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11 September 2015

Dear Parents

Year 7 Cognitive Ability Tests (CATS)

We will be testing all Year 7 pupils by means of nationally recognised tests known as Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) in the week beginning Monday 21 September. Four tests assess a pupil's ability to reason with and manipulate different types of material through a series of verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial ability tasks. These tests provide teachers with a comprehensive profile of a pupil's reasoning abilities, the core abilities related to learning. The resulting data can then be used to identify a pupil's strengths, weaknesses and learning preferences, providing accurate and reliable information that is essential for personalised learning. The more we know about a pupil, the better position we should be in to offer a learning environment and ways of teaching and learning that allow pupils to maximise their potential. Further information may be found online at:

<http://www.gi-assessment.co.uk/products/cat4-cognitive-abilities-test-fourth-edition>

If you have any additional questions please contact Mr Gibbons, Deputy Headteacher, at school (887 4320).

Changes to School Bus Fares

Transport provider *West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA)* has recently informed the school that bus fares on all Cardinal Heenan school routes increased at the start of term and now cost £1.20 each way. However, school bus services operated by *Yorkshire Tiger (CH21 and CH27)*, and *Harrogate and District (CH23)* continue to charge £2.00 for a daily return ticket. This position may change: WYCA state that they are contacting these operators to ensure that current increases in WYCA fare charges are applied consistently for all school buses.

WYCA advise that the most cost effective way for your child to pay for a school bus ticket is as follows:

- Apply for a Young Person's Photo Card at <http://www.generationm.co.uk/passes-permits/passapplication/>
- Pay for a **School Plus** ticket at a *Payzone* outlet. Look for the pink *Payzone* logo or use <http://www.payzone.co.uk/Where>
- The cost of school transport using this method is £9.50 per week or £35 per month. This is a saving on the cumulative price of day return tickets.

If your child uses a school service bus he or she requires a boarding pass. This shows the child's name, photograph and the school bus number on which the child is permitted to travel. It must be shown to the driver every time the pupil uses the school bus. If you applied for a boarding pass in the recent school holidays, boarding passes were mailed to pupils' homes by WYCA ready for the new term.

Mr Corcoran, Assistant Headteacher is the point of contact for issues relating to School Service buses.

Planners

All pupils have been issued with a new Planner for the school year 2015– 16. I remind parents of the need to read important information and sign the following pages:

Page 12 Home-School Agreement
Page 14 Emergency Closure and Non-Uniform Days
Page 15-16 After school Activities

The Pupil Planner has been provided to pupils free of charge. In order to offset costs, the school is asking parents to make a voluntary contribution of £4.00 per pupil (a maximum of £8.00 per family) towards the cost of issuing Planners for the year. Contributions should be made by *ParentPay* no later than Friday 18 September 2015. The school does not accept cheques or cash in payment.



School Prefects

Year 11 prefects have taken up their duties with enthusiasm and competence, ably led by Charlotte Fox, Head Girl, and Nathan Allinson, Head Boy. Prefects have an important role in the school, setting high standards of work, behaviour and uniform to which all pupils should aspire. In addition to setting this benchmark they will also take part in some mentoring of their peers later in the term.

Walsingham: Saturday 26 September

Year 11 pupils are warmly invited to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 26 September. This is a wonderful event which enables parishes and schools to come together for sharing of faith, reflection and prayer. The day starts early with a 6:30 am departure and includes visits to the Catholic and Anglican shrines to Our Lady. Interested Year 11 students should contact Mrs Hayden, our Chaplaincy Coordinator, for details.

CAFOD

It was pleasing to see our school CAFOD group get off to a strong start this week; some 25 pupils attended the first meeting. They are planning activities for Harvest Fast Day on Friday 2 October. The group will meet on Monday lunchtime every week to look at issues such as climate change, fundraising and Fairtrade. All are welcome.

Year 7 Mass of Welcome Tuesday 29 September

Parents of Year 7 pupils are asked to note that the Mass of Welcome for Year 7 pupils will take place at 7.00pm in the school Hall on Tuesday 29 September. This is a family event and you are very welcome to bring members of your family with you. Year 7 pupils should attend the evening in full school uniform. I look forward to seeing pupils and their parents.

Open Evening for Parents of Pupils in Primary Schools, Monday 5 October, at 7.30pm

Parents of pupils currently in primary schools are invited to find out about what the school has to offer your child: high academic achievement; excellent teaching; superb learning facilities; many clubs, sports and activities; pastoral care and support. The evening is an occasion to meet the school's senior staff. This evening is for parents only. Please do not bring children to this meeting.

Open Day for Everyone, Saturday 10 October, 11.00am – 1.30pm

Everyone is invited to see the school at work at our Open Day. Meet our pupils and staff. Join in many quizzes, games, challenges and fun activities. Find out about an education for your child at Cardinal Heenan. Open Day is for everyone: children, parents, friends and family. All welcome!

See the School in Action, Wednesday 14 October, 9.30am and 11.30am

Parents of pupils currently in primary schools are invited to see our pupils and staff in action on a typical working day. Two guided tours will take place at 9.30am and 11.30am. Please book your place by ringing Mrs Martland on 887 3240.

Yours sincerely



E A Cox, Headteacher