



Holy Family Catholic High School

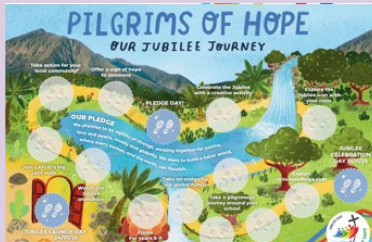
Easter 2025 Newsletter

April 2025



Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Every 25 years, the Catholic Church holds a Jubilee Year. All members of the global Church family are called to participate in this Holy Year. It is a time to grow in our faith and prayer life. A time too to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. Pope Francis has chosen "Pilgrims of Hope" as the theme for the 2025 Jubilee, encouraging Catholics to "fan the flame of hope" and share their faith with the world.

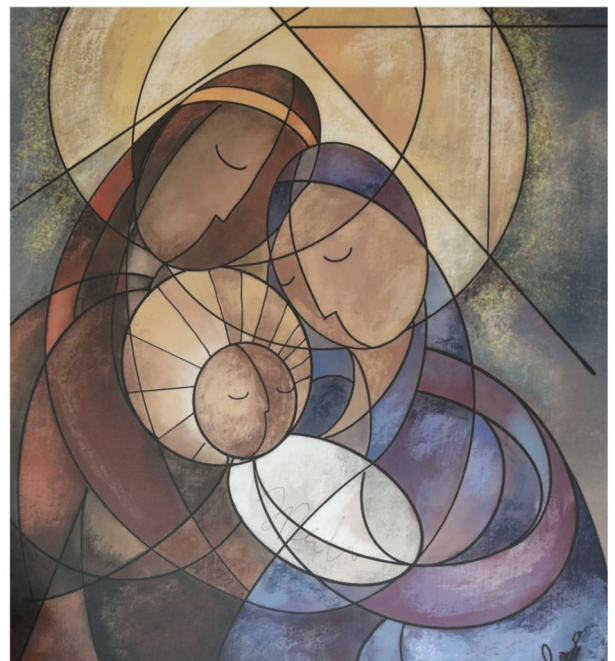


Jubilee Pledge 2025:

We are pilgrims of hope.
We walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers worldwide, sharing challenges and celebrating joys.
We promise to be agents of change, working together for justice, love and peace, locally and globally.
We want to build a fairer world, where every person, and the earth, can flourish.

As pilgrims of hope, we are on a mission to build a world where:

- We recognise the dignity of every person, loved and created by God.
- We follow the example of Jesus' love and his mission to bring good news 'to the poor'. (Luke 4)
- We work for the common good of all, understanding that our actions impact our local and global family because we are all interconnected.
- We are good stewards of the earth, knowing that the earth's gifts are for everyone, not just for a privileged few.
- We prepare a path to peace in our world, challenging the root causes of poverty and injustice.
- We speak out for debt relief, to set free those who are burdened by unjust debt.
- We work together with CAFOD and our local Caritas to be practical signs of hope and put love into action.



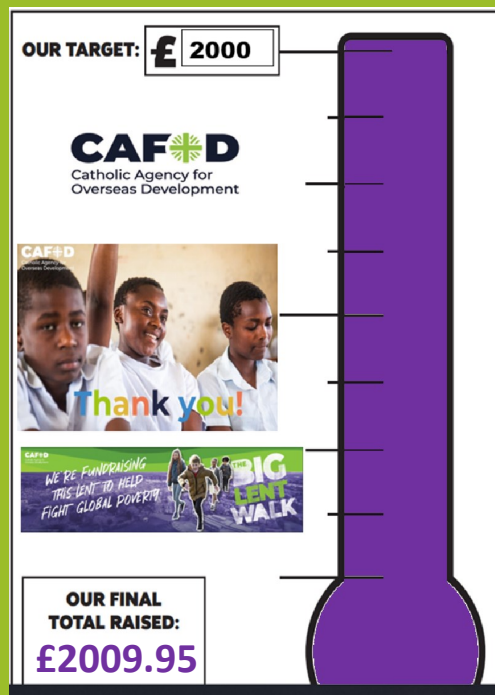
CAFOD

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Every Friday during Lent, we have had a fundraising event, with an ambitious target to raise £2000 for CAFOD, the events included;

- * Friday 14th March—Family Fast—£350.
- * Friday 21st March—cake sale—£310.
—Year 11 Charity football match—£110.
- * Friday 21st March—whole school (HF Loop) bingo—£455.
- * Thursday 3rd April—Year 11 the Big Lent Walk—£110.
- * Friday 4th April—the Big Lent Walk—£674.95.

Our final total for CAFOD is £2009.95—Well done!



Charity Football Match



Cake Sale

HF Loop Bingo



Hampers to support families in our community



The Big Walk to St. Mary's Church, Little Crosby



Thank you for all your support with our fund raising.

£3200
ROY CASTLE
WALK IN
WHITE

800
BOOKS
HUGHIE'S
HOSPITAL
APPEAL

£2500
PAPYRUS
SUMMER
FESTIVAL

£902
CRY
CAKE SALES
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

£1000
STREP A

£4000
kNOwKnifeCrime
CHRISTMAS MARKET
SEFTON RELAY
MINI MARATHON

£24,000
THANK YOU!

£4000
CANCER CHARITIES
HFCHS LOOP
STAFF & PUPILS

£668
YOUNG MINDS
MENTAL
HEALTH DAY

£275
CAFOD
FORM
DONATIONS

FOOD BANK
HFCHS COMMUNITY
IRENAEUS CENTRE

£8034 (2023/24)
Indian Hope Orphanage
Year 7 Sleepover

£60
RBS
POPPY APPEAL



Photographs from Year 7
Rewards trip on Wednesday
2nd April

Walk in White for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation

On Tuesday 4th February, pupils from Holy Family took part in the national cancer fundraising event 'Walk in White'. Pupils were sponsored for the walk and made at least a £1 donation in exchange for wearing their black school PE kit and one white item.

The pupils enjoyed their well-being walk, with a balloon arch and music playing on return. There was also cakes on sale on their return.

We raised £3,200 for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation Charity.



£3200
ROY CASTLE
WALK IN WHITE



Aerospace Careers Day at Merchant Taylors School

The aerospace engineering day provided students with a unique opportunity to explore the world of aviation, space exploration, and cutting-edge technology. They had the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities such as drone flight, VR aircraft/flight, interact with industry experts, and gain insights into potential career paths in aerospace engineering.

This experience helped to inspire individual interest in STEM subjects while giving students a real-world understanding of the skills and innovations shaping the future of flight and space travel, while gaining information and next steps and subject requirements.



Music trip to Manchester—5th-7th February

Chetham's Music School

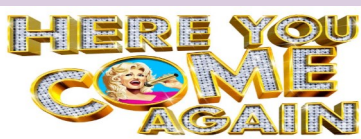
On the first day of our Manchester trip, the Year 10 music technical award students went to Chetham's music school in the heart of Manchester's Medieval Quarter. When we arrived, we were welcomed in by a lovely staff member who took us into the concert hall. In the concert hall, we sat down to watch a performance which I can only describe as absolutely fabulous. Some of the highlights were, a young boy, about Year 10, played the harp beautifully. He told us that he had only been playing for just over a year or so and he had just reached his Grade 8 (highest possible grade for a musical instrument.) There was also a young girl, around Year 6 who played the piano like no other her age. Her technique, control and expression were utterly perfect, and she deserved all the acknowledgement she got for her talent. The concert ended with a man, around 17, who played the cello with the most amazing manner, he was so engrossed in what he was doing and was really expressive.



Once the concert finished, we were taken into a room where we had a Q&A with two of the pupils who go to sixth form at Chethams. During this Q&A we learnt a lot about how boarding life worked, the A level courses available for students, the opportunities once you've left and so much more. It was incredibly interesting to hear about the school from a peer's perspective and generally persuaded the students to have an idea of what they want to do once they leave Year 11. What is incredible about Chethams is that, despite it being a boarding school, what you pay to go there depends on whatever your parents' joint income is, so it's accessible for everyone, no matter your background.

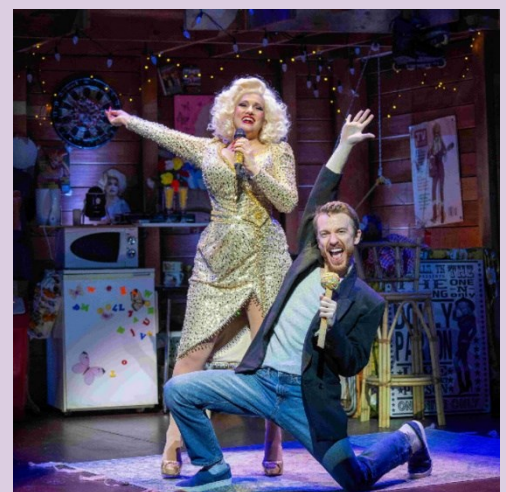
I think we would all love to go back !

By Jodie Hunter Year 10



Holy Family Music pupils, as part of their Manchester trip, watched 'Here You Come Again' at the Manchester Opera House. This was a wonderful experience for everyone. I will say some liked more than others but a lot of us loved the show. I would recommend this to anyone who is interested in musical theatre. I also liked near the end because the cast encouraged us to stand up and sing along and have a little dance. I liked this because in most musical theatre shows you are not allowed to do that so it was nice. I liked the story line of the show. It tells the story of Kevin, a man struggling with a breakup and lockdown, who finds solace in his Dolly Parton memorabilia and an imagined version of the singer who offers him wisdom and encouragement.

By Evie Hardie Year 10



BBC Philharmonic

On Thursday, we went to MediaCity to watch the BBC Philharmonic perform Haydn Overture for an English Opera & Haydn Symphony No96



'Miracle' and we got a chance to see how the rehearsal of an orchestra goes as we were the only people there! While we got to see this, we also got to see the person who was balancing the music, the deputy conductor, they sat in the audience and would take notes on where mics are and how sound was being picked up and which instruments needed to play louder.



This was a chance to see the multiple jobs available in this field because a lot of the time people think it's only instrumental playing but it showed that there is also a lot of jobs behind the scenes that are much more tech involved then instrument playing, which shows how many

jobs people don't know about until gaining an experience with this type of field. This left an amazing chance for us to see how much goes into an orchestra.

By Lily-Ann Moran Year 10

Halle concert and workshop

Watching the Halle was an incredible experience that involved everybody as a whole. The audience were encouraged to get involved and were provided with egg shakers to play whenever the mood took you! At the concert there were mums and babies, people with dementia and additional needs and anyone else who wished to come along and experience a world-famous orchestra. The programme included Bach, to Schubert and a rousing rendition of Danny Boy where the audience were invited to sing along.

We were then able to experience a workshop with the oboist from the orchestra and a representative from the orchestra. This was entertaining and fun as we could put our own spin on things when

composing together. This was definitely my favourite, however the trip as a whole is one I will never forget.

Layla Sambrooks Year 10



The lunchtime concert (RNCM)

In the lunchtime concert we watched a Baroque orchestra and three vocalists. The three vocalists were amazing. Their breathe control was really good. They were also singing in Italian, which was good to hear vocalists sing in different languages. The conductor was helping the vocalists keep in time by playing the harpsichord in time with their voice. I would definitely recommend going to watch the lunchtime concert at RNCM.

Eve Godsall Year 10

Music Successes



Year 8 Aaron, Charlotte, Nancy, Eddie, Katie, Al, Barney, Lilly, Maisie and Evie have all achieved full marks for their music homework this term, February to Easter. Well done!



Music achievements Esme and Dana have scored full marks in all homework completed from January to Easter. Many congratulations!



Freya, Elsie, Maizy, Paul, Jonny, Grace, Ethan, Holly, Harvey, Charlie, Grace L, Alfie and Gift from Year 9 have all achieved full marks in ALL homework from January to Easter. Many congratulations!



Cadence and Joseph from Year 7 have achieved full marks in ALL music homework from January to Easter. Great work!

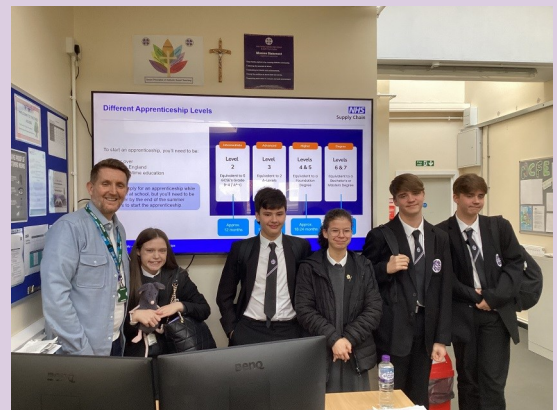
ASDAN



Our Year 10 ASDAN students have been busy exploring the topics of Sport and Leisure and The World of Work. We were delighted to welcome Sandy Taylor MBE, who generously donated £200 to support our work with the charity Lend with Care,

helping communities in developing countries. We also had a visit from Garry Barnes, who delivered an inspiring talk on apprenticeship careers.

A highlight of the term was our trip to play Foot Golf – a fun way to learn a new sport! Meanwhile, Year 11 students have been studying world religions and took part in a fascinating session with a practising Muslim, deepening their understanding of different faiths. They have also been focusing on environmental issues, making their own eco-friendly cleaning products. Our current topic is Germany, where students are learning about its history, culture, food, and even picking up a few German phrases!



Sixth Form Forensics Students Dive into Hands-On Learning

Our Sixth Form Forensics students recently had the opportunity to immerse themselves in practical work that brought their coursework to life. The students participated in a simulated crime scene day, where they honed their skills in analyzing, collecting, and packaging evidence.

This hands-on experience was crucial in teaching them how to preserve the integrity of samples for use in investigations.

The simulated crime scene day was meticulously designed to provide students with a realistic experience. They were tasked with examining the scene, identifying potential evidence, and following proper procedures to ensure that all samples were collected and packaged correctly. This exercise emphasized the importance of attention to detail and adherence to protocols in forensic investigations.



In addition to the simulated crime scene, Year 13 students had the exciting opportunity to travel to Edge Hill University. There, they utilized the university's dedicated laboratories to perform advanced forensic techniques. The students engaged in DNA gel electrophoresis, focusing on Short Tandem Repeats (STR) analysis. These techniques are fundamental in forensic science for identifying individuals based on their unique DNA profiles.

The visit to Edge Hill University provided the students with access to state-of-the-art equipment and expert guidance, enhancing their understanding of the practical applications of their studies. The hands-on experience in the university labs allowed them to apply theoretical knowledge in a real-world setting, reinforcing their learning and inspiring future aspirations in the field of forensics.



Overall, these practical experiences have been invaluable in preparing our Sixth Form Forensics students for their future careers. By engaging in realistic simulations and advanced laboratory work, they have gained a deeper appreciation for the meticulous nature of forensic science and the critical role it plays in the justice system.

We are incredibly proud of our students' dedication and enthusiasm, and we look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in the field of forensics.

Volunteering at Lourdes by Mrs McCarthy

During my spare time, I volunteer and work in Lourdes as a member of the Liverpool Hospitalité. Our mission is to welcome pilgrims to the Grotto where Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette. This year, I was fortunate to be there for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11th. It was particularly special because, on December 8th, the Archbishop of Liverpool, Malcolm McMahon, officially declared the healing of Jack Traynor a miracle.

Jack traveled to Lourdes on Liverpool's very first pilgrimage in 1923. He was healed of several disabling conditions, including epilepsy, paralysis of the right arm, and paraplegia. However, some medical evidence was missing, and the Church was unable to officially declare it a miracle until recently. During the centenary pilgrimage in 2023, the medical bureau in Lourdes decided to reopen the case, and the missing evidence was uncovered.

The Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral recently hosted a special Mass to celebrate this amazing event. The Mass, held on February 18, 2025, was attended by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Bishop of Tarbes-et-Lourdes, and many others from the archdiocese and beyond. It was a very special occasion for me because I was asked to do the second reading at the Mass, which was very nerve-wracking because the Cathedral was packed!

This celebration marked the first official recognition of a miracle involving an English person at Lourdes. The event was filled with joy and hope, reflecting the theme of the Jubilee year, "Pilgrims of Hope."

I love Lourdes and volunteering there has been a source of immense joy and personal fulfilment, it is my great wish that our pupils take the opportunity to get involved and there are still spaces to go this summer. You can

apply at [Liverpool Lourdes](https://www.lourdes.org.uk/), the pilgrimage is open to young people aged 15-22 years old. If you're in Year 10 but under 15, you should contact the office directly to apply.





Liverpool
Called



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2025

If you are in year 8 and would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation.

Registration is open:

13th January 2025-17th March 2025



Register at:
Liverpoolcalled.co.uk

VEX IQ Robotics National Championships

We started our first ever robotics club which started with five students competing against other schools around the Liverpool city region. VEX Robotics is educational robotics for everyone. VEX solutions span all levels of both formal and informal education with accessible, scalable, and affordable solutions. Beyond science and engineering principles, VEX encourages creativity, teamwork, leadership, and problem solving among groups. It allows educators of all types to engage and inspire the STEM problem solvers of tomorrow!

We started our build back in November 2024 to get ready for the first qualifying round in February at North Liverpool Academy. We turned up with a robot that was working but after the first practice match, it decided to stop functioning as the students wanted it to. So they went back to the drawing board and worked out a good strategy to gain points with a basic robot. The students ended up coming in the top 2 out of 11 teams. This qualified us for the National Championships in Telford International Centre.

At the start of March, we started very early on a Sunday to travel to Telford with a fully working robot this time. After arriving, we soon noticed that teams from all over the UK had turned up including as far as London and Scotland. After eleven rounds of games, we finished 17th which was an amazing achievement for the students considering we had been the only team with a first generation robot. All five students conducted themselves extremely well, showing outstanding teamwork and effort throughout the whole process. Our team also won a Judge's award for the team dynamics, energy and enthusiasm throughout the tournament.

We are now going to start funding-raising to purchase a second Gen kit and practice field ready for the new robotics season which starts in June. If you know of any local businesses that would like to donate and help us grow this programme to enable more students to get involved, then please get in touch with Mr Rooney at the following email address: a.rooney@hollyfamilyhighschool.co.uk.





DOT Art Competition

Congratulations to the three students shortlisted in the DOT Art competition, Poppy Trainor, Ella Cumiskey-sharp & Lottie Brockett. You can see and vote for your favourite entry through the link below...

https://schools.dot-art.com/schools/holy-family-high-school_531/



Story Telling

Poppy Trainor



Faceless

Ella Cumiskey-Sharp



Flowers in Disguise

Lottie Brockett

Don't forget to check out our Art Instagram page [@holyfamilyhighschoolart](https://www.instagram.com/holyfamilyhighschoolart) where we upload current pieces from the work created in the Art room.

World Book Day - Thursday 6th March 2025

For World Book Day a group of Year 7 students enjoyed visiting Pritchards bookshop to exchange their World Book Day token for a £1 book.



Year 7 visit to PGL—5th-7th March

Our Year 7 students embarked on an unforgettable journey to PGL, where they immersed themselves in a whirlwind of excitement and adventure over three days and two nights. Amidst the picturesque backdrop of nature, our young adventurers delved into an array of thrilling activities that left them buzzing with enthusiasm.

From the adrenaline rush of axe throwing to the exhilarating heights of the giant swing, every moment was filled with laughter and camaraderie. With rifle shooting challenging their precision, zip wire testing their courage, and survivor and raft building fostering teamwork and problem-solving skills, our students embraced the spirit of adventure wholeheartedly.

Throughout their stay, the great outdoors became their playground, providing the perfect setting for forging friendships and creating lasting memories. As the sun set, evening activities like ambush and PGL competitions added an extra layer of excitement, igniting a competitive spirit amongst the group.

Despite the physical demands of the activities, our resilient students showed remarkable energy and spirit, pushing themselves to new limits and cheering each other on. By the end of their adventure, exhaustion may have set in, but the smiles on their faces spoke volumes about the incredible experiences they had shared.

Indeed, the Year 7 trip to PGL was a resounding success, showcasing not only the boundless energy and enthusiasm of our students but also their ability to come together as a team and embrace challenges head-on. Here's to many more adventures and memories yet to be made!



Additional photographs can be found on our [website](#).

Forensic Investigations at Edge Hill University—13th March

Our Year 13 forensic Science and Biology students had their second session at Edge Hill University today. Students analysed DNA samples using a technique called gel electrophoresis. They will use their results to determine which one of four suspects committed a mock crime. We are very grateful to Dr Aris Tagalakakis who has led both our sessions at Edge Hill and shared his expert knowledge on genetics and DNA analysis with us.



National Literacy Trust programme

A group of Year 9 students took part in a National Literacy Trust programme, The Power of Voice. With poet Amina Atiq, they created storyboards, comic strips, poems short stories using the power of their voice and writing to truly express how they feel about complex social issues.



Ash Wednesday on 5th March marked the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of prayer, fasting, and penance in the Christian liturgical year, leading up to Easter, and is observed with the application of ashes on the forehead as a symbol of humility and repentance. Monsignor Des Seddon was in school during form time to bless and distribute ashes.



Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Programme

Thirty of our Year 9 pupils have successfully completed the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) programme, developed by the MYA RAISE Team at Merseyside Youth Association. Using a 'bystander' approach, they learned to challenge harmful behaviours and promote a safe school environment.

As part of the programme, they created a video, delivered training to Year 7s, and acted as role models. Their hard work was celebrated at their graduation on 27th March.

For more information, contact the MYA RAISE Team at Merseyside Youth Association, 65-67 Hanover Street, Liverpool, L1 3DY.

Year 9 voice:

"Personally, I really enjoy the MVP program. I feel like I'm actually helping by teaching Year 7s this kind of stuff early: my group interact with the Year 7s well. I also took part in the video, it is really enjoyable and I appreciate the opportunity!"

"I loved the MVP program and feel it has made me grow as a human. I also participated in the video, and I think it will help Year 7 now and in the future"

You can watch the video they created at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2MnkrGEvWA&t=6s>

Haydock Race Course Trip



Students had a fantastic day at Haydock Racecourse, where they explored the maths, science, and technology behind horse racing while integrating lessons from PE, Geography, History, and Technology. The trip included hands-on tours of the weight room, medical room, and changing rooms, where measurements and materials were examined.



In the afternoon, they jogged a furlong to estimate distance, studied water conservation at the on-site reservoir, and observed horses arriving at the stables. Using trundle wheels, they measured paddock space and analysed race cards, choosing the "best turned out" horse. The visit also highlighted career opportunities in over 200 sectors within the racing industry, before concluding with an exciting race.



Spring Arts

The Holy Family High School Spring Arts Concert, held on Monday, March 31st, 2025, in the school hall, offered a dynamic and diverse musical programme. This two-hour performance provided an opportunity for parents, pupils, and staff to celebrate the hard work and talent developed over the past several months.

The concert commenced with the choir's rendition of *Adiemus*, a piece sung in a phonetic, invented language designed to serve as a musical expression rather than convey specific meaning, with influences from Latin and African languages. Zoe Bennett and Erin Ryan, both seasoned performers in their fifth Spring Arts Concert, each delivered standout solos. Erin's heartfelt rendition of *I Dreamed A Dream* and Zoe's soulful



performance of *Someone to Watch Over Me* were met with enthusiastic applause from the audience. Jodie Hunter captivated the crowd with an emotional interpretation of *There Are Worse Things*, leaving the audience in awe of her passion. Eve Godsall also delivered an exceptional performance of *Water Under the Bridge* by Adele, supported by Maisie Farrell and Evie Hardie. Their harmonious collaboration was a true highlight, showcasing their considerable potential.

For the first time, the concert incorporated dance performances, featuring talented pupils from Years 7 to 10. A standout was the poignant dance piece *Who You Are*, choreographed by Miss Burke, and performed by Connie Milligan, Ava Santos, Mya Cooper Jones, and Megan Moore, which explored the journey of grief. The Year 7 dance group concluded the first half of the show with an energetic and uplifting performance of *Footloose*, energising the audience.



Other musical contributions included a captivating performance by the Year 7 and 8 vocal ensemble, along with the choir's rendition of *Pure Imagination* from *Willy Wonka*, which showcased beautiful harmonies. Evie Fitzsimons also choreographed and performed a heartfelt piece titled *Happy*, which was both moving and inspiring.

The concert culminated with an energetic and passionate performance by the cast of *Annie*, who brought the evening to a lively conclusion with their rendition of *N.Y.C.* It was an unforgettable evening that showcased the incredible talent of Holy Family High School's students and the dedication of their teachers.

Chester Zoo

On 1st and 2nd April, groups of our Year 9 students visited Chester zoo for climate and sustainability workshops. The workshops included learning about various species such as lemurs, penguins, komodo dragons and snow leopards. Students were taught how climate change is impacting these species lives and ways they can live more sustainably, to reduce the impacts of climate change. Thank you to Chester Zoo Conservation Education & Engagement Centre.



Careers Fair

On 1st April we hosted our annual careers fair in the sports hall. Students from every year got a chance to visit 33 stalls around the hall and talk to representatives about future careers pathways. The representatives came from a wide variety of settings such as colleges, universities, local businesses, national businesses, apprenticeship providers and enrichment providers.

Our students were articulate and confident as they chatted at the stalls. They were excited about some of the opportunities and we are sure many seeds of career inspiration have been planted.

We would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to all the volunteers who gave up their time to chat with our students.

Thank you to the following companies, who attended our Careers Fair.

Camp America
Steven Gerrard Academy
Hugh Baird College
Canoe Club Liverpool
The Etc Programme
Liverpool College
Merseyside Ambulance
Realise Training
The Royal Navy
In2Science
Balfour Beatty
HSBC
NHS
Civil Service
Yes Care Services
LMA
Collinge and Co
Liverpool John Moores University
Access Sports



LLS Sports College
 Bio Grad Education
 AB Engineering
 MPCT
 Liverpool Life Sciences
 Southport College
 Liverpool Business College
 Myerscough College
 Weightmans Solicitors
 David Campbell Soccer
 BIPC
 Liverpool Hope University
 Awesome Walls Climbing
 Tennis Club



Follow Holy Family
 Careers on X

[@careersHFCHS](https://twitter.com/careersHFCHS)



Dates to Remember

Tuesday 22nd April 2025	Summer term starts
Thursday 1st May	External exams begin
Monday 5th May	Bank holiday
Tuesday 6th— Thursday 8th May	PE Football tour to Italy
Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May 2025	Half Term
Monday 2nd—Friday 20th June	Year 7-9 exams
Monday 16th—Tuesday 24th June	Y10/12 exams
22nd—26th June	Spanish Trip
Monday 23rd June	6 th Form Taster Day
Thursday 26th & Friday 27th June	New intake taster day / New intake evening
Friday 27th June	6 th Form Prom
Wednesday 9th—11th July	DoE Silver Year10 Assessment
Friday 11th July	Year 11 Prom @Formby Hall
Monday 14th July	Sports Day
Tuesday 15th July	Alton Towers Rewards
Wednesday 16th July	Sixth Form trip
Thursday 17th July	Student Festival
Friday 18th July	Term ends—finish 12.15pm

