



Welcome *from the Headteacher*

We began Lent at Sacred Heart with a liturgy asking us to carefully reflect on our actions and consider how we will prepare for the coming of Christ.

Alongside this spiritual preparation, our Year 11 students have been doing a great deal of academic



preparation for their second round of mock examinations.

We wish them the very best of luck and are confident their preparations will pay dividends.

Halfway into this spring term I am reminded of this wonderful time of growth and renewal, for both ourselves and our school community.

We continue to make changes to our school – our students are rising to the increased challenge and expectations of what they are capable of in their everyday experience of school life.

As ever, I am grateful to the parents and staff who are helping us embed this positive change.

Dr Patrick Caldwell
Headteacher

PERFECT CONDITIONS FOR A PERFECT TRIP



After being cooped up for 28 hours travelling to Austria by coach, Sacred Heart students finally zoomed onto the slopes of the Saalbach Hinterglemm Valley.

The snow as we skied at the Kohlmais, Reiterkogel, Schattberg and Zwolferkogel mountains this year was the best resort rep Theresa had ever seen. With clear skies, cool wind and clear visibility, it was perfect!

Our four groups – three beginners and one intermediate-to-advanced – were introduced to their respective instructors and off they went.

On the first day, the instructors took their teams onto the blue runs to assess their skill level and they were impressed, returning each day having taken their groups through most skills and types of slopes.

The intermediate group instructor never had a problem keeping his group entertained. The Year 10 boys were an inspiration and comic mini-skiers.

The après ski was fantastic and

included an ice hockey match and pizza night.

Every visit to the beginner groups brought a new surprise and their progress was magnificent. By the third day, they were all taken off beginner slopes and headed up the mountain slopes. Despite a few falls, all survived the experience and are now competent skiers.

It was wonderful to see expressions of joy each day as new skills and achievements were accomplished. We have some very talented pupils here at Sacred Heart School – as well as many kind and thoughtful individuals.

We were so pleased to give them such a fantastic learning experience in Austria. Many thanks to the staff for making the trip a success.

Parents' comments included:

"A huge thank you to everyone who made this trip so amazing."

"Big thanks to the staff for all the time and effort put in."

Ashes Remind Us Of Gospel Message

Students and staff observed Ash Wednesday together through the giving and receiving of ashes.

Our readings focused on fasting and waiting for God and reminded us that when we wait on our Heavenly Father and seek him, we will find him.

"When you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen." – Matthew 6:16-18

Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish us with your word of life and make us one with you in love and prayer.



Big Boost For Redcar Food Bank

The head student team presented a cheque for £1,434 to Redcar Food Bank.

The money – which was raised at their Christmas quiz night – will help fund food parcels for children and families who struggle to afford food during school holidays.

This was a magnificent effort from all involved – well done everyone!



Faraday Challenge Floats Students' Boats



Five Year 8 pupils who have shown an interest in STEM subjects were nominated to compete against five other schools in the Faraday Challenge.

They spent the day designing and building a prototype for Airbus to use in its Aid and Rescue Division

They came up with a boat that could offer shelter and relief in flooded environments.

Our students performed extremely well in the event, which took place at Gateshead's Emmanuel College and was hosted by the Institute of Engineering and Technology.

Spectacular Shows After Young Americans' Visit



Sacred Heart and St Paulinus Primary School once again welcomed The Young Americans Performing Arts Workshop during half term.

A unique teaching style provides an encouraging environment for students to overcome insecurities and put on a musical in just three days.

This year 110 pupils aged eight-to-18 took part in the workshop, which culminated in a spectacular performance at Sacred Heart School.

We look forward to welcoming The Young Americans back next year.

Sacred Heart Embraces National Careers Week

Students were given the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into the world of work and higher education during National Careers Week.

Events included a lunchtime careers fair with post-16 providers including Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland colleges, who ran a carousel and drop-in sessions. There was also a CV-writing workshop run by Jobcentre Plus.

Staff supported the week by raising awareness in lessons, talking to students and giving careers guidance specific to their subject areas.



We've Got World Book Day Covered!

Sacred Heart was transformed into a giant library as we marked World Book Day in style.

Every form's classroom door was transformed into a different book cover.

The doors were then judged by a panel of staff and the winning form was rewarded with a week of early lunches.

After the success of the Christmas Readathon, the English department was also able to showcase some of the new books that had been bought as a result of the pupils' reading.

