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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Putting Our Faith in Education

13 March 2015

Dear Parents

Cardinal Heenan in National Maths Final

A team of four pupils from Cardinal Heenan will be competing against schools from across the United Kingdom for this year's UK Team Maths Challenge trophy. The Cardinal Heenan team finished in first place at the regional final held in Leeds, winning the opportunity to compete in the national final at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London in June. Almost 1,700 schools entered the competition and 80 have qualified to take part in the final. Our team of Chloe Facun, Chaewon Park Shim (both Year 8), Eamon Boyle-Smith and Sean Carey (both Year 9) overcame teams from all local schools present. These included The Grammar School at Leeds, St Aidan's Harrogate, Horsforth School, Roundhay High School and many more.

Hearty congratulations to Chloe, Chaewon, Eamon, Sean and team coach, Mr Mangan on a very impressive achievement.



The National Final of the Team Maths Challenge, which is run by the UK Mathematics Trust, involves team of four pupils from Years 8 and 9 (England), Years 9 and 10 (Northern Ireland) and Years S1 and S2 (Scotland), competing in:

- A group circus – involving practical maths problems;
- A relay race – a combination of speed at solving maths problems and speed across the room;
- A cross number (mathematical crossword) with two members of the team working on the across clues and two on the down;
- A series of shuttles where teams compete against the clock to answer a series of questions; and
- A poster competition – designing a poster on a mathematical subject.

Medical Challenge Day

A group of pupils will visit Notre Dame Sixth Form College next Wednesday to attend a Medical Challenge Day. The event will be run by medical students from universities around the country, providing an insight to this challenging career and guidance on highly demanding academic expectations, interview processes and admission tests. Our pupils will form teams with other schools for workshops on aspects of medicine such as anatomy, cardiology and medical ethics. A practising doctor will talk about her work.



Connecting With History

Year 10 pupils Margarita Budreviciute and Rebekah Gallagher, accompanied by Mrs Langan, set off to Belgium and France on a centenary battlefields tour this weekend, as a part of national commemoration of The Great War. They will be based in Ypres and will visit the site of the Battle of the Somme, the Passchendaele Museum, Thiepval Memorial, Tyne Cot and Langemark cemeteries. They will also take part in a ceremony of the last post at the Menin Gate. Only two pupils and one teacher from a school are eligible to take part in this national scheme, funded by the Department for Education and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Lourdes Fundraising

Many thanks to pupils who have volunteered to perform in a fundraising concert for this year's Lourdes pilgrimage. It will take place in our school hall at lunchtime next Wednesday. All our pupils are being encouraged to pray, fast and give this lent.

Standards of Uniform

Parents and pupils are reminded of the school's rules on uniform, make-up, trousers, skirt lengths and jewellery. These are detailed on pages 23 to 25 of the pupil planner. Senior staff will be visiting tutor groups during registration over the coming weeks to ensure that standards are maintained. Forewarned is forearmed!

Young Shakespeare Nation

As I write, Year 9 pupils are enjoying a live performance of *Romeo and Juliet* by The Young Shakespeare Company in our school hall. This theatre company has a reputation for clear and accessible interpretations of Shakespeare in which the vitality of the playwright's words is complemented by bold staging and strong characterisation. They are certainly bringing the play alive for a new generation of theatre-goers.

A group of Year 9 pupils is looking forward to seeing a new production of Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*, streamed live to one of our classrooms from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford upon Avon, next Thursday, 19 March. *Young Shakespeare Nation* is a project led by The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), in conjunction with the Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts. It will make all of Shakespeare's plays accessible to children across the country in the coming months and years. Our pupils saw the RSC's *Two Gentlemen of Verona* last term. Next week they will join others from schools across Britain and as far away as the USA and Australia for another of the largest live classroom events ever held. Teaching resources provided in advance by the RSC are enabling our pupils to prepare for the performance. The experience is helpful in preparing pupils for the demanding new GCSEs in English Literature which will have increased emphasis on understanding the works of our country's greatest writer. The venture so far shows that Shakespeare is still as popular now as he was 400 years ago! For a clip of the RSC performance see <http://www.rsc.org.uk/whats-on/loves-labours-lost/trailer.aspx>

Skipping Festival

Yesterday we welcomed pupils from four of our feeder schools, St Urban's, St Paul's, St Augustine's and Immaculate Heart of Mary, for a skipping festival. Speeds achieved by the competitors were a wonder to behold, with many achieving more than 100 skips in less than 30 seconds. Each school provided 30 competitors. The pupils had been training with the 'Skipping Schools' team for a number of weeks, learning moves such as the 'wide around', the 'pretzel' and the 'ten man run around'. After some two hours of highly energetic practice, warm ups and competition, St Augustine's ran out winners over runner-up St Urban's.



Mr Royston

Today we say goodbye to Mr Royston who has been a cover supervisor here since 2006. He is moving on to pursue a career as a train driver. We will miss his good humour and energy. As a part-time youth football coach, initially for Leeds United and now for Manchester City, he has brought a great deal of sporting knowledge and enthusiasm for physical education to the school. We thank him for his contribution to the school over the last nine years and wish him well for the future.

Yours sincerely

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

E A Cox
Headteacher