



SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC
SECONDARY



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE ONE
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Young Leaders
Challenged To Share
CAFOD's Work



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Welcome from the Headteacher

"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes" - Gospel of St Matthew

Jesus, chosen by God, is the cornerstone of our faith. Similarly, our pupils are unique, chosen by God and are the cornerstone of this wonderful school.

Everything we are and achieve is because of the young people who contribute to this amazing community.

As we start another school year, I am delighted to inform you our pupils outperformed national figures in almost all subjects in the summer. This is because they worked so hard, supported and challenged by our skilled staff and of course, their families.

In this newsletter you will see what our pupils have already achieved in a few short weeks. The love, charity and talent is astounding!

Our new Year 7s have settled in well, with excellent attendance, exemplary behaviour and an energy that has ensured their full engagement in school life.

As we move through the academic year, I look forward to sharing our school priorities, which will build on what we have already achieved together.

Louise Dwyer



Open Evening showcases our school to future pupils

More than 450 families came to explore all that Sacred Heart offers the young people of Redcar and Cleveland when we opened our doors early for our Year 5 and Year 6 Open Evening.

Our 45-strong choir dazzled the audience with their beautiful voices as our Year 10s played the piano and guitar. The talent displayed during the evening was something special.

Our headteacher Mrs Dwyer set out our school vision and outlined our amazing results and all the extracurricular activities we offer here at Sacred Heart. Parents, carers and the prospective new pupils expressed their thanks and amazement at our wonderful school.

In addition to our Open Evening we offered tours to allow parents, carers and pupils see us in action on a normal school day, an opportunity many secondary schools don't offer.

Our pupils again were the stars of the show as they led tours for more than 60 families.

Here is some of what parents, carers and pupils told us...

"It's really lovely to see a true inclusive school in action and to hear of such an array of provisions available."

"I attended the Open Evening last night and my son and I were both really impressed with Sacred Heart. We loved your focus on not just their GCSEs but where they progress from there. That's really important for us as a family."

"The headteacher's address was exceptional. She spoke with such passion and energy about the things that are important to us as parents, and that's what I would expect from a leader."

"Each room we visited was filled with energetic and enthusiastic young people who showed great confidence in their topics, social interactions and keenness to engage with my son, not to mention the huge amount of talent on display in the common areas."

Careers carousel gives glimpse into future

Year 11 pupils took part in a highly successful post-16 carousel event that saw local colleges and employers present what they can offer.

This event follows on from the college taster days that took place in the summer term and plays an important part in helping our pupils select the right college or provider and the best courses for them.

Year 11 have also been receiving one-to-one careers information, advice and guidance from our careers advisor, Miss Bennett.





PUPILS SPELLBOUND BY WOMAN IN BLACK

Years 8 and 9 had a spooky time attending a production of **The Woman in Black** at Billingham Forum.

Forty-five brave pupils experienced this hugely successful study in atmosphere, illusion and controlled horror, which more than seven million people worldwide have seen.

Stephen Mallatratt's ingenious stage adaptation tells the story of a lawyer obsessed with a curse he believes the mysterious spectre has put on him and his family.

Staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon – despite a few screams and jumps along the way!

SACRED HEART BAKERS RISE TO THE OCCASION

A staff bake off and a bake sale proved an excellent way of raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The bake off brought out a competitive side of staff that we haven't seen before, with some creative masterpieces Paul Hollywood would have been proud of.

Head judges Mrs Dwyer and Mrs Welbourne had the tough job of tasting each cake and choosing the

winner. Congratulations to Mrs Smith, who took the prize for her tasty lemon cake.

Our generous school community donated a phenomenal number of cakes for us to sell.

Each house sold their cakes at break time with the help of our new Parent-Teacher Association.

We raised a staggering £685 and Bakhita House received house points in recognition of making the most money.



YOUNG LEADERS CHALLENGED TO SHARE CAFOD'S WORK

A group of Year 10s joined pupils from St Peter's, St Patrick's and hosts Ampleforth for our first CAFOD Young Leaders workshop.

The pupils who have signed up to be our CAFOD Young Leaders will lead all our CAFOD events in school.

The theme was, "What makes a leader?" and we also learned more about the world we live in.

CAFOD has challenged the pupils to return to school and plan an event or activity that shares something of the charity's work with the community.

We look forward to seeing what they will do.



GET IN TOUCH

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SPORTING SUCCESS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS TEAMS

Our Year 11 girls team came an impressive third in the Redcar and Cleveland Year 11 netball tournament at Eston Sports Centre.

The tournament was important for collecting video evidence for their GCSE PE course.

Year 9, 10 and 11 teams completed their first round of Tees Valley Rugby League fixtures.

Year 9 and 10 both started with a draw and a defeat, while the Year 11 boys have won two games and lost one.

Meanwhile, the Year 7 boys football team also achieved their first ever victory, defeating Rye Hills 2-1 in what we hope is the first of many successes.

NEW SCHEME REWARDS ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR

After consultation with pupils, staff, parents and carers we recently launched our new rewards scheme.

We named our six houses after inspirational saints Josephine Bakhita, Maximilian Kolbe, Oscar Romero, Thérèse of Lisieux, Bernadette Soubirous and Pope John Paul II.

Teachers award house points to recognise stewardship, attainment, compassion, resilience, effort and diligence.

Pupils with ten house points or more in a week, with no A4s or A5s, receive an end-of-term prize draw ticket. The winning house gets a treat every half term and pupils with 100% attendance also receive house points.

The new system has already had a positive impact on behaviour and we welcome any feedback from parents and carers.



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