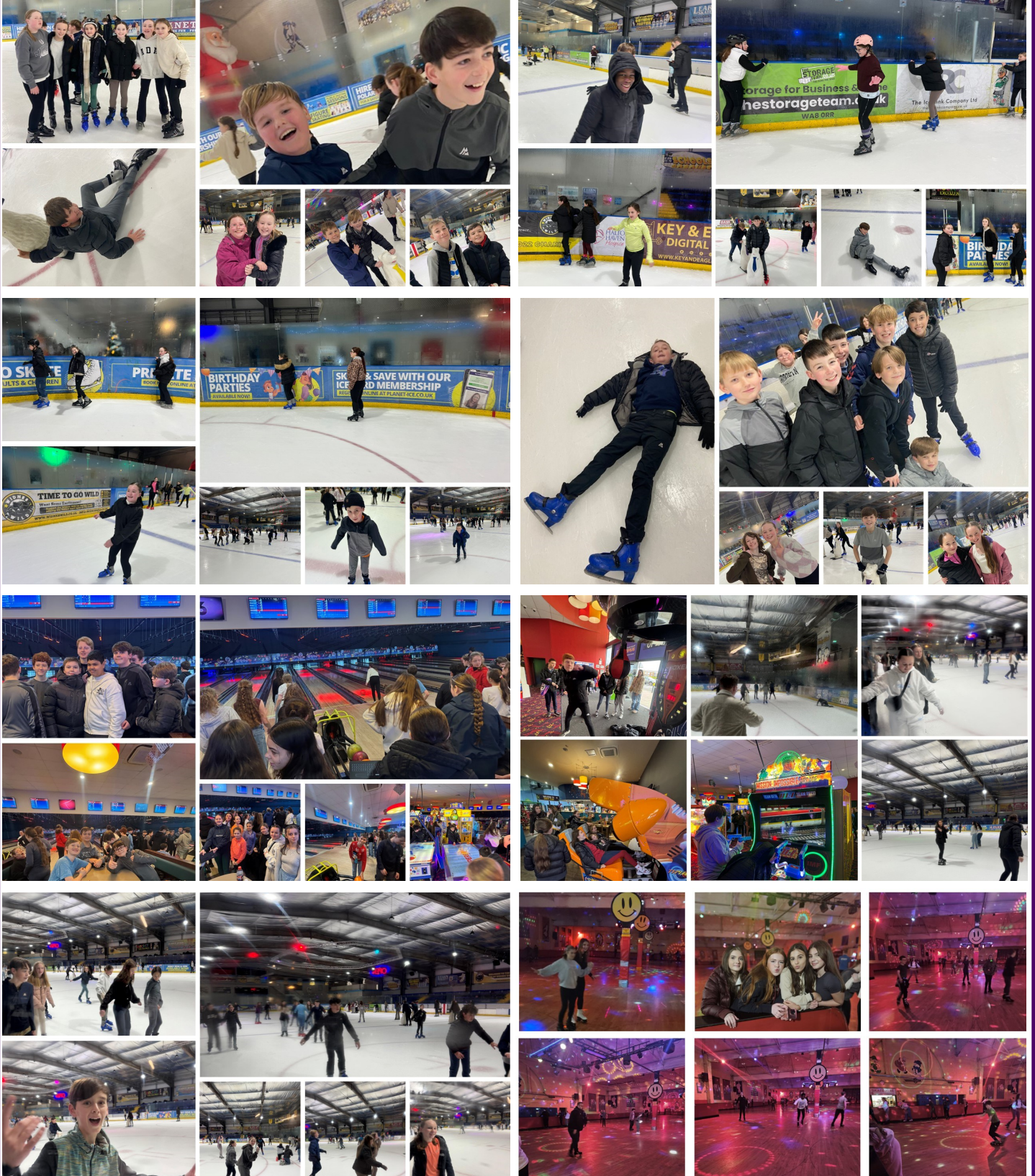
Holy Family Catholic High School

Christmas 2024 Newsletter



December 2024

Fun at the rewards trips—ice skating, bowling and roller blading On Wednesday 18th December 2024

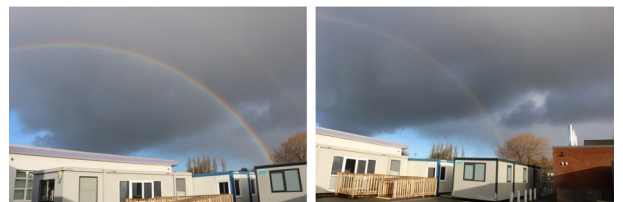




The Christmas Market



The Christmas Walk and Church Service



Team building for our new Year 7 at CHET

9th & 10th September

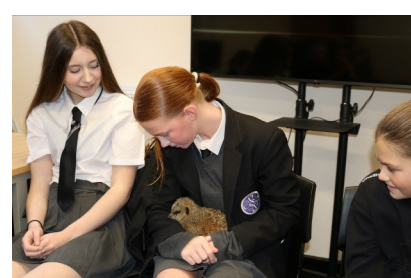
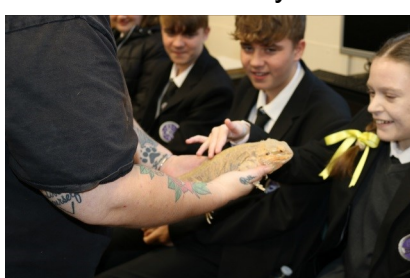


World Mental Health Day— Wear it Loud, Wear it Proud! #HelloYellow

On Thursday, 10th October, we recognized World Mental Health Day. Mental health challenges affect us all at times, and coping can be difficult when things get tough. No young person should feel alone in their struggles, and together, we can make a difference.

In October, our school community—students and staff alike—demonstrated tremendous support by wearing yellow and contributing what they could. Through various fundraising activities such as cake sales, a Mario Kart competition, and visits from therapy dogs and a mobile zoo, we raised funds for Young Minds. These donations will go towards creating vital mental health resources, advocating for local support hubs, and running their helpline. As always, our students went above and beyond, and we couldn't be more proud of their commitment to such an important cause.

"For World Mental Health Day, we raised an impressive £668.95 for the mental health charity Young Minds. A heartfelt thank you to all the students for their generous donations and enthusiasm in getting involved. We are especially proud of the openness with which they shared their own mental health struggles and the ways they take care of themselves. Your courage sets a powerful example, and we are incredibly proud of each one of you." Mrs Skillen



Houses of Parliament

A-level history students and the 6th form student leadership team went on a tour of the Houses of Parliament in October. They spent time in the House of Lords, the House of Commons and the old palaces. They saw for themselves how democracy works in the UK.

They also enjoyed a sightseeing walking tour of some of London's landmarks including Downing Street, Trafalgar Square, and the M&M shop!



Sixth Form Science trip to Copenhagen

The trip started off with a trip to Rosenborg palace and the food markets at Torvehallerne, after which we took a short walk through the city, with a meal at the Hard Rock Café, followed by an evening of minigolf.

Day 2 consisted of a visit to Christiansborg palace, then a canal cruise, followed by a million steps up the spire of the Church of Our Saviour (only 402, but it felt like more). We had lunch at Christiania free town, followed by a walk to the Medical Science Museum via Nyhavn and the Natural History Museum, with a show at the planetarium. Mr Horne cooked dinner for us all before we spent the evening bowling.

Day 3 started with a trip to Tivoli gardens and sampling traditional Danish cuisine, Smorrebrod, open sandwiches. We then visited the round tower and stargazing at the observatory.

Day 4 was an awesome trip to the zoo.



Sixth Form trip to Poland

Students visited the mountain town of Zakopane, where they went up the funicular, to stunning views of the Tatra Mountain range. Whilst in Zakopane, students got the opportunity to relax and unwind in a thermal spa.

On the second day, students were a credit to the school and their families whilst we visited both Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps. A humbling and poignant experience for us all.

On our last day students are enjoyed the sights of the historic city of Krakow.

Many thanks Year 13 for a memorable and enjoyable trip. Finally, a huge thank you to Becky Bell for her outstanding organisational skills.



Frozen Jr. at Holy Family Catholic High School

Holy Family Catholic High School's production of *Frozen Jr.* was nothing short of magical, capturing the hearts of the audience with its dazzling performances, vibrant sets, and a palpable sense of teamwork and dedication.

The show brought the beloved Disney story to life with a delightful balance of humour, emotion, and spectacle. From the very first note of "Let It Go," it was clear the cast had poured their hearts into the production. The young actors gave remarkable performances, particularly the students in the roles of Elsa and Anna. Their chemistry on stage was undeniable, and their vocal talents were showcased beautifully in the show's iconic songs.

Special mention must be made of the supporting cast, whose comedic timing and character work added depth and charm to the performance. Olaf, in particular, was a crowd favourite, delivering laughs and warmth in equal measure. Meanwhile, the technical crew ensured the show was visually stunning, with clever lighting and special effects that evoked the magical atmosphere of Arendelle.

The costumes and set design deserve high praise. The intricate details—from Elsa's sparkling ice dress to the wintry backdrop—added authenticity and wonder, immersing the audience completely.

What stood out most was the collective effort of the students and staff involved. It was evident that months of hard work and collaboration went into creating a performance of such high calibre. The production not only showcased individual talent but also demonstrated the school's strong community spirit and commitment to fostering creativity in its students.

The finale was met with rapturous applause, a testament to the production's success in enchanting its audience. *Frozen Jr.* at Holy Family Catholic High School wasn't just a performance; it was an unforgettable celebration of talent, teamwork, and storytelling.

Bravo to everyone involved! This production has set a high standard for future school performances.



Year 10 Geography trip to Ainsdale and Crosby

Year 10 were a pleasure to take out of school this November. They showed fantastic understanding of sand dune succession and were able to collect all the data very effectively. We had no mobile phones lost this year thank goodness. I was especially impressed with their interest in identifying plants on the Sefton Coast, especially the difference between Marram grass and Lyme grass.

Later in the day at lunch our lovely group decided to share a few crumbs with the birds that, unfortunately, resulted in a few kids having to clean their coats of bird poo!

It was an excellent opportunity for our Year 10s to understand their coastline more and the processes that are happening upon it.

Well done Year 10 for being wonderful.

Mrs V Taylor



Mather Avenue Police Training Academy

Year 13 Criminology and Forensic students were fortunate to be allowed to attend Mather Avenue Police Training Academy.

Students took part in the following seminars:

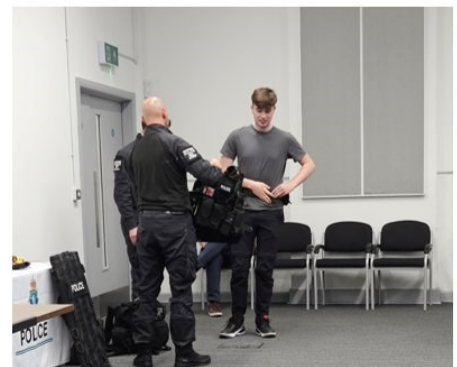
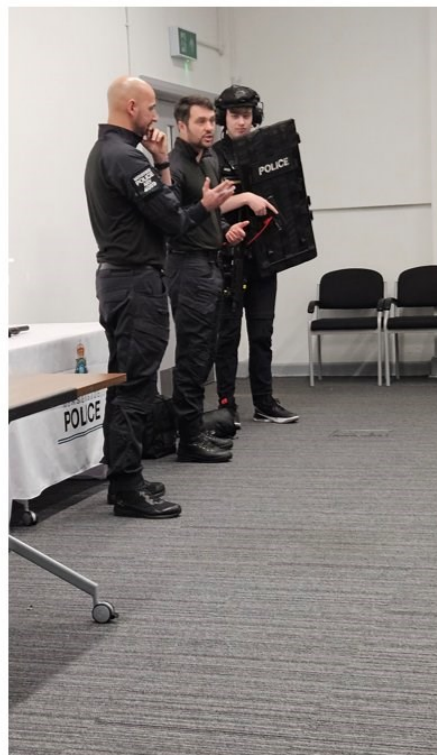
- Road Safety and traffic offences as crimes.
- County Lines Investigations
- A hands on workshop with Merseyside Armed Police Officers, where students learned about firearms and deployment of officers
- Use of forensic evidence in police investigations

A highlight of the day was a surprise visit from Justice, a police patrol dog in training, who fascinated us all with his obsession with his toy.

Huge thanks to Detective Sergeant Ged Farley, his team and Tom Farley, for organising such a fascinating experience for us all.

I am off to measure the tread on my tyres, as we all now know how to do this now! Well done Year 13, you were a pleasure to take out today.

Mrs Critchley and Mrs Kirby



Sixth Form Q&A Speed Dating Style

On 20th November, Year 11 took part in a "speed chatting" event, with Year 13, where they met during PD and had the opportunity to ask Year 13 questions about preparing for their exams, applying for their next steps and for opinions about some of the subject choices available post 16. Well done to you all.

Year 11 Tutors and Sixth Form Team



Edge Hill University Visits

A group of our Year 8 pupils spent the day touring the Edge Hill University campus on 15th November.

On the 21st November we took forty of our Year 13 A-level Science students to Edge Hill University to complete practical elements of the course. They extracted DNA from four suspects in a mock crime and then amplified the DNA samples using a technique called PCR. We will be back after Christmas to analyse the samples and view the suspects' DNA. They students were exemplary and displayed some excellent practical skills.



Our Year 9 students had an amazing day at Edge Hill University on Wednesday 4th December.

They toured the campus, learned why students choose it, and pitched app ideas to improve student life.

Future innovators in the making!



Merseyside Police knife and gun crime workshop

Year 9 pupils recently took part in an informative workshop on knife and gun crime, led by Merseyside Police. The students were engaged from the very start, gaining valuable insights into the impact of knife and gun crime on our communities.

They learned important lessons about staying safe, avoiding exploitation, and the vital work of the firearms department in keeping us all protected.

A huge thank you to Merseyside Police for delivering this crucial session and helping to equip our students with the knowledge they need to make informed choices.



Mission Chaos – Book Launch

Fifteen of our talented students have reached an impressive milestone by having their short stories published in a new anthology titled **Mission Chaos: Words of Hope**. Students completed a mini saga with a limit of 100 words and competed against school across the UK.

Each student gave a unique perspective of chaos and disruption, weaving together stories filled with compelling characters, unpredictable twists, and imaginative worlds. The collection showcases the creative potential of our young writers and marks the culmination of imagination and dedication.

To mark their success the students were invited to a Breakfast Book Launch, where they read their stories and celebrated each other's work. We are incredibly proud of our young writers and their achievements! Copies of **Mission Chaos: Words of Hope** are now available to read in English classrooms.



London trip (27th—29th November)

The recent London trip was an unforgettable experience for our students, filled with enriching activities and memorable moments. A blend of education, culture, and entertainment, which left everyone thoroughly impressed.

The journey began with an early start from Liverpool Lime Street, setting an exciting tone for the days ahead. Upon arrival in London, the group headed to the Royal National Hotel, which served as a comfortable base for the trip. After dropping off our luggage, the adventure truly began with a visit to Shakespeare's Globe. The guided tour and workshop here were undoubtedly a highlight, immersing the students in the world of Elizabethan theatre. The interactive workshop allowed them to explore the Bard's works creatively, fostering an appreciation for literature and performance. Lunch and a leisurely exploration of iconic landmarks such as Big Ben and Buckingham Palace gave the group a chance to enjoy the city's atmosphere. In the evening, we headed to Bella Italia on the Strand for a delicious meal. The staff's warm hospitality and the pre-planned menu ensured everything ran smoothly. Later, the students were treated to an awe-inspiring performance of Hamilton at the Victoria Palace Theatre. The electrifying production, filled with powerful storytelling and outstanding music, captivated everyone and sparked lively discussions afterwards.



Day two began with a hearty breakfast, preparing the group for another packed day. The London Dungeon visit provided a thrilling and educational dive into the city's darker history, complete with chilling tales and engaging interactive experiences. Following lunch at St James's Park, where the group enjoyed picturesque views and a chance to relax, the students participated in workshops based on Hamilton. These sessions included stage combat and choreography, offering a behind-the-scenes glimpse into theatrical production. The students embraced the opportunity to develop new skills and enhance their understanding of performance art.

The evening was equally exciting, with a buffet dinner at Pizza Hut in Leicester Square, followed by a stunning performance of Les Misérables at the Sondheim Theatre. The timeless tale, combined with powerful performances, left the group deeply moved. It was an unforgettable cultural experience that reinforced the importance of storytelling and the performing arts.

The final day began with breakfast and a visit to the National Theatre for a guided tour. This provided an insightful look into one of the country's leading cultural institutions, highlighting the intricacies of staging world-class productions. Lunch at Jubilee Gardens, with views of the London Eye and the Thames, rounded off the trip beautifully before the journey home.

Throughout the trip, the students were engaged, well-behaved, and eager to learn, which made it a joy to supervise them. This experience not only deepened the students' understanding of drama, history, and art but also strengthened bonds and fostered a sense of teamwork. The trip was a resounding success, leaving both students and staff with cherished memories. We look forward to more opportunities like this to inspire and enrich our young learners.



Exciting News!

Our school is partnering with Merseyside Youth Association (MYA) to deliver the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) programme, which empowers young people to challenge harmful attitudes and build resilience.

Students who have volunteered as MVP Mentors recently completed their training with Lucy from MYA. They'll now deliver sessions to help peers tackle bullying, violence, and mental health challenges in a positive way.

For more info on MVP, visit www.educationmvp.co.uk.



Foodbank Collection

Every Christmas, the community of Holy Family show their caring and generous spirit by donating to our Foodbank. This year, we were overwhelmed by your donations and were able to support not only numerous families in our school community but also the foodbank at the Irenaeus Centre in Waterloo. Thank you for your support.

Irenaeus Centre

Delivering donations from the food bank appeal to the Irenaeus Centre in Waterloo was a truly humbling experience. The Irenaeus Centre, part of the Irenaeus Project, focuses on spirituality, outreach, and support. It serves as a retreat centre and a place of welcome, hospitality, and prayer, helping people recognise the presence of God in their lives and deepen their awareness through opportunities for prayer and reflection.



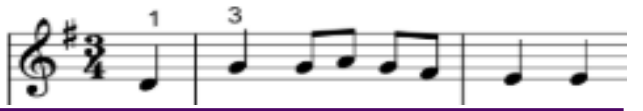
The centre is housed in the former St. Thomas of Canterbury Church in Waterloo. This church building provides a warm and welcoming space for everyone, offering free tea, coffee, and a listening service. Mo's Food Cupboard at the Irenaeus Centre is a vital resource for those in need. Named in loving memory of Maureen Knight, who played a key role in its establishment, the food cupboard provides a selection of food items and toiletries to anyone who requires assistance.

The volunteers were amazed by the generosity of our pupils, and we were able to fully stock Mo's Food Cupboard. They asked me to pass on their heartfelt thanks to the staff, pupils, and their families for their donations, which will make a significant difference to the lives of people in need.

Irenaeus is a truly special place at the heart of our community.



Music News



Sefton Youth Jazz Orchestra

This year I joined the Sefton Youth Jazz Orchestra and have been extremely fortunate to have performed in two concerts so far. In the orchestra I am a percussionist and play the drum kit alongside other incredible musicians. I have developed many skills and learnt so much as part of the band including reading sheet music, thinking on my feet, and adapting to play with a live band instead of tracks. It has been difficult to learn to play in a group, but I have worked hard and have seen a huge improvement in my performance skills. The most recent concert I took part in was a charity concert at St Johns Church where we performed a range of Jazz, Latin and Mambo songs, it was an unbelievable evening, and I thoroughly enjoyed performing to raise money for those in need.

Zoë Year 11



The Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Session Orchestra

Every Tuesday I go to the Friary and to rehearse with the band. This is not a normal band though, it has trumpets, trombones, saxophones, to go with the normal instruments found in a band such as piano, guitars and drums. I am a singer in the band, with five other singers, who are really talented. Our most recent gig was at Leaf, on Bold street in Liverpool, singing songs like Are You With Me, written by a local artist, alongside popular songs such as My Future by Billie Eilish. On the day, we rehearsed a couple of hours before the performance, and did our sound check. In between, we would chat and relax, and play games, which really helps us to get to know each other. I opened the set with 'Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town' and, after many more songs, the band finished with 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' and the audience really loved it. I am now looking forward to our next gig at Liverpool International Music Festival, I hope to see many of you guys there! Charlotte Year 8



Choir at Royal Liverpool Hospital

Over the last week, two groups from the Holy Family Choir visited the Royal Liverpool Hospital and sang for the visitors, patients and staff who were there at the time. They stood in the atrium, raising money for those who would be in hospital this Christmastime by singing Christmas carols. They arrived at the hospital in the morning and made their way to the atrium where they quickly set up and began singing for everyone to hear. They received many smiles and people were even singing and dancing along. Most importantly, there were many kind donations made which would all go towards an amazing cause. All the students who participated in the trip really enjoyed seeing the cheer and smiles they were spreading and were delighted by all the kind compliments that were made afterwards. I had the pleasure of being one of the pupils on this trip and I personally have realised how lucky I am to be around my family and friends at Christmas, and I'm sure everyone else would say the same. I'm so thrilled by the fact that we got to do something we all love while still doing it for a good cause.

Overall, everyone had an amazing time, and we are incredibly grateful that we all had the opportunity to do this for others. It was a fantastic experience we will all remember for a long time, and I'm sure everyone would love to do it again. We hope everyone enjoyed the carols we sang for them! Ava Year 9



Music successes—well done to you all!

The following pupils in Year 8 have achieved full marks in EVERY Music homework this half term: Mia-Rae Sargison, Patrick Holt, Alice Moss, Wisdom Prince Sam, Eva Gallagher, Evie McIntyre, Layla Siadankay

The following pupils in Year 9 have achieved full marks in EVERY Music homework this half term: Ava Middleman, Alfie Ramsden, Charlie Campbell, Daniel Greenwood, Ethan Howells, Ethan Evans, Poppy Hamlin, Caleb Pownell, Amelia McCole, Holly McCready

These Year 9 pupils have achieved full marks for EVERY Music homework from September to December:

Paul Roberts, Lottie Brockett, Charlie Dunn, Madelyn Davis, Jack Giles



Choir at Byron Court



On Tuesday 17th December, we left school at 12:30 to go to Byron Court with the amazing choir. After an enjoyable bit of bus karaoke, we went inside to sing. Everyone at Byron Court was so kind and sweet, especially the staff, and all of the residents enjoyed our music and said that we sang beautifully. They especially loved the song 'Jingle Bells', as they all had bells to shake along! After singing we all had conversations with the residents, who were all so polite and friendly. The woman who I talked to personally complimented our singing and told me all about how she was a nurse and a teacher. The staff were very generous and offered us all refreshments. It was wonderful to bring so much happiness to the people at Byron Court and to spread the Christmas spirit! Maisie Farrell, Year 10

Year 10 Art students have made Christmas cards this year to raise money for Hughie's Christmas Book Appeal



Christmas Pensioners Party

On Thursday 12th December Holy Family held their annual Pensioners Christmas Party. We had over twenty residents and carers come from Nazareth House care home in Crosby. The residents enjoyed a day of afternoon tea and celebrations including a performance by Mrs Pellow's choir, who were absolutely incredible, an extremely impressive dance by Miss Burke's Year 7, 8 and 9 dance troupe and Mr Kinsella's Bingo.

Year 12 Health and Social Care students had written pen pal letters to residents prior to the party, so had the opportunity to meet them at the event. The Year 10 Ambassadors also took part helping out during the day. The party saw plenty of dancing and even a visit from Santa!

We would like to thank Nazareth House again for coming along, we wish everyone there a very Merry Christmas and are looking forward to seeing them next year!



Sixth Form Christmas Party

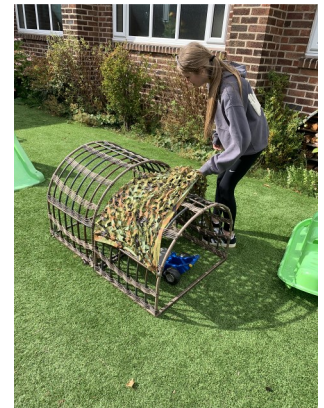
On Tuesday 17th December Sixth Form rounded off a busy term with the annual Christmas Party. As always, staff and students did not disappoint with their ingenious fancy dress outfits and party games. The day was followed by a trip to York Christmas markets, where students were a credit to themselves and their families. Thank you to all of our fabulous students and the Sixth Form Team, who have organised our fun events this week. Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas.



Careers News

Work Experience

In September, all of our Year 11 pupils had the opportunity to go out on work experience for a week. Pupils went to a wide range of placements including garages, hairdressers, nurseries, vets, hospitals, HMRC and libraries. Pupils came back with a real buzz and were excited about their future prospects.



Whiston Safari

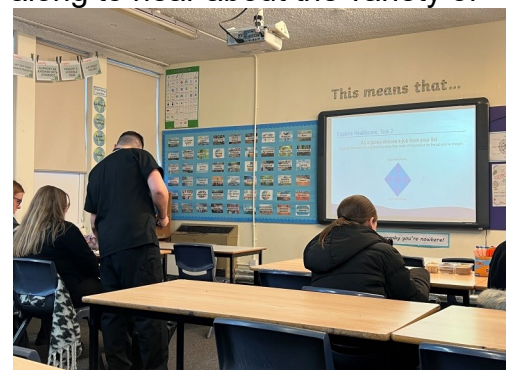
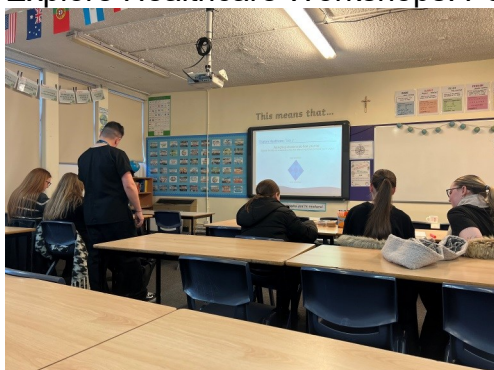
In October, pupils from Year 10 and 11 who have expressed an interest in a career in the NHS went with Megan, the careers advisor, to Whiston Hospital to a careers fair looking at the variety of careers within the NHS. Pupils got to visit stands giving them tasters of the types of jobs within the NHS.



NHS Careers

In November, we welcomed in AJ Proudler from the NHS. This was the first in a course of monthly Explore Healthcare Workshops. Pupils from Year 10 to 13 came along to hear about the variety of jobs available in the NHS and routes into these jobs.

Future workshops will look at skills such as basic life support and patient assessment.



Attendance

This term has been a long one with many seasonal bugs around but many pupils have continued to maintain their excellent attendance. Well done to the forms with the best attendance below, who will have a treat in the New Year.

Year 7	7CMC	97.0%
Year 8	8BRB	93.0%
Year 9	9PJ	92.1%
Year 10	10VT	93.3%
Year 11	11ARO	94.7%

Please remember you can check your child's attendance on ClassCharts. You can also report absences and upload medical evidence on ClassCharts. Below is reminder of our absence procedures.

- For each day of absence please report the absence as early as possible, ideally via ClassCharts. Please give as much information as possible as to the reason for the absence.
- If you have medical evidence please submit this via ClassCharts. Please note, if your child's attendance is below 90% we cannot authorise further absences due to illness without medical evidence.
- Please endeavour to make appointments outside of school hours. Where this is not possible we will require details of the appointment. Pupils should come to school before and after the appointment if possible. Please let us know what time your child will be being picked up so that we can make sure they are ready to leave on time.

Absence tab on Classchart

Clicking on the Absences tab will display a list of absences that you have reported, once you have reported them. This includes when the absence took place, the reason for the absence and who acknowledged your absence report.

To report an absence, click on the **Report new absence** button.

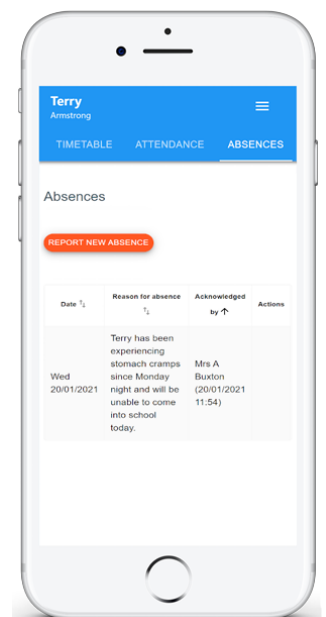
Next, enter the details of the reported absence into the form provided.

You can also include up to 5 files in your absence report as supporting evidence.

To do this, click on the **Attach supporting evidence** button and select the files of your choice.

Click on the **Submit** button to send your pupil's absence report.

The absence can be edited and deleted until it has been acknowledged by a teacher.





Coping at Christmas

Christmas can be tough. That's why it's important to know there's always someone you can talk to.



Mon-Sun 9am- 12am
Call 0808 196 3550 or
0151 293 3577

Crisis Team



Call 111 and
select option 2
for mental
health crisis

NHS 111



HOPELINE UK 24/7
0800 068 4141
Text 8824 or email
pat@papyrus-uk.org

Papyrus



24/7 support
Text 85258

Shout



24/7 support
116 123 or email
jo@samaritans.org

Samaritans



24/7 online support
or Text
YM to 85258

YoungMinds

Visit our school website, for more mental health and wellbeing advice and information.



Christmas Crafts

To celebrate all of their hard work this term, pupils from the BEST Learning Base in Year 7, 8 and 9 were invited to join in a Christmas Craft session. The pupils painted baubles and other Christmas decorations as well as designing their own Christmas cards. A festive time was had by all!



Fr. Dunstan Harrington

A few weeks ago we learnt the sad news that Fr. Dunstan Harrington had died, he was a cherished priest who devoted his life to serving our school community. Fr. Dunstan's unwavering faith, tireless work ethic and compassionate spirit touched the lives of many.

For many years, Fr. Dunstan was a loyal friend and mentor to the students, staff, and families of Holy Family. His life was a testament to the parable of the talents, using his gifts to serve others and multiplying the love and faith within our community. As we mourn his loss, we take comfort in the words of the parable: "Well done, good and faithful servant; come and share your master's happiness."

Fr. Dunstan had a long association with Holy Family, participating in the first Duke of Edinburgh expedition, supporting the RE department in numerous ways, and baptising many of the teachers' children. He always had a funny story to tell or a joke to share.

Fr. Dunstan Harrington will be deeply missed, but his legacy of faith, kindness, and service will continue to inspire us all. May he rest in eternal peace.



Maths Coaching Programme

Our Maths Coaching Programme is a form of Student Leadership in Mathematics. This initiative aims to not only inspire students to excel in the subject but also equip them with the leadership skills needed to guide others on their mathematical journeys.

The primary goal of the programme is to create a community of motivated students who can collaborate, lead, and support their peers and younger pupils in the pursuit of mathematical knowledge. With an emphasis on teamwork, mentoring, and problem-solving, this programme offers students an invaluable chance to become leaders in an area that is both intellectually challenging and essential in many fields of study.

Over the last nine months, our Year 10 Maths Coaches have been working with a group of Year 8 students. They have worked on the four basic rules of number, geometry skills as well as the basics of algebra.

For students this programme offers numerous benefits that extend beyond academic growth:

Developing leadership skills: Through teaching and mentoring, our students improve their communication, time management, and problem-solving abilities—skills that will be valuable in any career.

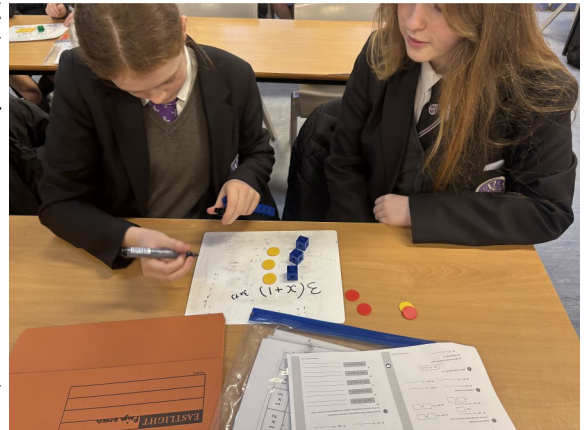
Building confidence: Helping others boosts self-esteem and reinforces the student's own understanding of the subject.

Fostering a passion for mathematics: By being part of a community of like-minded peers, our students nurture their love for mathematics and remain motivated to tackle new challenges.

Preparing for the future: Whether a student is considering a career in mathematics, engineering, economics, or any field where analytical skills are essential, the programme will give them a strong foundation in both leadership and technical skills.

Why is this programme important?

Mathematics can sometimes be seen as a difficult subject, but its importance is undeniable. It is the foundation for many aspects of modern life, from technology to finance, healthcare, and beyond. By cultivating leadership in maths students, the programme encourages the spread of enthusiasm for the subject whilst helping to create a supportive community.



**Congratulations
to our Artists
of the term
Maisie &
Joseph (both from
Year 10)**



**THANK
YOU**

**HOLY FAMILY HIGH SCHOOL
YOU RAISED £60.08 FOR OUR 2024 POPPY APPEAL**

Your contribution helps us to support the Armed Forces community, past and present.

The RBL Team
Crosby Branch

Dates to Remember

Monday 6th January 2025	Spring term starts at 8.45am
Tuesday 14th January	Year 11 Mock Results Day
Thursday 23rd January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Monday 3rd February	6 th Form Mocks
Tuesday 4th February	Walk in White - Roy Castle fundraiser
Tuesday 4th—Thursday 6th February	Manchester Music Trip
Thursday 13th February (TBC)	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February	Half term
Wednesday 5th—Friday 7th March	Year 7 PGL trip
Thursday 13th March	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday 20th March	Year 9 Options Evening
Monday 31st March	Spring Arts Evening
Thursday 3rd April	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Friday 4th April	Term finishes at 12.15pm

