

# HFCS NEWS

Issue 11  
May  
2025

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Edinburgh



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# HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of this half term, I want to take a moment to reflect with gratitude on everything we have shared as a school community over the past few weeks.

One of the most moving moments was our Year 11 Rosary Service, where we gathered to entrust our students to Mary, the Mother of God, as they begin the final stages of their GCSE journey. Each student was presented with a Rosary as a gift and blessing from the school as they embark on the next stage of their education. It was a moment of calm, prayer and strength—a reminder that our young people do not walk alone but are held by the prayers of a community that believes in them deeply.

Similarly, our Year 13 Farewell Mass was a beautiful and emotional celebration. We gave thanks for their time with us, for all they have contributed to the life of the school, and we prayed for their future as they move forward in hope, courage, and faith.

This half term has also been marked by the historic election of Pope Francis's successor, Pope Leo XIV, who has already shown himself to be a shepherd of humility and vision. His words calling us to build bridges, and work for ecological and social justice, resonate powerfully with our young people and echo so much of what we are trying to teach them through their formation here. We thank Fr. Michael for celebrating a special Mass here in school to honour the memory of Pope Francis and pray for the papacy of Pope Leo.

In that same spirit, our students have embraced opportunities to live out Catholic Social Teaching through a wide range of fundraising activities. Whether it has been supporting local charities, raising money for Cafod, or taking part in sponsored events, the values of solidarity, dignity of the human person, and preferential option for the poor have been alive in our corridors and classrooms. I am proud of the way our students are growing not only in knowledge but in compassion and action.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support and for the trust you place in us each day. I wish you and your families a restful and refreshing half term break.

**Mrs. Laws**



# CHAPLAINCY

## Rosary Assembly

A special Rosary Assembly was held for Year 11 before the start of the exam season. Each student was given a small Rosary, blessed by Fr Michael.

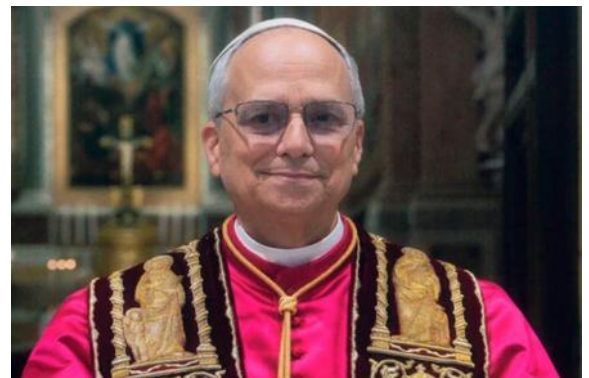
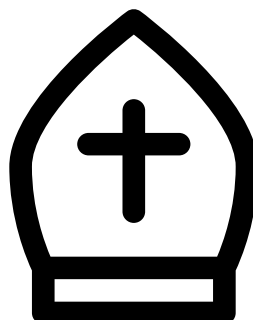
We wish our Year 11s all the best in their exams and look forward to seeing them back in Sixth Form next year!



## Thanksgiving Mass for the Life of Pope Francis

As a Catholic school rooted in Gospel values, we held a voluntary Mass to honour the life, mission, and legacy of Pope Francis. The Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated by Fr Michael from Our Lady & St George parish.

Pope Francis dedicated his life to serving the Church with humility, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the poor and the marginalised. He challenged us to live our faith with courage, mercy, and love—reminding us that we are all called to care for creation, walk alongside those in need, and build a Church that welcomes all.



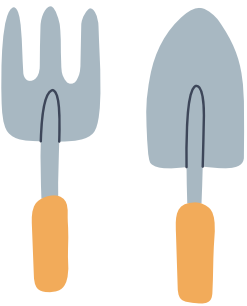
Please keep our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, the successor to St Peter, in your prayers. May he be a faithful shepherd, a courageous teacher, and a humble servant of God's people.



# CHAPLAINCY

## Garden Club/Livesimply

Our small gardening club has continued to maintain the prayer garden and also carried out a habitat survey for National Education Nature Park. We have also been watering the community planters in the warm weather. Solar panels have also been installed on our Walthamstow House site - in addition to those on the Wiseman site. This is all very exciting for our continued commitment to living more sustainably.



## May Rosary

May is the month when Catholics traditionally focus on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. There are several Marian feast days in May, including Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There has been a weekly Rosary on each site.



Let us pray for rest as the half term holidays start, for protection of our children, that children are cared for and enjoy the week.

**Mrs Grierson  
Chaplaincy**

*Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is  
with thee.*

*Blessed art thou among women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy  
womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for  
us sinners now,  
And at the hour of our death.*

**Amen**

# Y E A R 7

## Year 7 Prefects

Well Done, Year 7 Prefects!

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 Prefect Team for organising and running a fantastic Sweet Cone Sale this week. Their hard work, enthusiasm, and teamwork was highly commendable. Thank you to Cai, Nikola, Dila, Alexandra and Ruby-Leigh for helping with the marketing of the 2 events.

It was great to see so many students supporting the event, and we're incredibly proud of the prefects for their initiative and dedication.



## Power Hour!

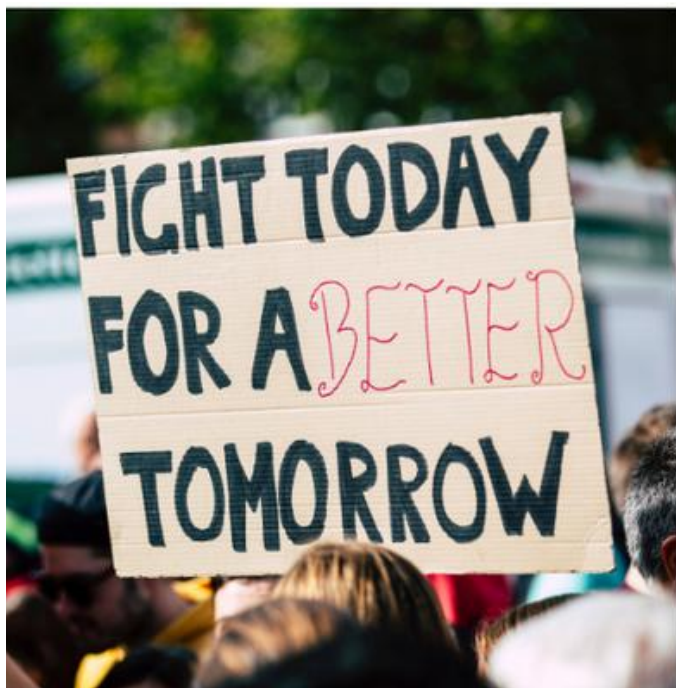
A big congratulations to all students who have been consistently completing their Power Hour tasks each day. You have strengthened your knowledge, built good habits, and developed independent learning skills. Your focus, effort, and commitment have not gone unnoticed. Keep up the great work – these small daily steps lead to big progress!  
Keep powering on!





# FIRST GIVE

Last term, our students took part in the First Give programme, an exciting initiative that empowers young people to make a difference in their communities. Through teamwork, research, and public speaking, students learned about social issues and partnered with local charities to raise awareness and advocate for change. The project culminated in a presentation competition, where students passionately pitched for a £1,000 grant to support their chosen charity. It was a fantastic opportunity to build confidence, develop leadership skills, and contribute to meaningful causes.



The aim of the First Give programme was to encourage students to think critically about social change issues within our community. During their lessons, students explored a variety of local and national challenges, discussed their causes and impacts, and reflected on how they could make a difference. Through these conversations, they identified charities they wanted to support and helped raise awareness for the important work these organisations do.

# FIRST GIVE

Our  
Charities...

please click



Spark<sup>2</sup> Life





# FIRST GIVE

In a bid to raise awareness and promote social action, our students organised and ran a variety of activities, including bake sales, basketball tournaments, car washes, and more. These events not only helped to support their chosen charities but also encouraged others in the school community to think about the importance of giving back and taking action for social change.





# FIRST GIVE





# FIRST GIVE

As part of their First Give project, our students took part in workshops, conducted in-depth research, and even invited representatives from their chosen charities to speak. They then prepared thoughtful and engaging presentations, which they delivered confidently in front of their year group, form tutors, and a panel of First Give judges.



Throughout the project, students developed a wide range of skills including teamwork, public speaking, critical thinking, and empathy. Their presentations were delivered with clarity, passion, and professionalism—demonstrating both their commitment to their chosen causes and the effort they put into their work.





# FIRST GIVE

They acted, they performed, and they spoke up passionately for their chosen charities —truly doing us proud as a year group.





# FIRST GIVE

Our wonderful winners **9P** who won their £1,000 grant for their chosen charity **Spark2Life** who are an award-winning charity that supports children, young adults and those who face adversity to make positive, productive life choices.





# FIRST GIVE

*Well done Year 9 - We are so proud of you!*



# BUSINESS STUDIES

## Year 13 Business Studies

A huge congratulations to our Year 13 BTEC National Business students for successfully planning and delivering two fantastic fundraising events in support of The Wickers Charity, raising over £350 in total!

As part of their coursework for Unit 4: Managing an Event, students were challenged to plan, run, and evaluate real-life events, developing vital business skills such as organisation, teamwork, communication, and budgeting.

### **FIFA Tournament for Year 7 & 8**

The first event was a lively and well-attended FIFA Tournament for Year 7 and 8 students, fully planned and delivered by the Year 13s. From promotion and sign-ups to running the tournament itself, students took full ownership of the event – and raised valuable funds in the process.

### **Sponsored Walk – Walthamstow Central to Seven Sisters**

The second event was a Sponsored Walk from Walthamstow Central Station to Seven Sisters, demonstrating the students' dedication and teamwork in supporting a meaningful cause.

### **Charity Guest Speaker Visit**

In addition to their fundraising, the students also organised for a representative from The Wickers Charity to visit the school and speak to students about the charity's work. This provided an excellent opportunity to raise awareness and learn more about how the funds raised will make a difference in the local community.



The Business class were then invited by the Wickers Charity to go to Nando's for a meal to show their appreciation for all of their fundraising!





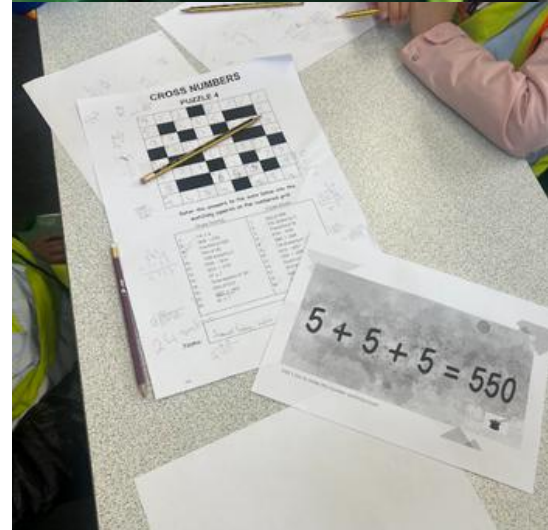
# MATHS

## Primary School Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, we welcomed Year 5 students from Our Lady St. George's Primary School into Holy Family, to take part in the first of two Maths Masterclasses. Across the 2 days we had students from Henry Maynard, OLSG, St Joseph's and St Patrick's come into school and take part.

The morning started with a group cross number challenge, followed by Magic Maths and then a UKMT Maths Challenge relay.

The students were really engaged and enjoyed the challenge! A big thank-you to Ms. Atakan, Mrs Asante and Ms Yeboah for hosting the event.





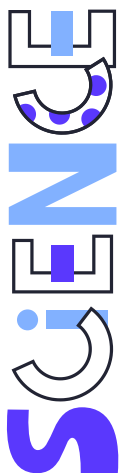
# SCIENCE

## KS3 Science Lunchtime Club

Held every Thursday Lunchtime in Room L15.

This half term we have been busy carrying out fun experiments using our science knowledge (physics and chemistry)

- Making Carbon Snake using chemical reactions (burning fuels)
- Blowing up Balloons using chemical reactions (baking soda and vinegar)
- Investigating the iron content in breakfast cereals using our knowledge of magnetism (using magnets)
- Investigating dancing raisins (density and buoyancy)

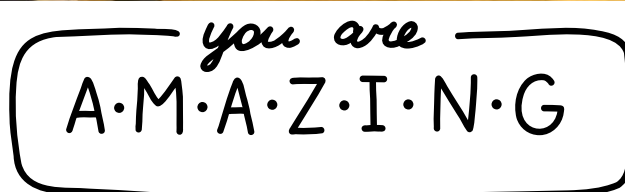


## Year 8 Biology Olympiad

As part of the UK Biology Competitions (UKBC), 8S entered the annual Biology Challenge to test their knowledge and challenge themselves. The Biology Challenge is a national competition organized by the UKBC in association with the Royal Society of Biology (RSB). It aims to spark interest in biology among secondary school students and encourages them to explore the subject beyond the classroom. The competition promotes curiosity, critical thinking, and data interpretation skills.

This year, over 42,000 students participated in the Biology Challenge. 8S performed well and were awarded certificates from the UKBC in recognition of their achievements.

Congratulations to all participants!





# SCIENCE

## The Royal Society of Chemistry

In January, 16216 students from 1502 schools in the UK took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's annual Olympiad. Known for its challenging but intriguing questions, the Olympiad didn't disappoint this year with questions on radioactive decay, epoxides, the iodination of ketones, carbon nanotubes and Raman spectroscopy.

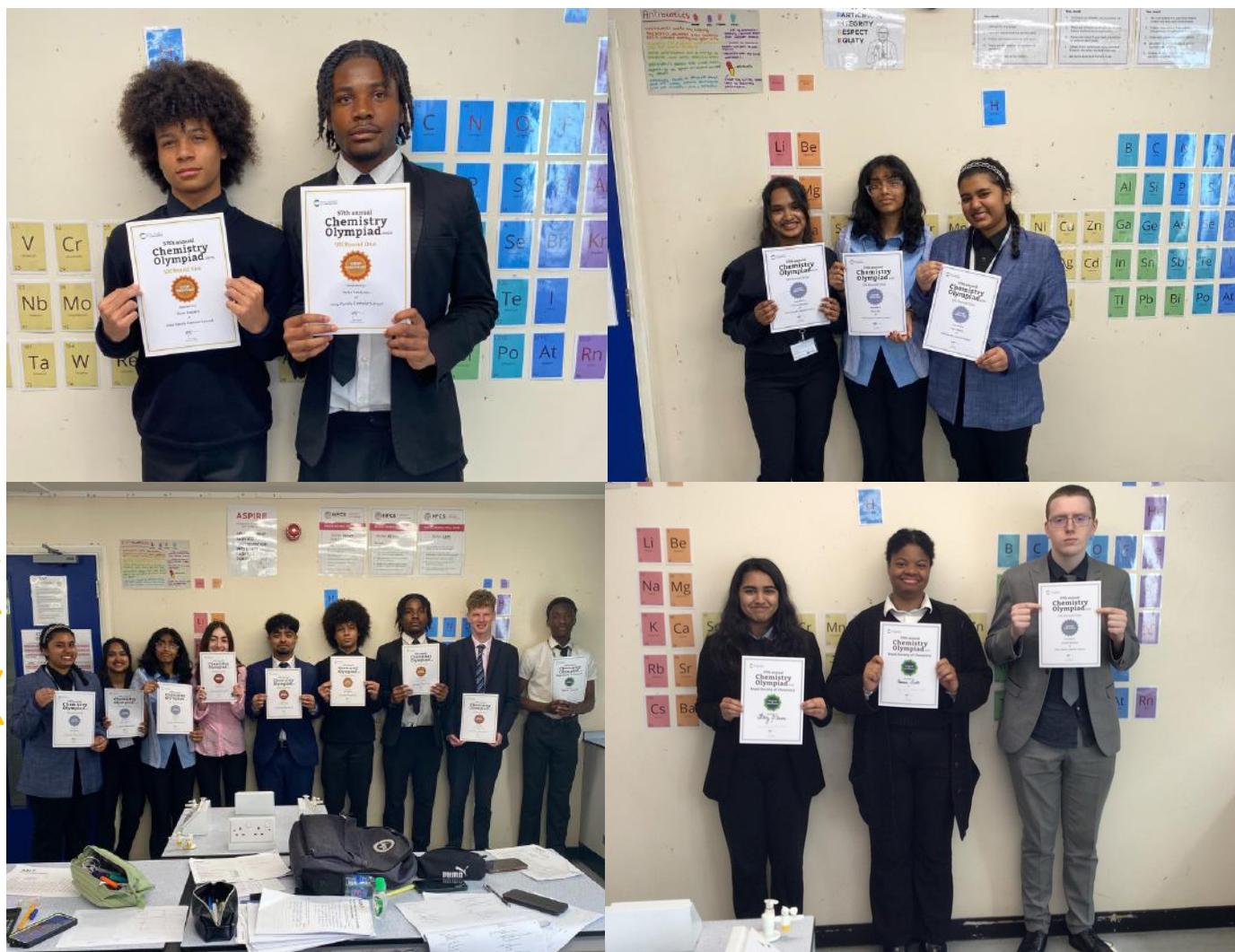
Designed to challenge and inspire, the UK Olympiad is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. Our year 12 and 13 A-level Chemistry students took part and achieved remarkable success.

Bronze awards went to Avanish, Crystal and Rory.

Silver awards went to Anju, Maria, Mariya and Jo.

Gold awards went to Sean and Peter who both placed in the top 8% of participants.

Congratulations Chemists!





# MUSIC

## Youth Choir

20 Holy Family Catholic School students in Years 7 - 9 are on a vocal and choral course with London Youth Choir, which includes a number of workshops. The course culminates with a concert on the 10th July. Please see the photos below from the first workshop our students attended. Here, they started the repertoire.

**Youth Choir Concert**  
**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July**  
**18:00-19:00**  
**St Saviour's Church, Markhouse Road,**  
**Walthamstow**

**Family members/carers and teachers are welcome -**  
**we would love to see you there!**

**For seats please contact**

**Mr.Strachan@holyfamilycatholicschool.co.uk**

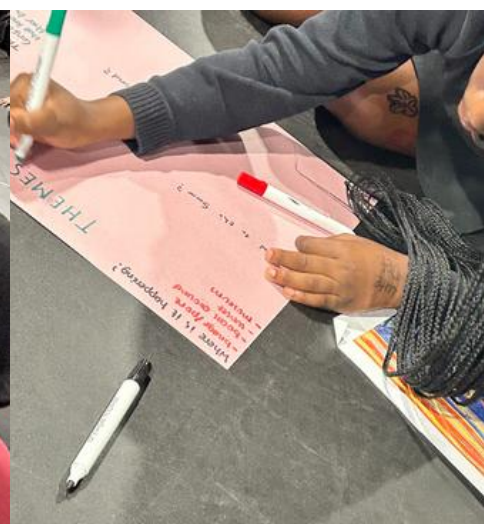




# DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

## Year 10 GCSE Drama

The Year 10 GCSE Drama class are currently working on Component 1 Devising, for which they are required to create an original piece of theatre from a range of stimuli for their exam. Today's stimulus is The Scream painting by Norwegian Expressionist painter Edvard Munch. Here they are busy doing some detailed brainstorming/analysis, looking at themes, issues, plot, characters and settings.



## Year 9 Drama

This term Year 9 Drama students have been working on Devising from a Stimulus. Here are students from 9EL in action!



**Are you interested in developing your acting skills? LAMDA are running classes at Holy Family! Please register using the information on the flyer below.**

# **LAMDA COURSES AVAILABLE TO BOOK!**



Acting and  
communication skills  
courses for all ages.



**REGISTER NOW**

*please click*

[teachmajor.com/book](https://teachmajor.com/book)



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

## Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

On the 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> May, a group of Year 10 students completed their final expedition for their Silver Duke of Edinburgh award. The expedition took place in the Brecon Beacons and students walked over 35km across three days, set up tents at two different camp sites, and cooked all of their own meals using jet boils. The students were fantastic and navigated well throughout the entire expedition. We are very proud of all of the students who completed it!

A big thank you to Mr Wilbraham for leading and organising the silver award, and all staff who volunteered their time to support on the expeditions.

We hope to see these Year 10 students complete their gold award in the future!

**You did it!**





# SPORTS

## Year 7 & 8 Netball

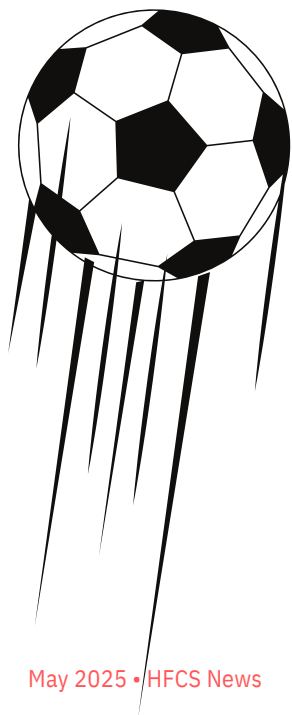


We are very proud of our Year 7 and Year 8 Netball teams who both made the finals. Year 7 had a close semi-final with Kelmscott, narrowly missing out on progressing to the final by 1 point. They proceeded to beat Waltham Abbey in the Bronze medal match!

Year 8 were victorious in their semi-final and went on to beat Heathcote in the final to become Netball Champions!

## Waltham Forest Football

Congratulations to Noah N and Elijah A who played for Waltham Forest in the U15 District Final tonight. Aveley Football Club hosted the final vs. Thurrock. A close game saw Thurrock just edging a win 3-2. A wonderful achievement for both boys!





# THE LRC

## The Benefits of Reading

How often do you take time to read and enjoy a book? Mrs. Lloyd has been discussing the benefits of reading with the students using the LRC and has made a lovely poster outlining the positives of reading regularly. Let's all make an effort to read more often!



### LRC Book Donations

A big thank you to Ms. Asante (Maths Teacher) for generously donating several books to the school library, with the hope that they will be read and enjoyed by our students for years to come.



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## WHY IS READING IMPORTANT?



Reading is a foundational activity for getting new knowledge easily. Even though reading sounds like a simple activity, we can get a lot of positive benefits through reading!

## Benefits of Reading

SUPPORTS COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

EXPANDS VOCABULARY AND DEVELOPS LANGUAGE SKILLS

IMPROVES IMAGINATION AND CREATIVITY

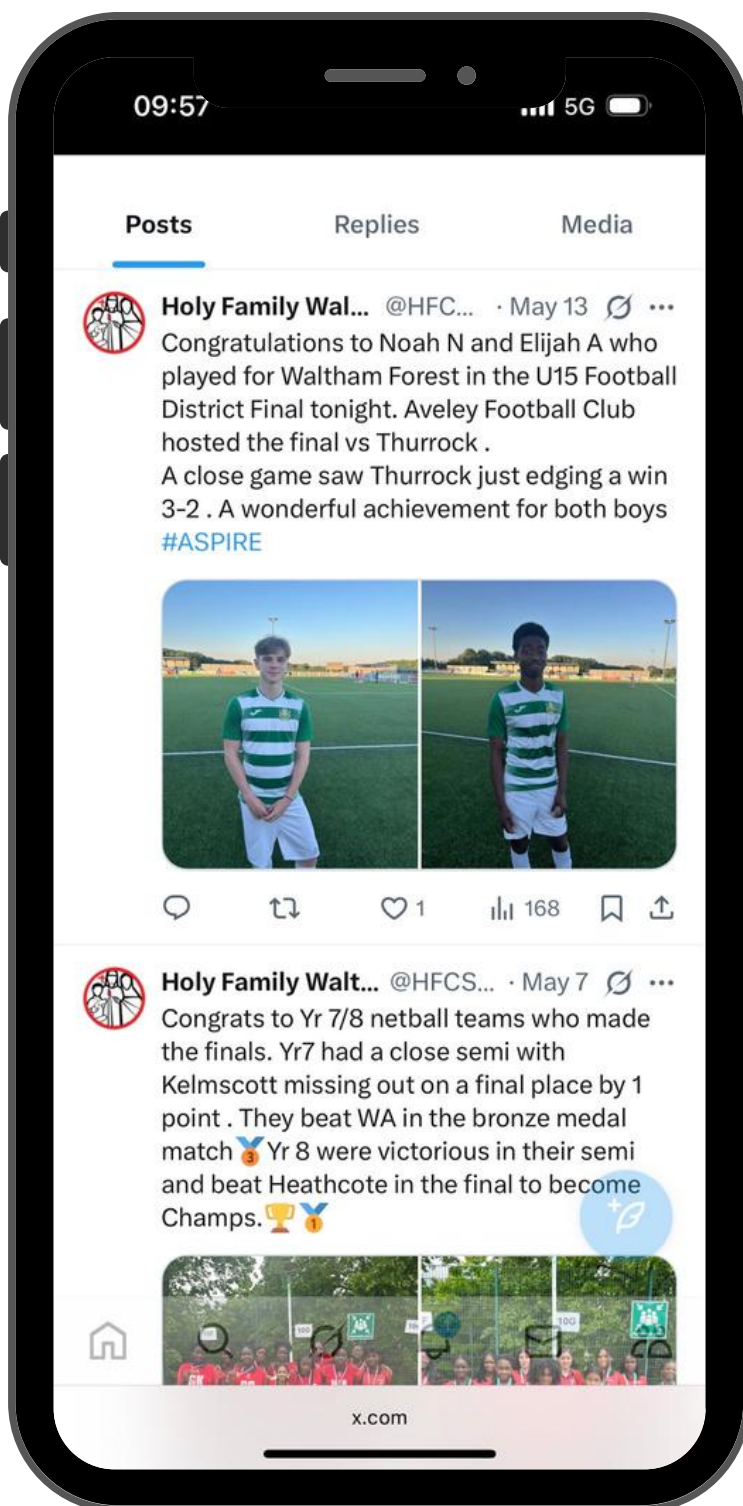
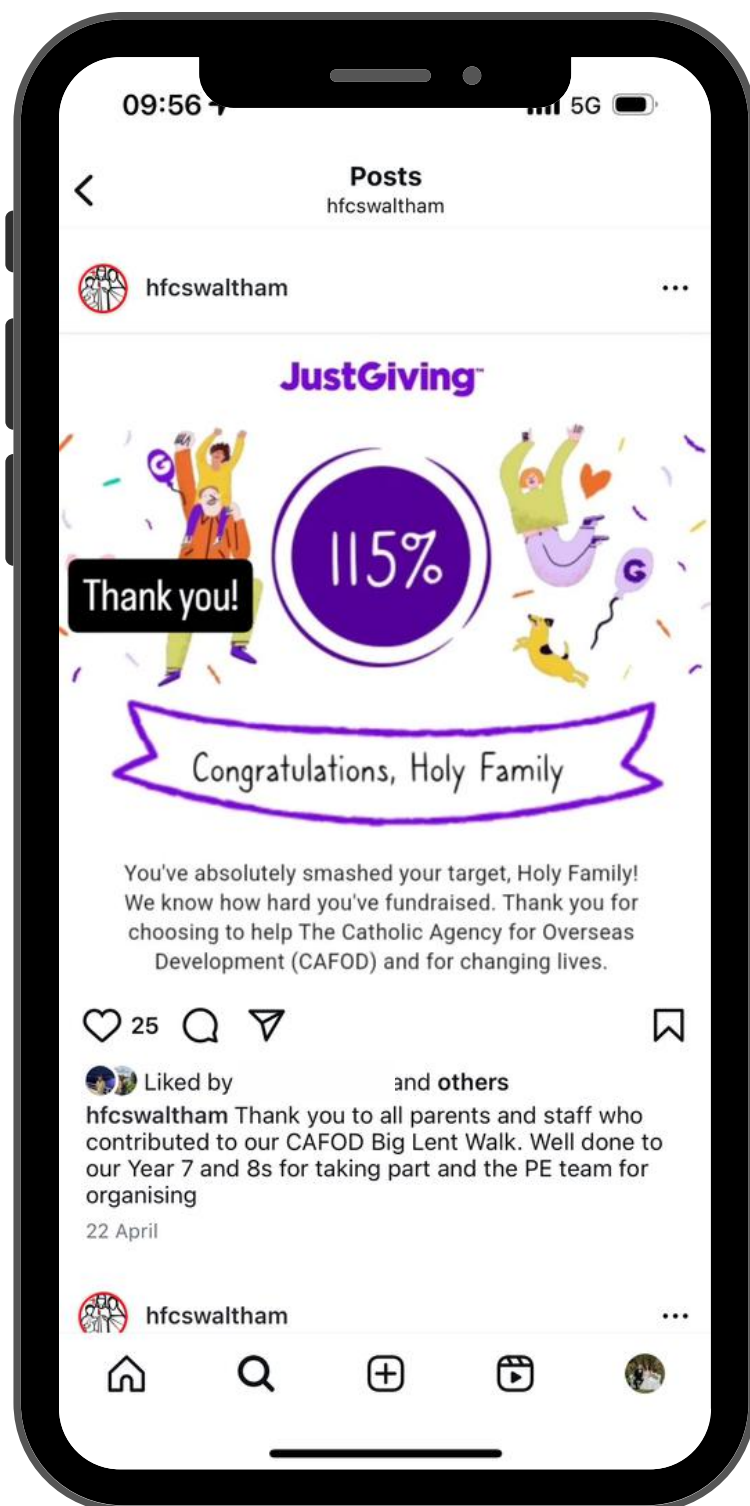
ENHANCES ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

For these reasons, it is recommended that students join their local library.

<https://libraries.walthamforest.gov.uk>



# SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES



Holy Family Catholic School is on **TikTok!**

Please follow us: **@hfcsoffical**





# KEY DATES

## Forthcoming Events - Summer Term 2

**Friday 23rd May** - Year 13 Leavers Mass & BBQ

**Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May** - Summer Half-Term

**Monday 2nd June** - Year 7 & 8 Formal Assessments Begin

**Monday 9th June** - Year 9 Formal Assessments Begin

**Friday 13th June** - University and Apprenticeship Fair (Year 12)

**Monday 16th June - Friday 27th June** - Year 10 Mock Week

**Wednesday 18th June** - GCSE Exams Finish

**Thursday 19th June** - Year 11 Leavers Mass

**Friday 20th June** - A Level Exams Finish

**Friday 20th June** - Sports Day

**Tuesday 24th June - Thursday 26th June** - Year 11 PGL

Residential

**Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July** - Culture Week

**Thursday 3rd July** - Last day of Year 12 Lessons

**Monday 7th July - Friday 11th July** - Year 12 Activities Week

**Monday 7th July - Friday 11th July** - Year 7-10 Achievement

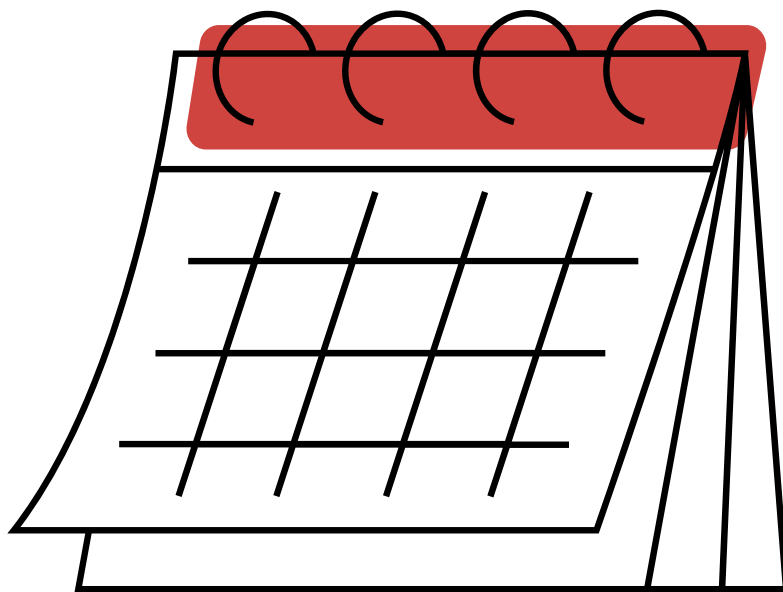
Mornings

**Monday 7th July - Tuesday 15th July** - Year 10 Works Experience

**Friday 18th July** - Last day of School

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September** - Year 7 Back to School

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September** - All Year Groups Back to School



Please note that whilst these dates are correct at the time of going to print, they are subject to change. Don't forget that the calendar at [www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](http://www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk) is regularly updated.

## CONTACT US:

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Wiseman House Site (Years 9, 10 & 11)

Telephone number: 020 8520 3587

Email: [office@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:office@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk)