

Tongue Lane, Leeds LS6 4QE

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16 December 2016

Dear Parents

Invitation to Advent Service of Readings and Carols: Monday 19 December

You are invited to attend the Advent Liturgy of reading and carols in the School Hall at 7.00pm on Monday 19 December. It is our tradition to serve warm mince-pies, soft drinks and mulled wine following the service. All proceeds raised will be donated to St Gemma's Hospice. I look forward to seeing you there. Bring the family!

Olympic Target for Conor

Readers of the sporting press will be familiar with the progress of our former pupil Conor Loftus, who left us 2010. Conor won the Amateur Boxing Association senior titles in 2014 and 2015 and is now a boxer for the Great Britain team. Last week he was a finalist at the GB Boxing Championships at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. In 2017 he will compete in the World Series Boxing and hopes to be selected for the GB team at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. Such is his determination that he has postponed university studies in order to take up boxing full time. He told the Yorkshire Evening Post: 'I box because I want to go to the Olympics'. Read more at:

<http://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/sport/boxing/boxing-clever-sam-loftus-road-to-olympic-games-is-well-worn-path-1-8283036>

We wish Conor every success and look forward to hearing more of his triumphs.

Scarlet Hits a High Note



Year 11 pupil and Deputy Head Girl Scarlet Rowe has just gained a merit in the Grade Eight trumpet examinations of *The Royal Schools of Music*. Her achievement is one that only the most talented musicians can hope to gain - the highest grade, a very remarkable feat for someone of her age.

The examinations of the *Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM)* are internationally recognised qualifications in music performance and theory. Students need to prepare rigorously and respond to challenges in sight reading, scales and aural perception. The grade eight examination is a demanding test that requires musicians to show their ability to complete scales, modes, arpeggios, chords and a stylistic study. Scarlet had to perform a piece which had advanced stylistic techniques and sounds, with complex solo and improvisation. She sat a listening test in which she had to listen to musical extracts for melodies and rhythms and then play them back. Finally, she was quizzed on her general knowledge of music and the instrument.

We congratulate Scarlet on her hugely impressive achievement. She is a member of *The Leeds Youth Orchestra* and the *Leeds Youth Jazz & Rock Orchestra*.

Scarlet has just returned from the London School of Economics where she formed a team with elder sister Poppy, a former pupil here, in the *LSE Schools' Debating Tournament 2016*. They out-performed teams from Eton and Westminster Schools to finish mid-table (as almost the only pupils of state school team in the competition).



Consultation on Proposed Change to Admission Arrangements

School governors wish to change the policy for admissions to this school from September 2018 onwards. The change relates to the defined areas referred to in the policy. This is the only proposed change to the admissions criteria. Please see the front page of the school website for details.

If you wish to comment on the proposed changes, please send your comments in writing to the Governing Body, marked for the attention of Mrs Moira Martland, Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School, Tongue Lane, Leeds LS6 4QE. Alternatively, comments may be emailed to:

mmd@cardinalheenan.com

The period of consultation begins at midnight on Friday 16 December 2016 and ends at midnight on Tuesday 31 January 2017. The Governing Body will consider all comments received before they finally determine their arrangements for admissions from September 2018 onwards.

Senior Citizens' Party

Thank you to parents and pupils for your generous donations to the hampers for guests at the school's Senior Citizens' Party yesterday. Year 10 pupils entertained our visitors superbly. Special thanks to Miss Waite and Miss Scott who organised it all and to Mr Teggart, compere for the day.

Non-Uniform Day, Monday 19 December

Pupils will be allowed to wear their own clothes on Monday 19 December in exchange for a donation of £1 to the Advent CAFOD appeal. The monies will be used to support some of the poorest people in the world. I know that we can rely on pupils to support the initiative. Prizes will be awarded to the best festive Christmas jumpers.

Farewell and Welcome

At the end of term we say goodbye to a number of staff. Mrs Trigg has been a most valued member of our team of Teaching Assistants for the past eight years. She has helped pupils in many ways. We wish her a long and happy retirement. Other leavers have been with us for shorter periods. Mr Middleton and Mr Clayton have provided temporary cover in our Science department this term. Mr Pryce has covered in ICT. We thank them for their work with us. Governors have been busy appointing new staff. On 4 January we will welcome newcomers: Mr O'Flanagan, Coordinator of KS4 Science; Miss Baines, Teacher of Science; and Miss Dent, Teacher of Computing and ICT.

End of Term, Tuesday 20 December

All pupils and staff will join together for an Advent liturgy on Tuesday 20 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. Following afternoon registration at the earlier time of 1.00pm, the school will finish for the Autumn term at 1.15pm. School buses will leave at 1.20 pm.

Next term begins on Wednesday 4 January at 8.55 am for all pupils.

And Finally...

Earlier this term I advised Governors that I intend to retire from my role as Headteacher on 31 August 2017. I have enjoyed my career in teaching as I have in the various leadership roles I have held over the past thirty six years and, as you might expect, I have had great satisfaction in the work I have undertaken in schools in Hertfordshire, Doncaster and more recently, in Leeds.

It has been a privilege to teach, lead and serve so many talented and hard-working members of staff and young people. My experience and the many memories of my time in schools, in particular, at Cardinal Heenan, will stay with me forever.

In notifying governors of my intentions to leave my post at this relatively early stage of the academic year, I hope that successful recruitment to the post of Headteacher will ensure that the best traditions of our school will continue and that the highest outcomes for all our students are secured for the future.

The Diocese of Leeds has now been notified and the recruitment process for a new Headteacher will begin in the new calendar year. In any event, please be assured that I will continue to give of my best and I will, of course, work to ensure continuing high standards across the school and a smooth transition in leadership.

Wishing you and your families every blessing and joy at Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely

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

E A Cox
Headteacher