

Heartbeat



Monday, March 15



Issue 24

A look back at 12 months of Covid

What the Head Students say



It is heart-warming to see that for a second time during lockdown, a tough and isolating time for most people, such a strong sense of community; I will forever be grateful for all the teachers who, without fail always go the extra mile for myself and all my peers despite this being equally challenging for them. I believe that as long as we keep checking up on friends and loved ones to stay connected and look after ourselves we will be back to normal before we know it.

Millie Corcoran (13S)



A second out of school lockdown has been tough for everyone, but I'd like to thank the teachers for all their hard work and support, ensuring we got the best education possible. I also think it's important to ensure everyone looks after their mental health and remembers there is always someone to reach out to. Hopefully we will all be back to normal soon.

Matthew Latham (13C)



Heartbeat, Issue 24, March 16, 2020. It may seem an innocuous publication number and date but that was the last issue of Heartbeat before the first lockdown twelve months ago. Madison Rens, now in 8R, was celebrating winning Gold at the English Schools Swimming Championships in Sheffield, which had taken place the previous month, and it was she who proudly adorned the front page. Meanwhile, staff dressed as some of their favourite literary characters, were pictured on p2 embracing World Book Day. On Saturday, March 21, just five days after Issue 24 was printed, the country had all but ground to a halt. Six days shy of the one year anniversary of the start of the first lockdown, we find ourselves having returned from an extended time away from our normal routines, friends and colleagues.

But amid the problems and pressures the pandemic has placed everyone under, the Sacred Heart family has remained a constant source of inspiration. Despite Sacred Heart being closed to all but those pupils whose parents are key workers for seven of the last 12 months, Heartbeat, through 39 term time issues, has continued to bring you inspirational stories of community spirit that has been carried out by everyone from students to staff, family and friends. There has also been evidence that, despite classroom-based learning being suspended for extended periods, that our pupils were still producing outstanding pieces of work. Ahead of the one year anniversary, we take a look back at some of the highlights and hear from the Head Students team, as they share their thoughts regarding lockdown and home-based learning.

What we did during lockdown

April 2020 saw everyone coming to terms with the 'new normal'. Our staff, students and wider community all did their bit by showing rainbow-themed support for the NHS by creating and displaying the colourful artwork, whilst others made everything from knitted hearts to protective face coverings.



Students may not have been in the classroom, but that did not mean they were not still doing school work. May saw us look at the efforts both staff and students were going in order to keep on top of their school work. These included online learning and even one-to-one phone lessons.



In June, Cadet, Kyle McBride (above, left), helped collect and deliver essentials to people in his community. His actions earned him the Deputy Commander Cadets Coin. Meanwhile, in July, fellow Cadets Charlotte and Ben Reid also earned praise for their efforts. Charlotte (above, centre) knitted octopuses for a neonatal ward, whilst Ben left toy windmills out in his driveway to cheer people up. After returning to school in September, it was back to lockdown in January. Teachers found new ways to deliver lessons (above, right) and, last month, ahead of a return to school, students tackled mental well-being by wearing clothing inside out to raise awareness.



What the Head Students say



The latest lockdown restrictions have been tough on everyone but it has been inspiring to see the Sacred Heart community come together in support of one another.

Being isolated can be difficult but it was fantastic to know that we had the constant support of our teachers and peers whilst we have had to use and adapt to our virtual classrooms.

Adam Bradley (13S)



Lockdown has been difficult for everyone, but it has taught me to be resilient as we adapted to this new way of living.

Establishing a routine and regularly Facetimeing my friends helped me feel a sense of normality as we waited to be back in school.

Isobel Davies (13A)