

Tongue Lane, Leeds LS6 4QE

Telephone: (0113) 887 3240  
Facsimile: (0113) 294 0320  
E-mail: [info@cardinalheenan.com](mailto:info@cardinalheenan.com)  
Website: [www.cardinalheenan.com](http://www.cardinalheenan.com)  
Headteacher: Miss E A Cox MA MBA



11 December 2015

Dear Parents

### New Look Website



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'Double the average proportion of students are successful in achieving the English Baccalaureate.' Ofsted



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#### Headteacher's Welcome

Cardinal Heenan is a happy, caring, thriving and inclusive Catholic school where all pupils are able to realise their potential, take their responsibilities seriously, respect themselves and others, and grow in the love of God.

From their first day here Cardinal Heenan pupils will be motivated, challenged and engaged by high quality teaching and so develop a lifelong love of learning. Pupils, in partnership with school and home, will be active, independent and resilient learners who acknowledge their responsibility in upholding the school's Catholic Christian values. With the support of exceptional pastoral care and

#### Parental Notices



We are now accepting payments

Our school website has a new appearance today. We have tried to make it more accessible to users. Improvements include a new page of headteacher's weekly letters. Letters from the previous 12 months are now available both as downloads and as a rolling news feed. A new governors' page has been added. This includes a series of pen portraits by governors and minutes of governors' meetings.

[www.cardinalheenan.com](http://www.cardinalheenan.com)

### Invitation to Advent Service of Readings and Carols: Wednesday 16 December

You are invited to attend the Advent Liturgy of reading and carols in the School Hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday 16 December. Following Advent readings and carol singing, it is our tradition to serve warm mince-pies, soft drinks and mulled wine. All proceeds raised will be donated to St Gemma's Hospice. I look forward to seeing you and your families there. Bring the family!



Stephen Lawrence  
EDUCATION STANDARD

### Back Gate Access to Remain Open, 8.00am - 9.00am and 3.15pm - 3.45pm



The gate which provides access to the rear of the school grounds from King Alfred's Drive will remain **open** as usual next half term except in extreme weather conditions. This is the outcome of the recent consultation. The gate will continue to open on school days each morning from 8.00am to 9.00am and in the afternoon from 3.00pm to 3.45pm. Parents of pupils using the gate are asked to remind their children to use the footpath once inside the gate. Too many pupils take a short cut across across the school playing fields. On wet days this means that they spend the day with wet feet and legs spattered in mud.

Thank you to those parents who have responded to the consultation. Your comments and observations have been very helpful in informing this decision.

### Fine Debating by Alessia and Madeleine

Year 10 pupils Alessia Da Costa and Madeleine Rose took part in the English Speaking Union Mace debating competition on Friday 4 December. This was our girls' first experience of formal competition: their opponents were sixth formers from Silcoates Independent School, Wakefield. Cardinal Heenan proposed the motion: *This House would force the BBC to implement diversity quotas for casts of all their shows.* The judge commented that, although 'the debate was very close indeed', Silcoates nudged slightly ahead on points. Madeleine and Alessia were praised for the quality of their arguments. Congratulations to our debaters on a fine performance and thanks to Year 10 pupils Darragh Kennedy, Michael Ruane and Alex Cserna for supporting the team. Special thanks to Mrs Rutherford, Dr Bradley and Mrs Evans who gave up their Friday evening to coach and support our pupils.



### And finally...

All pupils and staff will join together for an Advent liturgy in school on Friday 18 December, the last day of the school term. We hope that this service will help our pupils to reflect on all the activities in which they have participated during Advent and prepare them for Christmas, one of the most important Christian feasts.

Please note that school finishes at 1.15pm next Friday afternoon. School buses will depart at 1.25pm.

The new term begins at 8.55am on Tuesday 5 January 2016 for all pupils.

Yours sincerely

E A Cox, Headteacher