



Our Ref: MCL/SMA

## Catholic School

19 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the Christmas break, I wanted to write to thank you for your support throughout the first term of the school year.

I am delighted to enclose the second edition of our newsletter with this letter which showcases some of the many activities that have taken place both in and out of school this half term.

Most recently we have marked the Advent season with a series of Advent Liturgies presented by students from a variety of year groups during assembly time and we were also very fortunate to be able to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation in school last week for those who wished to take advantage of that. Also, as part of the lead up to Christmas, last week had representatives from school serving Christmas lunch to elderly and vulnerable members of the community at the Civic Centre. The Year 10 Lourdes Group also served Christmas lunch to members of the SVP group at the Rugby Club. Over the past two weeks all Year Groups have enjoyed a complimentary Christmas lunch together in school and this Friday all students will be taking part in rewards assemblies and a variety of Christmas activities throughout the morning. Students are welcome to attend school in non-uniform this Friday – Christmas jumpers are encouraged but not compulsory.

As we prepare to break up for the Christmas holiday, may I remind you that there is lots of useful information regarding all aspects of school life on our website. In particular, there is a Safeguarding tab under the Parents and Students sections on the site. This section contains information which may be useful for people facing challenges at what may be a difficult time for many. There is also an option to report any concerns you may have. This facility will be monitored over the Christmas holiday. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need to.

We also make regular use of social media to share information regarding what is happening in the school. We have a school X feed: @THFCS\_Official, and a school Facebook page; @HolyFamilyCatholicSchoolKeighley. Thank you to those of you who already follow us on social media and please consider doing so if you don't already.

We will close for Christmas, this Friday 20 December at 1.15 pm. There will be a school bus at this time. Following the Christmas holiday, the school will reopen to staff and students on Monday, 6 January 2025.

Thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year. I wish you and your families a safe and restful Christmas break and a very happy and healthy new year.

Yours sincerely

S Mather  
Headteacher

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*The Holy Family Catholic School belongs to*

**Blessed**  
**Christopher Wharton**  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



Autumn Newsletter HT2 2024



Awakening minds



Achieving dreams



Serving others

### In This Issue....

- ADVENT LITURGIES
- SERVING THE COMMUNITY
- BBC CAREERS ROADSHOW
- REMEMBRANCE
- PROGRESSION MODULE GRADUATION
- ENRICHMENT

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Excellent attendance 'is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment.'

*DfE, Working Together to Improve School Attendance, August 2024*

# The Progression Module

As part of their study programme and tutorial course, all year 13 students had the opportunity to complete 'The Progression Module' during year 12. This is run in conjunction with Leeds Beckett University and works towards the UCAS application process in year 13.

The course helps students take a structured approach to researching, choosing and applying to courses in Higher Education and they have a mock interview. The module enables students to develop skills in critical thinking, research, evaluation and presentation skills.

Students completed assessed tasks in 4 key units.

- 1 – You and Your Career
- 2 – Exploring Your Future
- 3 – Managing Your Money
- 4 – Marketing Yourself

The successful students enjoyed a graduation ceremony at Leeds Beckett University and have gained 12 additional UCAS points that can be used with their applications to local universities.

Congratulations!



*Leeds Beckett  
University*

*Huddersfield  
University*

*Leeds Trinity  
University*



# ENRICHMENT

## Netball Success

It has been great to see so many girls enjoying training and representing the school with fixtures against Carlton Keighley and Belle Vue Girls.



## Sign Language Course

Congratulations to the 7 students who completed their sign language sessions.



## Homework Club

**When?** Tuesdays and Wednesdays

**Time?** 2.50-4pm

**Where?** LRC

**Who?** Open to ALL STUDENTS

**Why?** We want students to have a quiet and safe place to study, with access to computers, a printer and photocopier so they can complete any work they may.

It has been great to see some Year 7 students attending and completing their SPARX Maths homework!



## Remembrance

As part of remembering those servicemen and women, our school community planted crosses, observed a silence and we were represented alongside other schools as Keighley Community Together on Remembrance Sunday.

The Craft Club knitted our remembrance wreath which was showcased during the month of remembrance.



*Students are enjoying their reading with more using the library during lunchtimes, and they are supported by our sixth form librarians.*



## More Activities.....

### **Word Games Club**

Every week we have been gathering to play word games on a Thursday lunch in S6. Our latest favourite is Shenanigrams! Students have the opportunity to meet new friends, develop their confidence and have fun with words. We all leave with a smile on our faces! All welcome.



Year 8 Students had a visit from **The Prime Agency** and singer **Molly Warburton** as part of Anti-Bullying Week. She talked about the importance of talking to others, looking after your mental health and the importance of the British Values.



As part of their PSHE programme, all Year 9 students have had sessions led by **'The Money Charity'**, looking at making and spending money.

Next term we will hopefully have visits from local banks to support students with bank accounts and budgeting.



## BBC BITESIZE Careers Tour

*All of Year 9 and Year 10 were visited by the BBC Careers Tour where a panel of experts talked about their experiences in their industry and how they got to where they are today. Students also had an opportunity to ask questions as they look ahead to their future and next steps with options and work experience.*



### **Year 10 Work Experience**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

Next term all Year 10 students will have a meeting to discuss their WEX.

### **Year 11 Next Steps**

All Year 11 students over the course of the year will have a 1-1 next steps interview with an independent careers' advisor.

# A Catholic Pilgrimage: LOURDES



Our Year 10 Lourdes pilgrims started their preparation by supporting the Keighley SVP group serving Christmas dinner at Keighley Rugby Club.

After serving and clearing the Christmas dinner the students joined in with two of our local primary schools, St Joesphs and OLV, in a carol concert signing festive songs and even received a visit from Santa!

The students were a credit to the school with many of the SVP praising their efforts saying how hard working, kind and polite they are. Well done Year 10.



Our Rugby players were also serving the local community their lunches. They were amazing ambassadors for our school.



This term we will celebrate our wonderful students at their end of term assemblies.



## RETRO GAMING CLUB!

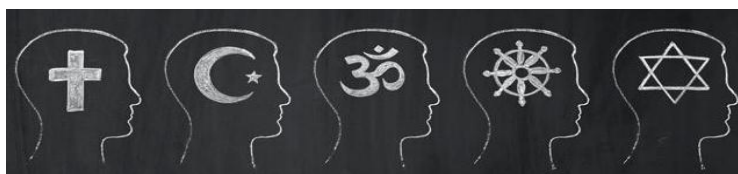


## PSHE @ Holy Family

This term students have covered topic areas which celebrate diversity and equality, along with their rights and responsibilities in KS3, and in KS4, students have been exploring world issues and understanding British Values.

Our Catholic Life at Holy Family is extremely important and we are respectful and support each other with whatever our own faith is.

Every week during registration we have a weekly prayer or reflection and meet as year groups weekly.



# Advent at Holy Family

As part of our celebration and faith, every year group attending our advent liturgies.



**Thank you to all the students, parents and staff who have supported with our Advent Appeal.**

## The Holy Family Catholic School Advent Appeal 2024

**We need your help!**

We would like you to bring into school the items on the list below.

All items donated will be made into hampers to be given to people who need our help at Christmas.

**"Give a little, help a lot"**

Year 7 - Biscuits

Year 8 - Crisps & Crackers

Year 9 - Christmas Cake & Mince Pies

Year 10 - Chocolate & Selection Boxes

Year 11- Sweets

6<sup>th</sup> Form - Sachet Drinks & Marshmallows

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

# CHRISTMAS DINNER

We have hosted a Christmas Dinner for every year group over the last two weeks of term. This has been a great opportunity for the students to sit down and enjoy a meal together.

