

Tongue Lane, Leeds LS6 4QE

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



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Dear Parents

Remembrance Day, 11 November

November is the month of remembrance. Our school's Book of Remembrance, which lists the names of pupils and staff who have died, lies open in the School Chapel throughout the month as a constant reminder of all the deceased who studied or were employed in our school. Services to remember the deceased members of our community, members of the armed forces and all those who have died in armed conflict, take place in school every Remembrance Day. On Wednesday names of deceased pupils and staff were read aloud and remembered in the prayers of the entire school on this special day. May they rest in peace.

During the service pupils and staff said traditional prayers for the dead including the *De Profundis*, and sang hymns led by our school orchestra and madrigal group. Year 10 pupils Daniel Clement and Oliver Casey performed *The Green Fields of France*. The behaviour of all our pupils during the solemn services was exemplary throughout.

War poetry was a feature of services, including Wilfred Owen's *Anthem for Doomed Youth*, read by Charlotte Fox, and Margaret Postgate Cole's *The Veteran*, read by Margarita Budreviciute:

We came upon him sitting in the sun
Blinded by war, and left. And past the fence
There came young soldiers from the Hand and Flower,
Asking advice of his experience.

And he said this, and that, and told them tales,
And all the nightmares of each empty head
Blew into air; then, hearing us beside,
"Poor chaps, how'd they know what it's like?" he said.

And we stood there, and watched him as he sat,
Turning his sockets where they went away,
Until it came to one of us to ask "And you're-how old?"
"Nineteen, the third of May."

Digital Day

On Tuesday 17 November pupils in Years 8 and 9 will be taking part in BIMA Digital Day. This is an initiative created by the British Interactive Media Association (BIMA) to introduce pupils to the possibility of embarking on a career in digital industries. A recent report indicated that Britain needs to create and fill 750,000 new digital jobs if it is keep pace with the global digital economy. Digital professionals will visit us on Tuesday and give a presentation on life in the industry. Pupils will then work on challenging activities involving digital design, coding, mobile apps, social media and web development. They will be encouraged to use creative decision making and project management skills.

Book Fair

The school will host a lunchtime book fair from Thursday 19 November to Tuesday 24 November, as part of our continuing drive to encourage pupils to read for pleasure. Over 200 titles will be available including fantasy, thrillers, non-fiction, comedy and lots more. Prices start from £2.99. There will be opportunities for parents of Year 7 pupils to review and buy new books at the Tutor Evening on Tuesday 24 November. Every pupil who purchases a book will be entered into a prize draw for £15 worth of free books and asked to nominate books they would like to see in the



library. There is an opportunity to win a further £10 for the best book review. Details will be explained in English reading lessons before the fair begins. Please support the initiative and encourage your child to read a book for pleasure.

Parent Forum Meeting 7.00pm on Wednesday 18 November in the School Hall

All parents are invited to our Parent Forum on Wednesday 18 November at 7.00pm in the school hall. A forum takes place each term and provides opportunity for parents to raise questions, provide feedback and meet members of school leadership team. Community Safety Coordinator Beverley Yearwood of Leeds Children's Services will speak on *Understanding Child Sexual Exploitation*, giving advice for parents and carers including signposting for help. The meeting will also discuss the school's proposals for implementing the government's *Assessment without Levels* initiative and the working of the newly introduced school uniform. A proposal to introduce sports leggings for girls will be discussed, in response to suggestions from pupils and parents. Please come to the meeting if you have a view on any of these matters. Alternatively send an email to info@cardinalheenan.com.

Rugby Performance

The Year 8 rugby team took part in the Leeds and Hunslet Plate competition in Kirkstall on Wednesday 11 November. After a draw with John Smeaton Academy the side was narrowly defeated by Abbe y Grange 4 tries to 2, missing out on a place in the final. Outstanding performances were seen from George Davidson and the Burke twins, Jack and Oliver, whilst solid defence from Joe Forbes, Harry Idle and Dom Laverty meant that the opposition was often repelled. The boys gave an excellent account of themselves and look forward to playing in the Yorkshire Plate next term.



Early School Close for Pupils at 1.20pm on Wednesday 18 November 2015

The school will close to pupils at 1.20pm on Wednesday 18 November. School buses will collect pupils from school at 1.30pm after an early lunch. Parents, please contact school without delay if this early closure causes you childcare problems. Pupils who are unable to get home may remain in school until 3.15pm. Normal lessons will be suspended. The time gained will be used by staff in preparing for the new assessment procedures at Key Stage 3 which result from changes to the National Curriculum. Ensuring consistent, standardised assessment for all pupils is an essential part of achieving consistently high levels of pupil progress. Subject teachers and support teams analyse pupil outcomes each term in order to co-ordinate classroom support and challenge strategies.

Yours sincerely

E A Cox, Headteacher