

Lite FAMILY MATTERS

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

Friday 6th Sept. 2019

*"Life can only be
understood backwards;
but it must be lived
forwards"*
Soren Kierkegaard

WELCOME BACK!



@HFCSWaltham

www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk

@HFCSWaltham



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



Sad news

It is with great sadness that we learned that former headteacher, Mr Breen, passed away during August. Mr Breen was the Headteacher of Holy Family from 1991 to 2007, establishing the school as a respected and high-achieving Catholic secondary school during that time. I know that many staff and staff who were former pupils of Mr Breen are very upset at his passing and that he will continue to be held in great affection by the Holy Family community. Mr Breen maintained contact with us and was always very kind and supportive to me as his successor. The school will be represented at Mr Breen's funeral in Chelmsford next week. Our condolences to his family and may he rest in peace.

The Holy Family Way

It was lovely to welcome the new Yr 7 students to Holy Family on Tuesday of this week and to begin their induction into life at Holy Family. We celebrated Mass together in the morning and it was a delight to have so many parents and family members with us. During the Mass we reflected on the passage below which summarises what our school community stands for.

"We are called after the 'The Holy Family' for a reason. 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. A place of refuge and absence of fear. With all families, there will be good times and difficult times. The important thing is to be there for each other. By helping others we are enhancing our own self-worth and in loving others we are also loving God.

We are one family, there are no outsiders. We must look out for the vulnerable, the lonely, the lost and the disturbed among us. We must be a place where young people can share their problems and we can offer a listening ear.

We are proud to be a Stonewall Champion school, meaning we challenge prejudice and discrimination against people from LGBT backgrounds because this is the Christian thing to do.



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We actively seek to develop an inclusive curriculum which challenges students and staff to question and consider any and all issues. A former Head Boy of the school described Holy Family at his interview as 'a place where everyone can be themselves' and I can't think of a better tribute to the school.

At Holy Family we exist to guide young people in their learning, their faith and the right way to do things. To offer advice, share our experience, avoid pitfalls and help them succeed. To be a school where students develop their critical thinking skills and discover their God-given talents and vocation. A place where the young and not so young can all be a people of change, challenge and transformation.

The summer holiday

Last summer we had a huge amount of work going on to complete the Sports Hall and other new facilities on the Wiseman site. This year has been more low key but still busy as we have had important work done to upgrade our fire alarm systems and make updates to our fire doors. We have also installed low energy LED lighting in many areas of the school. This

is part of our effort to heed the call of Pope Francis and others to better look after our environment. We are designating this academic year as a year of sustainability at Holy Family and we want to ensure that all of us, staff and students alike, take better care of our environment and understand that we only have this one planet to live on and we must look after it properly. More on this in the weeks ahead.

First days back

Our first days back have gone well. We returned on a high because results this year were excellent. Results across all subjects were excellent including in English, Maths, Science and RE. Over 50% of our GCSE students achieved grade 5 or better (called a strong pass) in both English and maths exams and almost 70 per cent achieved this at grade 4 or better (called a standard pass). A quarter of all exams received grades 7-9 (7 is the equivalent of the old A grade, 8 is an A* and grade 9 is an A**). We were delighted at how many students achieved multiple 7, 8 and 9 grades.

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

In the sixth form our A level and Btec pass rates were again very impressive with 100% of students passing their A levels and 76% of grades at A level being A*-C grades. Similarly at Btec we saw 87% of students achieving Merit to Distinction* grades which was fantastic. We will have full details of university destinations and of high achievers at both GCSE and A level in next week's copy of Family Matters, but a special mention must go to Cara Moran who achieved a place at Somerville College, Oxford to read English.

Expectations

We seek to set the highest possible expectations of all our students. We expect them to arrive properly dressed and properly equipped for school each day, to complete their homework to the best of their ability and to be polite and respectful of classmates and staff. Clearly we need your help with this. I especially would like to emphasise the following:

- No hooded tops are to be worn – they will be confiscated
- Mobile phones are not permitted in the school and if they are found they are subject to a two week long confiscation. There are no exceptions to this and I do not entertain any debates about the matter. I have had parents making threats and even calling the police on me but this makes no difference.
- Students must not bring fizzy drinks, energy drinks, or large bags of sweets and crisps into school – they are all unhealthy
- Students must not visit fast food outlets in their school uniform at the end of the day
- Walthamstow Central and the Selborne Walk area are off-limits to students at the end of the day.

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Open Evening for prospective Yr 7 students (2020 intake)

Our Open Evening takes place at the end of the month, on Thursday 26th September at 6pm. We will again be able to offer additional places for next September as the school expands, so please do spread the word and encourage your friends and family to apply to our school if they would like to do so.

For this year we still have a few vacancies in Yr 7 and if you know someone who wishes to apply the please ask them to contact the borough's admissions office. They are, of course, also welcome to make contact with us too and should ask for Deputy Head (Head of Lower School) Mr Murphy.

Parking

Please note we have no car-parking at all for visitors and cars are not permitted to enter the school grounds before, or after school.

Parents' surgery

Parents' surgery is every Thursday from 4pm to 5pm on the Walthamstow site and begins this coming Thursday 12th September.

For those new to the school, parents' surgery presents an opportunity to see me as the headteacher without an appointment about any concerns that you may have. If ever I am unavailable, a member of the senior team substitutes for me.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers as we start this new academic year.

Dr Andy Stone

Headteacher



SOCIAL MEDIA CATCHUP



Holy Family Waltham
@HFCSWaltham

A great surprise after the summer sun
- Mr Aziz's vegetable patch in the
Peace Garden has provided a great
harvest! 🥒🍅🥑 #aspire



05/09/2019, 15:58

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@hfcswaltham



@hfcswaltham



Post



hfcswaltham



1/3



Liked by trueeducationpartnerships and 64 others

hfcswaltham Two more days of Summer School - had a great time so far! Hope you are all enjoying your holiday! #aspire

29 July





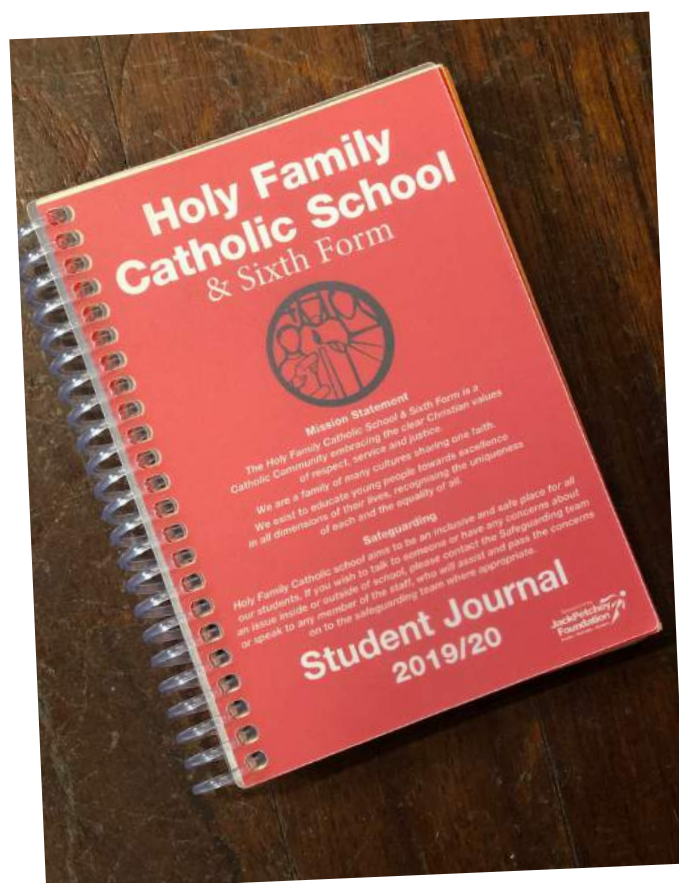
STUDENT JOURNAL

On Thursday every student at Holy Family was issued their journal for the year.

The journal must accompany students to every lessons, and should be visible on their desks.

Students record their homework in the journal and it is also a good tool for learning with lots of helpful information.

Staff will also use the journal to communicate with parents so please could you check the journal daily and also sign the journal each week as form tutors will be checking this.



ATTENDANCE

At Holy Family Catholic School we strive to maintain excellent attendance and punctuality among our students. We encourage all parents/carers to also promote this with their children.

While we understand that there will be authorised and unavoidable absences, it is imperative that students aim to attend school every day. A pupil with 96% attendance over the school year will miss approximately one and a half school weeks, which is the equivalent to missing 33 lessons.

We request that parents and carers book appointments for their child outside of school time, unless it is unavoidable (eg; hospital appointments). In these circumstances please notify the school of your child's absence along with proving proof of the appointment.

For further information regarding attendance, please refer to the attendance section of our website by clicking [here](#).

ATTENDANCE

In short:

- We expect all of our students to maintain an attendance above 95% taking illness and other circumstances into account.
- All reasons for absences MUST be reported to school and evidence provided (medical). Medical evidence such as labelled medication, GP/Hospital letters and GP/Dentist appointment cards are accepted
- Any child who has under 90% attendance is considered a 'persistent absentee' and would be subject to a referral to the BACME (Behaviour, Attendance and Children Missing Education Service)

If you wish to discuss this matter further, or are experiencing difficulties in relation to your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the School Attendance Officers, Miss Mensah (Yrs 7 & 8) or Mrs Gidigbi (Yrs 9,10 & 11), so that we can offer support and guidance.

PUNCTUALITY

Lateness not only disrupts your child's learning but also the learning of everyone else in the class, as disrupting the lesson makes it difficult for all the children to settle. Your child being late will also put them at a disadvantage if they have missed their teacher's instructions to complete an activity. There is a legal requirement to ensure your child attends school on time and failure to do so could result in legal proceedings being taken against you. Please note:

- All students should be in Registration no later than 8.40am
- All children are expected to attend school on time everyday
- Any reason for lateness will only be excused for a valid verified reason by the parent/carer
- Should any student be identified to have an emerging pattern of lateness, the parents/carers will be invited into the school for a meeting to discuss the reasons
- Any child arriving more than half an hour later than the school's start time would receive an unauthorised late mark and be classified as being absent in the morning.

EXCUSES!

Please find below just some of the reasons the students have given for being late to school:.

- My phone battery died so my alarm did not go off
- No reason
- It was raining so I had to go to Tesco
- I fell asleep in the bath
- Just late
- Couldn't find my big coat
- Car had a flat tyre
- I was listening to my music
- I thought I was on time but obviously not
- My ball ran into the road
- Woke up late
- The bus driver was driving too slowly
- Procrastinating
- Looking for uniform
- My sibling spilt a drink in my shoe and I had to dry it with a hairdryer
- I got chased by gangsters
- Bin lorry
- Car broke down
- I got stuck in the lift
- Traffic
- Time just ran away
- It's Pancake Day Miss, I needed to make pancakes!
- I was walking too slowly
- Bus driver would not let me on without my Oyster card
- My ball ran into the road
- Not sure what happened to time
- Went to bed late and didn't wake up
- Missed the bus so walked
- I'm tired
- My own fault
- Lost my keys
- Taking sibling to school
- Uniform was still in the washing machine so I was waiting for it to dry
- Bus was late
- My dog was feeling unwell
- Left the house late
- Don't know



Class of Holy Family

ALUMNI EVENING 2019

Join us for drinks, canapés and catch
ups in our new and refurbished
accommodation and Sports Centre

THURSDAY 19TH
SEPTEMBER 2019
6.30PM

RSVP:
l.gaynor@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk

Wiseman Site
30-34 Shernhall Street
Walthamstow, E17 9RT





YOUTH GOSPEL CHOIR

**A new joint initiative by Our Lady & St George, St Joseph and
Our Lady of the Rosary & St Patrick parishes**

For young people ages 13 to 25 years old. To be held in St. George's Main Hall 6.30 pm–
8.30 pm from on Thursday 26 September 2019. *TERM TIME ONLY*

APPLICATION FORMS

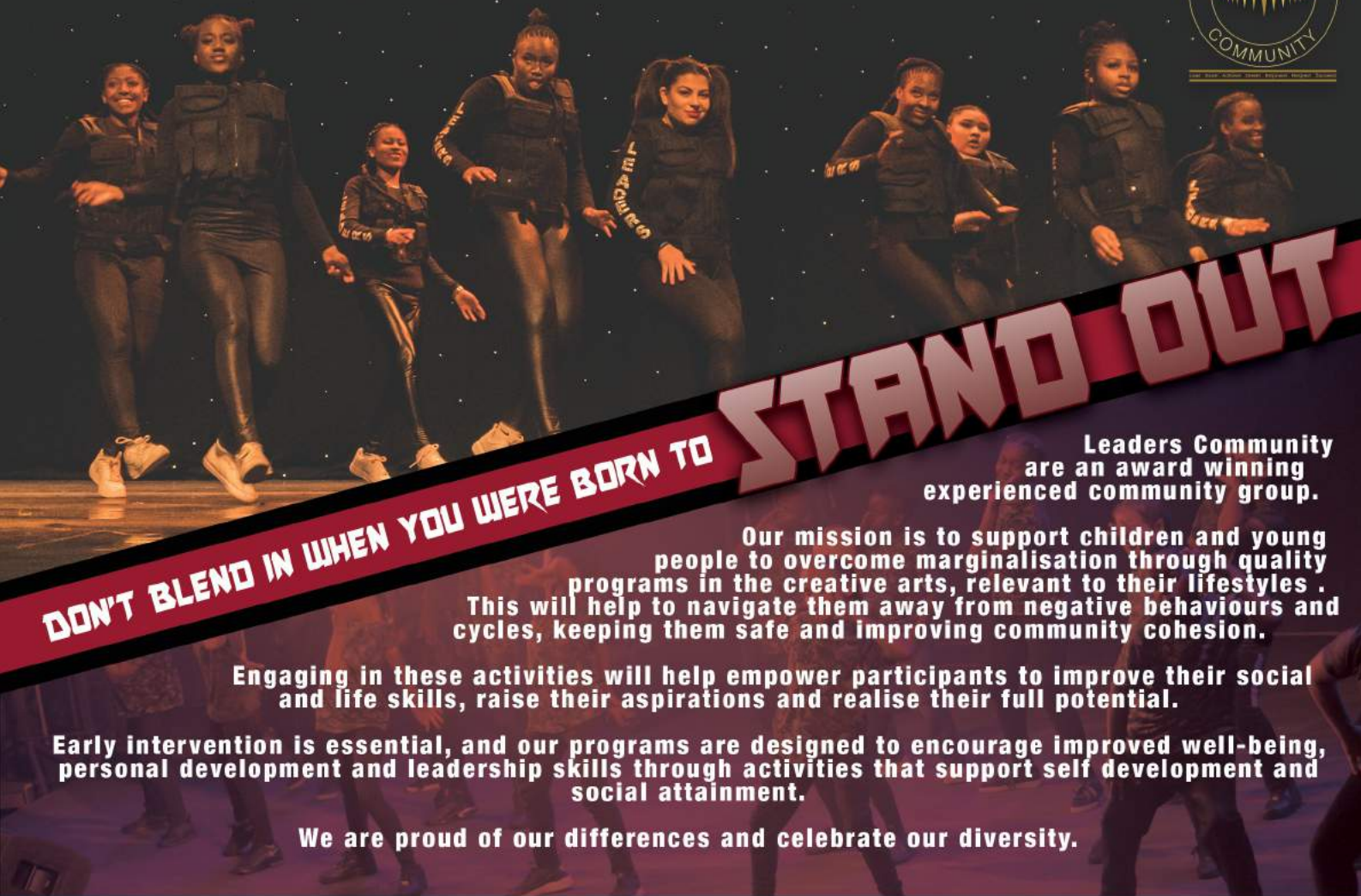
AVAILABLE FROM EACH PARISH THE WEEK END 21/22 SEPTEMBER 2019, or

MRS GRIERSON (LOWER SITE EMMAUS ROOM OR UPPER SITE CHAPEL)

Forms to be completed by young person and parent/guardian and taken to first meeting 26
September 2019

WANTED: KEY BOARD PLAYER to support the choir, if that person is YOU we would be
interested in hearing from you.

Brought to you by award winning Leaders Community



DON'T BLEND IN WHEN YOU WERE BORN TO

Leaders Community
are an award winning
experienced community group.

Our mission is to support children and young people to overcome marginalisation through quality programs in the creative arts, relevant to their lifestyles. This will help to navigate them away from negative behaviours and cycles, keeping them safe and improving community cohesion.

Engaging in these activities will help empower participants to improve their social and life skills, raise their aspirations and realise their full potential.

Early intervention is essential, and our programs are designed to encourage improved well-being, personal development and leadership skills through activities that support self development and social attainment.

We are proud of our differences and celebrate our diversity.

SUMMER CREATIVZ WITH LEADERS COMMUNITY

Paradox Centre, 3 Ching Way Chingford, E4 8YD

29th, 31st, July + 2nd August	Studio 1 7-10 years	Studio 2 11-15 years	5th-9th August	Studio 1 7-10 years	Studio 2 11-15 years
11.00 -12.30	Commercial Street Dance	Leadership through Drama	10.00 -11.00		Commercial Street Dance
12.30 - 13.00	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	11.00 - 12.00	Leadership through Drama	Commercial Street Dance
13.00 - 14.30	Leadership through Drama	Commercial Street Dance	12.00 - 13.00	Commercial Street Dance	

• Funded by Youth Investment Fund in partnership with Big Creative Education

• Funded by Sadler's Wells and London Borough of Waltham Forest
• To book for an 11-15 year old please in commercial street dance please register online at www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays

• Supported by Peabody

All staff are DBS certified and work with leading global brands.



Enrolment now open for all programs.
To request application forms contact
leadersacademyenquiries@gmail.com
07831 224510
www.leaderscommunity.org



DON'T BLEND IN WHEN YOU WERE BORN TO

STAND OUT

TERM TIME

HIGHAM HILL

Venue: Higham Hill Hub, Higham Hill Park,
Hecham Close E17 5QT

Dates: 11/9 - 29/01/20

Day: Wednesday

Cost: 6 weeks free taster sessions for all Higham
Hill Residents - £13 every 4 weeks

	Beginners	Intermediate
16.15 - 17.15	Hip Hop / Street Dance 7-12yrs	
17.15 - 18.15		Hip Hop / Street Dance 7-12yrs

• Funded by London Borough of Waltham Forest

CHINGFORD

Venue: Paradox Centre, 3 Ching Way,
Chingford E4 8YD

Dates: 1/6 - 26/7/19 & 13/9 - 31/1/20

Day: Friday

Cost: 2 weeks free taster sessions then £13
every 4 weeks.

	Studio 1	Studio 2	Studio 3
16.00 - 17.00	Commercial Street Dance 7-10yrs		
17.00 - 18.00	Commercial Street Dance 11-15yrs	Commercial Street Dance 16-18yrs	Leadership through Drama 7-10yrs

• Supported by Peabody

WALTHAMSTOW

Venue: Big Creative Academy, Clifton Avenue E17 6HL

Dates: Block 1: 5/10 - 14/12/19 (1 week off for half term)
Block 2: 11/01 - 21/3/20 (1 week off for half term)

Day: Saturdays

Cost: FREE – no costs involved

	Singing	Drama	Street Dance
11.00 - 12.00	10-12 years	13-17 years	7-9 years
12.00 - 13.00	13-17 years	7-9 years	10-12 years
13.00 - 14.00	7-9 years	10-12 years	13-17 years

• Funded by the LVE Foundation & Youth Investment
Fund in partnership with Big Creative Education

Each learner can apply for one block and can choose from 'Singing' with 'Leadership through Drama' or 'Singing' with 'Commercial Street Dance' or simply take a single class. When enrolment has closed if we can offer a third class of your choice then we will let you know.



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LEADERS COMMUNITY



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