



FEAST DAY
ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA
8TH FEBRUARY



"Mary protected me even before I knew her!"

St. Josephine Margaret Bakhita, 1869-1947, was born in Darfur, Sudan. Kidnapped at the age of 9, she was resold many times until she was bought in 1883 by the Italian Consul, Callisto Legnani, who took her with his family back to Italy.

Working as a nanny, she encountered the Canossian Sisters, and gaining her freedom as an adult, entered the order as a novitiate in 1893, taking orders in 1896. In 1902, she was assigned to their house in Schio, Northern Italy.

Mostly working as the doorkeeper, she was known as "Madre Moretta" by the local community, in respect for her gentleness, calmness, smile, and holiness.

The publication of St. Josephine's memoirs brought her fame in 1930; and she was beatified in 1992, then canonised in 2000 by St. John Paul II. Patron Saint of Sudan, St. Josephine is venerated as a modern African saint, in particular for slaves and the oppressed.



Today, Catholics all over the world will celebrate the feast of St Josephine Bakhita as part of **International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking**.

This initiative that was pioneered by the Bishops' of England and Wales in February 2013, has become an annual global event for Catholics and this year the focus will be on victims of trafficking in **forced labour and labour exploitation**. We are proud to be hosting the 2019 day. This morning we welcome the Santa Marta Group into school to lead assemblies and workshops with students in Years 10 to 13. We also welcome Bishop Patrick Lynch and our own Bishop Alan to lead the Sixth Form Liturgy.

The issues of human trafficking and modern slavery remain significant ones in our world and we hope that today will be educational for the students as well as a time when we can all pray for those affected in any way.

Sean Hayes



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Term Dates 2019-20

We now have the term dates for next year. Please make a careful note of these and ensure that holidays are booked outside of these dates. I still receive several requests a week for students to be absent during term time, and most have to be refused in line with government guidance.

AUTUMN TERM 2019

4 September	Term Begins for Year 7 only
5 September	Term Begins for Years 8-13
21-25 October	Half Term Holiday
19 December	Term Ends

Staff training days: 2 & 3 September

SPRING TERM 2020

6 January	Term Begins
17-21 February	Half Term Holiday
3 April	Term Ends

Staff training day: 24 February

SUMMER TERM 2020

20 April	Term Begins
4 May	Bank Holiday – school closed
25-29 May	Half Term Holiday
17 July	Term Ends

Staff training days: 20 & 21 July

History Visit to Y Theatre, Leicester

On Friday, 1 February twenty six year 11 History students visited the Y Theatre in Leicester. This was to watch a performance of a production called 'Hitler on Trial' and to take part in a GCSE history exam skills workshop. The afternoon started with a grade-booster workshop in which the workshop leader explained the thinking behind the exam specifications, and shows students ways of improving their examination performance. The workshop was followed by a courtroom drama in which students were asked to imagine a parallel historical world in which Adolf Hitler was captured by British Special Forces in 1942 and put on trial in a British court. In this court, the students are the jury. The play ended with the students voting whether or not Hitler is guilty of crimes against peace. The year 11 students were a credit to the school and really benefited from the tips and guidance from the exam workshop.

Miss Cox



Year 7 & 8 Disco
Friday 1 March
5pm-7pm
£2.50 a ticket.

Tuck shop and drinks available on the night.

Tickets on sale at Student Services.

CCF News

On Wednesday, four senior cadets marched over to Thomas Deacons Academy to undergo training in fitness and leadership with the Royal Marines for the afternoon. We were part of a unit that was 30 strong, comprised of cadets from the army and air sections of the CCF. It was a great but extremely tiring time and showed us a glimpse of what the Royal Marines have to do on a daily basis. Whilst physical training isn't necessarily a part of the cadets training routine, it is a useful tool for us to keep in mind for the years to come, as so many of the cadets are engaged in sports within school.

Mr O'Hara, Contingent Commander



Myriad Project

In our Mindfulness lessons this week we have been looking at Recognising Worry and trying out practices that help us to deal with this. We have tried the 7/11 breathing practice and thought about how that can switch us from thinking to sensing mode. We have also talked about how our minds tell us stories and how they can contribute to and escalate worries and anxiety, leading to catastrophizing and rumination. We have tried a practice called Beditation which might be able to help when we can't sleep or wake up in the night worrying.



Activities Day

Students have been handing in their forms to choose activities all week. All students will be notified of their allocations on Tuesday and must ensure that £5 deposits on all visits are paid by Friday, 15 February in order to guarantee a place.

Sensory Garden Update

Fundraising for the Sensory Garden continues, with Blue Day next week and the Years 7 & 8 disco after half term. Watch out too for an exciting announcement from our Student Leaders in assembly next week. We are now working with local garden designer and artist, Jeni Cairns, to develop a design for the garden. She has already visited the school and surveyed the area and will be running some design workshops with students in March, so they can contribute to the garden and inspire her with ideas.

Blue Day

Cambridge House Blue Day takes place on Friday, 15 February. In addition to the acts of kindness involved in the St Valentine's Day card and flower delivery service, the House students and staff have planned a fun-packed day. It will also be a mufti day and tickets are already on sale every break and lunchtime priced £1. Anyone who attends school in Mufti next Friday without a ticket will be charged £2 on the gate.



Your Year 11
Study Room
Period 5
Wednesday and Thursday

**Positive
Preparation
Production
Planning
Progress**

ROOM 211

**Academic Tutoring Year 10:
4 February – 15 February**