

All Hallows Catholic High School



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Newsletter – Friday 1st April

Happy Easter!

The way in which the Easter break from school has fallen this year makes it seem strange to be saying happy Easter on April 1st. I would like to thank all parents and carers for your support of staff during the past term. It is greatly appreciated! Likewise, I am sure that you would like me to thank staff on your behalf for their hard work and perseverance during a term which has once again brought many challenges. It has been so encouraging, however, to see and feel the school returning slowly to its normal self as we emerge from the shadow of the pandemic. Many of our community events have begun to return, some of which are featured in this newsletter. This weekend, 97 pupils and 11 staff members will set off to the West Coast of America. We wish all well as the first large residential trip abroad in two years sets off in the early hours of Monday morning. Great thanks go to Mrs Cooper and Mr Jousiffe, both of whom are facing many more challenges than would be customary due to Covid, to make this trip happen.

Summer Uniform

Please note that upon our return after the Easter break, summer uniform rules will apply. Blazers will become optional (jumpers must be worn), and girls will be permitted to choose to wear knee length white socks or black tights. I would encourage parents and carers to be mindful of the rule about skirt length if new skirts are being ordered. When uniform was previously ordered through our retail stockists, the staff in those shops helped to ensure that skirts of the correct length were being purchased. However, we have seen a growing trend among some girls of ordering skirts online which are a size too small in order to reduce the length of the skirt. This enables them, when challenged, to claim that the skirt 'is not rolled up at the waistband'. We will take a strict line upon return to school on skirts which do not comply with the uniform policy, a copy of which can be viewed on the school's website.

Edge Hill University Visits

Over the past fortnight, students from Year 9 and Year 10 have had the fantastic opportunity to visit Edge Hill University for "StudySmart" and "Raising Aspirations" workshops. Despite the visits having contrasting climates, both visits were an inspiring and engaging experience for our pupils. Below is a small extract by one of our Year 10 students about their experience.

"On Wednesday, we were privileged to attend a day at Edge Hill University for a taste of University life and to give us an idea of courses that are available for our future studies. After a 30 minute drive on the coach we were greeted by some students who attend the university. We entered a small lecture hall and there were 4 other schools who were also in attendance (but we were the best behaved!). The lecture was an introduction to university life and the courses that are available. Did you know there are over 37000 courses to study in the UK?"

During the first workshop, we had a presentation about what jobs are available in the world of work and this gave us all an idea of which courses would be relevant for these particular career paths. We then had a tour around the attractive campus grounds where we saw some of the student accommodation that is available for 1st and 3rd year students. The grounds had a pond with ducks, seating and a calm quiet atmosphere. It really is a campus with a difference.

We walked to the Students Union building where we were given a complimentary lunch of sandwiches, crisps and a drink. The area we had lunch looked a bit like the Harry Potter hall as it was one of the older parts of the university. In the afternoon we went back to the Creative Edge building to take part in Workshop 2. This was another informative session on how to be organised with your time and studies at University. It suggested how to arrange your day and to plan what is urgent and what is not necessary. Then we did a memory game to try and remember 30 words. I remembered 8 words I didn't think I had done particularly well until I found out the average the brain can remember is 5-9 words!

I enjoyed the day and I was glad I was given the opportunity to visit this fantastic university. I am certainly going to give it some serious consideration when I am of the age to attend university”.

Past Pupils Take To A Local Stage.

We have a number of past pupils who have been working hard to bring to the public, a live performance of Little Women the musical, showings will be from 14th to 16th April at the Preston Playhouse. If you would like to support them and Create Drama tickets can be purchased at the Preston Playhouse.

Women In Engineering



Earlier this half term, four fantastic females from super successful Preston based engineering company, Lantei visited the school to deliver a workshop aimed at raising aspirations for females in a predominantly male industry. The girls completed tasks exploring the gender gap in different professions before hearing an inspirational story from Leona Smith about how she applied the transferable skills she had learnt throughout her initial career, to build a multi-million pound company that now employs hundreds of staff across Preston and the UK!

Students worked collaboratively to create their own business plan, focusing on how their talents, strengths and values could benefit others. The groups showed fantastic creativity and innovation with ideas including government funded music tuition for underprivileged children, bespoke recycled denim clothing, football coaching for girls, and many more! Watch out dragons den - All Hallows' girls are coming!

Grace Raines, an Operations Manager and Holly Bird, a Sales Manager, also delivered inspiring presentations about their own successes, set backs and future aspirations, before the girls completed their own Operations Management task. They were given the brief of completing a working schedule for an engineer to complete in 5 days using the travelling salesman techniques often studied during AS. Again, the girls excelled in this task - prioritising the well-being of the workers to even provide an early finish on a Friday!

To continue to raise the profile of women in STEM, Lantei offered a £50 donation towards a "Mums that use Maths" project. Pupils had to nominate a family member as their inspirational woman and produce a profile on them, with the main focus being how they use maths in their career and day to day life. We had lots of wonderful entries but today we revealed our top three winners. A huge Well done to Rosana, Nick and Poppi – We hope you all have a lovely time treating your nominated person!



Easter Holiday Activities with South Ribble Borough Council

South Ribble Borough Council along with Community Partners including South Ribble Leisure, are delighted to announce the continuation of the Holiday, Activities and Food Programme throughout 2022.

This programme is funded by the Department of Education and aims to provide activities and food for children in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals during Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods.

You may wish to share the attached leaflet in your School Newsletter and directly with children in receipt of benefit related free school meals at your school.

More details around eligibility and booking the activities on offer across the Borough of South Ribble can be found at our website www.southribble.gov.uk/haf2022 or contact Janelle Brooks our HAF Co-ordinator at haf@southribble.gov.uk

Year 7 Gothic Writer Visit & Writing Workshop



On Wednesday, the 30th of March, our Year 7 pupils received a visit from Gothic writer Andrew Michael Hurley. Prestonian Mr Hurley writes Gothic fiction based on local landscapes. His first novel *The Loney* won the Costa First Novel Award in 2016. His most recent novel *Starve Acre* has been serialised by BBC Radio 4, and a film version of the novel is currently in production starring Matt Smith (*Doctor Who*) in the lead role.

Year 7 listened to Mr Hurley talk about his experiences as a writer, which started when he was a Year 7 student. He explained how he turned well-known local landscapes in Morecombe, Preston, and Clitheroe into fictional Gothic landscapes, and how he was inspired by many of the Gothic writers our Year 7 have recently studied. Year 7 were given the opportunity to probe Mr Hurley about his work as a writer. They had some fantastic questions and Mr Hurley said the students were a delight to work with. After the talk Mr Hurley ran a writing workshop with 15 students from Year 7. These students got the opportunity to create their own Gothic descriptions of local landscapes. The students wrote some amazing descriptions and Mr Hurley was impressed with how creative and evocative their writing was. Thank you to the English Department for arranging this opportunity for our Year 7 pupils.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Horrocks

Headteacher