Dear Parents and Guardians,

As another week finishes and time ticks on as we edge ever closer to the exams and summer. The pupils in Y10 and Y11, and their teachers, have been preparing for this by spending time after school at the '6 o'clock club.' They have been working hard to ensure that every opportunity is met to gain a deeper understanding of their subjects before final GCSE papers are sat. This is just one example of the dedication and hard work by all staff involved with our pupils to maximise everyone's potential and I hope that before they leave, pupils take this opportunity to thank their teachers for the unlimited help and support they are being offered.

We are now four and a half school days away from Y11 finishing their education at Sacred Heart and, in order to motivate them, they were shown a video of one of the best basketball players in the world: Stephen Curry. You may not have heard of him, unless you are interested in basketball, but the message this video brings is an important one, not just for Y11, but for any and all of our pupils who are sitting exams.

Stephen Curry averaged 30.1 points per game this season and won his first NBA scoring title. Granted, 33 other players have averaged over 30 points in a season in NBA history, but Curry did it while averaging less than 35 minutes per game -- something no other NBA player has done. But even more impressive is the fact that Curry hit 402 three-point shots this season, eclipsing his own record of 286. That's 40 percent better than the old record.

I know what you're thinking: "Interesting; but what does that have to do with me and my exams?"

**Two words: Optimism and Success**

To be successful you must embrace belief, which means pushing aside all those self-doubts. Feeling you aren't smart enough, dedicated enough, adaptable enough, or simply that, in spite of your best intentions and efforts, you won't succeed.

And that's why you need to be optimistic: Not because the odds are stacked against success, but because optimism helps you succeed. Stephen Curry set aside doubts and chased success, as does Cristiano Ronaldo. Great athletes, such as Usain Bolt and Jessica Ennis push aside doubt and disbelief in order to succeed. So do great entrepreneurs, as well as successful people in any field, not just sport. If you don't believe in yourself, you will not succeed.

Belief in yourself will take you to places no external forces ever can. How? We all have this little voice inside us that says, "I've done enough," or, "I'm exhausted -- there's no way I can do any more," which makes us stop. But that little voice lies -- with the right motivation, or under the right circumstances, we can always do more.

Stopping is a choice. Don't listen to that little voice. Keep working hard, and like Stephen Curry you can achieve your own greatness.

Success is not an entitlement. It is an option. It is an option which the school and all of your teachers have facilitated. Work hard, be optimistic and most of all chase your own success!

Good Luck to each and every one of you!

**Days left in school...**
Year 11 - 5 School Days
Year 12 - 5 School Days
Year 13 - 15 School Days

Mr Lansiquot
Deputy Headteacher
Congratulations to the following pupils who found these items:

⇒ Kleone Gayya – 7P Found: A locker key
⇒ Ayodimeji Akinbolude – 12LH Found: A USB
⇒ Destiny Koroma – 10T Found: A USB
⇒ John Serele – 7B Found: An oyster card
⇒ Owensugie Ehioghae – 7M Found: Lower school tie
⇒ Odunamen Ogbeide – 8M Found: A pencil case and glasses

“As of 05/05/17 the Bank if England will remove the legal tender status of the old paper £5 note, following a progressive removal from circulation. Shops will no longer accept the old £5 note as payment from 06/05/17 onwards, and likewise, nor will Sacred Heart. The School strongly advises parents and students to identify any old notes in their possession and exchange them for the new polymer note at local banks or post offices. If they are unable to exchange, the Bank of England will do so for you either via post or in person. Please make sure any cash payments to Sacred Heart of £5 are with the new polymer note.”

Mr M. Ng
Deputy Bursar
I was fortunate enough to be chosen for a three day programme at Cambridge University called 'Women in Science.' This experience exceeded my expectations greatly. One thing I really appreciated was being able to stay at the University of Cambridge, in their student accommodation. This gave me an insight into what university life is like as I had to do most things on my own.

Also, I was able to go away from London and away from what is ‘normal’ to me and see an entirely different city. Cambridge is beautiful. I learnt many things from this experience, for the first time this experience made me consider furthering my education in physics after GCSEs. I was able to see all the interesting parts of physics which is beyond the classroom, for example we had an opportunity to build our own castles and install corridor switches into them.

Furthermore one great thing I took away from my visit to Cambridge is that I don’t have to make up my mind right now about what I want to do in the future. Cambridge offer so many courses that I could take for example ‘Natural Sciences.’ This would mean that each year I could study a different science and eventually after three years I could decide what I want to study further.

I will definitely consider applying for Cambridge University - not only is it a prestigious University with outstanding results, it also has great facilities and offers so many extracurricular activities it would be impossible to not find one that suits you.

Omotolani Amusa 11M

On the 5th of April, I went to Cambridge with two fellow students where we stayed for 3 days and 2 nights. This experience was truly amazing and I’m so thankful that I was able to attend this residential. We did various activities to do with biology, chemistry and physics, each session better than the last.

We were also able to attend a play at the theatre called ‘The Count of Monte Christi’ which was absolutely fantastic! It was such a great experience and we didn’t even have to pay for it! We also watched a movie called Hidden Figures which was about three very intelligent black women who were behind one of the greatest achievements of all time and the struggles they had to overcome. I encourage everyone to watch it - you won’t be disappointed.

I’m happy I applied for this residential and even happier that I went because as well as making new friends that I hope to stay in touch with, I learnt something that I’ll never forget; I learnt that women can excel and achieve in anything they set their mind to and I will be forever grateful to Amber and her team for teaching me this.

Naomi Ojo 11M
Peckham Library Able Writers workshop with poet—Neal Zetter

On Monday 24th April, 12 students from years 7 and 8 were selected by English teachers to attend an Able Writers workshop for the whole day at Peckham Library, with author and poet Neal Zetter, whose poetry books are aimed at both younger children as well as teens.

They spent the morning writing poems on their own, given only a colour to work from and some time to plan and mind-map things related to their assigned colours. The afternoon was more group-task related, with students of three schools mixing together to write and perform poems including their favourite words. The children behaved excellently and really gave the tasks a good go—well done to all! Please enjoy a small selection of their colour poems and a write-up below from two of the Y8 girls.

Ms Welsh

We spent our time with Neal, who helped us to improve our poetry skills by encouraging us to write poems and also to improve our confidence by having us perform.

What we liked most about the day was that we were able to communicate with people from different schools (Charter School and St. Gabriel’s) and to become more socially open to talking to new people as well as working with and performing with them. He helped us to boost our confidence in sharing and writing poems.

Divine and Fiona 8M

They’re all so bright and full of life
None of the others know why I feel so cold
Or what it’s like to be alone…

Red’s always angry at Blue for being sad
Yellow’s so happy—they all make me mad!

They treat White as a saint
Just because he’s a blank slate,
Purple is so righteous, Pink follows all the trends
And Orange makes sure in a rainbow
They all act as friends.

They say I need some colour
Something to brighten me up
To fill me with something disgusting,
like compassion, or love.

I’m fine being alone
Don’t need a place to call home
I’m BLACK, for goodness sake—Emotions just get in my way!

Regan Darko 7M
Darkness
You see it through the darkness
You see it in the light
It’s like your shadow lurking
Even when it’s bright
The murderous sound of death
Ruins all meaning of life
The crimson red blood dripping
From the point of his knife

The Earth is like a black forest
Concrete and hard.
The layers underneath are hidden
By the goodness of the stars.
But, underneath all of that,
Is the unrevealed truth
The darkness and evil is all I need for proof.

Black is shown as evil, as bad
But without the colour black
We’d all be upset and sad
You wouldn’t have the purity
Which makes everyone glad
You wouldn’t have the memories on which to
remember and look back.

Eden Edenimiuki 8M

Blank (an ode to white)
This pigment is undetermined
It’s pure, blank, nothing.
It’s the colour of the hairs on an old man’s chin
Similar to the delicate fur of Pegasus’ wings
It defines new, old, and the space in between

It falls down as snow
Simple, but intricate
Delicate; special.
This pigment is special.
It’s pure and clean
The sodden flag of soft cotton, wrapped around
a bundle of promise.
New beginnings, inevitable endings
And the space in between.

This pigment is blank.
Boring
Four corners of emptiness
Four walls outstretched….

Christine Tuyi 8M

No White, No Sight
No white, no sight— what would be the point of
night?
No white, no sight— the sun wouldn’t shine as
bright.
As beautiful as a new-born dove,
Soaring up so high
Through the cloudy blue sky above.
White is blank— an empty space
Giving way to new ideas
Inspiring knowledge in generations old and new
It leaves a gateway for people to pass through…

Grace Makiese 7M

Inspired by these poems?
The Foyle’s Young People poetry competition
2017 is open for entries—
deadline is the end of the school year in July.
Keep an eye out for posters in the English
corridor!
On Monday, Sacred Heart’s first ever 6th form debating team competed at the Debating Matters Regional Final at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King’s College London.

After a brief walk around the corner to get there, and a lot of hanging about waiting for the other teams to arrive, we kicked off with our first debate. We argued for the motion “Social Media sites should filter out Fake news” against Graveney, who put forward strong arguments despite only having been subbed in a week before the competition. Between Nathan’s excellent defence and Winnie’s brilliant cross examination (as one of the judges commented if he ever needed a lawyer he would call Winnie), we won.

In our next debate against St John’s, we argued against the motion “Solutions to the UK’s water scarcity crisis are technological, not environmental”. This turned out to be very heated and passionate with only Oghomwen remaining cool and collected throughout. Despite Oghomwen’s calm and my humorous “anarchic” style, we proved unable to overcome St John’s, whose main argument consisted of the fact they had 13 technological solutions compared to our 3 environmental ones. Ultimately St John’s won, yet we won the hearts of the audience by our humour and making it enjoyable to watch. Our year 9 supporters threw themselves into the audience participation part of the debates, being particularly passionate in the third debate on the motion “Social egg freezing empowers women.”
A big thank you to Madam Bonar who gave up her time to write speeches and practise delivery. Another thank you to Mr Di Pirro who accompanied us on the day and for the week beforehand turned up to endless practises at lunchtimes and after school. Both teachers became something of an expert on our topics. While we were knocked out, we had successfully won our qualifying round and held our own against teams which had been debating for a lot longer, an impressive achievement. With an experienced team and an ever growing cohort of debaters, I am sure that next year a Sacred Heart team will return to the competition and will do even better than us!

Mark Siraut, Y13 JM
Y7
Well done to Y7 for all the hard work that went in to revising for the MFL exams this week. We have high hopes for their results and we have been very pleased with the level of dedication which many students have demonstrated. Y7 pupils recently completed their first ever speaking exams — a stressful experience which I’m sure many adults will still remember clearly! Despite some nerves, the pupils did a really good job of conversing with their teachers in French / Spanish and some showed outstanding progress since the start of the year.

Y8 + Y9
Many pupils are busy preparing for their trip to Lille at the end of June. This will be a great opportunity for KS3 pupils to use the French they have learned in real life situations. Thank you to the pupils who have already handed in their passport — they are being held in secure storage until the trip. **Could pupils, who have not yet handed in their passport(s), please give it to Mr Guittet as soon as possible.**

Gifted and talented pupils from Y8 and Y9 are also going on a trip to the British Film Institute on the 18th May. Pupils will watch a series of short films in Spanish and take part in interactive workshops. **We look forward to hearing how it goes!**

Y10
Well done to Y10 for completing their recent examinations. This is the first group of pupils to study the new GCSE and they are making great progress. The demands of the new syllabus are much greater than the old GCSE but most pupils are really stepping up to the challenge. The department was particularly pleased with some pupils’ performances in the speaking exams which involved a 15 minute spontaneous discussion — no mean feat! **We were particularly impressed by Hillary, Natalia, Rachael, Lucia, Omonye, Dylan, Harry, Silvy, Tes, Joyce, Blessing, Elijah, Italo, Jeneba, Owolabi, Daniella, Victoria, Emmanuel and Jhosy. Well done.**

Any pupils taking a GCSE in their home language must ensure they know when and where the examinations are taking place and should see Madam Williams if they would like any further support.

Y11
There are less than 2 weeks until the GCSE exams in French and Spanish. Pupils should be revising daily, using all of the resources provided by teachers as well as the online resources for which the school subscribes.

**Pupils in the French intervention group must remember to attend this Friday, next Friday and Saturday 13th May from 9am to 11am.**

If anyone would like further revision packs of reading activities then please see Madam Williams.

**Pupils who are doing an extra GCSE in their home language should see Madam Williams if they would like any further practice.**
Y12 + Y13

The pressure is on as speaking exams approach. We wish all pupils involved the best of luck and remind them that if they want any further help then please see Madam Williams for conversation practice. Y13 French and Spanish pupils should also remember to attend this Saturday’s speaking revision session from 9am to 11am. Any pupils doing exams in their home language who would like extra practice should also see Madam Williams.

Three of Sacred Heart’s top linguists recently attended the Spanish and Portuguese department open day at Wadham College, Oxford. It was a fantastic chance for the pupils to see if the Oxford course would interest them and to find out more about the opportunities that the course could bring.

The morning began with introductory mini-lectures in Portuguese, Catalan, Galician, Linguistics, Latin American literature and Latin American cinema. Sky, Abrehet and Adrian all got to learn a little bit of those new languages and find out exactly what the study of linguistics involves. They were also exposed to a broad range of Latin American writers, poets and directors, all of which could prove very useful for their A level studies. After a walk around the beautiful city at lunch time, the pupils had a chance to speak informally with undergraduates and also attend an question and answer session about living and studying at the University of Oxford.

All in all, it was a great opportunity for the pupils to find out more about MFL study at university level and the opportunities that it can bring. We hope this is just the start of further MFL study at a top university!

Madam Williams
Maths Department Notices …

Years 7, 8, 9
PUZZLE OF THE WEEK... first person to come with the correct solution to me gets a Maths Set!

Congratulations to the following winners from the last two weeks:
Kirshie Asmah (7T) and Zilal Bankoke (7T)

There are six more girls than boys in Miss Spelling’s class of 24 pupils. What is the ratio of girls to boys in this class?

Answer to last week’s problem: 6

Year 11

Only ONE week left in school... Please use every minute of your time wisely and get help from the maths teachers while you can!

Dates for diary- Revision sessions will be held:
AFTER SCHOOL ON TUESDAY! 9th May- All year 11 invited. Well done on an excellent turn out this week.
Saturdays 20th May, 3rd June, 10th June Sets 1-7

Years 12 and 13

By now you should be working through those Solomon and MADAS Papers and really seeing your results changing.

✦ Year 12 pupils are invited to use their enrichment time (Wednesday period 6) in B12.
✦ YEAR 12 Workshop running EVERY THURSDAY from 3pm until 5pm in B14. Come along with any questions you have, either from your HW or from your own revision.

Mrs Toby
Pupils from across all year groups have now completed 4 large scale House Mosaics with Ms Basra in the Art Department.

It is really nice to see Y8s and Y9s working alongside Y12 pupils. Thank you to all those pupils who have helped. An estimated 30 students have contributed. Each mosaic takes about two weeks to make and we always need volunteers to cut, stick, sort and wash. Pupils are welcome to join after they have had some basic safety training with Ms Basra.

‘The Sacred Heart of Jesus’ is now finished and we are about to begin the difficult task of grouting and cleaning. Thank you to Chidera 9M, who has already started to help. We are taking a break during the exam season before we move on to creating a House Mosaic of ‘Our Lady’.

Madam Basra
COUNTDOWN TO EXAMS

For the dates of all forthcoming exams, please go to the Sacred Heart website – [www.sacredheart.southwark.sch.uk](http://www.sacredheart.southwark.sch.uk). Click on ‘News & dates’, then on ‘Forthcoming exams’. This page of the website is updated throughout the year as exam timetables and dates are finalised, so please check it on a regular basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How many school weeks away?</th>
<th>Year-group</th>
<th>Exams</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 !</td>
<td>Years 11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>STUDY LEAVE BEGINS FOR YEAR 11 &amp; YEAR 12 ON FRIDAY 12TH MAY</td>
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<td>1 !</td>
<td>Years 10-13</td>
<td>WRITTEN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS (GCSE AND GCE) BEGIN ON 15TH MAY</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Year 13</td>
<td>STUDY LEAVE BEGINS FOR YEAR 13 ON FRIDAY 26TH MAY</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Year 12 return to school after their AS exams for UCAS training and to begin their Year 13 courses</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>End-of-KS3 exams begin in the week beginning 12th June</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>End-of-Year exams for Year 8 begin in the week beginning 19th June</td>
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<td>Years 12 &amp; 13</td>
<td>GCE results will be available for collection from school on Thursday 17th August</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>GCSE results will be available for collection from school on Thursday 24th August</td>
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Parents are reminded that students should not be taken out of school for any reason during exam periods. Medical or dental appointments must not be made during this time, as exams cannot be rescheduled or taken at another time to suit the student. A student who misses an exam will score zero marks, exactly as they would for a public exam such as a GCSE or an A level. In such a circumstance, subject teachers will base their assessment on coursework and homework and write reports accordingly.