

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we draw near to the end of the Christmas term, I am delighted to introduce the festive edition of our school newsletter. This term has been brimming with achievements, creativity, and the true spirit of community, and I'm delighted to share some of the highlights with you.

Our traditional Christmas carol service was a resounding success, with beautiful performances from our choir and instrumentalists, alongside Gospel readings, a drama performance and reflections on the true meaning of Christmas. It was a poignant reminder of the importance of faith, hope, and togetherness during this holy season.

In the spirit of creativity, our Design Technology department hosted a competition to design and construct nativity scenes. The entries showcased incredible craftsmanship and ingenuity, and the winning designs are proudly displayed in the school foyer, spreading festive cheer to all who see them! You can see the winning designs in the newsletter.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our chaplaincy team for their tireless efforts in fostering a vibrant spiritual life within our school. From organising liturgical assemblies led by students to supporting our student SVP (St Vincent de Paul) society in their charitable outreach projects, they have embodied the values of service and participation that define our community.

This term, we celebrated students who achieved the most achievement points, recognizing their hard work, resilience, and dedication. Congratulations to all award recipients—your efforts inspire us all.

Our drama department has also had an exciting term, with students showcasing their talents through dynamic performances. It's wonderful to see their confidence and creativity shine.

Congratulations to Year 7 student Cai Seraphin, the winner of our ghost story competition. Cai's gripping tale captured the imaginations of students and staff alike and was a standout entry in a field of impressive submissions and you can read an extract in the newsletter!

On the sports field, our girls' football team won the borough plate—a remarkable achievement that reflects their teamwork, determination, and skill. Well done to all involved!

Our Learning Resource Centre (LRC) has been a hub of festive activity this term, hosting a range of Christmas-themed events that provided students with opportunities to connect, create, and celebrate the joy of the season.

As we look back on the term, I am immensely proud of everything our students, staff, and wider community have accomplished.

On behalf of everyone at the school, I wish you and your families a joyful and blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year.





CHAPLAINCY

This last half term has been a busy and productive few weeks for the Chaplaincy team. We began with Harvest and now look forward to the great feast of Christmas.

Harvest Collection

The local SVP group based at Our Lady & St George's parish collected our Harvest

collection of non-perishable food. Thank you to all parents who contributed.

Year 11 Weekly Mass

Each week, a form group from Year 11 joined the Our Lady & St George's Parish Mass, alongside Our Lady & St George primary students.



All Saints Retreat

All students experienced a Retreat on the Feast of All Saints. We were delighted to welcome the Rise Theatre group to perform for Years 9-11.

All students took part in workshops about the meaning of All Saints, our school Saints and St Oscar Romero. Year 7 led an All Saints liturgy and Year 8 attended Mass at our Lady & St George.





CHAPLAINCY

Gardening Club

Our Gardening Club has been busy this term, planting trees in the school grounds and planting bulbs in the community planter outside school. Gardening Club is part of our Livesimply programme.



Blessing of new Lectionaries

The new edition of the Lectionary for Mass came into use in England and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent 2024. It is appropriate that these new Lectionaries and Book of the Gospels be blessed before they are taken for use.

We were delighted that Fr Michael blessed our new Lectionaries during a visit to school.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

We welcomed the Priests of the Deanery for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This was offered on both sites and an opportunity for students to make their peace with God.

We are thankful to Canon Niall and Fr Michael from Our Lady & St George and Fr Freddy from Our Lady of the Rosary & St Patrick for being so generous with their time.





CHAPLAINCY Year 7s Lectio Divina

All Year 7s participated in a Lectio Divina session during their RE lesson. Meaning divine reading, it is a way of becoming immersed in the Scriptures very personally. It is a way of developing a closer relationship with God by reflecting prayerfully on His words. We imagine we are actually involved in the events of Scripture. It is an intensely personal experience.

The Year 7s showed a maturity and understanding of the practice, sharing their thoughts and prayers.

Christmas Hampers

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the class Hampers. There was a wonderful response and we know our friends at Christian Kitchen and SVP will ensure that everything is used to the benefit of those most needing support, not just at Christmas but throughout the year.

THANK ... YOU





Month of Holy Souls

Prayers and memories for our departed family and friends were displayed throughout the month of November.

House St Elizabeth Feast Day - 5 November

All students in Elizabeth House received a prayer card and sweet treat to celebrate their Feast Day

CHAPLAINCY

Carol Service

Our Annual Carol Service was a wonderful celebration of carols, readings and drama, and the perfect start to the final week of school, leading to the great feast of Christmas.

The choir were in amazing voice and sounded beautiful in the setting of Our Lady & St George church, accompanied by our musicians. Thank you to Mr Strachan in Music and Mr McCollin, Mrs Sayer and Mr Sayer for their work with the choir.

The drama centred around the real meaning of Christmas - the Birth of Jesus and being with family and friends. Written by students, we are thankful to the staff from Drama and English for supporting the students. We were joined by representatives from our Christmas charities, Christian Kitchen and the parish SVP, who gratefully received the many toiletry hampers collected by students.

Thank you to Head Girl Maria, Head Boy Fabrice, Deputy Head Girl Aleesha, Deputy Head Boy Tyrees and Catholic Life Prefect Allison for their beautiful Reading. Thank you also to Catholic Life Prefect Stacy for her support and the Senior Prefect team for welcoming everyone. Finally, to the RE Department for providing the refreshments.

There was a retiring collection for CAFOD's Advent Appeal for Ukrainian Families.



CHAPLAINCY EXFO Young Leaders

Our Year 12 CAFOD Young Leaders, Miriam and Maria, led Advent assemblies for all year groups. They shared the message of hope through Sagesse's story. Sagesse is 15 and lives in Goma, DRC. She hopes to train as a doctor. It is a struggle for Sagesse's family to pay her school fees, but through the support of CAFOD, they have a new income building charcoal stoves and cultivating mushrooms. They also organised a bake sale to raise funds for CAFOD.









<u>Craft Club</u>

Craft Club is an informal drop-in session, and this term students have enjoyed making friendship bracelets while some have been learning to crochet.



Merry Christmas from the Chaplaincy Team!

Dear Tesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we manvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter.

Our hearts are open to you, Jesus.

Amen

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. Wishing you a joyous Christmas and blessings in the coming year. Mrs Grierson, Chaplaincy

ADVENT

Advent

Advent is always a busy time in school. Five trees have been decorated! The Advent wreath has been displayed in every assembly, students have led Advent assemblies, we have been busy rehearsing for the Annual Carol Service and students are busy filling hampers for the needy.

Students have led all our Liturgical Assemblies throughout Advent, inviting us to slow down, enter into prayer, reflection and silence as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

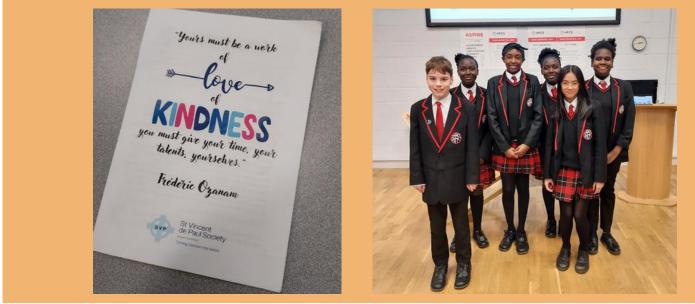


ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Commissioning Service

Holy Family SVP were joined by OLSG's Minnie Vinnies, Rev. Cerson and the District President for Waltham Forest's SVP in their commissioning service. In the service, the members of the SVP renewed their vows of service and learnt about the life of St Vincent De Paul and the importance of using our talents to serve others! We also elected our new leadership team for 2024-2025:

Albert: Communication officer Chloe: Communication officer Hazel: President Alvina: Treasurer Divina: Vice President, Secretary: Yaa



Anointing of the Sick Mass:

The Youth SVP joined the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead for their annual anointing of the sick mass and SVP Christmas party. The students supported Fr Martin with the liturgy by writing the bidding prayers, reading, the offertory procession and singing at the end of the mass. After the party, the Youth SVP served food to the parishioners, hosted the raffle and even took part in a dance! The parishioners were very impressed with their beautiful singing and their willingness to serve others.





ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Sweet Fundraiser

A sweet sale took place on upper site, led by Year 9, 12 and 13 to raise money for gifts for the children and young people on the Acorn Ward at Whipps Cross. Thanks to their hard work, a total of £64.73 was raised! Well done Liza, Nina, Aleyna, Cino, Gabriella, Maria and Fabrice.





On Thursday 12th December, the Youth SVP went on a visit to the Acorn Ward at Whipps Cross Hospital to spread some festive cheer to the children and young people on the ward. A lovely afternoon was spent helping the children with coloring in and writing their letter's to Father Christmas! Later on in the afternoon, the students went around the ward, accompanied with the Ward Manager to deliver the Christmas presents to the babies, children and young teens. Over lunch time the wards were filled with lovely Christmas Carols and were enjoyed by all.

Well done to the Youth SVP and all the effort that they have put in to serving others in 2024. There is a lot to look forward to in 2025!





Well done Year 7!

Congratulations year 7 on making such a incredible start to the year. Collectively you have achieved almost 10,000 achievement points showing how each of you are reflecting our ASPIRE values and living out the words of St Oscar Romero.

Top Attendance Achievers

A huge well done to the students below for having 100% attendance.

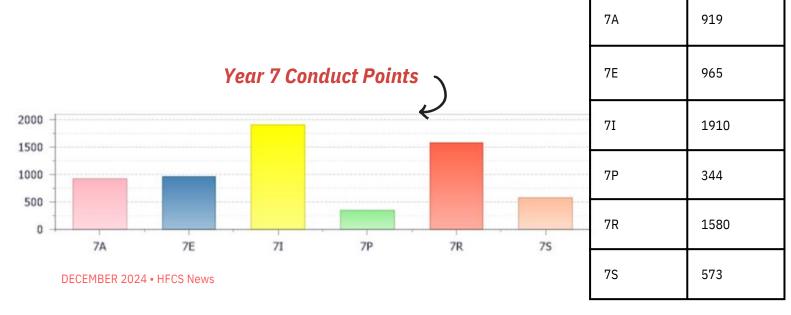
7A	Jerrell, Freddie, Sidharth, Joy, Ledjon
7E	Blessing, Yonatan, Leo, Mirabel, Denisa
71	Ameerah, Akin, Zara, Jessica, Sparkayla, Fatuma, Dila
7P	Rose, Joviah, Michaela, Ugochi, Amari, Dominik, Anush, Ian, Joshua
7R	Michelle, Lauren, Gabriella, Milla, Albert
7S	Peniel, Zolika, Jaeshan, Inayah, Success, Brianna, Princess, Maja, Maciej



<u>Pizza Party</u>

This was an award for the form with the highest Conduct Points. Well done to 7I for winning this award, with a conduct point of 1910.





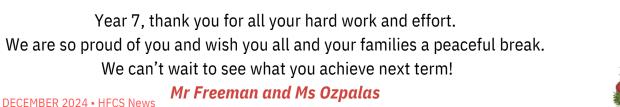


Top 10 Conduct Points in Year 7

Students were awarded with a 'Movie Day' for obtaining the highest conduct points in their form groups. Students enjoyed watching 'The Grinch' together and eating some snacks!

We are very proud of the students below for getting the most conduct points during the first term of Year 7. Conduct points are awarded for being polite, respectful, holding the door open for teachers, and showing kindness within the school.





Well done Year 8&9!

Top 10 Conduct Points in Year 8 & 9

Students were awarded with a 'Movie Day' for obtaining the highest conduct points in their form groups.



Callum T Voldie K **9E** Baah A **9EL** Renee A Kisanet A Tatiana T **9I** Elnathan B **9R** Nathan A **9P** Gwyndolyn A Erel A Soliyana W

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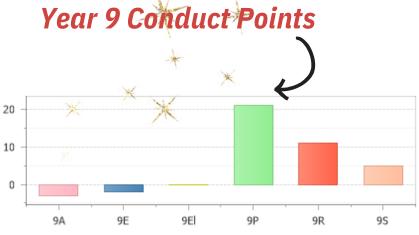
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Form of the Term

Congratulations to **9P**, our **Form of the Term!** They have topped the Year 9 leaderboard for conduct points, showcasing an outstanding balance of excellent behavior and achievements. Collectively, they have set an amazing example of teamwork and dedication, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts this term. Well done, 9P – *you are truly Phenomenal!*







Celebrating Our New Prefect Team

At Holy Family , students always have an opportunity to **include themselves in service and participate in deeds to help the school** . This is because it **follows our ASPIRE values** .

One way students can help in school is by being a **Prefect.** A perfect **helps with improving certain qualities of the school by giving ideas to staff, ensuring that students have a great time in the school's education.** They also help **lead assemblies; dedicating their time to staying back after school and planning.**

From confidently **leading achievement assemblies to launching creative initiatives like Acts of Service Bingo, they have gone above and beyond** to promote positivity, teamwork, and service. Their dedication and enthusiasm set a fantastic example for all students.

Thank you, prefects, for your hard work and for making a lasting impact in our school - look out for many more to come.

Meet our new team below....







9A: Callum





9EL: Tanujan





9E: Alexander



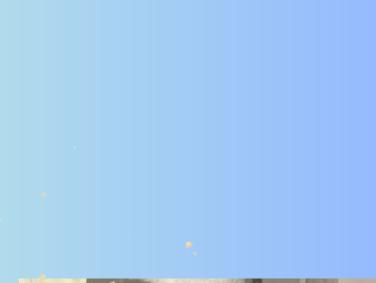


9I : Elnathan & Govind



9R: Emmanuela & Nathan







9S: Francesca & Teddy

JACK PETCHEY

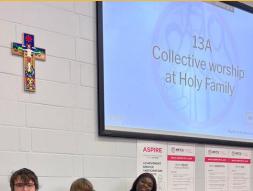




What is the Jack Petchey award?

The Jack Petchey award aims to recognise outstanding young people in schools. Students who win the Jack Petchey award have been nominated by members of staff in the school. The award winners are awarded a certificate in assembly, as well as a amount of funding that they can spend on whatever they like in the school! They can choose to use it for a school trip, resources for a subject department, or to even put it towards their end of year party. We look forward to seeing what our sixth form winners choose to spend their funding on!







Outstanding Achievers!

NY CK

The sixth form are very proud to announce that al of the Jack Petchey winners for this term are sixth form students! Our outstanding achievers

are:

Arian K Janet A Charles G Nikolas G

SCIENCE

The Mystery of the Atom

9b/Sc3's Dazzling Dive into the Mysteries of the Atom!

Year 9B/Sc3 embarked on a learning journey into the history of atomic discovery.

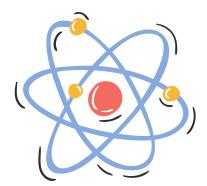
Led by the inspiring Miss Danila and guided by Miss Johnson's engaging scheme of work, they crafted vibrant timeline posters that brought to life the groundbreaking moments when scientists unlocked the secrets of the atom.

From the earliest ancient theories to cutting-edge atomic models, students explored each discovery, illustrating the genius of each scientist with creative flair and insightful annotations.

To celebrate their passion and creativity, they were awarded the Sparkling Effort Card—a glittering reward and a shining testament to their dedication!

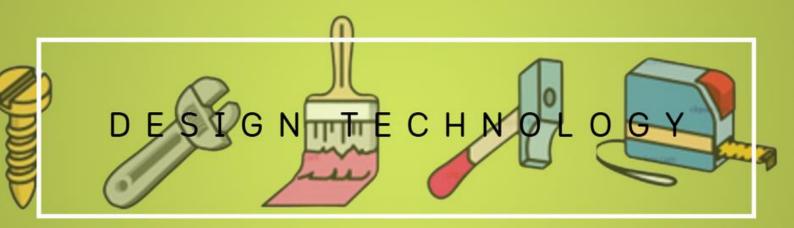








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DT Christmas Competition

The DT department held their annual Christmas Competition this half-term.

This year students were challenged with making a 3D Nativity scene, using any materials available to them. As you * . can see in the images below, DT received lots of amazing entries and the teachers were all so impressed with the effort that students put into their scenes. A big well done to all involved and congratulations to our winners!



3rd Place - Daniel A 8E

5th Place - Clara D 7R

And the winner is...







DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

A Level Drama & Theatre

Year 13 A Level Drama students: Almaz, Ava, Gabby and Neriah, had their Devised Performance Exam on Wednesday 16th October.



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For this component students develop their creative and exploratory skills to devise an

original performance for an audience. The starting point for this devising process is an extract from a performance text (4.48 Psychosis by Sarah Kane) and an influential theatre practitioner (Antonin Artaud). Artaud's intention for his audience is for them to be shocked/disturbed/uncomfortable, therefore the students' subject matter/style of performance reflected this. The play was an unsettling exploration of a recent true crime event. This component is worth 40% of their A Level qualification.



"The Year 12 HSC students really enjoyed watching the performance. The drama students really created an eerie atmosphere and even made some members of the audience 'jump' at times! We were so impressed with the quality of the acting." -Miss Duncan

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

GCSE Drama

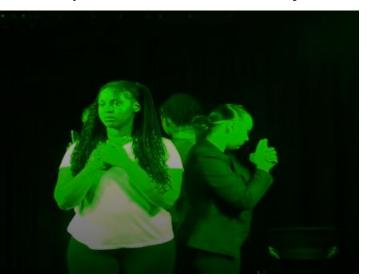
This component deals with devising, which is an exciting and challenging opportunity to work collaboratively with others to explore a range of stimuli in order to create an original performance piece. Alongside their performance, students are required to produce a portfolio of evidence which documents their process. This Component is worth 40% of their overall grade. Students completed their practical exam for this on Monday 14th October. The plays looked at themes of the supernatural, mental health and abduction.

Group 1: Holly, Shae, Geraldin, Raluca and Eliezer



Group 2: Tianna, India, Gracie and Kyra

Group 3: Jessica, Tolu, Jenusha, Malachi, Trisha





Congratulations to all Drama and Performing Arts students who have performed their pieces over the last term!

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

LAMDA

LAMDA at Holy Family School

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are pleased to invite your child to join our LAMDA afterschool club for the upcoming term.

What is LAMDA?

LAMDA is a world-class drama school in London that offers exams resulting in qualifications in both Speech and Drama that are recognized around the world through their Speech and Communications Board overseen by OFQUAL.

What are the benefits of LAMDA?

- Helps to increase self-confidence
- Improve presentation and communication skills, valuable for interviews
- Extra qualifications and UCAS points
- Develop creativity and the opportunity to explore a range of texts

LAMDA afterschool club

This fun and supportive program offers young performers the chance to explore acting, drama, and public speaking, led by professional instructors. Held weekly for one hour, students will build skills in voice technique, self-expression, body language and teamwork—no experience needed!

When will lessons take place?

On Wednesdays on the following dates: January: 15th, 22th, 29th February: 5th, 12th



What is the cost?

£9 per week (£45 per half term) Exams can be taken once a year. This usually costs between £35-55. There is no requirement to pay anything now, simply click the link below to register your interest. If you are interested in the classes but are worried about finances, please contact ms.hampshire@holyfamilycatholicschool.co.uk who will be able to advise about applying for supported payment options.

To register your child's interest, please visit:

https://teachmajor.classforkids.io/venue/19/holy-family-catholic-school



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Please click on the image to register!







Literacy Competition

Students in Year 7 competed in the Ghost Writing competition this term and there were many outstanding contributions.

Congratulations to the winner, Cai S!

Next term we are launching another fantastic literacy competition so keep your eyes open for more brilliant opportunities to show your talents.





Please enjoy reading an extract from Cai's winning entry:

One blustery October night, four friends—Alex, Jamie, Pat, and Casey decided to visit the library as a dare. Armed with flashlights and way too much confidence, they made their way into the dark, creaky building. The dust was thick, and the smell of old paper filled the air, mingling with a faint whiff of... freshly brewed coffee?

'Did someone make coffee?" Pat asked, sniffing the air. The others shrugged, but they all smelled it too. Just then, cold breeze swept past them, carrying a faint whisper: 'No drinks in the library..."



SPORTS

Girls Basketball

The Year 8 girls basketball team demonstrated resilience and tenacity, securing a convincing win against Lammas with a score of 35-6. Their ability to push through challenges and maintain focus was evident in their game play.









Following this, Year 9 girls basketball team also emerged victorious,making a significant impact with their performance. The collective success of these teams reflects the dedication and effort put forth by all players and coaches involved.

The Year 9 Netball team has achieved remarkable success by winning the league championship for the second time. Their impressive performance throughout the season has been characterised by a series of victories in every match, demonstrating their skills of teamwork, and determination. This consistent success led them to the finals, where they faced off against Walthamstow academy. In a thrilling match, the Year 9 showcased their talent and resilience, ultimately securing a well-deserved victory with a score 15-9. This achievement not only highlights the hard work that was put into this but the also sets a strong foundation for future competitions.

SPORTS

Boys Basketball

The Year 9 boys basketball team celebrated a strong performance,

winning their game with a score 64-25. Similarly to the Year 11 boys basketball team, they achieved a significant victory with an impressive score 72-16. Both teams dominating their match and their win not only showcased their skills and teamwork but also highlighted their determination and hard work throughout the season.



Girls Football

Finally, the Year 8 girls won the borough plate on Monday 16th December, beating Eden School 2-1 in the semi finals and then beating Buxton 1-0 in the final. The girls played brilliantly in both games. Well done girls!









THELRC

Book Donations

The LRC were delighted to receive a huge donation from Callum this half-term. The donation of 43 books included a huge 'Horrid Henry' collection, 'Wonder' by R.J Palacio and 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the night time' by Mark Haddon. Mr. Aziz and Mrs. Anjorin also donated books as they recognise the importance of reading. We know that these books will be enjoyed by so many of our students, and we thank them for their generosity. A thankyou also goes to Kiara in 11S for setting up the display in the LRC.





Literature Society:

WEDNESDAYS, 3.15-4PM

"Reading without reflecting is like eating without digesting." -Edmund Burke

THELRC

Year 8 Reading Intervention

Students attend weekly and are supported by Ms Gabrjuna and Mrs Lloyd to read and comprehend text. In addition, students are reading for pleasure daily for a minimum of 20 minutes. They are making steady

CLOSING DATE:

23 JANUARY





HANDWRITING COMPETITION * OPEN TO YEAR GROUPS 7 - 9

In your most impressive handwriting, copy out a poem that inspires you. The poem can be of any style or theme, but it must reflect something meaningful to you.

Prizes: Winners from each year group will receive vouchers.

How to Enter:

- Write the poem in your best handwriting.
- · Make sure to include your name and form group on your entry.
- · Submit your entry to the librarian.

Get creative and show off your calligraphy skills.



Handwriting Competition

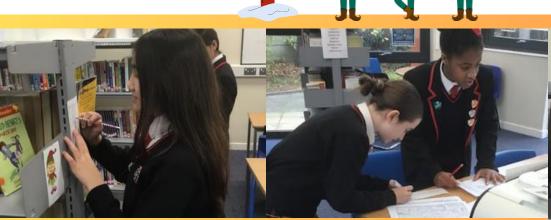
Are you proud to show off your handwriting? Do you have a passion for poetry?

If the answer is yes, then please see our poster for more details on the LRC's handwriting competition!

THELRC

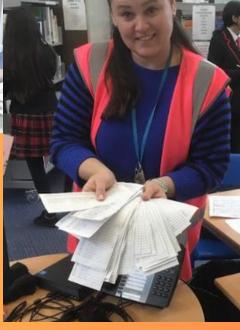
LRC Christmas Activity

The Christmas activity that took place in the library all day on Wednesday 4 December was an Elf Search activity. There were 30 elves hidden around the library, each with a different Nordic name. Students went on a search and, by filling the form with the elves' names, "found" them all so they could be reunited with Santa in the North Pole. A total of 53 students took part in this activity, receiving a certificate of participation and some sweets afterwards.



NORTH POLE







Merry Christmas from the LRC!

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Waltham Forest Activities over Christmas break

Waltham Forest are running a wide range of holiday activities for children in receipt of benefit related free school meals over the winter school holidays. They still have a number of places available. To find out more information about any of the sessions or to book a place, please click on the images below.

MULTISPORTS & GAMES, WINTER 2024

Our Winter Camp is a must attend event for all children / young people. It is filled with FUN, EXCITING games & sports for all to enjoy with presents to be won in all activities. So book now to join the fun.

Empower Youth

This programme will be focused on experience days including cycling, martial arts, ice skating, and more. These will be fully funded by the Waltham Forest HAF programme and these experiences are there to provide your children with enjoyable experiences they wouldn't get elsewhere.

Our youth marketing agency is proud to collaborate with Waltham Forest Council on an exciting initiative designed to amplify the impact of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. Over the course of three days, we will engage a diverse cohort of 20-25 young people to create a professional 3-minute promotional video that showcases the HAF programme's positive influence in the borough.
This project will provide participants with an immersive experience in the creative production process. Young people will be actively involved in all stages of the video's development, from conceptualising ideas to filming and editing.

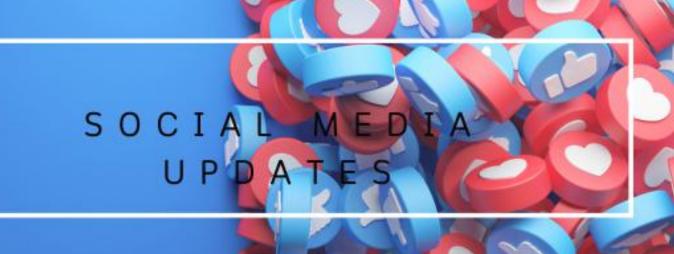




WISE Youth Trust will be providing free Winter HAF holiday activities for young people who are in receipt of Statutory benefits related free school meals aged 8-16 years old in the borough. We will be providing a range of activities such as a trip to trampolining , arts and craft, t.shirt design, football, tennis, basketball, and different fun games.

the

This camp will offer three days of fitness, teamwork, basketball skills and drills, mini tournaments, exercises for performance, games, confidence building skills, healthy food to fuel workshops and wellbeing practices.







Holy Family Catholic School is on **TikTok!** Please follow us: **@hfcsoffical**



KEY DATES

Forthcoming Events - Autumn Term 2

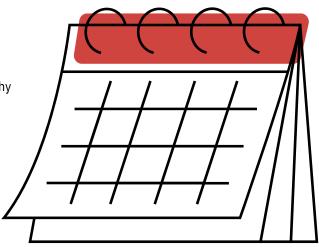
Monday 6th January - Back to School Monday 6th January - BTEC Public Exams begin Thursday 16th January - Year 11 Parent's Evening Thursday 23rd January - National reading and handwriting day Monday 27th January - Year 12 Mock Exam Week begins Wednesday 29th January - Intermediate Maths challenge Wednesday 29th January - Year 11 into Sixth Form Taster Day Thursday 30th January - Year 11 Poetry Live at the Apollo Theatre Monday 3rd February - KS5 Geography NEA Workshop Thursday 6th February - Year 8 Parents Evening Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February - Half-term Monday 24th February - Year 11 Formal Assessment begin Monday 24th February - Friday 14th March - Year 13 Health and Social Care work placements Monday 24th February - Wednesday 26th February - Y10 Geography Field Trip Tuesday 4th March - PSD Drop Down Day Wednesday 5th March - Ash Wednesday Thursday 6th March - World Book Day Thursday 6th March - Year 12 Parents Evening Friday 14th March - CAFOD Lent Fast Day Sunday 9th March - First Sunday of Lent Monday 10th March - British Science Week Monday 10th March - Geography Field Work day at QMU

CONTACT US:

Walthamstow House Site (Years 7, 8, 12 & 13) Telephone number: 020 8520 0482 Email: <u>office@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk</u> Wednesday 12th March - Poetry Competition Thursday 20th March - Year 9 Parents Evening Monday 24th March - Friday 4th April - Internal sixth form interviews

Tuesday 25th March - Year 9 Options Evening Monday 31st March - Deadline for Year 9 options form Monday 31st March - Thursday 3rd April - Final Year 13 Assessments

Thursday 3rd April - Year 10 Parents Evening Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April - Easter Holidays Tuesday 22nd April - Back to School



Please note that whilst these dates are correct at the time of going to print, they are subject to change. Don't forget that the calendar at www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk is regularly updated.

Wiseman House Site (Years 9, 10 & 11) Telephone number: 020 8520 3587 Email: <u>office@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk</u>