



## Welcome from the Headteacher



As we return after a refreshing half-term break, I can tell you that the pupils and staff at Sacred Heart continue to flourish as we move towards the spring and the lighter evenings.

Our culture of praise throughout the school continues to grow and we are celebrating more and more pupils and examples of their outstanding efforts and hard work.

The half-term break brought a much-needed opportunity to refresh and I hope you were all able to take at least some time to relax.

With Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, we now begin to focus on our own observations and reflection, at such an important time in the liturgical calendar.

This also coincides with some key events in our school calendar, with pupils taking their options and our Year 11s continuing to prepare for their summer exams.

God bless.

**Michael Burns**  
Executive Headteacher

## Sweet taste of success for talented Libby



### Congratulations to talented Year 9 pupil Libby W, who saw off fierce competition to win the regional heat of a major cooking competition.

In our last newsletter, we reported how Libby had triumphed in the local event at Darlington College.

Since then she has been perfecting new dishes in her bid to be crowned the regional Future Chef winner.

Libby has been supported not only by her food technology teacher Mrs Marley but also by celebrity chef Ruth Hansom, who is Mrs Marley's sister.

Ruth, who has competed in TV's Great British Menu, took time out from her busy schedule as a head chef at a London restaurant to offer Libby support, encouragement and inspiration.

Mrs Marley and Mrs Carter accompanied Libby to Sheffield, where her menu of a delicious Parma ham and ricotta ravioli followed by a show-stopping Black Forest cheesecake wowed the panel of food critics and experts.

"Libby performed unbelievably well and has put so much time and effort into perfecting her dishes," said Mrs Marley.

"It's been an amazing experience and I'm so impressed with how talented Libby is. It's great for her to receive this recognition in such a prestigious competition that celebrates young people's cooking skills.

"The chefs judging the competition said Libby was head and shoulders above the other five contestants and they were impressed by how focused and calm she was throughout."

Libby was overwhelmed to win against such talented rivals and said she felt so proud of herself and excited ahead of the next stage of the contest when she will travel to London to compete against 11 other finalists for the title of National Future Chef Champion 2022.

Good luck, Libby – we can't wait to hear how you get on!

## Convincing campaign sees Joseph elected

Joseph Burt is hoping to help build a better future for young people in our area after being elected to the Youth Parliament.



An inspiring manifesto presented to all year groups during assemblies and on social media resulted in Joseph picking up an impressive 900 votes to become deputy Youth Parliament representative.

Youth Parliament enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better, bringing about social change through meaningful representation.

## Hard-hitting message highlights internet dangers



Cleveland Police presented a hard-hitting message to all Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils as we marked Safer Internet Day.

Officers delivered hour-long assemblies full of information about how to stay safe using the internet, as well as the potential consequences of our actions.

This annual event celebrates young people's role in creating a safer online environment.

One pupil said: "I had no idea using the internet could get so dangerous."

Thank you to Cleveland Police for taking the time to bring us this important presentation.

## Library transformation is a turn up for the books



The school library has been transformed since Miss Humble took over as our librarian.

As well as introducing extracurricular activities such as homework, games and reading clubs, she has also involved pupils in theme reading days and seasonal activities and events.

New books have been bought to inspire a lifelong love of reading, including books by Anthony Horowitz, kindly gifted by the High Tide Foundation, an independent charity that also delivers work experience and career programmes to schools, colleges and young people across Teesside.

Pupils have responded positively to the changes - in fact, we've never seen our library so busy!

## Sporting pupils team up for leadership roles



A group of 15 girls and 15 boys from across Key Stage 3 have been selected to take part in the Sacred Heart Sports Leadership programme.

The pupils were given training to improve their communication skills and teamwork and are now looking forward to representing Sacred Heart throughout the academic year.

One of their key roles will see them help Redcar and Cleveland Sports Partnership ensure primary school festivals run smoothly.

## THEATRE TRIP OFFERS 'DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE'



The lifting of restrictions has allowed staff to plan valuable extracurricular experiences to give pupils a deeper understanding of their classroom learning.

The English department took Year 8 pupils to a production of Macbeth at Billingham Forum, where they behaved impeccably.

One pupil said: "It was wonderful to get a different perspective to just reading the play."

## FORMER PUPIL ROARY EARNS A PLACE AT OXFORD



Congratulations to former Sacred Heart pupil Rory Mitchell, who has won a place at Oxford University to read Chemistry.

Roary showed an excellent attitude throughout his time with us and was rewarded with 12 grade 9 GCSEs.

He is also an excellent musician and contributed significantly to the school community.

Rory said: "I enjoyed my time at Sacred Heart immensely and many fantastic teachers have taught me not just the curriculum, but how to succeed as well."