



# Holy Family Catholic High School

## Sixth Form Newsletter



December 2020



Dear Parents and Students,

We really can not believe how quickly this last half term has flown by! We got into the festive spirit early this year, to try and bring some Christmas cheer to Sixth Form. Some of our Year 13 students and staff went to the shops to 'deck the halls' with Christmas decorations and it really does look lovely!

Year 13 are now very nearly there, with their UCAS applications and it has been lovely hearing of all the offers they have received from their Universities. Lots of our students have been having virtual interviews too and have impressed us with their confidence and ability. A big thank you on behalf of Year 13 to Mrs Critchley, who has worked tirelessly to ensure they had the best UCAS applications possible.

Year 12 students are being encouraged to undertake virtual work experience and to take part in lots of the virtual events going on at Universities. We would encourage parents to spend time with their son/daughter, looking at what is available at our local Universities and further afield. We want to ensure that this time next year, our year 12 students have lots to write about on their UCAS applications.

Finally we wish all of students, staff and parents, a very Merry Christmas and here is hoping for a more positive and safe 2021.



Mrs Gillian Beddow (Head of Sixth Form)

## Key Information

17th December

Last day of term Year 12/13 only

4th January 2021

Return to school

17th January

Reports to Parents

18th—26th January 2021

Mock Exam s Year 12 and Year 13

10th February 2021

Virtual Law Conference

9th March

Elevate Year 13

# COVID

Use a mask when moving around the school or in public areas with members of staff

Sixth Form students must stay in their designated areas and not move to different areas of the school during lesson times

Students must wipe down any area after they have used it, including keyboards and mice.

Social Distancing—where possible, out of lessons students must

e-mail: [g.beddow@holyfamilyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:g.beddow@holyfamilyhighschool.co.uk)

Twitter@HFCHS6thform

# Enrichment

**Medical Mavericks:** On Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sixth Form Scientists took part in a Medical Mavericks experience. We were given the opportunity to complete many fun and educational scientific activities, one of these activities included using an ultra sound machine to visually see my heart. When doing so I was able to see my heart and watch it beat, I found this really satisfying as I could see both ventricles of my heart. Medical mavericks also educated us all on many different jobs that use the equipment we had provided for us. For example, did you know that analytical toxicologist checks for poisons, drug overdoses and possible chemical agents that have been used in a terrorist attack. Within this job you can earn up to £80k each year!

**Alanna Cooney (Year 13)**

## Advice to Year 12

Having anxieties regarding applying for university is a completely normal experience, and you are not alone in this. Across the country, students will be feeling the exact same pressures as you, and there is a plethora of ways to subdue this. Firstly, don't procrastinate, just ask. I understand this is easier said than done, but whether you get in touch with your teachers, parents, or even Universities themselves, don't be afraid to make inquiries about issues such as predicted grades or the suitability of the course-it's your future. Secondly, make an early start to your personal statement. With the help from your teachers, and independent research, visiting sites such as the Student Room, attempt to write a draft that can be checked over and amended. Thirdly, apply for open days. Of course, this has been difficult, especially in the COVID induced isolation that has haunted the past year, but online virtual sessions are a great way to show initiative and determination; which will also allow you to get a taste of what the University is like. Lastly, it's okay to be unsure. There is a multitude of people who are willing to support you in Sixth Form, so that you can make the right decisions, and make what feels like the impossible, possible.

**Leah Byford (Year 13)**



# Shout Outs

The following students have been nominated by staff for their amazing effort and progress this half term. Well done!

## Sports Studies

Year 12—Megan Grierson

Year 13—Catherine Wade

## Medical Science

Year 12—Eleanor Purslow and Amy Jenkins

## Travel and Tourism

Year 12—Sadie Jones

Year 13—Jenna McGivern and Max Gillies

## Applied Science

Year 13—Harry Stephens and George Cook and Lucy Wise

## Chemistry

Year 12—Joley Morgan (for never giving up on moles—not the furry kind)

## Biology

Year 13—Tess Kiernan

Year 12—Eve McNulty

## Business

Year 12—Joseph Mephram

Year 13—Jamie Hodge

## Health and Social Care

Year 12—Eve McNulty

Year 13—Lucy Wise

## Criminology

Year 13—Charlotte Manley

Year 12—Cole-Jamie Lloyd and Millie Whittaker

# Careers



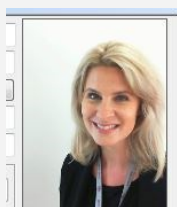
Merry Christmas sixth formers! I'm Holly Jones and I'm new to the school this year, having started in September as your new careers adviser. I've really enjoyed getting to know some of you over the last few weeks and although I've been mainly meeting with year 13 to help with the UCAS process, I'm looking forward to meeting with more of you in year 12 in the new year.

I've been really interested in the career paths many of you are choosing this year and there certainly seems to be a rise in those of you applying to courses in the medical or NHS professions. Perhaps this has been inspired by recent events which have raised the profile of our good old NHS staff?! In particular many of you have been applying for courses in 'mental health nursing' and 'child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing'; I think this is wonderful to see your positive attitude to this issue and how much you have a desire to help people struggling with their mental health. With more young people like you entering the profession, it is sure to raise the profile and address the stigma attached to talking about mental wellbeing.

My most unusual application to UCAS (in that I don't get many of these) was for 'chiropractic studies' (yes I had a look- up the spelling of that one!) and I was really impressed at how much work experience the student had voluntarily gained to learn more about this profession; a great example of how to go after what it is you want to achieve.

When I was growing up I used to have lots of career ideas but could never quite settle on one, which is why I enjoy this job so much; I get to inspire you about all the different paths that you can follow. I'm currently following the path towards the mince pie.... So, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and I'll see you in 2021!

Holly Jones



# Shout Outs!

## Maths

Year 13—Shaun Morgan

## Further Maths

Year 13—Dylan Cureton

## Sport Studies

Maddison Shaw, Josh Taylor, Megan Grierson, Tom Whittle and Eleanor Purslow

## P.E.

Alex London and Niamh Bridson

# Subject Spotlight

## Biology

We have begun the course by carrying on from what we were learning at GCSE, with topics such as the heart and cell structure. This means the jump between year 11 and year 12 has been a lot more manageable. I find the course much more interesting than GCSE because we look more in depth at areas which we have already studied, so it is a lot easier to grasp. As we have much smaller classes than GCSE, the lesson structure is a lot more flexible, so we have been able to do activities like debates and making group posters which has been more interesting than normal lesson structure. Additionally, the lessons are much more interactive as we do frequent practical's, from looking at osmosis in potatoes, to doing a dissection of a sheep's heart. We have also had the opportunity to make 3D models of a cell membrane and the heart as fun side project for homework, which helps to embed what you have been learning and test your knowledge. We do regular mini assessments which has been beneficial in helping us to move quickly through our learning while still being able to retain it.

**Poppy Bermingham-Byrne (Year 12 Student)**