Wishing you all a very happy and Holy Christmas from the staff and Governors

Christmas Mass Times in Our Local Parishes

**St. Paulinus, Guisborough** - Christmas Eve Children’s Mass - 6pm / Midnight Mass - 12pm and Christmas Day - 10am Mass

**St. Bede’s, Marske** - Christmas Eve First Mass of Christmas - 6pm/ Mass - 9pm and Christmas Day - 10am Mass

**Sacred Heart, Redcar** - Christmas Eve Carols - 6.30pm / First Mass of Christmas - 7pm and Christmas Day - 10am Mass / New Years Day - 9am Mass

**St. Augustine’s, Redcar** - Christmas Eve Nativity & Carols - 6pm / First Mass of Christmas - 6.30pm / Midnight Mass - 10pm and Christmas Day - 10am Mass

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Saltburn** - Christmas Eve Carols - 6.30pm / First Mass of Christmas - 7pm and Christmas Day - 10.30am Mass

---

**Lille 2013** by Ms Harrison

Just after midnight, in the very early hours of 29th November, a group of Year 11 students from Sacred Heart and Bydales Schools set off on the long coach journey to Lille, in northern France. This was the sixth successful visit to the Christmas market and was very enjoyable once again. The highlights included the huge ferris wheel with its fantastic views over the town, the beautiful Christmas lights in the cobbled streets of the old town, bargain ‘boxers’ from Undis and, for a select few, the diverse works of art in the Musée des Beaux Arts. We might want to forget the Flunch chicken on Friday night but the freshly cooked crêpes in the Christmas market made up for it. Some lovely Christmas presents should be under the tree this year, all purchased using fluent French, of course!
Check out our website!

Everything you need to know about Sacred Heart at the click of a button. Always the last to know? Keep up to date with our latest news and announcements. Fancy something new? Take a look at the clubs and activities we have to offer. Unorganised chaos? Synchronise our hectic school calendar with your smart phone so you never miss a thing!

All at the click of a button on www.sacredheartrc.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter @sacredheartrcuk

Sacred Heart Winter Concert on Wednesday 4th December

The Sacred Heart school choir led by Miss Trodden provided an evening of Christmas cheer and celebration for staff, parents and those attending from our local community. All enjoyed a fantastic performance.

Partner Ghana raised £147 from selling refreshments and a tombola - thank you for your support.

We Do Maths Everyday! by Mr Redshaw

We are often informed by parents that, when helping their son/daughter with homework, they are unfamiliar with the method of teaching or that the method is different to how they were taught. To help solve this problem we will be holding sessions for parents designed to help explain the methods used in class by your son/daughter.

Appointments can be made by email: maths.st@sacredheartrc.org.uk or by telephoning: 01642 487100 (If there is a specific question or homework piece that you don’t understand, please bring it with you to the appointment).

Next session: Thursday 30th January 2014 - we look forward to seeing you.
The Winter Allotment by Mrs York

This time of year everything in the allotment slows down, including the weeds, so it’s a good time to clear out. We have been removing weeds from around the beds and in the beds, unfortunately weeds seem to grow so much better than the plants – maybe we should start to eat weeds!

New Planting
You can plant quite a lot in December, but you need to be aware that little seeds and small plants can get battered by the weather and will get damaged by frost, so planting indoors with the plan to plant outdoors in the spring is a great idea.
Herbs are great to plant this time of year, they can live on the windowsill to get some light and warmth from the sun, but try to remember to move them at night as the windowsill can get quite cool.
We are planting some small pots of Basil, Parsley and Dill so we can use it over winter. We will also be planting some salad leaves in troughs, but we need to check that they are hardy for winter (the clue is in the name of the salad leaves, it will state Winter or Arctic in the title).

TIP!
We will also be sowing some cress, in egg shells. This is really easy to do and cress grows really quickly. Wash out a used egg shell and put a cotton wool ball in the bottom. Make the ball damp (but not soaked) and sprinkle some cress onto it. Remember to keep it in a warm and light place, keep the cotton wool ball watered and in a few days you should see something happening.

Rhubarb
If you have rhubarb in your garden you will probably find that it has died off and looks like it will never grow again. Ours looks like this in the allotment.
Now is the time to dig up the rhubarb and split it. You can then replant it. We will be splitting ours into 2 (it is only small) and hopefully by the spring we will have 2 lovely new healthy rhubarb plants. We must remember to put lots of organic matter in the bed with the rhubarb as it’s going to need some food to help it grow.

Wild animals
We have a lot of wild animals in the allotment; we have birds, rabbits and foxes. We know this as we saw footprints in the snow a few years ago. I’m sure there are other animals. During the winter months these animals need fresh water, so remember to fill a bowl or your bird bath and check it on frosty mornings, you might need to top it up with hot water to defrost the ice (but please do NOT put anything in the water to stop it freezing – this can kill wild animals)

Want to join?
If you are green fingered and would like to help in the allotment, we work on a Thursday evening from 3:20 (until it’s too dark to see) remember to bring some waterproof boots and some clothes that you don’t mind getting muddy. See Mrs York, Miss Crysell or Mr Dukes for more information.
Sacred Heart take Science to Ayensudo!

During October half-term, ten students from Sacred Heart along with Mrs Meadows and Miss Armistead, ventured over to our partner school, Ayensudo, in Ghana - in order to complete several projects and deliver some valuable equipment!

During their stay our students repainted the community library and replaced all the mosquito netting in the windows. Our students designed and painted murals for the walls in the courtyard and did a great job.

We also provided Ayensudo with three whiteboards, to replace their chalkboards. They were extremely grateful and it will be interesting to see, on our return, how they are being used.

**Best Experience:** Visiting a Coconut Farm; tasting fresh coconut milk and eating chunks of fresh coconut

**Favourite Dish (cooked by our own Ghanaian chef!):** Egg Stew and Yams - delicious!

**Sharing Cultures:** Carving watermelons for Halloween, which is not celebrated in Ghana. The Ghana students loved it!

In Ghana, even the universities struggle to fund equipment, some will only have one microscope! We managed to provide Ayensudo with three microscopes and two astronomical binocular sets! This meant students were able to explore various items including; cheek cells and study the stars in an astronomy lesson. With no light pollution this was a great experience!
In October, the MFL department celebrated languages by organising the 'Passport for Languages' for the year 7 students. This project consisted in introducing a variety of modern foreign languages such as Spanish, Urdu, Italian, Portuguese and Mandarin for an hour after school. Students interested in the project were given a ‘Passport for Languages’ that they got stamped and signed each time they attended a language session. They were also invited to record what they learnt in their passport at the end of each session.

It was an ideal opportunity students to discover different cultures, different food, learn some basic words in a particular language and appreciate the diversity of languages.

The feedback from the students was extremely positive and we hope we will be able to run that project again in the future.

**What did some of the students think?**

"I loved speaking Urdu to my friends. Staying one extra hour after school was really worth it! I have learnt so much from each language session.” (Keira Exley)

"It was a fantastic experience and the only regret was that it only lasted for 2 weeks. I would have loved to learn even more! My personal favourite was Mandarin because it was fun and interesting. ‘Passport for Languages’ was one of the best experience I have had in Sacred Heart!” (Matthew Dawood)

"This was an opportunity which we grabbed with both hands, we only wished it could have gone on for longer!” (Adam Robinson)

"It was fun to learn new languages and learn about different cultures. I loved testing new food and I was really challenged when I had to pronounce some foreign words!” (Jasmine Harvey)

"Although it was only 1 hour a night we learnt something that we can hold on to for other real life situations.” (Josh Moore)
Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat! Here are some tasty treats from Mrs Leighton for you to try… Christmas Biscuits and Sweet Mincemeat Muffins for the whole family to enjoy this festive season. Merry Christmas!

---

**Christmas Biscuits**

**Ingredients**
- 40g margarine
- 60g sugar
- 90g plain flour
- 25g ground rice
- ½ teaspoon mixed spice

**To decorate**
- Glace icing
- Coloured sugar balls or any topping you like!

**Equipment**
- Mixing bowl
- Knife
- Tablespoon
- Flour dredger
- Rolling pin
- Jug
- Fork

**Method**

Light oven Gas mark 4, Elec. 180 C.
Collect equipment and ingredients.
Beat up the egg in the jug.
Put flour, ground rice, mixed spice and margarine into a mixing bowl.
Chop up the margarine and rub in.
Add the sugar and stir.
Add a tablespoon of egg stir and mix to a firm dough.
Add a little more egg if needed.
Flour the table and roll out to 1 cm. thick.
Use a cutter to cut out shapes and put them on the baking tray.
Make a small hole near one end, use a skewer.
Bake 15 – 20 min. until golden brown.
Remove, allow to cool.
Decorate with glace icing and any toppings!
Sweet Mincemeat Muffins

Ingredients (makes 12)
125g sweet mincemeat
250g Self Raising (SR) Flour
140g golden caster sugar
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
85ml sunflower oil
2 eggs
200ml semi skimmed milk

Equipment
12 hole muffin tin
12 paper muffin cases
Scales
Tablespoon
Teaspoon
2x measuring jugs
Fork

Method
Light oven Gas mark 6, Elec. 200 C.
Collect equipment and ingredients. Place paper cases into muffin tins.
Into the large mixing bowl, place the caster sugar, SR flour, Bicarbonate of soda and mixed spice.
Place the oil into one of the measuring jugs.
Crack the eggs separately in a second measuring jug and beat well with a fork.
Pour the oil into the measuring jug with the eggs and mix well.
Add the milk to the egg and oil mixture. Mix well.
Pour the contents of the measuring jug (The oil, milk and eggs) into the mixing bowl that has the flour mixture in it.
Stir very carefully with a tablespoon.
Fold in the mincemeat using a tablespoon.
**DO NOT OVERMIX OR THE MUFFINS WILL BE TOUGH.**
Spoon the mixture into the paper cases.
Place the muffins onto the middle shelf of the oven and bake for 15-20 minutes until risen and just golden.
At 11am on 11th November the whole school assembled outside to observe the two minutes silence. This is the first time this has happened and it looked very impressive. We were joined by all the staff including those from Carillion and a Year 6 group from St Benedict’s Primary School alongside John Ramsey a veteran of the Second World War Arctic Convoys and a long standing friend of the school. We also invited the students who are Cadets to wear their uniform and parade as a group; they were members of the Sea, Army and Police cadets. They looked extremely smart and were brilliantly led by Daniel Todd who had the Cadets march out to join the remainder of the school. A trumpeter from the Salvation Army played the Last Post and Reveille either side of a short reading from Mrs Hibbert.

It was the first time we have remembered this occasion in this way and it had a positive impact on the students, making them realise how lucky we are, as a result of the sacrifices others gave us, to be able to enjoy life today.

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the First World War and we would hope to repeat the experience in the same way.
During the half-term holiday, I participated in a Children in Need fundraising event: “Cathedral Challenge” along with other students in school—Megan Cowap (Y9), Harry Topley (Y7), Matthew Carpenter (Y7) and Jack Dixon (Y7).

The challenge consisted of travelling around the country and performing a small, fifteen minute organ recital in 50 different cathedrals. Along with the recital ‘Topline Youth Choir’ (a small choir based at Redcar’s TunedIn), sang a selection of songs and hymns. We were lucky enough to sing and I really enjoyed it. We sang in the following cathedrals:

- Castleton Cathedral
- Middlesbrough Cathedral
- Ripon Cathedral
- St. Paul’s Cathedral
- The Palace of Westminister
- Southwark Cathedral

As part of the challenge involved a trip to London, the Mayor of Redcar (Councillor Vic Jefferies) came to London to hear us sing. We all felt sorry for Vic because he got a train from Darlington to London but his train stopped in Peterborough because of bad weather. He decided then to get a taxi from Peterborough to London and walk across London with all his luggage to the hotel - we really appreciated his commitment though!

We were listed to sing in parliament in-between the House of Commons and House of Lords. This would have been a once in a lifetime opportunity but we were told it would take too long to get everyone through security and would miss out next cathedral. Oh well, never mind!

Back at school, we raised £108 for Children in Need through an activity day which included a cake sale, basketball shoots and a how many baskets in a Minute activity.

Our target was £10,000 but we managed to raise over £15,000 altogether and we are all very pleased with the result.
I loved participating in this event and I am looking forward to taking part in others in the future.
TATA Steel give our Year 9 students the unique and very valuable opportunity to be part of a Cadet scheme each year. We are allocated 4 places on the scheme which runs for 10 weeks covering areas such as;

- Steelmaking process including; a visit to SSI Iron & Steelmaking site
- Introduction to Engineering including; a visit and activity at TTE workshops
- Health & Safety PPE exercise along with a bridge building exercise.
- Middlesbrough Football Club visit and group task

Year 9 Students who want to be considered for the scheme have to submit a letter of application telling TATA why they should choose them. Students who apply are then interviewed by staff from TATA and they decide who will be offered a place. This year our fortunate students were: Robbie O’Neill, Flynn Blinko, Joseph Dent and Joshua Poulsen.

The students had to give up some of their own time to attend the sessions as they ran on a Monday from 3pm – 6pm. The boys showed dedication and commitment as they all completed the 10 week course.

The boys and their parents/carers were invited to attend Steel House at TATA Steel on Monday 25th November for their graduation ceremony. Mrs Wright attended with the students to see them being awarded with their certificates by Dave Nicol, Mills Director - Long Products, at TATA Steel. Tyne Tees Television and the Evening Gazette also attended the event.

The students who attend this programme are given the chance to sample and gain knowledge and skills within the engineering sector as well as employability skills. Students who apply get to experience the highs and lows of applying for a position, waiting to hear if they have an interview, followed by the nerves of attending that interview and being offered a place or disappointingly not making it. All of these skills are invaluable and the students who did get through can now add this excellent scheme to their CV’s which, in the future will make them stand out from others in the very competitive market of being offered a training course, college placement or apprenticeship.

Well done Sacred Heart Boys!
Christmas Hamper Appeal

Mrs Pegden’s helper’s Joshua Moore and Eve Robinson, both of Y7, with the completed hampers.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Hamper Appeal and thank you to Mrs Pegden for the organisation of the appeal. Around 86 families from a family of 8 to a single, older person benefited from our 89 hampers this year.

We hope that each person receiving a hamper will have a very merry Christmas!

Partner Ghana Appeal and the Prom Fashion Show 2014

In February during half-term 12 of our students alongside Mrs Meadows and Mr Bell will visit Ayensudo School, Ghana to refurbish the children’s playground. After a successful visit in October 2013, both staff and students are looking forward to helping Ayensudo with another project.

Throughout the year Mrs Meadows, the students going to Ghana and their parents raise money for the Partner Ghana Appeal.

Thursday 6th February will be “Prom Fashion Show” where the money from the sale of tickets, tombola and refreshments will go towards the Partner Ghana Appeal.

Tickets are £4 per person - it was a fantastic show last year and you will be able to purchase your tickets for the 2014 Prom Fashion Show in the New Year.
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 6th January 2014
First day of term/Y7-10 Reports to Parents

Wednesday 8th January
Y11 Tracking Reports to Parents

Wednesday 15th January
Mini Careers Convention at Redcar & Cleveland College

Monday 27th January
Non-uniform day

Friday 7th February
Drop down morning

Wednesday 12th February
Y10 DTP Vaccinations

Thursday 13th February
Last day of term

Friday 14th February
PD Day - History/Geography Y10 Trip to Auschwitz/Krakow

Monday 24th February
First day of term

Scientific Calculators

By September 2014, we would like each student in school to have a scientific calculator. Using the same style of calculator across school is of benefit to the students.

The calculators are available to buy from the Finance Office at £3.50 each.

Next Term’s Issue...on
13th February 2014

- Allotment Update
- Sporting News
- Bake for your family
- Try Something different this term
At Sacred Heart School we pride ourselves in being part of the wider community. We encourage our students to be actively involved in a wide range of activities, including within the local community, during and after school.

Here are our ’top picks’ for this term on where, how and who to contact to get involved. Go on try something different this term!

Mrs York is collecting ‘Let’s Grow’ vouchers from Morrisons to help purchase seeds and equipment for the school allotment - if you would like to help, collect them and pop them into the ‘Let’s Grow’ box in school reception.

Thank you for your support!

Interesting events near you ...

Regent Cinema, Redcar is showing:

“Free Birds 2D/3D” from Friday 20th December and “The Hobbit 2D/3D” from 26th December 2013

Try something different this Christmas...

Winter Wonderland and Skating Rink in Middlesbrough Centre Square from Saturday 30th November until Friday 27th December. Costs from £3.95pp Open 11am every day - closed Christmas Day.
Jasmin competed in September 2013 to become the National U14’s Taekwondo Champion. She said; “I have only been studying Taekwondo for a few years now and have been in two competitions already. The first was in Wales where I won two silver medals and the second in London, I trained very hard for this one and won a gold medal in the sparring category which gave me the title; “British U14 Taekwondo Champion. The experience was exciting and I hope to keep competing in the future.”

Congratulations Jasmin from everyone here at Sacred Heart!

Jasmin also took part in the Scottish Junior Run and raised money for Zoe’s Place. “I took part in the Scottish Junior Run because it was a big event that my family in Scotland support. I was really nervous before the race because I knew I was racing professionals. Luckily I was right at the starting line with at least another 200 people behind me. When the starting gun shot there were so many people trying to run fast in one street many people fell over. Eventually, I finished the 2.5k race in 15minutes. I raised £130 for Zoe’s Place.”

Sacred Heart School Sport Organising committee is made up of students who study GCSE Sport. Each house has one representative in year 10 and 11. The students then help select the Sports Representatives for all year groups. In October they prepared an assembly for the whole school to introduce themselves, the new sports reps and to promote the first inter-house competition, which they also organised and ran.
**NEWS FLASH: by Mr Lane**
Reece Curtis Y9 (EPM) came 5th in National Biathlon competition.

**NEWS FLASH: by Mr Lane**
Year 7 Boys football team - came joint 3rd in Redcar and Cleveland’s ESFA 5-a-side tournament. Well Done to all who took part!

**NEWS FLASH: by Mr Lane**
Year 11 Boys football team beat St. Michael’s (of Billingham) 2-0 to progress on to meet Northfields School in the quarter finals of the County Cup. Congratulations to the team and Good Luck in the next round!

**NEWS FLASH: by Miss Hewson**
U16 Girls Table Tennis team won their match at Ormesby - congratulations to Kate Miller, Jasmin Kelly, Alice Hutchinson and Becky Brennan.

U16 Boys Table Tennis team came 2nd at Ormesby, well done to Michael Ashwell, Jonathan Crossman, Joe Sanderson and Oliver Johnson.

Both teams are through to the Regional Finals - Good Luck to both in the next round!

**NEWS FLASH: by Miss Hewson**
Year 7 Girls 5-a-side football team won the Redcar and Cleveland Schools Tournament and will go through to represent the borough in the County competition. Congratulations to all who took part and Good Luck in the next round!

**NEWS FLASH: by Mrs Shepherd**
**Year 9 Sport Leaders**
After attending training with Mrs Shepherd the Sports Leaders officiated at the Redcar and Eston Primary Sports Hall Athletics Finals in Eston. The year 9 Academy Sports Leaders had their first taste of working with younger pupils and performed really well.
Everyone at Sacred Heart would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.