



FAMILY MATTERS

The Holy Family Technology College

A Catholic Secondary School & Specialist Technology College

www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk

Friday 5th February 2010

Dear Parents/Carers

Extra-curricular opportunities

This edition of Family Matters reflects a range of activities on the part of our students including sporting success (the Yr 9 Girls Basketball team), Poetry and the Science Festival. We also had students involved in a marvellous field trip to North Wales last weekend. While lots of our students are involved in these positive experiences, some do not choose to put themselves forward for them, or do not participate as much as they might. I would really urge all our students to do so and you as their parents/carers to encourage them. We hear a great deal these days about how employers want to take on young workers who have the kind of leadership and team-working skills that participation in these activities helps to develop. While good academic qualifications are important they are not always on their own sufficient for success.

The accelerated curriculum

This year we have begun to teach some GCSE work early in Yr 9. We have also given some students the opportunity to begin studying three separate sciences at GCSE level and to provide opportunities for students to take exams when they are ready rather than having a 'one size fits all' approach. Part of this personalisation of the curriculum can be seen in the work of the Yr 9 Statistics group who will be taking their GCSE Statistics exam this summer, as Yr 9 students. Their mock exam results suggest they will do well and we are delighted that they are so keen to have a go at this new venture.

Setting

We have also been reviewing our approach to the setting of students in different subjects. There are advantages and disadvantages to setting and we don't set every subject at Holy Family. However, where we do set subjects we want to ensure that there is the opportunity for appropriate movement between sets. In other words we assess students' progress at regular intervals and those who are doing well have the opportunity to move up the setting structure and those who may not be doing so well may find they move down a set. In all cases the intention is to match the teaching most effectively to the needs of the student. Thank you for your support with this.

Reporting survey

We are also looking to improve the way we report to parents/carers about the progress of each student. This week you will find a brief questionnaire attached to the newsletter. We would really appreciate your feedback to us about whether our reports are easy to understand and whether they tell you what you want to know. We are very keen to hear how you suggest we might improve them. The reports take considerable time and effort to produce and they only have value if they are helpful to you. Please do take the time to tell us what you think.

Parents' Surgery is on Tuesdays 4pm to 5pm on the Walthamstow site

Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Dr Andy Stone
Headteacher

Headteacher: Dr. A. Stone, BA Hons, NPQH Deputy Headteachers: Ms. C. Hodges, BA Hons, NPQH Mr. D. O'Neill BEd, MA, NPQH

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AIM HIGHER

Year 9 Science Festival at Imperial College

The science festival at the Imperial College was an opportunity that was offered to me and I took it! At the Imperial College we embarked upon four different workshops. The workshops were based on Engineering, looking at the Universe, DNA testing and completing work on a PH graph. I found this experience enjoyable and I came away gaining new skills.

Jamila Henry 9.2

The trip to the Imperial College was great! I learnt so much and at the same time had so much fun. I wish that I could do it again.

I did not know that science could be so cool!

Terri Sommers 9.4

Associates Programme

I was selected alongside fifteen other students to take part on a six-week course. The aim of the course was to gain information about going to university. We are working with three undergraduates from various universities. The first session consisted of ice-breaking activities. We then talked about courses that we could study at university. We then completed lots of activities to find out who we were, our strengths and weaknesses and courses that would be suitable for us to study. It was a fun session and I hope that the next session will be just as fun! I really never thought about going to university, but I am beginning to change my mind.

Ruby Khushi 9.2

Haiti Appeal Update

Huge congratulations to Year 9 who have now collected the massive amount of £565.95 for the Haiti Appeal. This phase of fundraising ended with a Year 9 group baking cakes and selling them. Those involved were Gregory Lazarus Hutchinson, Roberta Livingston, Zion Navid, Naomi Ayoka, Shaunagh Horan, Nicole Moses and Noelle Greenaway, (pictured right). Also, thanks to the following master bakers: Mrs Rose-Cameron, Mr Love, Mr Mangera and Mrs Violet.

Year 11 also got involved in fundraising for the charities providing aid to the country. So far, they have organised a collection during the weekly Citizenship lessons, and a sale of cakes, crisps and sweets both at break-time and at the Year 11 parents' evening.

Huge thanks also to Nathaniel Ampofo's Mum for cooking and preparing the lovely food served at break time on Wednesday 3rd February to raise money for Haiti – it raised over £50 and went down very well!



As part of Holocaust Memorial Day, 9.4 had a history lesson that tried to work out why the Holocaust happened. From looking at the causes of the Holocaust, pupils were able to give ideas on how to prevent genocide from happening. At the end of the lesson, 9.4 wrote a poem to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust.

Miss Nordon.

Humans lives lost
Outcast in their own society
Lost and afraid
Opportunities gone
Cast out from community
Annihilated and destroyed
Undeniably victims
Stereotypes cost these people their lives
Tortured and now dead

Many Jews discriminated against
Every day full of unhappiness.
Memories
Of their pain remain.
Remember how it happened
In your thoughts and how you treat people
Acknowledge the fact that we are all equal.
Long live the victims.

Year 9 Girls Basketball

On Tuesday evening, the Year 9 Girls' Basketball Team won the Waltham Forest Schools Basketball Final beating Lammas School by 18-16. The final ebbed and flowed with Holy Family taking an early 6 point lead. Once Lammas fought back in the second quarter, Holy Family seemed to be on the back foot and were 7 points down with only minutes to go. Holy Family then turned up the pressure and were soon in the lead again and so they remained until the final whistle. Mrs Rose-Cameron and Mr Perkins are extremely proud of the team. Well done!



Last Thursday TELCO pledged their support for the council's campaign for more police in the borough by collecting 800 signatures and presenting them at the Town Hall. Holy Family were one of the borough's schools who took part in the campaign and with the students help the total number of people supporting came to 7,100. Council leader Chris Robbins said of the students work: "It is wonderful to have their support. It gives strength to the argument that we are putting forward when I go to the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) next week."



Council leader Chris Robbins, Cllr Afzal Akram with TELCO organiser Matthew Bolton and borough students

THE STATS DON'T LIE!

Mr Love's Year 9 Statistics class have performed outstandingly in their mock exam. They sat the GCSE mock on Monday 18th January. It was a two hour exam. Their approach and dedication to work is immaculate. This group is two years ahead of schedule as the exam is intended for Year 11 students who have taken GCSE Maths early. Mr Love said;

"I believe that the majority of students performed very well, with the average result coming in at 52%. I think it is a good indicator of what the group is capable of achieving and am confident that will go on to gain excellent results. There were some performances that stood out, in particular, Julian Rodrigues, Simon Tawfic and Ryan Carvalho who scored 93%, 85% and 77% respectively. Roberta Livingston McDonald 65% and Babatunde Babaoye 62% also did extremely well. I am very proud of how the group have performed, not just of late but since the start of the year."

Laptops in the School Library

In the library on each site, the school has fifteen laptop computers which are for use in lessons where internet access and document printing are important. These computers have also been made available when the library is open at break times for pupils to complete schoolwork. **This does not include watching music clips, re runs of TV soaps or playing computer games.** If this privilege is misused it will be stopped. Please only ask for a computer if you have work to do, and when it is completed, shut down and return it.

ELECTION *for*



SCHOOL COUNCIL

PRESIDENT



**VOTE FOR
KIAN MONSON
on Tues 9th February**

*I am Year 7 so young, enthusiastic and ready to see changes happen.
As a Year 7 I'll be able to be a part of these changes
for the next 5 years.*



**VOTE FOR
YOJE KIKANKA
on Tues 9th February**

*I have served on the School Council for 4 years, and
have represented the school on many occasions.
I have the experience to be an effective President.*



**VOTE FOR
JAMES GOLD
on Tues 9th February**

*I am a 6th former so know exactly what is good about the school
from my experience of many years, as well as what needs changing!
I am the obvious choice for this job.*



**VOTE FOR
TINA OPONG-ASIAMA
on Tues 9th February**

*I am outspoken but ready to listen.
I can make decisions but always consider the opinions of others.
Above all, I care about the concerns of others in our school.*