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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Putting Our Faith in Education

6 February 2015

Dear Parents

National Libraries Day



Pupils and staff celebrated National Libraries Day on 6 February by joining a nationwide attempt to beat the Guinness World Record for the most books swapped in a day. All members of the school community were invited to bring a book of their choice to be swapped in school. Many participants chose to stay in the library to enjoy their new books and talk about the pleasures of reading. Thank you to everyone who took part. Watch this space to find out if our attempt was successful!

Interview Experience

Over 150 pupils in Year 10 experienced the application process for employment this week. They were given examples of job descriptions and were asked to complete application forms. Each applicant was then interviewed. The interviews were conducted by volunteers from a variety of businesses, higher education institutions and the armed forces. Following this, each applicant was given feedback, both spoken and written. For many pupils this was their first experience of a formal interview; most found the activity valuable and the feedback especially useful, even if the process was daunting. The volunteers were very complimentary about Year 10 as a whole. All said that they would happily return next year to repeat the activity. Many thanks to all our interviewers and their organisations in providing this valuable experience for pupils: Laura Hood (Arena Group); Christine Mills and Melissa Gallimore (Keepmoat); Kelly Smedley (Willmott Dixon); Delroy Beverly (Incommunities); Darren Hoyland (Gibbs & Dandy); Ann Rushforth and Owen Muskatt (RAF); Adam Bradshaw and Jamie Godrich (Army); and Jon Cresswell, a retired teacher and former Head of Careers.



Stephen Lawrence
EDUCATION STANDARD



Valentine's Win for Olivia

Congratulations to Olivia Hu, a Year 8 pupil at Cardinal Heenan, for winning a prize in an art competition. Olivia's design of a fun fair scene was judged runner up in the city-wide contest hosted by Leeds City Council. She has won free tickets for this year's Leeds Valentine's Fair. The fair opened yesterday and continues until Sunday 22 February.

Religious Retreat

Some 60 Year 8 pupils enjoyed two-day periods of residential religious retreat at the Catholic Youth Retreat Centre for our diocese, Myddleton Grange, Ilkley, earlier this month. It was a time for prayer, reflection and country walks. Many thanks to all pupils staff and parents who contributed to these special days.



Cardinal Heenan Pupils Raise over £3,000 for CAFOD

Staff at CAFOD, the official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales, have been praising our pupils this week after they raised over £3,000 to support CAFOD's work with some of the poorest communities across the world, including those affected by the Ebola outbreak. Pupils in the school's CAFOD group raised money by events including a frozen sing-a-long during Advent (costing participants 50p) and a tombola with Fairtrade prizes donated by pupils from the group. Ben Oldham, the manager of CAFOD Leeds said, "It is overwhelming to accept a cheque for this amount. Not only have the pupils worked hard to fundraise, they have also been wonderfully generous with their own time and money by organising the events and donating the prizes themselves. They are an inspiration to others." Our CAFOD group is not stopping there. They are currently planning activities for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight which runs from Monday **23 February to Sunday 8 March**. The 2015 focus is on the core commodities cocoa, sugar and tea. Keep an eye out in North Leeds parishes and please support the pupils by purchasing products from their stalls. Pupils are also preparing for CAFOD Lent Fast Day on Friday 27 February.

Year 8 Options

The month-long period of choosing options for Year 8 pupils comes to an end after the half-term break. Parents please ensure that completed choices forms, signed by parents are returned to your child's tutor no later than the first day back after half-term, 24 February. Forms should be handed to tutors who will pass them onto Miss Stott. For pupils who missed the taster in *GCSE Business Studies*, the session will be repeated on Tuesday 24 February (period 5). Allocation of options will take place in March. Pupils and parents will be informed of the outcomes.

Ash Wednesday 18 February

Ash Wednesday occurs during the half term this year. Our pupils have been reminded to mark the start of Lent by receiving ashes at Masses and services in their parish communities on Ash Wednesday. There will be many opportunities in school during the coming weeks for pupils to practise the three main components of Lent: prayer, fasting and Christian love, including giving to charity.

School Re-Opens on Tuesday 24 February

The half-term holiday begins at 3.15pm today. School re-opens to all pupils on Tuesday 24 February at 8.55am. Please note that Monday 23 February is a staff training day when pupils are not in school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E A Cox', written in a cursive style.

E A Cox
Headteacher