

HFC S

NEWS

Issue 09
February
2025

In this issue:



Headteachers
Update



Y10
GCSE Drama



Y8 Borough
Champions!



Year 9
Workshop



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the February half-term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the many exciting and enriching events that have taken place within our school community.

Our Chaplaincy team has been busy leading many wonderful activities to deepen the faith life of our students. We have celebrated the Pilgrims of Hope, Peace Sunday, and the Feast of the Holy Family, allowing our students to come together in prayer and reflection. Additionally, our Catholic Life Ambassadors from Years 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 had an inspiring time at Walsingham House, where they engaged in a variety of leadership activities and discussions.

We are also incredibly proud of our student leaders at CAFOD, who have shown great dedication to supporting this important charity's work, reflecting the values of compassion and service that are at the heart of our school's mission. This half-term, Year 9 had a fantastic opportunity to engage with a Civil Engineering Workshop, aimed at empowering a group of girls to explore the field of engineering. It's inspiring to see our students developing skills and interests that will serve them well in the future.

In Year 7, we would like to celebrate the achievements of 7S/Sc, who have demonstrated exceptional dedication in their science studies, with half the class achieving excellent grades between 65% and 84%. Congratulations to these students for their hard work and enthusiasm in science.

Year 10 English students have been exploring *An Inspector Calls*, creating their own set designs and performing key extracts from the play – a fantastic example of creativity and collaboration.

Basketball at Holy Family continues to go from strength to strength. We are incredibly fortunate to have professional basketball coach David Lavinier as part of our PE department.

The fruits of David's support can be seen in the recent success of our teams. Congratulations to our Year 8 Girls' Basketball Team, who were crowned Borough Champions after an exciting final against Willowfield, winning 18-14. A special mention to Hazel, who was named MVP. Well done also to our Year 9 Girls' Basketball Team, who were worthy runners-up in a thrilling final against Lammas, narrowly losing by just two baskets. Year 10 boys also retained their trophy. David has been identifying talented players since the start of the year with a view to developing basketball academy provision here at HFCS - watch this space!

Our LRC Book Donation Campaign continues to thrive, with many generous donations from staff and students. A special thank-you goes to Mariam in 7I for donating 39 books, and to Mr Sharp and Mrs Scullion for their contributions. It's wonderful to see the enthusiasm for reading growing throughout the school.

As we look ahead to the second half of the term, I am proud of all the achievements and the spirit of community that our students continue to demonstrate. Our Year 11 students have their next round of PPEs (pre-public examinations) coming up after the break to prepare them for the upcoming GCSE examinations.

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support.
Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

*God bless,
Mrs. Laws*

CHAPLAINCY

January Catholic Life Newsletter

This is my first opportunity to wish you a peaceful 2025 and we begin with a round up of celebrations that have taken place since our Christmas newsletter.

Feast of St Stephen - 26 December

St Stephen is the Patron Saint of House S and St. St Stephen, was the first Christian Martyr. His dying breath was to forgive those who had killed him. Most of us will never have to die for our faith, but every day we face decisions about how we live our faith. Let us, like St Stephen, be a witness to our faith.

Feast of the Holy Family - 29 December

It is a Feast that seeks to portray the Holy Family of Nazareth as the “true model of life” from which our families can draw inspiration and know where to find help and comfort.

And we are called after the Holy Family for a reason.

The family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph greatly influence our school ideals. Where the Gospel is lived out in the everyday experience.



Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee for the Catholic Church - an event that takes place every 25 years.

The theme for the 2025 Jubilee is “Pilgrims of Hope”, an invitation to showcase the hope of our Christian faith to people across the world at a time when there is so much suffering from the impact of war, poverty, climate change, and the lasting effects of the COVID pandemic.

The Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee presents each one of us with an opportunity to reignite the flame of our faith in our own hearts and to share the light of that faith with those in darkness.

This is an important and exciting event in the Catholic church and of course Holy Family as a Catholic community. [Find out more on the Jubilee 2025 website](#)

Peace Sunday - 19 January

Pope Francis’ message for the World Day of Peace had the theme “Forgive us our trespasses: Grant us your peace’.

In his message, Pope Francis talks about forgiveness as a sign of God’s mercy and love, which gives us hope. It ties in with 2025 as a Jubilee Year in the church, a year which focuses on forgiveness, working for justice and bringing hope to all. Pope Francis’ Message for the World Day of Peace 2025.



CHAPLAINCY

Racial Justice Sunday - 9 February

On this day, the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour.

The theme for 2025 was “Pilgrims of Hope: Our Journey Together Towards Racial Justice”.

Bishop Paul McAleenan says: “2025 is a very special year. It marks both a Year of Jubilee and the 30th anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday.”

“This year, we invite the Catholic community to reflect on the journey towards racial justice - past, present and future - by asking: ‘How far have we come, where are we now and what remains to be achieved?’

CAFOD

Our CAFOD Young Leaders attended their second training session, joining together with students from other schools in the Diocese. The group has lots of plans for the coming half-term. Before Christmas, they organised a bake sale and raised money to buy World Gifts.



TELCO/Caritas Leadership Conference

Two year 12 students attended this conference, alongside several other schools in the Diocese of Brentwood. The conference was held at the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service retreat house in Abbotswick.

Students heard inspiring stories from the keynote speakers from Telco and The Centre for Theology and Community, and took part in discussions around issues affecting their communities. This energy and insight is essential to driving meaningful change.

Garden Club

After a winter break, our Garden Club will resume after half-term. This takes place on the Wiseman Site, Monday after school. Garden Club is part of our Live Simply programme.

Let us pray for rest as the half term holidays start, for protection of our children, that children are cared for and enjoy the week. And our steps are guided by your wisdom.

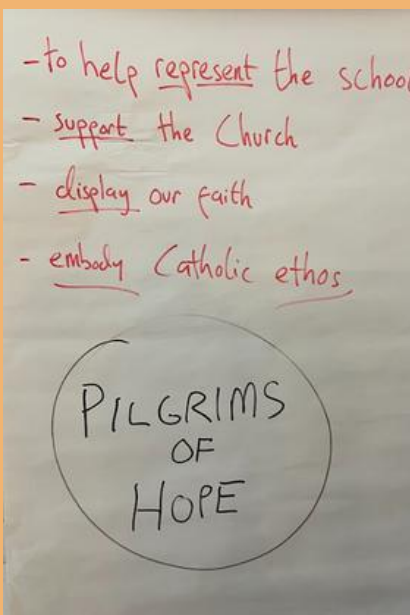
Mrs. Grierson and Miss Joseph, Chaplaincy



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Walsingham House

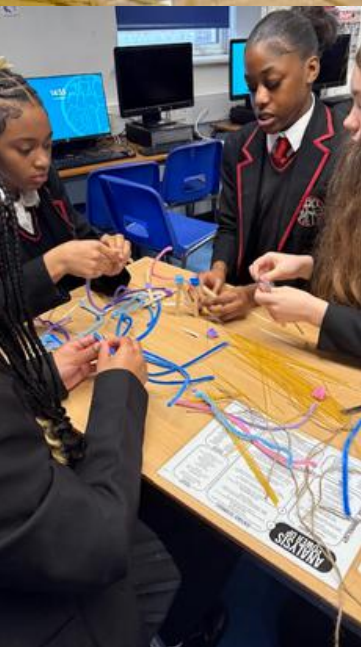
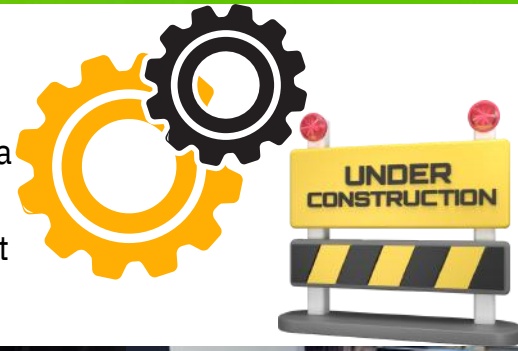
Our new Catholic Life Ambassadors from Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 had a brilliant time at Walsingham House. They had a training session to help them feel well equipped for their new role. This included ice breakers, having the opportunity to practice proclaiming the word of God in the chapel, team building exercises, learning more about the Jubilee Year and how their role fits in with our wider school ethos. Huge thanks to the BCYS team for delivering a really engaging session for our students!



YEAR 9

Civil Engineering Workshop

This half-term the Year 9 Team organised a Civil Engineering Workshop for a group of High Ability girls in the year group. The workshop included a detailed talk about civil engineering apprenticeships, and then the student were set a challenge to make a bridge that could hold weight, out of limited resources. You can see some of the results below!



“I found that yesterday was fun and educating. It made me feel different about my future , also making me want to apply for an apprenticeship when I’m 18. Miss Taylor made it very interesting and promising. She gave us a good idea on her apprenticeship, sharing her past experiences and current ones. She made the session really fun!

The workshop gave us a glimpse into our future, teaching us to branch out our choices and not limit ourselves just to university. Civil Engineering doesn’t seem boring, it seems fun.

We also got to put our engineering hats on and create a bridge out of popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, spaghetti and sellotape which was really fun and engaging.”

Fola 9P

SCIENCE

7S/Sc – Celebrating Success: Young Fab Scientists!

This term, we are proud to celebrate the achievements of our Young Fab Scientists from 7S, who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and excellence in science.

Half of the class from 7S achieved grades between 65% and 84%, demonstrating a strong commitment to their science studies. These students were recognized with prestigious awards. These included: The Young Fab Scientist Trophy – awarded to students with the highest academic performance in science and the Gold Award Card or Well Done Award Card .

Their hard work and determination have paid off, and their efforts in striving for excellence have been recognized. This achievement reflects the enthusiasm and dedication they bring to the subject.

To acknowledge the efforts of all students, every member of the class received a pen as a token of appreciation for their hard work and participation in science lessons.

Even though you sometimes challenge me, I know you have great potential and can achieve amazing things!

We are all incredibly proud of you – keep up the fantastic work!

Ms. Danila



DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

Drama GCSE

Year 10 Drama GCSE students performed extracts from Act 1 of An Inspector Calls during their lessons in this half-term, using some of their own set design ideas. Students worked in groups to create a slide presentation which featured detailed designs that linked to enhancing the key themes of the play for the audience. They performed the extracts as part of their presentations. Well done

Year 10!

Ms Hampshire-Mannion



DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

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!

LAMDA private lessons (within school hours)

These tailored private lessons are available for individuals or pairs, led by experienced professionals. Held weekly for 30 minutes, they offer personalised support in acting, drama, and public speaking, helping students build confidence, creativity, and communication skills. Students can also work towards LAMDA exams, earning valuable qualifications and UCAS points to support their future ambitions.

When will lessons take place?

On Wednesdays on the following dates:

February	26th
March	5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
April	2nd

What is the cost?

£9 per week for the afterschool club. (£54 per half term)

£16 +VAT per week for private duo lessons. (£115.20 per half term)

£21 +VAT per week for private solo lessons. (£151.20 per half term)

Exams will be available for those taking private lessons and can be taken once a year. This usually costs between £35-55.

Places are limited and are strictly on a first come first served basis. If you would like to secure your child's spot, please visit

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

If you are interested in the classes but are worried about finances, please contact ms.hampshire@holyfamilycatholicsschool.co.uk who will be able to advise about applying for supported payment options.



SPORTS

Basketball at Holy Family

Our basketball teams across all year groups are currently having a very successful season! The following teams all made it through to the Borough

Semi-Finals:

- Y8 Girls
- Y9 Girls
- Y11 Girls
- Y9 Boys
- Y10 Boys
- Y11 Boys

We are now proud to announce our Year 8 Girls' team as the Basketball Borough Champions!

The girls were victorious in a closely fought final in which they beat the Willowfield team 18 - 14.

Hazel (pictured) also picked up the MVP trophy.

A huge congratulations also goes to our Y9 Girls' team who narrowly missed out on becoming Borough Champions by 2 baskets. The final score was 38-34 to Lammas. It was a fantastic final with some excellent basketball skills on show. Well done to our team who were worthy runners up.



SPORTS

Basketball at Holy Family

The Year 10/11 girls' team narrowly missed out on victory at their final on Thursday 13th February. Although the students were disappointed not to take the trophy, Mrs. Cole could not be prouder of the team:

"These Year 10 and Year 11 Girls have made me so proud and they should be proud of how they played today. We lost in the final by 1 point to Leytonstone, the final score being 19-20, but they are all still champions in my eyes."

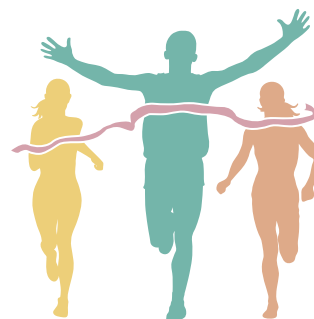
Mrs. Cole - Head of P.E



Finally, we are proud to announce the results of a tensely fought final on Friday 14th February. Our Year 10 Boys' team retained their Borough Basketball Title today beating their arch rivals, Lammas, 52-31 in a re-run of last years final. Congratulations to all players!

Year 7 Athletics

Some of our Year 7 boys were chosen to represent Waltham Forest at London Youth Games Sports hall for the athletics regional event. The boys performed brilliantly and had an excellent day out. Well done!



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

THE LRC

Book Donations

Our book collection keeps growing in the LRC! We are delighted that we continue to receive so many lovely donations from staff and students. A huge thank-you to Mariam in 7I for donating 39 books, and to Mr Sharp and Mrs Scullion for donating books that will be a real benefit to our students.

We can't wait to see what our Holy Family students choose to read over the next half-term!

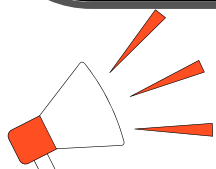
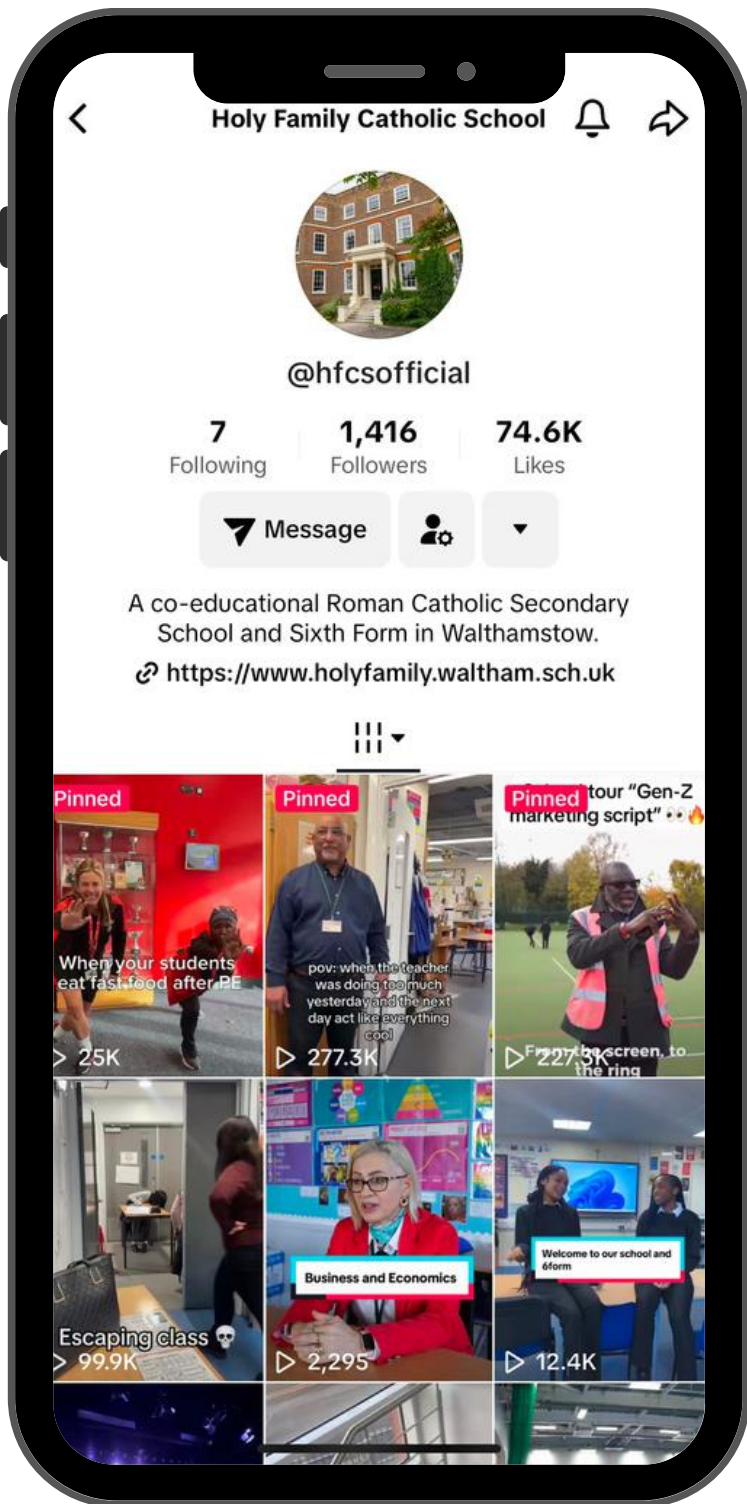
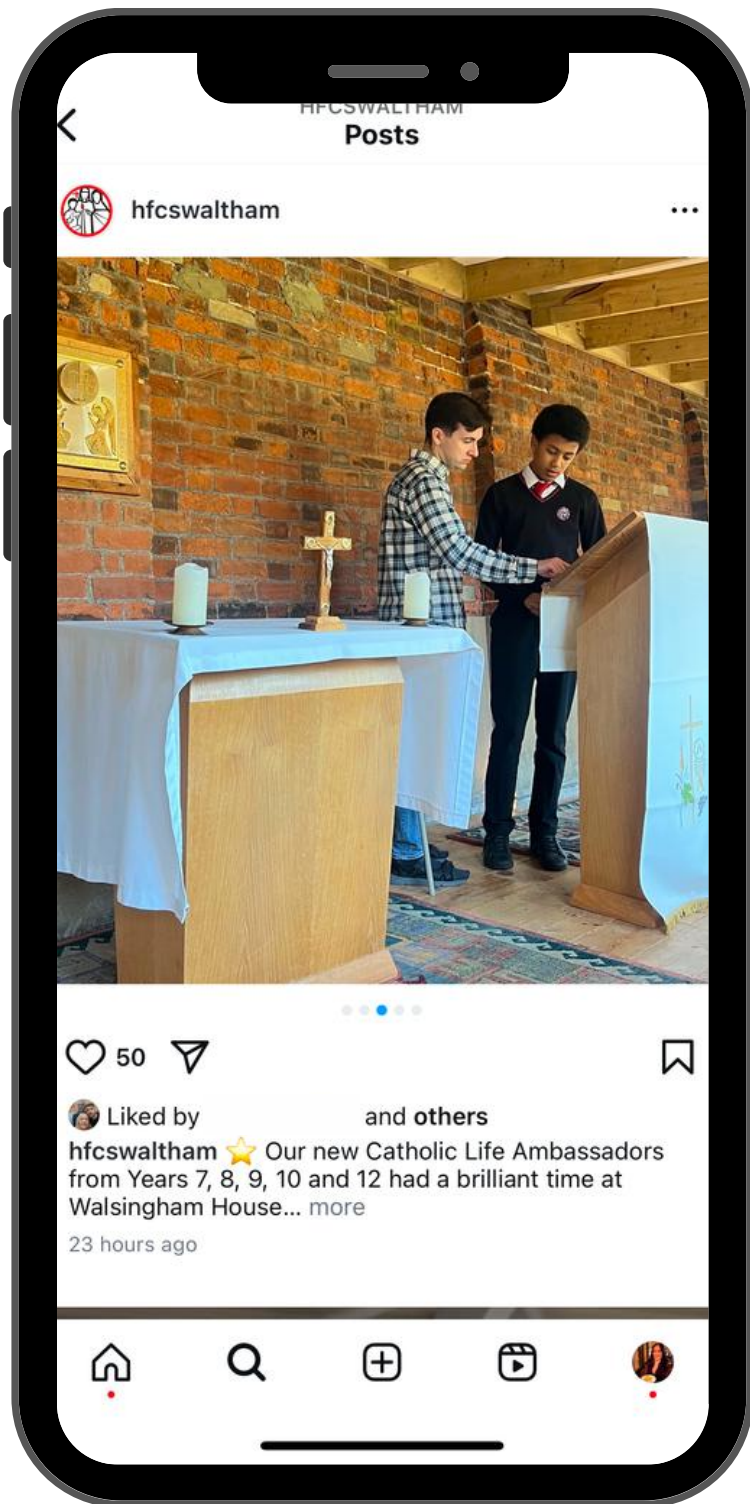


Literature Society:
Sixth Form
Reading
club

WEDNESDAYS, 3.15-4PM
L35 - LRC

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

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES



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



KEY DATES

Forthcoming Events - Spring Term 2

Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February - Half-term

Monday 24th February - Year 11 Formal Assessments 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

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

Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 25th April - Year 11 Final Core Assessments

Wednesday 23rd April - Year 9 Careers & Options Interviews

Wednesday 23rd April - Thursday 24th April - Polish Speaking GCSE Exam

Thursday 24th April - Friday 25th April - GCSE Art & Design Exam

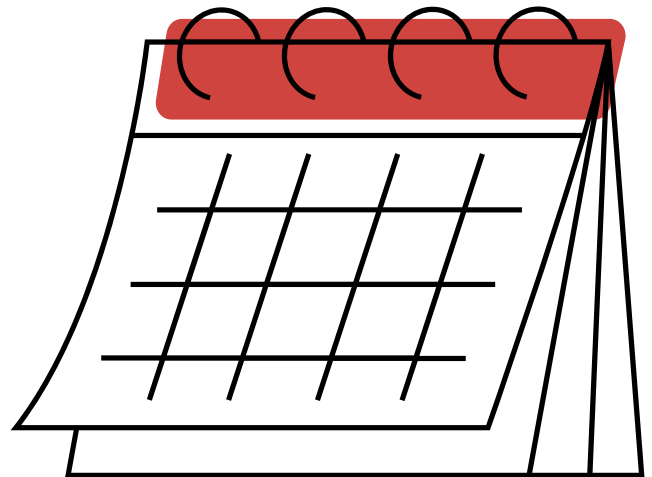
Thursday 1st May - Year 7 Parents Evening

Friday 2nd May - Year 11 Rosary Assembly

Monday 5th May - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 6th May - GCSE & A Level Exams start

Tuesday 6th May - Start of Y12 PPE Mock Week



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.

CONTACT US:

Walthamstow House Site (Years 7, 8, 12 & 13)
Telephone number: 020 8520 0482
Email: office@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk

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