



Holy Trinity Catholic School Newsletter:
Autumn Term

Update for parents and carers: Start date – Dec 2025



Holy Trinity Catholic School

A partner in the St Teresa of Calcutta MAC

Learn to Love. Love to Learn.

Dream. Believe. Achieve.

Message from the Headteacher: Mr Crehan



Welcome to the latest copy of our school newsletter!



As our Jubilee Year has come to it's end, we reflect again upon the following scripture taken from Matthew's Gospel:

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you"

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"

At Holy Trinity, we have been inspired to be 'Pilgrims of Hope' from these words revealed to us by Jesus Christ. During this Jubilee year, we have participated in a number of

projects in support of the sick, homeless and those in prison. We have engaged with a number of external partnership agencies to ensure that our message of 'hope' is one that is shared with those who need it the most. A huge thank you to all parents and pupils who have supported this most valuable work since January.



At Holy Trinity we remain committed to the fulfilment of our school's Mission Statement:

We are children of God

We are Christ-centred

New Leadership at Holy Trinity from January 2026:

Following a robust process of selection administered by the St Teresa of Calcutta Multi-Academy Catholic Company, we take this opportunity to congratulate the following:

Mrs J Daw appointed Interim Headteacher for fixed-term period January 1st 2026 - August 31st 2026.

Mrs C Henvey appointed Interim Deputy Headteacher for fixed-term period January 1st 2026 - August 31st 2026

We pray for Mrs Daw and Mrs Henvey as they make the transition to their new leadership positions.

Curriculum Update- Mrs Henvey



This half term has been packed with exciting enrichment opportunities across the school.

Our new Year 7 students have settled in brilliantly through their Transition Curriculum, which included workshops from Loudmouth Theatre Company on the dangers of social media, as well as a fascinating and spiritual visit to Harvington Hall.



Year 10 and 11 Photography students explored Digbeth, capturing street art and architecture to develop their coursework portfolios, while three of our talented musicians performed in town at a local music event.



As part of our Rewards Programme, 210 pupils enjoyed a well-earned trip to Drayton Manor.

We also welcomed the Royal Institution for Science, who delivered engaging workshops for Key Stage 3, and a group of pupils represented the school at the KS3 Maths Challenge at Cardinal Newman School.

To round off a busy half term, pupils took part in the Forward Thinking subject taster day at the University of Birmingham, gaining valuable insight into higher education and future opportunities. It's been a fantastic start to the year, with students embracing every opportunity offered to them.

We look ahead to visits to the Black Country Museum, a Peaky Blinders tour for our KS3 History group, a Chess competition for some of our Year 10s and 11s, theatre visits to see Macbeth, Sherlock Holmes and the Nutcracker and even a Science trip to Switzerland.





Quality of Education Update: Mrs Wall



What a fantastic term it has been. Another autumn term filled with a love of learning across all subjects. Pupils have committed themselves fully to their learning in school and out of school and this is so wonderful to see. Their developments have been inspiring as they take on the challenges of new learning while at the same time having to recall prior learning, modelling their excellent recall skills, their aspirations to succeed and the development of them as young people. Well done to all pupils - with confidence and passion, they are thriving.

Holy Trinity Sports Update



Girls Sports Update

Well done to our Year 10 netballers who showed great resilience and determination to win their first game of this year on the 13th November. Well done to all who played. What a great start to the season!



Boys Football



Year 7 Football results

Home vs Boa: 3-1 win

Away vs Moseley: 3-1 loss

Away vs Yardley: 2-2 draw

Away vs Small Heath: 2-2 draw

Away vs KESH: 2-2 draw

Year 8 Football results

Home vs Boa: 3-2 win

Home vs Ark Boulton: 2-1 loss

Away vs Ark Victoria: 4-3 loss

Year 9 Football results

Home vs Boa: 2-2 draw

Away vs Yardleys: 4-1 win

Away vs Ark Boulton: 6-1 loss



Year 10 Football results

Home vs St Albans: 3-0 loss

Home vs St Albans 3-1 win



Year 11 Football results

Home vs Starbank: 1-0 win

[Other Sports News](#)

Well done to all our pupils that have taken part in the extracurricular sports clubs we have put on throughout the term. The students have shown excellent courage and determination throughout and shown excellent skills in a range of different sports.

Well done to our Year 8 and Year 9 basketball teams who both won the 3vs3 tournament at Yardleys school



Literacy & Oracy update



This term has been an exciting and successful one for literacy across the school, with pupils engaging enthusiastically in a wide variety of reading and writing opportunities. Our aim continues to be to foster a lifelong love of reading while developing key literacy skills-and our students have risen to every challenge with creativity and confidence.



Celebrating Black History Month

Black History Month was celebrated with real enthusiasm across the school. The library put together a colourful, engaging display of books by Black authors and stories. During form time, pupils read and discussed texts that highlighted the achievements and experiences of Black people throughout history. The celebrations not only encouraged students to explore new books, but also helped deepen their cultural awareness and understanding.

Spooky Stories Competition

October brought with it our annual Spooky Stories competition, which saw an impressive range of imaginative and spine-chilling entries. Congratulations to our winners:



 **1st Place:** Maliha Rehman – 7E

 **2nd Place:** Mariam Badr – 10E

 **3rd Place:** Eliana Madlom – 10E

All winners received book prizes, including a special set of *Goosebumps* novels. We are incredibly proud of the creativity and effort shown by all participants.

Author Visit: Steven Camden (Polarbear)

One of the standout moments this term was a visit from acclaimed local writer Steven Camden (better known as Polarbear), who spent the day running workshops with our Year 9 and Year 10 pupils. The sessions were lively, inspiring, and full of energy, giving students plenty of space to be creative- and they really rose to the challenge. Steven even said that our Year 10s were “one of the most creative groups” he’s worked with, which is a fantastic reflection of their talent and enthusiasm.

He was especially impressed by two Year 9 pupils, Ella and Adyan, and gifted each of them a signed copy of one of his books. He’s also invited pupils to send him their writing, offering a brilliant ongoing opportunity for our young authors.



Following Steven Camden's visit, we launched a special writing competition judged jointly by Steven and Mrs Smith. We are delighted to announce the winners:

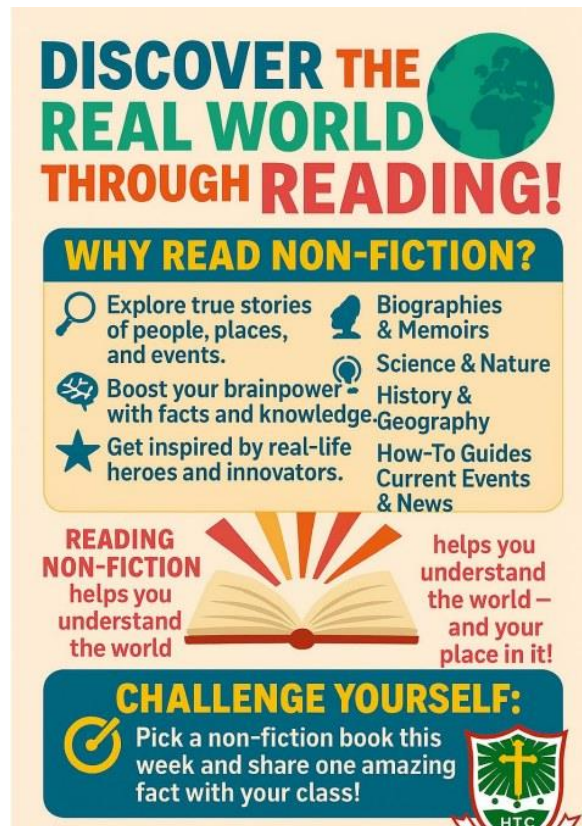


Ekrama Al Dubai (10E) & Ibrahim Ali (9I)

Both pupils produced exceptional pieces, rich in originality and craft. They each received a signed copy of one of Steven's books as their prize.

Non-Fiction November

Non-Fiction November was introduced through a series of assemblies encouraging pupils to broaden their reading habits by engaging with factual texts. Our Non-Fiction Reading Challenge has seen enthusiastic participation, with pupils exploring topics ranging from space science to global history.



Throughout November, members of the Senior Leadership Team have been visiting forms to read with groups of pupils. These sessions have been extremely positive, with both staff and pupils enjoying the shared experience of storytelling and discussion.

Library News

The LRC has been full of energy this term, with lots of new events and activities taking off. Our UNO tournament was a big hit, bringing in enthusiastic players from all year groups. We've also launched two new library clubs: Mindfulness Monday, which gives students a calm, reflective start to the week, and Film Friday, where everyone can unwind and enjoy a movie together. Both clubs have had a fantastic turnout so far, and we're excited to see them continue to grow.



We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Stafford, our school librarian, following her maternity leave. Her passion, creativity, and enthusiasm for reading will be invaluable as we continue to grow and strengthen our literacy provision.

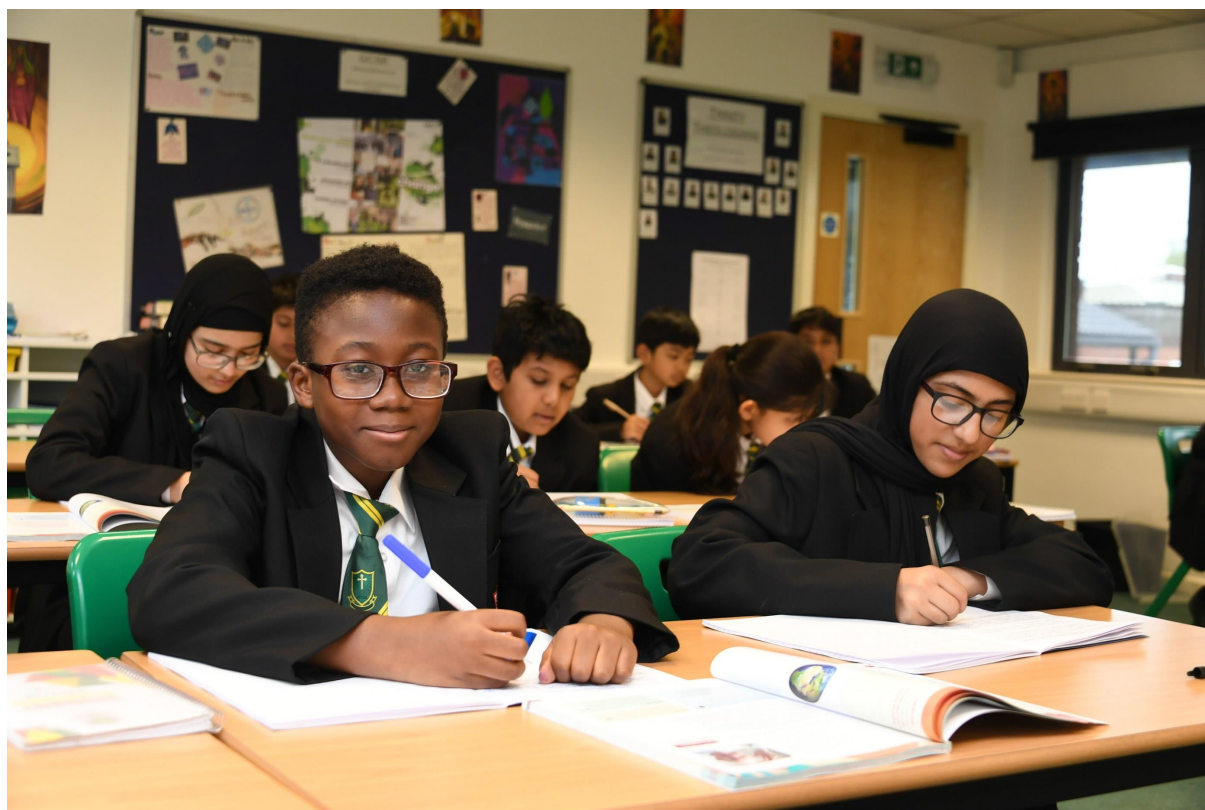
Looking Ahead: National Year of Reading 2026

We are thrilled to announce that our school will be taking part in the National Literacy Trust's National Year of Reading in 2026. Students have already been introduced to the national slogan, "[Go All In](#)" during assemblies. We have an exciting programme of events and initiatives planned over the coming year to build momentum-please look out for updates on our website and social media pages.

**Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.**



Pupil Progress update: Mrs Pritchard



All year groups have made a positive start to this academic year. Year 7 parents met with form tutors to discuss their child's transition into Holy Trinity and learn how they were settling and in November, we also welcomed Year 8 parents to meet with form tutors and discuss their child's progression from Year 7 to Year 8. Year 11 have attended revision and study skills workshops and parents have been invited into Information Evening, allowing us to share key advice and support tips with parents. Senior members of staff have met with

the Year 11 cohort individually to discuss and reflect their progress in Year 10 and have spoken about how each student can be best supported as they journey through Year 11. The first round of mock exams for Year 11 will begin in January. Pupils have received their timetables and have been informed on what to expect from the process. A fantastic start so far!

Mentoring & Extra-Tuition Update: Mr Woolgar



Extra Tuition has seen excellent attendance so far. We have only rolled out the Year 11 Autumn term catch up tuition for a couple of weeks, ranging from subjects such as Engineering, Sport to English, Maths and Science. Pupils have really stepped up and worked hard to attend and ensure they get the best out of this opportunity.

We have also had excellent attendance to our Thursday evening MyTutor online tutoring, whereby 20 Y11 pupils have access to their own personal tutor in either English or Maths. They have benefitted greatly from this so far and I am sure it will have the desired impact in terms of outcomes next year.

The Envision programme has gone very well so far. We have 12 Year 9 pupils working with each other to improve skills such as teamwork and determination. They are working with mentors from Atkins Realis (an Engineering company in the city centre) and this has provided an insight into the world of work and how to work in an office environment. They are currently working on a great initiative in their school where each classroom will have

black and green pens to hand out when pupils don't have the required equipment. This is to support them through the 'cost of living' issues we face. All of these ideas are marketed, advertised and promoted by our wonderful pupils. A huge well done to them the pupils involved for making a fantastic start



Kings Trust (Mosaic) mentoring has commenced this term, where 14 Y7 pupils have already gone through 4 mentoring sessions with their mentors. Our mentors this year are experienced in their field, including a police officer, and can bring a wealth of support and expertise to our Year 7's. This mentoring is designed to develop more confidence and aspiration in our young people, and the feedback thus far has been excellent. They have 4 sessions to go and also a world of work opportunity which is to be confirmed.

Our new teachers have settled in really well and are enjoying working with our pupils.

Attendance and Punctuality Update: Ms Backhouse



At Holy Trinity Catholic School, we remain committed to ensuring that every child attends school regularly so they can achieve their full potential. We are pleased to see 213 pupils maintaining a perfect attendance record this term with their 100% attendance, all achieving the Bronze award and badge in the end of term awards assemblies. We thank families for their continued support in prioritising punctuality and daily attendance.

Top attending forms:

Year group	Form	Attendance percentage	Form tutor
7	7E	97.1%	Ms Domenech
8	8E	93.8%	Mr Bennett
9	9I	94.7%	Ms McDonagh and Ms Khalid
10	10A	94.4%	MS Nicholls and Mr Jambor
11	11E	92.9%	Mr McCann

We encourage all families to continue working with us to keep attendance as high as possible. We are aiming for an attendance of 96%+ for each child and in order to do that we need your support ensuring your child is in school. Please contact the school promptly if your child is unwell, and keep us informed of any issues that may affect your child's ability to attend. Our Attendance Team is always available to support you.

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 lessons

A key reminder about punctuality to school

A reminder that school starts at 8.30am. If a pupil arrives after the registers close at 9:00am, they will receive a U code, meaning they will not be given an attendance mark for the morning session. To avoid this, it is essential that all pupils arrive to school on time every day. Thank you for your continued support in promoting excellent punctuality.

Together, we can ensure that every pupil benefits from consistent, high-quality learning and the full Holy Trinity experience



A Reminder of our High Standards and Expectations

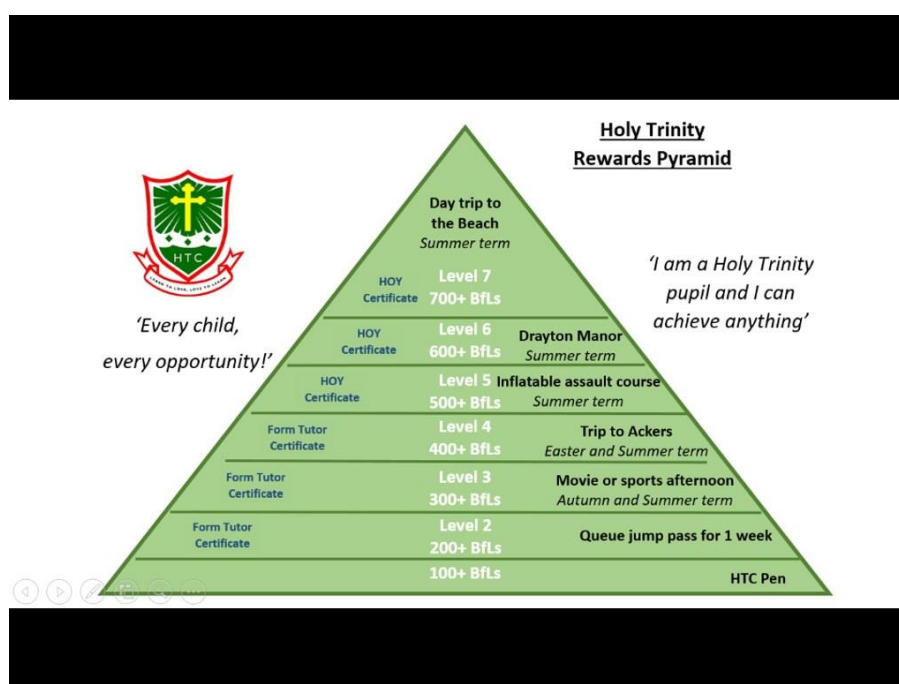


Standards reminder:

- Pupils must have a blazer, tie and shirts to be tucked in at all times.

- Pupils must wear plain black footwear without any coloured logos/laces.
- Pupils will no longer be permitted to arrive to school in their PE Kits, they will have access to specialist Sports Hall facilities for changing.
- Pupils must have an appropriate pencil case containing essential items such as:
 - black/blue pen
 - green pen
 - pencil
 - ruler
 - rubber
- Punctuality to form time and lessons must be excellent.
- PE kit must be in line with our Uniform Policy, there should be no branding on kits as they must be plain.
- Hoodies are not permitted to be worn, all coats/jackets must be worn on top of blazers.
- Jackets/coats must be plain with no large branding, denim jackets and gilets are not permitted to be worn in School.
- No jewellery.
- Hairstyles should be practical, clean and safe. Tramlines, or patterns shaved into hair or eyebrows is not permitted. Extreme hair colours are not permitted.
- During the winter, it is essential that your child wears a suitable waterproof coat for school. As stated, hoodies are not permitted and should not be worn in place of a suitable outdoor coat. Balaclavas, ski masks, snoods and comparable items of clothing are not permitted. Items will be confiscated if they are seen in school.
- Pupils must be highly organised ensuring homework and other tasks are completed on time when set by their teachers.
- In line with our annual practice, this existing Uniform Policy, is to be reviewed with school stakeholders during the summer term in anticipation of next Academic Year.
- Please access the full school uniform policy from the front page of this website. At Holy Trinity, we are committed to maintaining high standards and are open to changes that may support your child's positive progress in school.

Pupil Rewards at Holy Trinity



At Holy Trinity Catholic School, we place a strong emphasis on recognising and celebrating positive behaviour, effort, and attendance. Our rewards system helps build a supportive, respectful, and ambitious school culture, aligned with our Catholic ethos. Their BfLs are then combined to climb the ladder of success and reach the top of the pyramid. The following pupils have received the highest BfL's in their respective year groups:

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Year 7	Muhammad Ayaan Bilal Mohammed Laiba Safa	Cziara Yangyuen	Alayna Khattak
Year 8	Muhriz Ali Ayaan Rafiq Amal Zaidi	Great Kanu	Navarro Blackwood Betelihem Habtom
Year 9	Jack Durkin	Emaan Ahmed	Sami Beghian
Year 10	Mazama Akbari Carmel Sesay Fetah Zenuni	Daniyal Hussain Hassan Kareem Shahidullah Miankhel	Ibraheem Hussain Anosh Johnson
Year 11	Favour Fasakin	Ismail Maqsood	Henna Maheen

Our recent Rewards Trip to Drayton Manor was a fantastic celebration of the hard work, positive behaviour, and commitment shown by our pupils. Students enjoyed an action-packed day filled with exciting rides, laughter, and plenty of memorable moments with friends and staff. It was wonderful to see pupils challenging themselves, supporting one another, and truly embracing the spirit of the day. Staff also had a brilliant time accompanying the groups, sharing in the fun, and seeing first-hand just how much the pupils appreciated the opportunity. The trip was a well-deserved reward and a reminder of what can be achieved through consistent effort and positive choices.

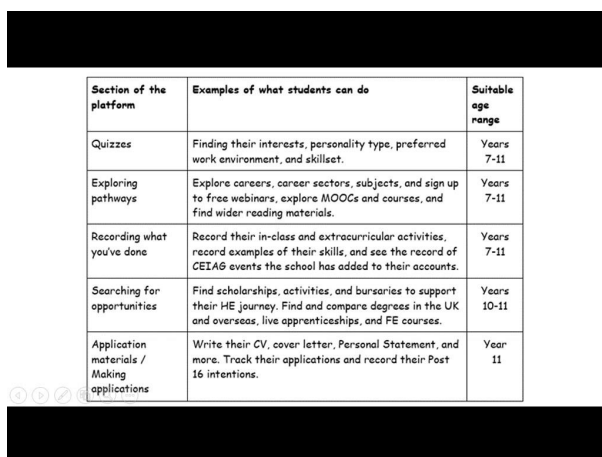


Careers provision at Holy Trinity

unifrog

In keeping with our commitment to provide pupils with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next steps after school, we will now be using **Unifrog**.

Unifrog is the universal destinations platform, designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures, and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each pupil has their own account where they can explore all the career and next step options available to them and find information on everything from managing their workload to writing a winning CV:



Section of the platform	Examples of what students can do	Suitable age range
Quizzes	Finding their interests, personality type, preferred work environment, and skillset.	Years 7-11
Exploring pathways	Explore careers, career sectors, subjects, and sign up to free webinars, explore MOOCs and courses, and find wider reading materials.	Years 7-11
Recording what you've done	Record their in-class and extracurricular activities, record examples of their skills, and see the record of CELAG events the school has added to their accounts.	Years 7-11
Searching for opportunities	Find scholarships, activities, and bursaries to support their HE journey. Find and compare degrees in the UK and overseas, live apprenticeships, and FE courses.	Years 10-11
Application materials / Making applications	Write their CV, cover letter, Personal Statement, and more. Track their applications and record their Post 16 intentions.	Year 11

Parents can also have your own *Unifrog* account. You'll be able to research careers, attend webinars delivered by employers and universities to learn more about their opportunities, and compare pathways so you can support your child in making an informed decision about their next steps.

You can sign up here: www.unifrog.org/code

The sign up code you need is: HLTCparents

For more information, go to www.unifrog.org or contact Miss Backhouse or your child's Head of Year

'My Child At School'



We invite you to regularly log into '**My Child at School**' to monitor how your child is getting on at school. You will find out whether your child is completing homework, receiving any

consequences or being awarded positive behaviour points. Pupil timetables, the school calendar and attendance records are also available. Please visit www.mychildatschool.com. The school ID is 11389. The school does not have access to your password information. You can request a new invitation code from home or if you have added an email address to the account you can click 'forgotten login details' and follow instructions that will email you the details.

A regular reminder regarding car parking

In a regular reminder, it is important to remember, that driving and parking near our Oakley Road entrance / exit point, continues to be highly problematic at drop off and collection times. This is something that we continue to work on with local residents & key stakeholders to improve. Recently, Mr Crehan (Headteacher) met with Local Councillor, Raqeeb Aziz, to discuss this issue alongside other wider community concerns. This meeting was a positive dialogue and it was clear that there is a shared commitment towards supporting improvements in the future. I encourage parents to continue being patient and understanding of this situation as we all endeavour to support one another as best as possible. Thank you.



Calendar Dates:

Sunday 30th November: 1st Sunday of Advent - Hope

December

Tuesday 2nd - Year 7 Theatre Trip to Nutcracker Ballet

Thursday 4th - Family Learning trip to German Market

Sunday 7th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent - Peace

Monday to Wednesday 8th - 10th - Year 11 Speaking Exams

Monday 8th - St Teresa of Calcutta MAC Carol Concert

Thursday 11th - Year 10 Parents Evening

Sunday 14th December: 3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy

Monday 15th - School Christmas Mass (1) Year 7 A, S, P, Year 8 and Year 10 and will be celebrated by Bishop Timothy Menezes (11.30)

Thursday 18th - School Christmas Mass (2) Year 7 I, R & E, Year 9 and Year 11 and will be celebrated by Father Peter Conley (9.45)

Friday 19th School finishes for Christmas Holidays

January

Monday 5th - INSET Day

Tuesday 6th - Pupils return to school

Wednesday 7th - GCSE PE Exam

Week commencing 12th and 19th - Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams

Thursday 29th - Year 9 Parents/Options Evening

Safety and Pastoral Update: Mrs Daw



Food bank and support with food parcels.

School is fortunate to have sourced regular donations of food and toiletries delivered via an external company. If you would benefit from support in this area, please contact your child's head of year in the first instance. School is also able to offer signposting and referrals into to Early help and Support as part of Birmingham Children's Trust. Please contact your child's Head of year in the first instance.

A reminder to remain safe in the community- Contextual safeguarding. We continue to ask our parents to remind their children to make sensible choices during the Christmas break and for parents and carers to know who their children are with and where they are at all times. <https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/feelings-behaviour/safety-wellbeing/child-exploitation/>.

As you will be aware, the carrying of any offensive weapons and or bladed articles is a criminal offence. West Midland's police also provide valuable updates and information linked to youth violence and knife crime and information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.westmidlands.police.uk/police-forces/west-midlands-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/lifeorknife/>



Developing and understanding risks of the online world.

At this time when school is closed for two weeks, we would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of monitoring the digital usage of their children. This includes usage of the internet and social media usage. Additional info is available at the following link.

<https://holytrc.com/esafety/>

Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing



At Holy Trinity, we strive to promote good mental health and wellbeing for our whole community: pupils, staff, parents and carers. We are a community in which all are respected, have a sense of belonging and feel safe, can talk openly with trusted adults and see good mental health as something to be valued and nurtured. If parents and carers are worried about their child's mental health and wellbeing over the Christmas break, we always suggest a discussion with the family GP. Additional support, signposting and links can be found on the school website.

<https://www.holytrc.bham.sch.uk/key-information/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

Early Help for families

If anyone in your family needs more help from public services or community groups, they can contact voluntary sector local leads from the ten areas, which can then connect families to support across the city.

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

<https://www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/families-and-carers>

Domestic Abuse

Statistics show that more families suffer Domestic Abuse during festive periods throughout the year. If you or a family member are suffering Domestic Abuse, please contact Women's Aid <https://bswaid.org/>, Call 0808 800 0028- web chat is also available, Monday to Friday 10am-4pm by clicking onto the website. Further information and support is also available from Birmingham council.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50350/domestic_abuse/2983/help_for_friends_or_family_of_domestic_abuse_victims

Support for males suffering from Domestic Abuse is at Respect, <https://mensadviceline.org.uk/>. Telephone, Freephone 08088018327

In the instance of any imminent and or significant harm, police should always be contacted as an emergency using the 999 number.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and peaceful Christmas Break.

Keep in Touch



The continued strong partnership between school and home, is at the foundation of the successes that we continue to celebrate. If for whatever reason you have any issues or concerns, please contact your child's Form Tutor / Head of Year in the first instance. If at any point you require further support in resolving a particular situation, please escalate your concerns to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. As Headteacher, I always welcome dialogue with parents informally on the school gate, through a conversation on the telephone, an email dialogue or more formally in a request to meet with me in person. Please contact school Reception if you wish to speak with me. If at any point you are not satisfied with our school's response, there are further channels available to parents in order to raise concerns. Please contact school reception if you require any additional information and clarity regarding the process for raising formal complaints.

'At Holy Trinity, we want all pupils to leave with a love of all people as equals and an appreciation of the common good. We want all pupils to leave with a world of

opportunities at their feet; for them to reach their fullest of potentials; to believe in themselves, and to achieve their wildest dreams’.

Thank you for your continued support.

Paper copies of this document are available from reception upon request.

Mr Crehan

Headteacher: Holy Trinity Catholic School

For further school information, please visit the school website:

<https://www.holytrc.bham.sch.uk/>

For updates on our school life, please follow us on X: @HolyTrinityCol