



Holy Family Catholic High School

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Headteacher: Mr M Symes BA(Hons), NPQH

Monday, December 07, 2020

Dear Parent,

I hope you are all well and safe.

This week's updates include:

Form Time

This week is week B and we will have a form period on Monday Period 5 as normal. This is for form tutors to catch up with their form class and to make sure they are all well, and that they have the right equipment etc. for school. As it is a week B, the next form period will be Wednesday Period 3. This will be used by each year group differently and could be used to support literacy and reading, careers, study and revision skills etc. This week, Liverpool John Moores University are hosting a zoom seminar for our Year 11 pupils on the opportunities available at university.

Year 11 & 13 Summer 2021 Exams Ofqual update

On Thursday, Ofqual issued further information about their plans for the external exams in Summer 2021. The exam boards will give us further detailed information in January. Below are the key points taken from the announcement:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so pupils this year are not disadvantaged,
- pupils receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A Levels to focus revision,
- examination aids, like formula sheets, will be provided in some exams giving pupils more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise,
- additional exams to give pupils a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation,
- a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on pupils across the country.

These measures are in addition to the three-week delay to exams that was announced in October. They should enable pupils to receive exam results that fairly reflect their efforts and ability, and mitigate the challenges they have faced during such a crucial stage of their education. This situation could, and probably will, change again. Whatever the changes, please be assured that we will give careful thought to the practical application of these changes and prioritise supporting and preparing pupils as best we can for their GCSE, BTEC and A Level exams. I'll keep you all informed of any further updates.

Year 11 & 13 Mock exams

Year 11 & 13 mock exams start on Monday 18th January. In preparation for this they will all be given a mock exam timetable, revision lists and study skill sessions to further develop their revision skills.

End of term arrangements (Week A)

Monday 14th	Christmas themed 'Merry Monday'. Pupils can wear something Christmassy such as a Christmas jumper, ear-rings, hair bands, tinsel, mask etc. There will also be a 'walk for hope' for Years 7-11, weather permitting. During the walk we will be collecting for the Whitechapel Centre, a Liverpool based homeless charity, and any donations would be gratefully received.
Wednesday 16th	Christmas dinner day. Each year group will have an extended lunch time. The cost of the dinner is £2.30 and the menu is attached.
Thursday 17th	Progress Leaders will be organising some Christmas based activities for their year groups during Periods 4 & 5. Pupils will be based in their form classes for these lessons. Years 12 & 13 finish for Christmas at 3pm.
Friday 18th	Pupils will be based in their form classes. Activities will include: Christmas Collective Worship, assemblies and form tutor time. Years 8, 9 & 10 finish at 12.00. Years 7 & 11 finish at 12.15.

Spring term will start for all pupils on Monday 4th January 2021 (week B).

Foodbank and Gift collections for Christmas

We continue to work with charities in our area to help vulnerable families this Christmas. If you can, please donate to our foodbank and gift collection. Any donations can be dropped off in our reception area. We will be delivering our food and gift hampers in the last week of term.

Free School Meals Eligibility

As a consequence of this pandemic, there may have been a change in your family's circumstances. I've attached a letter and an application form with the information regarding the criteria for eligibility and the support for pupils in receipt of free school meals.

Parent Governor Vote

You should all have received an email with details of our parent governor election. Voting will be through Survey Monkey and the link is attached to the email. We currently have two vacancies for parent governors to serve on the governing body. If you have not received the email, and you would like to vote, please [look on the website](#) or contact us and we will send you the details.

Thank you for your continued support this term and please keep your feedback coming as it helps us improve what we do.

Take care and stay safe,

Mr Symes