

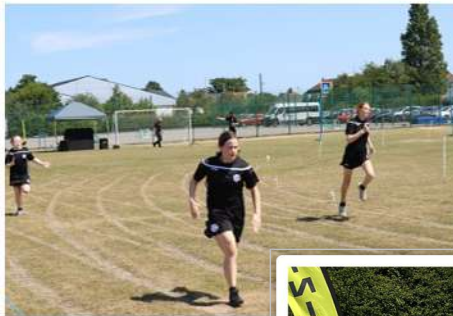


Holy Family Catholic High School

Summer 2026 Newsletter

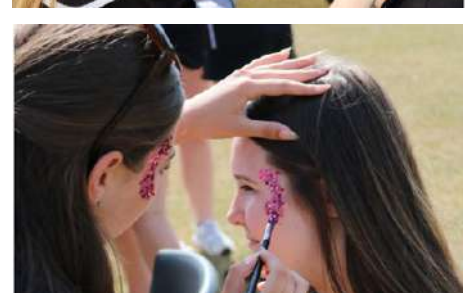
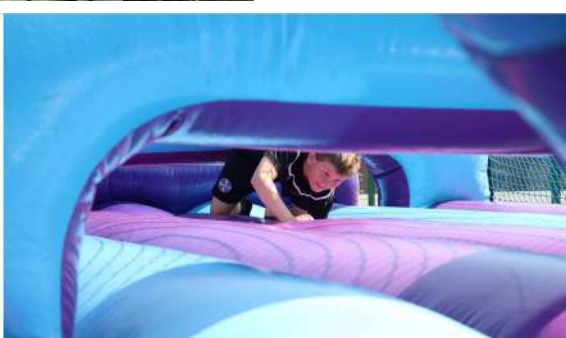


July 2026



Sports Day





Student Festival



A 'murder' in the Sixth Form

The Year 13 forensic science students completed the soil and pollen element of the environmental forensic unit. A 'murder' had been committed close to the 6th form block. They had to collect pollen / soil samples from the victim and two suspects. They also had to determine possible routes into school and collect samples from these locations.

Once samples were collected, they had to analyse them all and compare the suspects to determine who had committed the crime and generate sufficient evidence to prove their theory.



Chester Zoo Sustainability Workshops

Back in April, our Year 9 students visited Chester Zoo to complete climate and sustainability workshops. The workshop ran by Chester Zoo staff educated students about how climate change is impacting many of the planet's species. For example, sea level rise is threatening the Komodo dragons habitat in Indonesia. Students also discussed ways that they could be more sustainable to help fight against climate change.



LJMU Step up programme for Year 9 and 10

In May selected Year 9 students visited Liverpool John Moores University as part of the Step-Up Programme, where they enjoyed an engaging and inspiring day exploring university life and future career opportunities. Highlights included learning about Student Life and discovering how different degree subjects can lead to a wide range of careers. Students also explored the importance of



networking and the opportunities that attending university can provide. During the campus tour, students were able to experience the university environment first-hand and gain an insight into life as an undergraduate. The interactive Zombie Apocalypse activity encouraged teamwork and problem-solving skills, while the Student Knowledge Quiz tested their understanding in a fun and competitive way. Overall, the Step-Up Programme benefits students by raising aspirations, building confidence, and helping them to better understand the pathways available to them after school.



The following week, a selected group of Year 10 pupils where they were given the opportunity to experience university life and take part in a range of exciting activities. Students enjoyed a creative group challenge where they designed and organised their own university society, encouraging teamwork and leadership skills. They also took part in a nursing taster session, learning about university pathways, entry requirements, and careers within



nursing. During the session, students worked in pairs as nurse and patient using medical props and gauze to gain a hands-on understanding of the profession. The visit also included time in the sports hall where pupils participated in badminton and basketball activities. To finish the day, students attended an engaging film studies session where they watched clips from The Hunger Games and analysed different scenes through annotation tasks. The day was a fantastic experience and gave students a valuable insight into university courses, student life, and future career opportunities.



DOT Art Award ceremony

Congratulations to Esme and Sienna (Year 9), they attended the DOT Art Awards Ceremony at St George's Hall, where they received their certificates from the Lord Mayor.

A special mention goes to Esme, whose artwork is currently being displayed in the Walker Art Gallery alongside works by some of the greats. This is an incredible accomplishment and a testament to her talent and hard work.





Year 11 & Year 13 Leavers

Goodbye
and
Good Luck



Stop the Bleed Day

On 29th April, our school took part in a national event to mark the official Stop the Bleed Day. Former Holy Family pupil Laura Hughes from the kNOwKnifeCrime campaign visited our school with Anthony, a serving paramedic, to deliver its Every Second Counts bleed control workshop to all of our Year 7 students.

Pupils learned about the kNOwKnifeCrime campaign and the reasons why it was founded following the tragic murder of Laura's brother Colin McGinty, also a former Holy Family pupil, in 2001 in an horrendous case of mistaken identity.

The pupils received an assembly about the consequences of knife crime, joint enterprise and received a demonstration of just how rapidly a person can lose blood as a result of an injury. Afterwards, the pupils took part in a practical workshop, giving them hands-on experience of how to respond in an emergency where someone is suffering catastrophic blood loss. The pupils were shown how to apply pressure, pack a wound with gauze and how to use a tourniquet and were able to have go themselves using artificial limbs and bleed control kits.

The pupils had really immersive and interactive experience and all involved said that after the workshop, they felt more confident about knowing what to do in the event of an emergency involving a blood loss injury.

We look forward to working with Laura again next year so that she can deliver the workshop to all year groups across school!



Year 10 and 11 Bronze and Silver D of E

This year's Duke of Edinburgh Award saw 52 of our Year 10 students completed their Bronze Award, and 32 of our Year 11 completed their Silver Award. All candidates needed to complete a voluntary service, physical activity and the learning of a new skill, followed by their qualifying expeditions in Settle, Yorkshire. Throughout this the students demonstrated resilience, teamwork and determination as they worked over the course of the year to complete all sections of the award.

From the 3rd to 5th June the Year 10 Bronze candidates headed to Settle in the Yorkshire Dales. The 3-day expedition required students to set up camp, walk over 4 hours per day (approximately 15 miles total) and use their cooking stoves make their own meals. Despite the heavy rain which made conditions more difficult students remained positive throughout, supported one another and

approached every challenge with perseverance.



Following this Year 11 Silver candidates, also completed their expedition in the Settle for a 4-day expedition which required them to be independent, resilient and work together as a team.

The Year 11 students showed their skills they had learnt from their previous bronze expedition to successfully set up camp, cook and complete walks which covered approximately 30 miles over the 2 days.

The D of E Team are incredibly proud of every student who took part in the award scheme this year and each of them should be exceptionally proud of what they have achieved. In September the

award scheme will be available to all students in Year 10, and it is hoped that the success of the award scheme in Holy Family Catholic High School continues to increase.



Girls' Football Trip to St George's Park

Students from the girls' football team recently enjoyed an exciting and memorable trip to St George's Park, where they stayed overnight and took part in a range of enriching activities.

During their visit, the girls engaged in high-quality coaching sessions led by experienced professionals, helping them to develop their skills, teamwork, and understanding of the game. A highlight of the trip was a unique hydrotherapy session, giving students an insight into recovery techniques used by elite athletes.

The group also had the opportunity to relax and socialise, with an evening trip to the bowling alley providing plenty of fun and laughter.

Overall, the trip was a fantastic experience that combined sport, learning, and team bonding, leaving the girls inspired and motivated to continue developing their football skills.



Djembe drums

In class we have been learning how to play African Djembe drums. I really enjoy how Mr Martin teaches us different beats and how to remember what we are playing, by giving us words related to music to remember it by. Furthermore, we have learnt about the dynamics of music by showing us where on the drum to hit and what part of our hands to hit it with (fingertips or palm), as this alters the volume. In addition to this, we have learnt about the tempo of playing the drums through different techniques of playing with our hands. We have also played drums alongside each other and practiced how to time our beats with others in the class who are playing at the same time, the different groups have learnt to compliment each other. Lastly, I have really enjoyed learning this new skill throughout the year and hope it is something that I can keep up and carry on throughout Year 8.

Charlie Mills Year 7



Queen Elizabeth Crown Court Visits: Year 12

As part of the Criminology course, students study Unit 3: Crime Scene to Court Room module. To assist with their understanding of Magistrates and Crown Court proceedings, 46 students have visited the courts over the past two weeks, observing plea hearings, trials, sentencing of offenders and question and answer sessions with barristers and court clerks. As always, students attitude and conduct were complemented by many court staff as exemplary.

Well done Year 12 and good luck with your progression into Year 13. Mrs Critchley



Thank You for Supporting Elsie's Charity Fundraiser

8JBG have been proud to support the Elsie Charity Trust by organising a range of fundraising activities. We held a successful cake sale with lots of cakes and treats, ran an exciting raffle with generous prizes, and took part in a sponsored football match where participants raised money through sponsorship. These events brought everyone together and helped raise valuable funds to support the important work of the [Elsie Charity Trust](#). We are incredibly proud of every member of 8JBG for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and kindness. Their hard work and dedication have made a real difference, and they should all be proud of what they have achieved together.



Hillsborough Memorial

In June a group of Year 9 students visited the Hillsborough Memorial at Anfield. As part of our 20th Century Liverpool topic, we have studied the Hillsborough disaster and its aftermath. The students laid flowers and paid their respects to those killed or injured due to this terrible disaster.



Comments from Year 12 about the Rome Trip

"The best parts of the trip for me were the smaller moments, like the random jokes that made the teachers laugh more than the joke probably deserved, and speaking to people I probably never would had we not been in Rome together".

"This trip pushed me so far out of my comfort zone in the best possible way and I had so many firsts".

"It's those moments that will stick with me long after I've forgotten all about the many monuments and the leg pain from all the walking. I genuinely believe this may have been one of, if not the best, most formative experiences of my life".

"To be honest, it's probably the best trip I've ever been on".

"Thankyou so much for an amazing trip I will never forget".

"This was an amazing trip, we all loved every minute of it and have made forever memories!"

Highlights.....

"The energy tablet Mrs McCluskey gave me half way up the volcano"

"Mr Horne's random facts and speech at the end!"

"Pool day!!!"

"Karaoke"

"Getting a sense of the history of ancient Rome!"

"The colosseum"



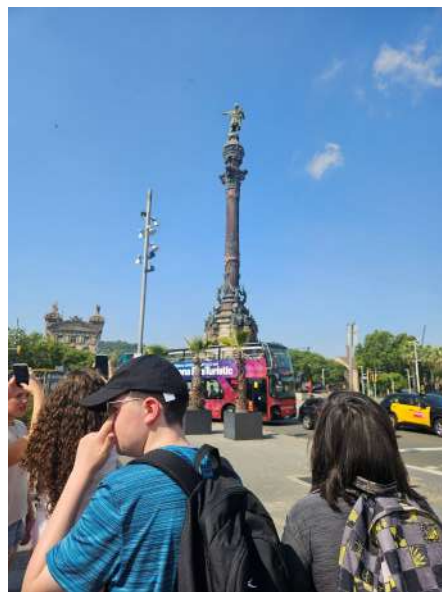
Spanish Trip

Not much can get 14 and 15 year olds out of their beds on a Monday morning, but a Year 9 and 10 trip to Spain did just that. We arrived in Barcelona at 10am and travelled to Malgrat de Mar on the Costa Brava, which was to be our base for the next few days. The weather was beautiful, hot and sunny and the group made the most of the hotel pool to cool down. Once checked into the hotel we visited the local area, sampled the



crepes and the ice creams as an after dinner treat and then had an early night.

Day 2 was a busy day. We went to the medieval walled town of Besalú, which gave the students the chance to practise their Spanish as they organised their own picnics for lunch in Banyoles by the lake and then it was on to Girona. Another dip in the pool was called for before tea and then after we experienced Spanish café and park culture as we went to the old part of town.



Day 3 was spent in Barcelona where we experienced the sights and smells of the Boquería market, bought the juiciest strawberries and freshest fruit juices and had some retail therapy

in the air-conditioned comfort of the Maremagnum shopping centre. After dinner we had a lovely walk along the beach in Malgrat.

Day 4 was Waterworld, a true highlight for everyone. Huge waterslides and lovely scenery. It was great fun.



The last day came and we were all sad to be packing up to go home. But before we did, we had a little pootle round the town on the tourist train and then finished off with a pizza lunch in the old town.

Fantastic memories made that will last a lifetime!



From Holy Family to Apple: Nic Henderson's Creative Journey

Year 10 students were recently inspired by an engaging careers assembly delivered by former Holy Family student Nic Henderson, who is now a Senior Designer at Apple in California, USA. Nic's remarkable career journey demonstrated that success is rarely a straight path and that curiosity, resilience and embracing opportunities can lead to exciting and unexpected destinations.

Returning to the school where his own journey began made Nic's story particularly meaningful for our students. Growing up in a sporty family, Nic explained that he was the one who naturally gravitated towards creativity. With a passion for Art and Music, he was fascinated by how things were built and designed, often questioning how buildings were constructed and how creative ideas became reality. His curiosity and willingness to explore different interests would become the foundation of an extraordinary career.

During sixth form, Nic studied A Levels in Art, Mathematics and Physics, recognising that creativity and technical thinking complement one another. He also secured work experience with an architecture practice, reinforcing his interest in the profession and highlighting the importance of gaining practical experience while still at school. He encouraged students to develop their skills, remain curious and stay open to opportunities, explaining that the career you eventually pursue may not be the one you originally imagined.

Nic went on to study Architecture at Newcastle University before returning to Liverpool, where alongside pursuing his creative ambitions he also formed a band, continuing to develop his passion for music. Wanting to expand his knowledge further, he completed a Master's degree in London. He spoke about the mindset of architects, explaining that successful architects combine creativity with problem-solving, technical precision, communication, collaboration and an ability to think critically about how people experience the spaces around them. It was during his Master's studies that another passion emerged – the world of film and production design.



Determined to break into the film industry, Nic demonstrated the persistence that has characterised his career. He researched production designers and contacted forty professionals within the industry. Although only ten replied, one response led to an opportunity that changed his career. His determination resulted in a role at Pinewood Studios, where he worked on the sets of globally recognised productions including Harry Potter, Mamma Mia!, Trolls and the James Bond film No Time to Die.

Students were fascinated to hear about the creativity involved in designing film sets and creating believable worlds for audiences. Nic explained how every detail contributes to storytelling and shared how each project presented different creative challenges. One memorable example involved working on Trolls, where he had to completely adapt his usual creative approach by sculpting and designing with clay to achieve the unique visual style required for the film.

Throughout the assembly, Nic reinforced the importance of resilience, research and networking. He explained that opportunities often come from putting yourself forward,

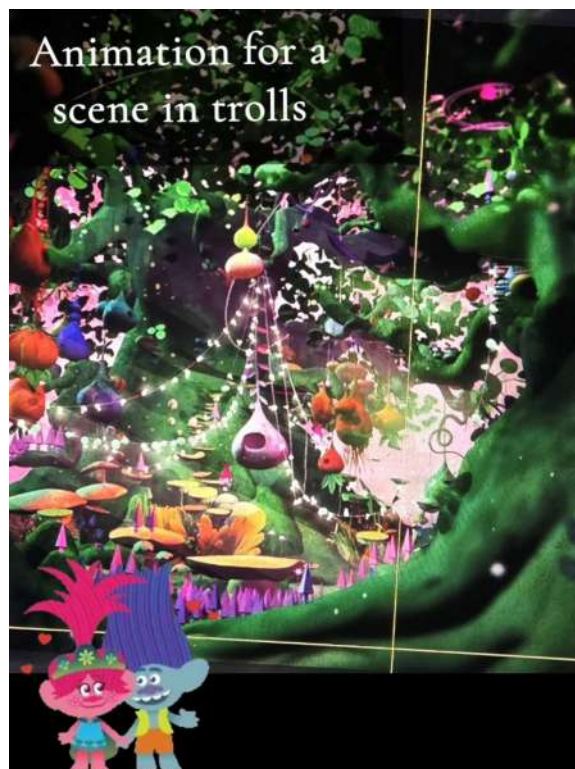
making connections and being willing to learn. One of the most memorable messages for students came from his story of attending a barbecue, where a conversation about his previous career experiences led to an introduction to someone working at Apple. That conversation resulted in an interview and ultimately the opportunity to join one of the world's most innovative technology companies, perfectly illustrating his advice that building relationships can open doors in unexpected ways.

Now working as a Senior Designer at Apple in California, Nic gave students a fascinating insight into life within one of the world's leading technology companies. While understandably unable to discuss many of Apple's future projects due to the company's confidentiality, he spoke about the development of the Apple Vision Pro headset and explained how users interact with virtual environments naturally through eye tracking and hand gestures. Students were captivated by the possibilities of immersive technology and how design, engineering and creativity combine to shape future innovations.

Nic's visit left students with an important message:

success is built through curiosity, hard work, resilience and a willingness to embrace opportunities that may lie outside your original career plan. His journey from Holy Family to architecture, film production and ultimately Apple demonstrates that careers are rarely linear, and that every experience can provide valuable skills for the next opportunity.

We are extremely grateful to Nic for returning to Holy Family to share his inspiring story. His honesty, enthusiasm and practical advice encouraged our Year 10 students to believe in their own potential, continue developing their skills and remain open to the exciting possibilities that the future may hold.



2026 Holy Family Artist's of the Year

This award recognises the outstanding students who have consistently demonstrated creativity, imagination, and dedication in Art. They have shown excellent technical skills, a willingness to experiment with different materials and techniques, and the confidence to develop original ideas. Their enthusiasm,



resilience, and positive attitude towards learning have enabled them to produce work of an exceptionally

high standard. They have also shown respect for the work of others and contributed positively to the creative environment in the classroom. This award celebrates their artistic talent, commitment, and continued growth as a young artist.

A huge well done to... Sadie (Y10), Charlotte (Y10), Keira (Y9), Matthew (Y8) & Jaiden (Y7).



Geography Year 9 Woodlands visit.

Our Year 9 geographers have been learning about ecosystems and the rainforest. As part of their studies they had the opportunity to visit a local woodland area to investigate the carbon storage capacity of trees. Pupils recorded the health of the trees using quadrats, measured the circumference of the trunks and used high level maths to calculate the carbon storage capacity of trees over their life span. All of this was inspired by the biomass satellite that is currently measuring the whole world's trees and the carbon being stored!

Teamwork was excellent, and after a little more demonstrating on how to do the maths! They were all off to a flying start. It was a pleasure to take our pupils out and give them a chance to use classroom knowledge and skills in a practical way.



Green Futures Initiative

This term Holy Family were given the exciting opportunity to be one of only four schools across Liverpool and Sefton to be chosen to take part in the Green Futures initiative. Held at Laurel's Wood. This is a pilot scheme aimed at 14-16 year olds who would benefit from outdoor learning and practical skills. These range from countryside management, structural builds to biodiversity and the impact of climate change.

The initiative also aims to improve soft skills such as leadership, teamwork and problem solving. High expectations were at the core of the programme with an emphasis of pupils must think and do for themselves. For many who were chosen for the course it has been transformational, developing in them a sense of purpose, belonging and an increase in their self-belief.

As always our school received glowing feedback and the pupils were exemplary. Hopefully with such positive feedback and a bid for future funding, Holy Family will be able to continue to offer such a unique chance for our young people to experience life beyond the classroom.

Pupil Quotes

'When I return to school I am going to try harder in maths. I did not realise how much maths there is in building!'

'I wish I was back in the calm of the woodland'.

'I know now I definitely want to work outside for my future job'.



KS3 Science Club: A Year of Discovery and Hands-On Learning

This year, our KS3 Science Club has been a hub of curiosity, creativity, and exciting scientific exploration. Meeting regularly after school, students have had the opportunity to dive deeper into science through a variety of hands-on activities, experiments, and challenges that bring classroom learning to life.

One of the club's highlights was the fascinating DNA extraction experiment using strawberries. Students learned about the structure of cells and the role of DNA, before carefully carrying out the extraction process themselves. Watching the strands of DNA appear right before their eyes was a memorable moment for many and gave them a real appreciation for the building blocks of life.

Another popular activity was our series of engineering challenges, where students competed in "build battles" to design and construct structures from limited materials. The aim? To build the tallest tower or the strongest bridge. These sessions encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and resilience, as students tested, refined, and improved their designs. The friendly competition sparked creativity, with some truly impressive structures produced!

The club also explored the chemistry of everyday life through an investigation into acids and alkalis. Using common household substances, students tested pH levels and learned how different materials can be classified. This practical activity helped them connect scientific concepts to real-world applications and better understand the science behind everyday products.

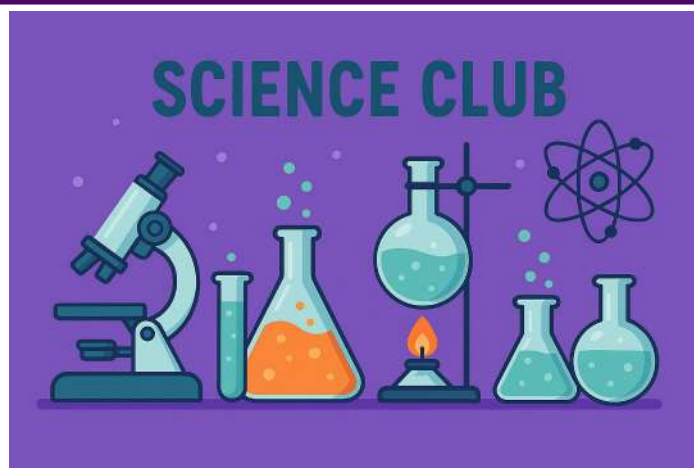
In our materials science sessions, students investigated smart materials and experimented with thermosetting plastics. They discovered how certain materials respond to changes in temperature and conditions, and explored how these materials are used in real-life applications ranging from safety equipment to manufacturing.

Microscopy sessions were another highlight, giving students the chance to use microscopes to observe both biological and physical samples. They examined cells, gaining insight into the microscopic world of living organisms, and also studied fibres and hairs, linking science to forensic investigation techniques. These activities helped develop careful observation skills and an appreciation for detail.

Overall, the KS3 Science Club has provided a fantastic opportunity for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Through practical experiments, teamwork, and investigation, members have not only improved their scientific knowledge but also developed valuable skills such as critical thinking and collaboration. From accurate measurement and careful observation to teamwork and evaluation, students have grown in both confidence and ability, we are so proud of you all.

We look forward to another year of exciting discoveries and new challenges ahead! If you are interested in joining next year's Science Club, keep an eye out for sign-up details — we would love to see you there.

Mrs Kirby



Sponsored litter pick in aid of South Sefton Foodbank

A group of Year 7 students recently visited the Sefton coast as part of their Geography studies. The group had also been learning about the vital role the South Sefton Foodbank plays in our community and after visiting the foodbank, wanted to help raise important funds for them. As a result, the pupils completed a sponsored litter pick whilst at the beach at Waterloo, filling three bags of rubbish!

In total, they raised an amazing £125.00.

Not only that, they then went shopping to Aldi for a list of items requested by the foodbank including tinned vegetables and fruit juice. Danny from the food bank visited school to collect the generous donations and was delighted that their visit had inspired them to help our local community. Well done Year 7s!



Scholastic Book Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks to your fantastic engagement and generosity, we have earned £250 worth of free books for our school library.

Your support will help us continue to grow our collection and provide even more exciting reading opportunities for our students. Thank you for helping us inspire a lifelong love of reading!



Public Speaking

On Wednesday 1st July, Mason (in Year 8) and Grace (in Year 9) went to Carmel College in St. Helens to take part in a Public Speaking Competition and they were both outstanding!

Well done to both of you!



Our Exciting Term in Music Lessons

This term in Year 8 Music at Holy Family Catholic High School, we have been using Cubase software to create our own music. It was something completely different from what we had done before, so it was really interesting to learn.

At the start of the term, we learned how to use Cubase and explored all the different tools. Our first project was to compose a piece of music in an ambient/chilled style. We created our music using loops and samples, choosing sounds that worked well together to create a calm and relaxing atmosphere. Because it was our first time using the software, we kept the piece quite simple with repeating patterns. This helped us get used to Cubase before moving on to more challenging tasks.

As we became more confident, we learned how to use automation, such as changing the volume and creating fade-ins and fade-outs. These techniques made our music sound more professional and helped our compositions flow more smoothly. It was interesting to see how small changes could improve the overall piece.



Our second project was to create an EDM (Electronic Dance Music) track. This was my favourite task because it was much more energetic and creative. We worked in pairs and used a range of loops and samples that our teacher recommended. We layered different sounds together and used automation and musical surprises to make the music more exciting and keep the listener interested.



Overall, I really enjoyed using Cubase this term. I have learned lots of new skills about music production and feel much more confident using loops, samples and automation to create my own music. Music has been one of my favourite subjects this year, and I'm looking forward to seeing what we will create in Year 9.

Matthew Samra Year 8

The following pupils have done exceptionally well in their Music Homework this term scoring full marks in every quiz completed.

- * Joseph & Isobel from 8H2
- * Esme, Liam, Zac, Katie & Wisdom from 9H1
- * Anna and Aaron from 9F2
- * Eva, Elliott and Jamie from 9H3
- * Darby, Maggie and Laurie from 9F3
- * Lilly and Scarlet from 9F1

Special mention to Esme and Aaron from Year 9 who have scored full marks in EVERY Music Homework set this year! Congratulations!



Dates to Remember

Thursday 13th August	A Level Results Day
Wednesday 19th August	Year 7 new intake summer school
Thursday 20th August	GCSE Results day
Thursday 3rd September	Term starts for Year 7 and 11 only
Friday 4th September	Term starts for all Years 7 to 11 Year 12 enrolment School Photographer
Monday 7th September	Term starts for Year 12 and 13 Year 11 Work Experience week
Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th September	Year 7 to visit CHET (1 group each day)
Monday 14th September	INSET day—school closed to pupils OPEN EVENING 4.30pm-8.00pm
Tuesday 15th September	9.45am start for pupils
Friday 9th October	"Hello Yellow" for World Mental Health Day
Monday 26th October – Friday 31 st October 2026	Half term
Wednesday 16th December	Whole school panto
Friday 18th December	Finish at 12.15pm
Monday 4th January 2027	Spring term starts
Monday 15 ^h February to Friday 19 th February 2027	Half term
Thursday 25th March	Finish at 12.15pm
Monday 12th April	Summer term starts
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday
Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June 2027	Half term
Wednesday 21st July	School year ends at 12.15pm