

FAMILY WATTERS

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

*"I've been clear that
Brexit means
Brexit" Theresa
May.*

New Year
Chapter One

Happy New Year!



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone

We hope that you had a pleasant Christmas and New Year and enjoyed a happy and holy festive period. We've all come back refreshed from the break and it has been a pleasure to see everyone again. The House of Commons reconvened this week too, I'm sure our elected representatives were pleased to have a little time away from the Brexit debate too. Who knows what will happen? I think there will still be some kind of deal before March 29th but it is clear that a 'no-deal' Brexit cannot be ruled out. One good thing that has come out of the Brexit issue is that it has led to a greater degree of political engagement and many of our students are keen to know more and try to understand the issues involved.

Mock exams

Yr 13s came straight back to their mock exams and next week it is the turn of Yr 12. These have gone very smoothly and students will receive their feedback in a couple of weeks' time.



Parents' Evenings

This week we held our Yr 11 parents' evening - thank you to all parents/carers who attended. It is really important now that Yr 11 students are working consistently outside of school. There comes a time when there is no substitute for hard work and we have reached that point. We are doing our best in class and in intervention sessions but the students themselves must commit to their studies and ensure they are working hard and revising. It is time to limit their use of social media, fortnite and other distractions and make sure they are focused on revision. Next Thursday 17th January it is the turn of Yr 7 to have their parents' evening from 4pm to 6.30pm on the Walthamstow site.

Yr 11 Taster Day

Yr 11 students will attend the lower site next Tuesday to have their Taster Day to help them decide on their sixth form course choices. They will get to experience a typical sixth form lesson in the subjects they are interested in studying and to hear about the process of applying to sixth form. The Taster Day should provide further motivation to secure the grades necessary to take A level and Btec courses.

Parents' surgery

Parents' surgery is every Thursday from 4pm to 5pm on the Walthamstow site. If ever I am unavailable, a member of the senior team substitutes for me. Parents' surgery resumes on Thursday 17th January 2019.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

Dr Andy Stone

Headteacher

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

—○—
HEADTEACHER

Commendations

This week we have headteacher commendations for

Abisha Imran 7P

Yasemin Isakol 7P

David Famakinwa 7R

They have been nominated by Head of Year 7 Miss St. Aimie for being honest and contributing to the Holy Family Way.

SOCIAL MEDIA CATCHUP

You Retweeted



Phoenix Flames
@NCPhoenixFlames

We are back at training next week with matches on the 12th!

#netball #community 🔥🏀

@FBSchoolE17 @SChingfordFound

@Chingford_PE @HFCSWaltham

@edengirlsWF @Heathcote4

@HighamsParkSch

@WalthamstoWSFG



03/01/2019, 06:56

Tweet your reply

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HFCS **Word of the Week**

Word:
EPIPHANY



Definitions:

1. The manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12).
2. A moment of sudden and great revelation or realization.

Example Sentence:

"That was an eye-opening moment for me, an **epiphany** for me".

Word Class:

Synonyms:
Realization
Inspiration

Noun

Origin: Middle English: from Greek *epiphainein* 'reveal'. The sense relating to the Christian festival is via Old French *epiphanie* and ecclesiastical Latin *epiphania*.



30 likes

hfcswaltham #wordoftheweek

4 DAYS AGO

43

Chaplaincy Corner

MRS. GRIERSON

*Happy New Year! "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice."
(Philippians 4.4)*

St Stephen's Feast Day

On Thursday we belatedly celebrated the Feast Day of St Stephen, one of our House saints. Students from Year 7 through to Sixth Form came together to celebrate Mass at Our Lady & St George parish. Many thanks to students from Years 7, 8 and 12 who volunteered to read, serve and to take part in the offertory. As the Patron Saint of Altar Servers, it was lovely to see students from St Stephen's House serving on the Altar. Later in the day they had lunch together and were treated to an ice cream, courtesy of the Friends of Holy Family

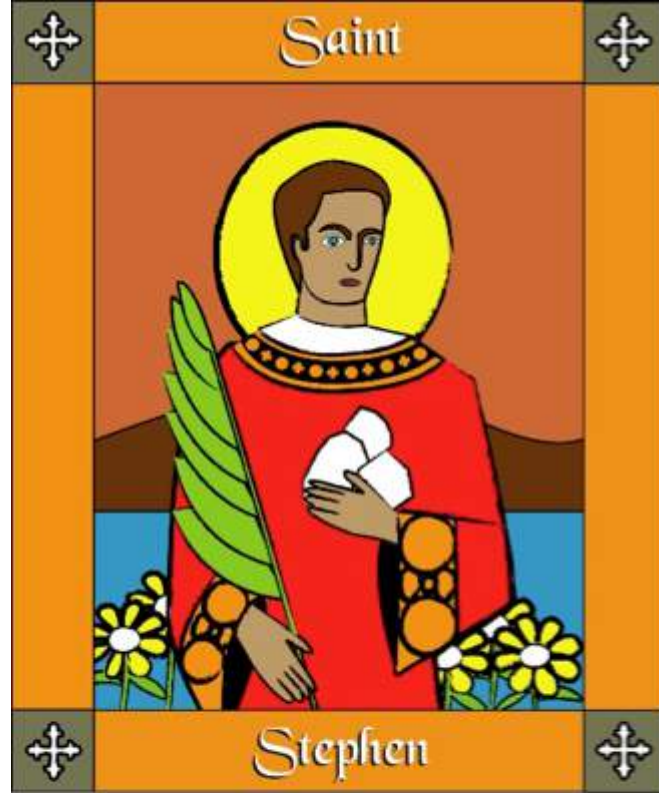


During the Christmas break, we also celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family. The family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph greatly influence our school ideals. We are a place where people are made to feel welcome and cared for. We live in communion with each other and with God. A place where young people can be themselves, where the Gospel is lived out in the everyday experience. Blessings for the new year.

Chaplaincy Corner

MRS. GRIERSON

When the number of disciples increased, there was much confusion over the distribution of alms and the serving of the poor. Stephen's trustworthy character marked him out, and he was chosen as one of the seven deacons who would perform this task. An excellent and well trusted orator, his preaching style was so effective that many Jews became worried about his success. They accused him of blasphemy and he was made to stand trial. Trial and death by stoning At the supreme Jewish law court, Stephen recounted the many mercies that God had given the children of Israel, and the ungrateful way in which they had repaid Him. This angered the crowd and he was dragged out onto the streets. He was then stoned to death according to the law at that time, an event witnessed by St Paul.



The first martyr of Christianity who was stoned to death
Feast day December 26th



St Stephen You were the first martyr - we pray for all men and women who are persecuted, imprisoned and who have died for their beliefs. May their witness be an inspiration to us all. Amen

Did you know?



This week we hear From Victoria Chamulak 7R

In my primary school I had always wanted to become a chef so I had joined a cooking club and was probably one of the best ones there as I always aimed to succeed in this. Later on in my school years I realised my actual passion was acting/drama so I went to drama classes every Friday after school for 2 terms until the end of school. Apart from all of this I was always being picked to go to sports competitions like quad kids by my coach and I always really enjoyed myself although I was always scared of doing bad which, being honest, encouraged me to do better. At the end of year 6 we had something called an end of year production and our teachers chose to do Aladdin. We all auditioned and many girls wanted the part of Jasmine including me and after deliberating for a few days the teacher chose me to do the part of Jasmine. I was overjoyed when I found out as I was always aiming to be one of the main characters in a play but I never was until then. The rush when I was performing was amazing and I really loved doing this. This was a pretty big achievement for me. In primary I also got to be a house captain. In my primary school a house captain was a big achievement as you got to be the leader of your team by vote of the class. After this I was also awarded liturgy leader for my class. This was a person that got called up every time we prayed and had to lead it.

In secondary school, right now, I would still like to become an actress. On weekends I go to a drama school which is 50 minutes every Saturday and it is known to be one of the best drama schools in London. This is how I am aiming to achieve my goal for right now but I will do more like join drama club at school because this is what I love to do and this is my passion. I am also teaching myself piano at home because I really love playing instruments and it sort of calms me down when I play, I play my emotions in my music.

Thank you for reading

SUTTON SCHOLARS PROGRAMME AT UCL

Some excellent news this week; we've had three year 8 pupils selected to participate in the 2 year-long Sutton Scholars programme at UCL.

There were over 400 applications for only 120 places!

The pupils are Joao Gomes, Temilayo Balogun and Lilianna Gardzielewska.

The programme develops independent research, group work, presentation and writing skills to support academic attainment. Students also explore their GCSE and A Level choices, including facilitating subjects, and consider their future study options.

A huge congratulations to these students.



STEM POTENTIAL PROGRAMME AT IMPERIAL COLLEGE, LONDON

Gabriel Lagrata, John Pereira and Grace Boafo in year 10 have also been selected for the above programme where they will attend STEM lectures and workshops. Congratulations!



Congrats!

HOUSE ELIZABETH

Christmas Quiz Winners!



Congratulations House Elizabeth who were the Christmas Quiz winners on the last day of term!

The winning team consisted of: 7E Chinedum Okunkwo / 7E Jericho Gonzales Sabarias / 8E Kai Taylor / 9E Samuela Appiah / 10E Kevin Davis / 11E Nadine Bhawanlall / 12E Adam Smith and Rajuraam Yogarajah.

Houses was represented by students from years 7 - 13. Points were changing each round but House Elizabeth stole the show in the end.

Well done to everyone who took part. We're looking forward to organising more events this term. The next whole school House Competition week will begin January 28th.

The House Team

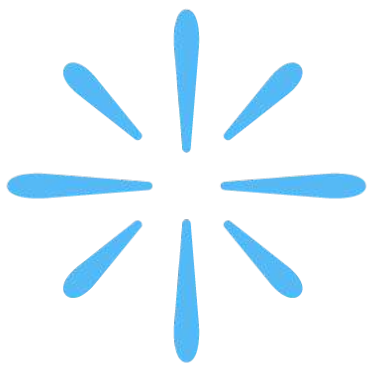


A GIFT OF THE HOLY FAMILY

From the Diocese of Brentwood



Before Christmas Mr Skelton attended the Catholic Heads of R.E. Meeting for Brentwood, and was given this statue for the school which came with Christmas blessings and good wishes for all our staff and pupils from the Diocese. The statue will be kept in the new Chapel on the Wiseman Site, the good wishes we would like to be kept in your heart.



SENECA

PIONEER SCHOOL

We are now one of Seneca's Pioneer Schools! We have been chosen because of our drive in developing effective teaching and learning strategies. Seneca is a completely free homework and revision platform based on cognitive sciences. It has had a great impact on our students and we are excited to be directly involved in improving the platform even further by sharing feedback, trialling new features, and helping out with research studies.

All students and teachers now have free access to Seneca - a revision and homework platform making studying more fun. Seneca is an interactive way to learn official course content. Their web app covers 150+ exam board specific courses condensing what students need to know for their exams. The software is able to identify gaps in learning. For instance, when you get a question wrong, the platform will repeat the topic in different formats and their smart algorithm has proven to make students remember topics 2x faster. Seneca is totally free for students, teacher and parents. You can sign up via senecalearning.com



Literacy for Life

Reading Partnership Programme

Sixth form students are dedicated and committed to helping Year 7 students improve their reading skills as part of our whole school Thursday mornings Drop Everything and Read (DEAR). They started from September 2018 and are off to an excellent start this new academic year. Sixth formers help students in Year 7 to improve their accuracy, fluency and understanding of text by listening to them reading aloud. Our school community is very proud of our older students helping the younger ones! This is indeed the 'Holy Family Way'!



Literacy for Life



The **National Literacy Trust**, is pleased to announce that entries are now open for the ninth year of the annual national creative writing competition.

Entries close on 18 March 2019. Full details can be found at www.WickedYoungWriterAwards.com



"We all have a story to tell or a poem to sing. The problem is to find the voice to tell it, to sing it."
Michael Morpurgo, Honorary Judge



**WICKED
YOUNG
WRITER
AWARDS**

PATRON: HRH THE DUCHESS OF CORNWALL

In partnership with



"I love books and writers that make you FEEL something, whether that's because they're funny, or sad, or exciting..."
Cressida Cowell, Head Judge



Entries close on 18 March 2019.

Now in its 9th year, the *Wicked Young Writer Awards* is a chance for young people aged between 5 and 25, to write about absolutely anything! It's your chance to get creative and write on **any theme that interests you**. Be unique!

We want to hear your voices through original writing and stories.

Both online and postal entries require an online submission form, accessible at <https://www.wickedyoungwriterawards.com/submit-your-entry>

and under 18s must have parent/guardian approval (on the online form)





**WICKED
YOUNG
WRITER
AWARDS**

In the **fiction categories**, any creative writing will be accepted. You can write a **story, play, or poem**.

If you prefer to write **non-fiction**, you may like to enter the Wicked: For Good Award for Non-Fiction and write an **article, essay, biography, review or letter**, to name a few!

GOOD LUCK!

There are six Award categories:

5-7 years old • 8-10 years old • 11-14 years old • 15-17 years old • 18-25 years old
15-25 years old For Good Award for Non-Fiction

RULES

- **750-word limit** (*not* including the title words)
- Entrants must be aged between 5-25 years old when entering the *Wicked Young Writer Awards*
- Entries can be hand-written or typed
- Writing must be original and your own ideas
- Judges criteria: originality, narrative, descriptive language, characterisation.
- Students must include their name, surname and age on the entry form
- Open to UK residents only

**Entries close on
18 March 2019.**



PRIZES for Wicked Young Writers

All winners:

- Win four tickets to see the London production of *WICKED* at the Apollo Victoria Theatre.
- Meet cast members after the show along with an exclusive backstage tour.
- £50 worth of books/eBooks tokens to spend.



Other prizes for each category:

5-7 also win:

- A creative writing workshop for your class
- £100 worth of books for the winners' school library donated by Hachette Children's Group.

8-10 and 11-14 also win:

- £100 worth of books for the winners' school library donated by Hachette Children's Group.
- An annual subscription to *First News*.

15-17 also win:

- A writing masterclass with a professional author

18-25 also win:

- A self-publishing package from Spiderwize, to publish your very own work.

FOR GOOD: Award for Non-Fiction also win:

- Work experience at First News newspaper, shadowing the editor Nicky Cox, MBE.

Schools' prizes:

- The 3 schools that submit the most entries also win a creative writing workshop

All finalists' entries get printed in the *Wicked Young Writer Awards* anthology.





Did you know...

A new feature coming to
Family Matters

Leave your mark

*We know how well you do
in school, now we want to
know about your
achievements outside of
school!*

SUPER

*Do you play for a sports team?
Or have an interesting hobby? Maybe you're
part of a club or you've won prizes?
We want to hear all about it!*

Email Miss Gaynor:

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