

Ciara gets animated about demon of a new project

Move over Nick Park, Sacred Heart could well have unearthed a new genius in digital animation. During February half term, Ciara Carmichael (13S) was selected ahead of thousands of applicants to take part in a digital animation course run by the BFI (British Film Institute). Together with other budding animators from around the country, Ciara produced an excellent 77 second film. The animated short, entitled *The Demon is Tired*, features the hungry demon, Georgie (pictured) and his daily dalliances of trying to enjoy his 'magnum opus'. A sandwich. Or rather, a disappearing sandwich. The quirky piece has drawn praise from Ciara's ICT teacher, Mrs Askew. The Head of ICT said: "This was a wonderful achievement for Ciara to get selected and she has helped

produce a fantastic video. Well done Ciara." Talented 6th Former, Ciara, explains more about the process and what the experience has meant to her. She said: "I got the opportunity to work on a big animation project that involved going through the whole professional industry process, which was a great experience to be able to get some insight into. "I was lucky enough to work with some really talented people who shared the same interests as me, which made it easy getting along with one another. "This has helped me, with both my confidence and skills within the creative industry and I would do it all again if I had the opportunity." The animation is available to view at; <https://youtu.be/ihDkc0uMG7w>



School return sees pupils tackle a new type of test

March saw pupils and staff return to school and complete a full week for the first time this year.

The return saw further changes to people's routines and the introduction of in school Covid testing.

Temporary testing centres were assembled in the 6th Form Centre and Chapel at Upper and in the Hall at Lower Site.

Extra staff were drafted in to help with both the cleaning and testing as a huge undertaking took place within the first two weeks, ahead of home testing which began last week.

As ever, our pupils have taken the changes in their stride and have even praised the school and staff for the meticulous planning that has seen the testing prove to be very successful and pass without any major disruption, as Kara Kewley-Smith explains.

Kara said: "The whole experience of coming back to school and doing the Covid tests has been very well organised and safe.

Sanitised

"We were collected from class as a year group, keeping within our bubble, and taken to the Chapel where a sanitised station was set up.

"We would then be called forward and asked to complete the test. There were cleaners constantly monitoring where we touched and sat in order for it to remain clean.

"The whole process has kept us assured that we are negative, especially getting the results so quickly.

"I believe the school has handled it perfectly and unproblematically. I couldn't fault it."

Director of Middle School, Miss Clarke, has praised the pupils for the mature way they have handled both the return to school and subsequent testing.

Miss Clarke said: "It has been a huge effort to ensure we were not just ready for the return of classroom-based learning but also in making sure it was Covid safe to do so.

"We can't fault the pupils' attitude in making the return run as smoothly as possible. Well done and thank you everyone."

