



2016 Edition

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Ash Wednesday has dawned, Lent is beginning and Spring is in the air as we come to the end of this half-term. As usual, it has been a busy few weeks.

January 7th was a day of celebration as Year 11 pupils received Maths GCSE results for their November entries. Results this time last year were excellent but this cohort's were even better. Needless to say, they were fruit of a great deal of hard work on the part of pupils, teachers and parents. In our experience, this level of dedication is always rewarded. More Maths results and all sorts of English results will be published on March 3rd (for Year 10 and Year 11) so watch this space for further updates. We have such high hopes for the Summer!

Pupils have, as usual, been involved in all manner of extra-curricular activities, sporting and otherwise. You can catch up with sports results on Twitter and in the PE newsletter. We are so fortunate to have so many enthusiastic young sports people at Corpus Christi, many of whom represent the country and some of whom have national honours.

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Together we are the body of Christ

- In our school community we will
- show our love by helping and forgiving each other
- recognise that everyone is unique and celebrate their differences
- value ourselves, develop our talents and help others to develop theirs
- strive for excellence in everything we do
- grow closer to God in word, in Sacrament and in what we do
- live in partnership with all those around us
- respond to Christ's call to build His kingdom.

Corpus Christi hosted a Careers Fayre for the first time at the end of January. Over 40 local and national organisations attended, providing pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 with advice on very many different careers and courses that are available. There was the most wonderful atmosphere in the Hall and it was lovely to see so many parents here. All the people who gave so generously of their time to represent their businesses and educational establishments were extremely helpful and I would like to thank them for making this venture such a huge success. The staff at school who organised it and supported it also deserve a huge "thank you".

I wonder how many times we have heard children say, "I don't know how to revise". We are going to provide support for our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils who might sometimes feel this way on March 10th. An organisation called "Positively Mad" will be coming to school to provide top tips on studying and learning, in the lead up to the Summer examinations. There is no doubt that all pupils, from the keenest to those who need more encouragement support, will benefit.

In addition, I have asked the speakers to provide a session for parents. It will take place from 5pm-6pm. The invitation is extended to all parents, but there is room for only about 400 chairs in the Hall, so places will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. If it proves to be very useful and more parents come forward than can be accommodated, I shall try to rebook them for a date later on.

If you would like to come along, please email my PA, Mrs Barbara Mullins, at bmullins@cardiff.gov.uk to reserve a place. You can find about "Positively Mad" along with some testimonials at www.positivelymad.com

In the meantime, may I wish you and your family a pleasant and restful half-term break.

Have a lovely half term.

Mrs. Angela Thomas



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Follow us on

Twitter

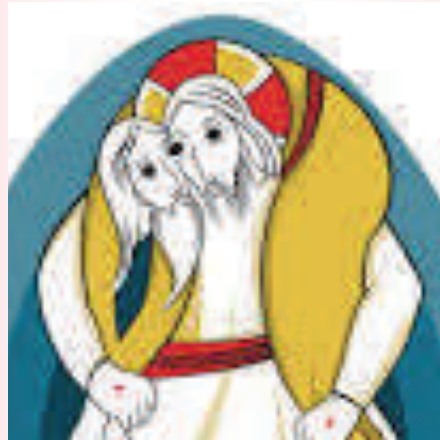
@CorpusChristiHS

Please check the school website for letters and newsletters.

[http://
www.corpuschristi
hs.co.uk/](http://www.corpuschristihs.co.uk/)

Friday 12th February	Half-term, school ends at 3.25pm
Friday 12th February	Y8&9 Ski Trip leaves
Saturday 20th February	Y8&9 Ski Trip returns
Monday 22nd February	Back to school
Wednesday 24th February	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4pm to 7pm
Monday 29th February	Interim Reports to Parents
Tuesday 1st March	School Eisteddfod
Wednesday 2nd March	Y10 trip to see Blood Brothers
Monday 7th March	Y10 Parents' evening 4pm to 7pm
Tuesday 8th March	GCSE Music Evening
TBC	Y8&9 girls HPV inoculations
TBC	Y11 Meningitis inoculations
Monday 14th March	School Council Meetings this week
Tuesday 15th March	Y11 GCSE Art Exam
Wednesday 16th March	Y11 GCSE Art Exam
Wednesday 16th March	Full Governing Body Meeting 7pm
Thursday 17th March	Y10 Mock exams start
Tuesday 22nd March	Y10 Mock exams end
Wednesday 23rd March	Easter Liturgy 7pm
Thursday 24th March	Term ends at 1:30pm
Friday 25th March	Y8 Barcelona Trip leaves
Tuesday 29th March	Y8 Barcelona Trip returns
Monday 11th April	Back to school

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S DIARY REGULARLY
AND SIGN WEEKLY**



Jubilee Year of Mercy 2015-2016

As part of the Year of Mercy which was announced by Pope Francis (8th December 2105 to 20th November 2016), the school has set itself a target of raising £4,000 for the equipping of much-needed medical centres in various developing countries around the world.

This appeal is our response to the Church's call to 'feed the hungry', which is one of the corporal works of mercy.

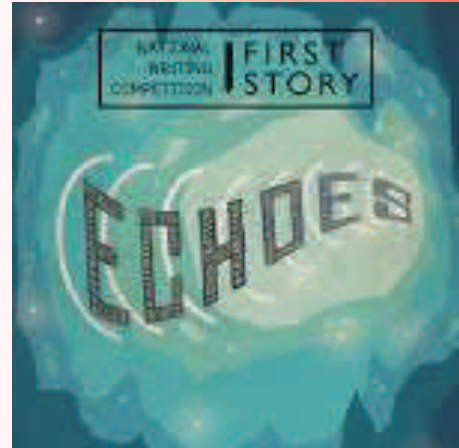
During Lent there will be various sponsored events taking place, such as cake sales, hunger lunches, collection jars and a non-school uniform day to raise the much-needed funds.

Your support is always welcomed and appreciated.

Mr Burke
RE Department

Congratulations to Lucie John (7S) for being longlisted in the 'Echoes' National Short story competition. There were over 3,000 entries from schools throughout the UK and Lucie is one of only 20 entries to be longlisted. The shortlist will be announced very soon.

Congratulations also go to Adam James and Patrick Topham for each winning first prize in their year group and Jack Tucker, Eli Melim and Emily Goodwin, who won runner-up prizes in the school stage of the competition.



'Echoes' by Lucie John

As the solitary figure sat by the tranquil lake, loneliness crept over her like a giant's shadow. Abi Green had everything you could possibly want in the world: looks, kindness ... all except for one thing, she didn't have a friend!

Every day, she would sit by the lake and dunk her feet in, all by herself, wondering what it would be like to have someone as a friend. The sound of her gentle cries echoed across the still lake until a different echoing sound rang in her ears, not the familiar gentle weeping, but the calming, soothing call of what seemed to be a mysterious sea creature in the distance. The echoing sound grew closer, until Abi could almost touch it. A feeling of warmth surrounded her as if the echoes of the mysterious creature were sent to comfort her.

Abi closed her eyes and for the first time in months she allowed herself to smile, she felt that this strange creature could somehow feel her pain. She had only moved to Scotland six months ago and during this time she had lost her confidence and had still not managed to make any friends. So today as she sat by the lake she felt a connection to this strange creature. Moments later, the echoes disappeared and Abi returned, melancholy and desperately sad, to her desolate house in the wilderness of the Scottish Isles.

Day after day she returned to the lake hoping to catch a glimpse of the mysterious creature but the echoing sound was becoming a distant memory and she wondered if her imagination had been playing tricks on her. All she could hear was the gentle rippling of the cold wind on the lake, the rustling sound of the leaves and the sound of emptiness all around. This emptiness echoed in her heart.

She would recall the happier times back in Wales, full of laughter and friendship, running freely up the mountains and chasing the waterfalls. This memory was shattered when her father had lost his job and they moved to Scotland for his work. Abi had desperately tried to make friends but she seemed invisible, the children were in their friendship cliques and she wasn't wanted, she felt outcast and different!

A few weeks passed and nothing had changed! Anxiously she entered the school gates, her head low and body dragging along. She sat listening to the whispers and laughter about her. She wanted to curl up into a ball and hibernate like a hedgehog. She could feel her heart beating faster, the butterflies in her stomach grew. She had to get out! Now! She ran frantically out of class, through the fields and ended up besides the lake.

Beside the tranquil lake, she burst into floods of tears. Her sadness echoed around the lake as her tears rolled down her cheeks. Slowly her body fell to the ground and she let out a loud, piercing cry. This sound could be heard for miles, it bounced over the lake and through the trees until silence re appeared!!!

In the distance, a familiar sound began to echo as if answering her cry. She started following the sound until she reached a wooden jetty where she gazed over and into the water. The sound was now whispering distance away. But what was making the noise?

Swiftly and suddenly a beautiful blue dolphin appeared right in front of her eyes, leaping and diving much to Abi's delight! Abi sat on the jetty with her feet dipped in the crystal water and felt a warmth flood through her body again.

Every day after school she would happily race to the lake and sit beside the water listening to the echoes of the magnificent sea creature that she now called her friend. There were no more echoes of sadness but laughter echoed around the lake and although Abi and the dolphin couldn't talk, they had an understanding.

Abi's smile had returned and one sunny afternoon as she skipped to the lake she couldn't hear the echoes of her favourite sea creature but instead the sound of another child playing. As they looked at each other they smiled and from that day on a special friendship blossomed. Abi was so happy that at first she didn't realise that the echoing sounds of the sea creature had disappeared. In the distance the tail of a blue dolphin was seen swimming away.

Silence returned to the tranquil lake while in the nearby, not so desolate house, the laughter of two friends echoed around the place!



BiMA Digital Day Results

Well done to the Year 9 pupils involved in Digital Day last term. BIMA stated that the quality of submissions this year was at an all-time high, and they hoped that students, teachers and agency mentors found it to be an enriching, fun and informative day.

We were selected for the shortlist and sent to the sponsors for the final round of judging. The final round of judging by the sponsors has now taken place and after much deliberation, our school was unfortunately not selected as the Digital Day 2015 winner. However, getting to the shortlisted stage is no easy feat and the sponsors were very impressed with quality of submissions. We would like to congratulate the Vodafone 'Family App' Year 9 team on a job well done!

We also congratulate the winning schools; Bournemouth School for Girls, Queens Park Community School and The Corsham School, and thank Yard Digital for helping us to get to the final round of judging.

Pupils involved:

ANDAL Isaac	WELSH Elizabeth
BARRIE Eleshia	WILLIAMS Emily
DE LA RUA Alex	NETHERCOTT Millie
FRASER Hannah	NOGAN Laura
LUFF-EVANS Chloe	NUH Tasha
HINDS Seb T	AYLOR Hermione
PEREIRA Tamara	ANTHONY PILLAI Pritika
RICH Annie	BRAIN Oliver
THOMAS George	CLANCY Aidan
TOPHAM Julia	GLOSSOP Sean



Massive congratulations to Eleshia Barry in 90 who was an Area Runner-up in the Royal Mail Young Letter Writer competition.

Eleshia's letter applying for her dream job was ranked in the top 5 in Wales in the Secondary School Age Group and was selected from nearly 100, 000 entries from across the UK.

Mrs E Lynch
English Department



DISNEYLAND PARIS

Due to the unfortunate events in November last year, the decision was made to cancel the Year 9 trip to Disneyland Paris. Unfortunately we are unable to claim the non-refundable deposit back. However, you may be able to claim on your own insurance (eg insurance through bank accounts).

Following last week's incident at the Disney hotel, we are certain that we have made the right decision for the children, parents and staff who were supervising the trip. If your child paid more than the original £50, they can collect their refund from Mrs Love.



Holocaust Memorial Day – Year 9 Students

On Wednesday 27th of January it was Holocaust Memorial Day. It was a day to remember the bravery of individuals who survived a regime of persecution and terror. We were incredibly fortunate this year that the Holocaust Educational Trust organised a live webcast to thousands of schools across the U.K. with the inspiring testimony of Holocaust survivor Rudi Oppenheimer.

On Wednesday, therefore, a select number of Year 9 students were taught the history of the Holocaust and then listened and watched the live testimony of Rudi. They then engaged in a debrief session after the testimony and discussed ideas of how we might be able to learn from the mistakes of that awful period in History.

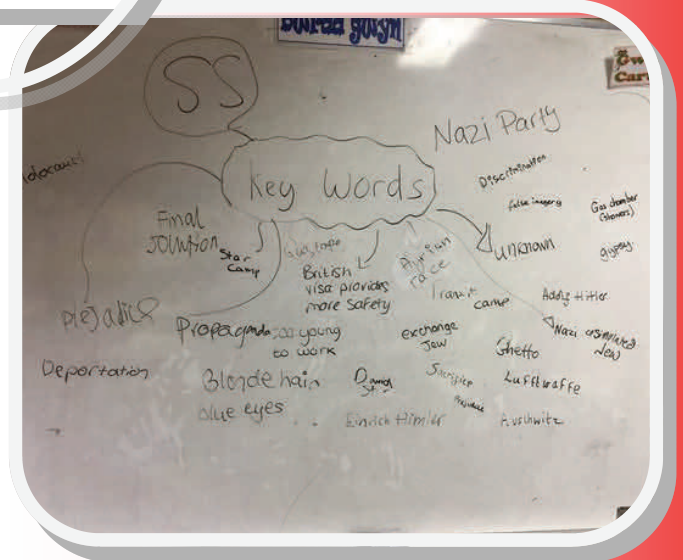
The Year 9 students were brilliant throughout the testimony and the sessions that went before and after it. They asked insightful questions and thought of ways to apply these lessons to school life, with some commenting on standing up to bullying when they see it happen. I am looking forward to how they now deliver their knowledge to plan lessons later in the year for the rest of their year group.

Mr Thomas





HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 27/1



Careers Evening

Careers evening, held on the 28th January for upper school pupils proved a massive success. 44 stands made up of employers, Universities and colleges were present to show pupils the vast array of careers ahead of them and possibilities for the future. Approximately 350 pupils and parents attended to gain this valuable insight.

I would like to thank the following for supporting Corpus Christi's first Careers Evening:

Cardiff Metropolitan University, University of South Wales, Cardiff University, School of Medicine (Cardiff University), Royal College of Nursing, St. David's College, Cardiff and Vale College, ACT Training, Itec, Remit Training, ISA Training, The Style Team, Marriott Hotels, Premier Inn, Traveline, Network Rail, BT, Severn Wye Energy, SERS Energy Solutions Group, New Law Solicitors, Hugh James, SCCL, Legal & General, IBM, Firstsource, The British Army, General Electric, ElectronicaUK, Powell Dobson Architects, Institution of Civil Engineers, Raymond Brown Group, Parsons Brinkerhoff, ISG, Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), Lloyds Bank, Barclays, HM Revenue & Customs, Admiral Insurance, Welsh Financial Services, Target Group, Black Horse, BBC, Routes into languages, C2C - Connect 2 Cardiff, and Careers Wales. With particular thanks to Adrian Cole at Careers Wales for helping to source employers.

Mrs N Killen

PSE and Careers Co-ordinator

Careers Evening





@ Corpus Christi

Since the beginning of the term Technocamps have been running an after school coding club. Pupils were able to learn how to code using Python programming. They set up Raspberry Pi kits, created games and learnt how to control lights. Being able to write simple programmes has enabled the pupils to develop an understanding of computing.

The sessions were really informative and the pupils were had the opportunity to learn new skills. They can continue to use these skills in coding club on Monday lunchtimes in room 9.

A big thank you to Laura and Rob for sharing their time and skills to help the pupils at Corpus Christi.





On Tuesday 9th February 2016, millions across the UK and globally were celebrating Safer Internet Day. For parents and carers, Safer Internet Day is a great time to have a conversation with your child about staying safe online. This year the theme is 'Play your part for a better internet' and young people from across the UK are considering what they can do to help make the internet a kinder place. Perhaps you could talk to your child about what actions they could take to make the internet a kinder place? Often we hear about the negative impact that the internet and new technology has on young people, but on Safer Internet Day we want to celebrate the positives and to explore what we can all do to make sure that all young people have a positive time online. Parents and carers play a crucial role in supporting children to navigate the risks and make the most of the opportunities offered by technology. The most important thing you can do is to have a conversation and stay engaged with your children's digital lives.

In school we have had a series of assemblies held by our E-safety and anti bullying representatives, encouraging pupils to #share a heart and to use the internet for positive actions.

You can find out more information looking at the website link below, which has information for parents and carers as well as pupils.

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2016/parents>
<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2016/11-18s>

Help us to help keep our children safe and happy online!

Miss N.R.Gatiss

BT Cardiff Bay International Data Centre

Sixteen Year 9 pupils, accompanied by Mr Edwards, represented Corpus Christi at an Information Technology learning experience at British Telecom's International Data Centre (IDC) site in Cardiff Bay on Thursday 14th January 2016. The day was an opportunity to show pupils that IT is an interesting, relevant, (and lucrative), career path to pursue.

The visit featured a tour of the centre, including a trip into BT's "Cloud" storage facility, and an opportunity to see BT staff developing new web sites for well known charities. Perhaps the most popular event during the visit was the "Marshmallow Challenge", when teams of pupils competed to win a large bag of marshmallow treats by building a structure out of spaghetti.



ATTENDANCE

The whole school attendance total is currently running at 95.94%, which is lower than we would want it to be for this time of year. The Welsh Assembly Government's target for pupil attendance is **95%**. Anything under this figure could mean that the Educational Welfare Service will contact you to find out why your child has been absent from school.

- It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school every day.
- Parents responsible for children who exhibit poor attendance risk prosecution and a **Fixed Penalty Notice** fine being issued by the Local Authority.
- Children are **not allowed to go on holiday during term time**.

Below is a current breakdown of each Year Group's attendance:

Year 7	96.7%
Year 8	96.3%
Year 9	95.5%
Year 10	95.6%
Year 11	95.9%

WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Absence</u>	<u>Lessons Missed</u>
100%	0 Days	None 😊
99.5%	1 Day	5 Lessons 😞
97.4%	5 Days	25 Lessons 😞
95%	10 Days	50 Lessons 😞
80%	38 Days	190 Lessons 😞
70%	57 Days	285 Lessons 😞

- Missing lessons makes the work more difficult.
- For every day you are absent from school **YOU** fall behind in **5 Subjects**.
- 100% Attendance = **ACHIEVING YOUR POTENTIAL**.





VELINDRE HOSPITAL KNITTED CHICKS **APPEAL**

This year, we will once again be supporting this vital charity. The chicks which contain a chocolate egg cost £1 and will be on sale from 1ST February in the Library. We raised over £200 last year and would like to raise more money this year.

TERM DATES 2015—2016

Term Dates 2015-2016

Autumn

1 September 2015

26 October 2015 (Half Term Begins)

30 October 2015 (Half Term Ends)

22 December 2015 (End of Term)

Spring

6 January 2016

15 February 2016 (Half Term Begins)

19 February 2016 (Half Term Ends)

24 March 2016 (End of Term)

Summer

11 April 2016

30 May 2016 (Half-Term Begins)

3 June 2016 (Half-Term Ends)

15 July 2016 (End of Term)

INSET days:

Monday 18th July

Tuesday 19th July

Wednesday 20th July

Girls & Boys PE Newletters can be found on Friday at
<http://www.joomag.com/magazine/corpus-christi-sporting-times-april-2014/0609765001396371278>