



Holy Family College

Christmas 09 Newsletter



INTRODUCTION

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

This term we have focused on improving our learning techniques by becoming more reflective and resourceful learners.

As we now reflect and look back over the term it's wonderful to see just how resourceful our students are.

They put together 155 shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal which has beaten the target they were set and our school record. They are currently compiling the hampers which will be delivered next week to those in need in our local community. Also this term we have achieved a grand total of £29,980.00 in our CAFOD collection. We all recognise the saying "Christmas is about giving" and our students are to be congratulated for their generosity, not just at Christmas but throughout the year.

No doubt our Year 11 students will be reflecting on their mock examinations as they prepare for the final full term of their school education.

In January we will be assigned the architect who will be responsible for the design of our new school building and we look forward to sharing the designs once they are completed at the parents' evenings in the spring and summer terms.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff for their hard work, the parents for their continued support and the students for their individual contributions to our success as a school.

May you all enjoy a peaceful and happy Christmas.

A Casey

What's in this issue?

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"Christmas is often a time to reflect. Each handprint on 8Bs 'Reflection Tree' contains students thoughts on the past, and hopes for the future."



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BUGSY MALONE

Our School production will take place on three nights from February 23rd – 25th next year. Auditions have taken place and the 60 member cast is now rehearsing. Tickets for this spectacular mock-gangster musical play will be on sale from the end of January. Buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment – we are inviting the audience to dress in a 1920s/ 30s style for the final night.

Lead members of the cast include:

Kevin Lonergan as Bugsy
Ellesse Clough as Tallulah
Emma Young as Blousey
Kim Jackson as Dandy Dan
Harry Drummond as Fat Sam

BRIDGEWATER HALL

All Year 11 pupils have been invited to attend a Live GCSE Poetry Event at Bridgewater Hall on Monday the 18th January 2010. Every year poets from the Anthology students have to study at GCSE level, come together to lead a conference for thousands of students around Greater Manchester. The poets speak of reasons for writing their poems to give the students a more in-depth knowledge about their work and to assist them in answering the questions for the exam. In addition to the poets speaking, the Chief Examiner FROM AQA (the GCSE exam board) also gives the students 'tips' for the exam, which is a huge advantage to all those students who attend.

YEAR 8 CIVIL WAR DAY

Thursday 28th January

We again look forward to welcoming Colonel Granville Thomas and his wife and trusty helper to the school to inform and entertain Year 8 with stories and hands on activities all relating to those dark days of the English Civil Wars.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 21st January

Year 7 Parents Evening
Thursday 4th February

Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 4th March

Year 9 Parents Evening & Options Fair
Thursday 18th March

Deadline for Year 9 Options Forms
Friday 26th March

Year 10 Review Day
Thursday 22nd April

End of Year Exams Year 7 & 8
Monday 17th – Friday 21st May

Year 10 End of Year Exams
Monday 7th June – Friday 11th June

Year 9 End of Year Exams
Monday 14th June – Friday 18th June

Year 10 Work Experience Week
Monday 12th – Friday 16th July

Governing Body Meetings
will be held on
Wednesday 10th February
2010 and Wednesday 12th
May 2010.

REMINDERS

Instrumental Lessons

The school offers instrumental and singing lessons via Rochdale Music Service - nearly every instrument can be catered for. For many instruments (all woodwind, brass and strings) that price includes hire of the instrument (to take home and practise) for as long as the student is taking lessons. If students are getting musical instruments for Christmas, January will be an ideal time for them to learn how to play! The cost starts from just £58 per term. Students should ask Mr Jones for a letter if interested.



ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Children are required to attend school for 190 days each year. The LA target for attendance is at least 95%

Attendance during one school year	Equals days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	And is number of lessons missed.
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	340 lessons

The school Library is as busy as ever with an author visit planned for March – the Year 8 students will be taking part in a workshop in conjunction with Mrs Stokes from the English Department. This is always a popular event with a Book signing and question and answer session. Our most popular books at the moment are the Twilight books which have been made into the successful Twilight film.

The Library is busy with supervised homework club each evening after school until 4.15 pm. The students find it an ideal place to be able to catch up on their homework.

Contact Details

It is essential that we have accurate contact details for at least three people in the event of an emergency. Please contact the Student Office if any details change, e.g. new mobile number/work number.

NEWS

Uniform Update

Broadbents have changed their manufacturers and our school skirt will now be made in two parts, rather than three. School feel this is a positive development and the skirt should be stronger and even more hardwearing as a result.

If you intend to purchase new school uniform over the holidays, please help us to maintain our high standards by adhering to the Uniform policy.

STUDENTS GET POEMS PUBLISHED

69 students at Key Stage 3 have now officially had their poetry published in a recent book entitled: 'I have a dream 2009 – words to change the world'. The famous author Anne Frank commented on the back of the book cover: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world". Well done to all those students and anyone wanting a copy of the book can order one with the ISBN number: 978-1-84924-379-7.

FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOL MEALS SURVEY

We would like to say a big thank you to the parents, students and staff who completed the School Meals Questionnaire that was distributed recently, there was a great response. It was pleasing to find that for the majority of customers the food and service is of a good quality. However, we are always seeking to improve and as a result many of your suggestions/ideas will be put into action. A new and exciting menu that incorporates many of your requests will be launched when the school reopens in the New Year (a copy can be viewed on the school website). The survey highlighted that some of our customers have special dietary requirements. The catering staff will be only too pleased to accommodate your needs if you contact them. We are also investigating opening an additional till point and providing more dining tables in order to reduce the problem of having to queue. Please continue with your feedback throughout the year – you don't have to wait for a survey – comments are always welcome.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and New Year.

**The School Business Manager
and the Catering Staff**



Holy Family Roman Catholic and Church of England College



HOLIDAY CALENDAR 2010/2011

In Service Day:

Wednesday 1st September 2010 – Training Day
Thursday 2nd September 2010 – Training Day
One further training day to be arranged

School Year Begins – Friday 3rd September 2010

	School closes evening of:	School starts morning of:
Half Term Break	Friday 22 nd October 2010	Monday 1 st November 2010
Christmas	Wednesday 22 nd December 2010	Monday 10 th January 2011
Half Term Break	Friday 18 th February 2011	Monday 28 th February 2011
Easter	Friday 8 th April 2011	Tuesday 26 th April 2011
May Day	Monday 2 nd May 2011	SCHOOL CLOSED
Half Term Break	Friday 27 th May 2011	Monday 6 th June 2011
Summer	Thursday 21 st July 2011	To be arranged