



Welcome from the Headteacher

Once again I find myself particularly blessed and fortunate as I look at the great fortitude and resourcefulness of our staff and pupils.



Last half term brought many challenges, which we tackled and overcame with the strength of a motivated and committed community.

As we approach Christmas, I ask all of you to consider the plight of the many in our community who will face great hardship – from the elderly and their potential loneliness and fear around the pandemic to families that cannot gather in the traditional way.

Here in school we are forging ahead with teaching and learning, trying to minimise the amount of disruption to normal routines and secure effective learning for our pupils – thank you for your support.

I wish you and your families all the peace and happiness that should accompany Christmas.

God Bless

Dr Patrick Caldwell,
Headteacher

Reading For Pleasure At Sacred Heart



This term we are launching a new initiative to encourage all pupils and staff to take some time for themselves to experience the joy of literature.

Reading is a skill pupils learn long before they step through our doors.

However, we often forget it is something we must continually practise to improve and fully appreciate.

Thanks to the fantastic work being done by Mrs Luke and Mrs Holian of the English Department – supported by the entire staff through tutor time – we have begun delivering a structured set of Reading for Pleasure sessions.

They are designed to provide pupils with the skills necessary to be able to dive into a book and become lost in the story, while also absorbing the meanings and themes behind the writer's words.

Each group from Year 7 to Year 10 will work with a series of six texts across the space of the year, all of which have

	S	A	C	R	E	D
7	The Secret Garden	Skellig	Millions	Holes	Goggle Eyes	Coraline
8	Stone Cold	Smash	Ravensgate	Cirqu Du Freak	Goodnight Mr Tom	War Horse
9	Kestrel for a Knave	Noughts and Crosses	Of Mice and Men	The Hunger Games	Wicked	Refugee Boy
10	Witch Child	1984	To Kill A Mockingbird	Long Way Down	Dr Jeckyl and Mr Hyde	The Hate U Give

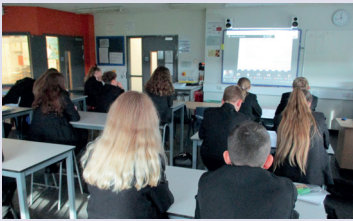
been specially selected to ensure they are age-appropriate and challenging, both in terms of their standard of English and the themes they explore.

A list of the texts that tutor groups are currently reading is included in the image below. Please take the time to ask about the book pupils are reading and how they are finding the programme.

To accompany the book and help in the development of the pupils' understanding of each text, one tutor session per week will focus on a particular element of the book and discuss themes, characters and messages from the text.

We sincerely hope our Reading for Pleasure sessions will spark a love of literature in all our young people and would be delighted to discuss this initiative further if you would like to contact us.

Police Presentation Helps Us Stay Safe Online



A specialist officer from the Cleveland Police Online Investigation Team (POLIT) delivered a powerful and informative Google Meets presentation to help our pupils stay safe online.



POLIT investigates online child grooming, indecent images of children, and offences of causing or inciting children to engage in sexual activity online.

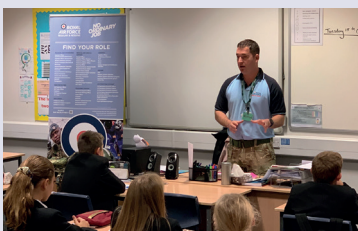
The team raises awareness of how to keep safe from online predators, liaising with schools to deliver training for children and parents.

Careers Sessions Are Just The Job

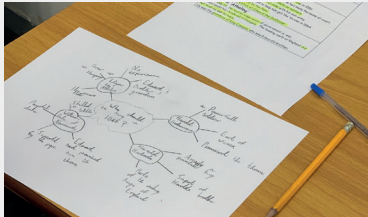
Year 7 pupils have been learning about the many jobs available in different industries during careers PSHCCE sessions.

They were asked to think about their dream job and explore their qualities and how they matched with their career aspirations.

Ambassadors from the law, the RAF and a wind farm talked about their roles and the qualifications, qualities and skills required and there was also a virtual session about changing patterns in the local employment market.



Tuning Up Their Revision Techniques

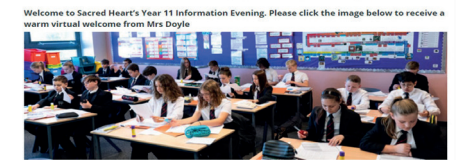
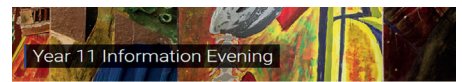


Year 7 and 8 pupils are brushing up their revision techniques as they prepare for their first formal assessments this year.

Mrs Lilley and Miss McCarthy ran sessions on how to make flashcards and mind maps.

Pupils also made revision timetables and colour coded their knowledge so they know which topics to concentrate on.

Year 11s Prepare For Home Straight



Our Year 11 Information Evening was held online this year as we highlighted initiatives and opportunities for pupils in their final year with us.

It included details of support Year 11s are receiving at school and advice on how to support pupils at home as they prepare for mocks and final exams.

Student achievement leader for Year 11, Mrs Doyle, gave an overview of the academic year and shared important dates including mock exam dates and parent consultation evenings. Every subject also shared information about the topics studied, key skills and advice for the mocks and the final exams.

Honouring The Dead On Armistice Day



Each year we remember the sacrifice of all service personnel who died in World War I and every war and conflict since.

This year, former Sacred Heart pupil and police cadet Kelsey Rutherford led a service in our Remembrance Garden, along with Dr Caldwell and Mr Corcoran.

The service was live-streamed to all form rooms, allowing pupils to join us in showing their respect for the fallen during our two-minute silence.

We remember the sacrifice they made to safeguard our freedoms. May they rest in peace.

Challenge Accepted!



This year's Year 7 and 8 tutor group team challenge was to help those in need in our society by supporting our local food bank.

They responded by generously bringing in 600 items including tin cans, bags of pasta and other staple foods.

Meanwhile, money has continued flooding in for our "Sleep out... Sleep in", bringing the total raised for our Christmas community fund to £1,339.72. Thank you for your fantastic support!