



## Welcome from the Headteacher



I'm delighted to welcome you once again to our regular newsletter. Over the course of the last year, we have been working on our school mission, and I want to take this opportunity to share it with you.

*"Live life to the full" (John 10:10)*

*Grow your faith*

*Fulfil your potential*

*Find your future*

This statement has been created by the pupils of our wonderful school in collaboration with children from our primary schools.

We look to grow our faith, by placing Jesus and the Gospel values at the centre of everything we do, as part of one family, and by being inclusive and removing barriers, so that our journey through school can help pupils and staff fulfil their potential.

That way, together, and in synergy with NPCAT, they may build better life chances and find the future they desire.

God bless

**Mr Burns**  
Executive headteacher

## Going the extra mile for those in need



**The ongoing crisis in Ukraine has been at the forefront of our minds since the half-term break.**

This was an issue both pupils and staff felt very strongly about, and we wanted to support the people who have been affected.

First, we began with prayer. On Ash Wednesday, all period-five lessons finished slightly early to allow pupils and staff time to participate in a prayer service.

This took place at the same time as in schools across the trust, enabling us to join our NPCAT family in prayer for the people of Ukraine and to ask Our Lady of Peace to intercede for us.

We matched our prayer with our charity work. Since the beginning of term we have held cake sales and sold hot chocolate at break times, parent evenings and options evening to raise money to send to CAFOD for relief in Ukraine.

Our biggest effort, though, was the fantastic drive by our community to

organise a collection of goods to be shipped out to support refugees.

Miss Watson heard of a consignment being put together by Containerships UK. We had a week to get the donations together and the Sacred Heart community did not disappoint.

By Friday there was too much for the chaplain's office and half the chapel was full. We had coordinated with the other secondary schools and by Tuesday morning their donations had joined ours and the chapel was full.

Thank you to the Year 7 and 9 pupils who helped us load up the van and minibus, which were both crammed with donations. These are now on their way to Poland to support refugees at the border.

Well done, Sacred Heart. You have truly lived out our mission to reach out to those in need.

## We're mad as hatters for World Book Day!



The Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts and the March Hare joined the school community on World Book Day, as staff and pupils dressed up as characters from Alice in Wonderland. Other special activities included a book swap, a school-wide storytelling recall task and a book cover design contest – well done to our winner, Claudia D.

Congratulations also to the winners of our National Storytelling Week writing competition, Phoebe S, Ella M and Ruby A.

## Practice makes perfect for exam candidates



We are proud of how our Year 11 pupils have prepared for their mock exams and conducted themselves calmly and maturely throughout the year.

Preparations include bespoke revision lists, after-school revision sessions and an evening exam preparation session with their parents and carers.

Everyone was given an individual exam timetable and all the exams were completed over two weeks in exam conditions, to give them a real experience of what the summer GCSEs will hold.

The pupils' results will mirror the effort they have put in, and will hopefully give them a final push to realise their full potential.

## Careers event highlights women in engineering



Year 10 girls have been finding out about the varied and interesting careers for women in engineering.

Women are hugely under-represented in this field and the event was aimed at informing pupils about the exciting career opportunities on offer.

The event included computer-aided design and engineering modelling workshops.

If you like learning about how things are made, or enjoy taking things apart and seeing how they work, then a career in engineering could be perfect for you!

## PUPILS PRAISED FOR EXTRA EFFORTS



Everyone is working so hard to ensure the best outcomes for our Year 11 pupils now that exams are back in full swing.

Support is coming from all avenues, including our senior leadership team, curriculum leaders, form tutors and parents.

In recognition of pupils' efforts, not just in their pre-public examinations but also in lessons and school life, we nominate those who deserve extra praise each week.

Fun and laughter are common threads as they come together to celebrate their achievements before departing for the weekend.

## Lewis makes a splash at swimming championships



Rising star Lewis P won a gold medal at the Northumberland and Durham Swimming Championships, smashing his personal best by seven seconds.

Lewis achieved three personal bests in total at the prestigious event in Sunderland, in the 50m backstroke, 100m backstroke and 50m freestyle.

Congratulations Lewis, we hope you continue to go from strength to strength.

## EXCITING TRIPS MARK BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK



Our British Science Week celebrations began when Mrs Tindall took a group of Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils to see astronaut Tim Peake at the Globe Theatre in Stockton.

Later in the week, Year 8 pupils visited Yorkshire Wildlife Park to learn about conservation, Year 9 pupils visited the Centre for Life in Newcastle for a renewable energy workshop and Year 7 pupils enjoyed a trip to an inflatable planetarium.