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Dear Parents

Top Award for Brandon

Congratulations to Year 11 pupil Brandon Kavanagh on winning an award for *Student of the Year* at Leeds College of Building. Brandon attends the college each week to study for a vocational qualification, *BTEC Construction and Built Environment*. He has been commended by the course tutor for excellent brickwork and joinery and as an enthusiastic, hard-working student who is 'a pleasure to teach'. Brandon was presented with an *iPod Touch* and a certificate during a ceremony in the college. His aspirations are to become a qualified craftsman working in the construction industry and eventually to run his own construction company. The course is one of a range of vocational programmes studied at local colleges by our Years 10 and 11 pupils.

We are delighted to be able to offer the *BTEC Construction and Built Environment* course here at Cardinal Heenan for the first time next September. This vocational course is now on the menu offered to all Year 8 pupils as part of their option choices for KS4. Details of the option choices programme for current Year 8 are given below.

Lawyers in Schools

Staff from the law firm Addleshaw Goddard are currently visiting school to run a series of six workshops with pupils in small groups on various aspects of the law. Year 9 are accrediting themselves well: Leandra Chaitonga, Alessia Da Costa, Darragh Kennedy; Olivia Wilson, Dioni Murphy, Amir Khan, Simone Cunha E Costa, Elizabeth Henderson, Natalia Lesiak, Ciara O'Reilly, Joseph Dee, Joseph Laverty, Lucia Partridge, Hannah Facun, Patricia Ranninger, Paige O'Reilly, Alex Cserna, Scarlet Rowe, Michael Ruane, Zane Ahmed, Dom Coverley, Louis Connell, Megan O'Reilly, James Harland and Finn Rea.

In March Year 9 pupils will become members of a court for a day, playing the parts of magistrates, defence and prosecution lawyers, witnesses, defendant, court artist, clerk and legal advisors in a mock trial competition to be held at Leeds Magistrates Court. Some 20 schools will be involved in the regional heat, part of a national competition. Thank you to Mrs Evans, Mrs Rutherford, Dr Bradley, Miss Gallagher and Mr Teggart for their continuing support for this initiative.

Business and Enterprise

Some 54 Year 10 pupils took part in *Cashpoints* on Wednesday 7 January, as part of the school's business and enterprise programme in conjunction with Leeds Education Business Partnership. Our pupils worked in groups to set up and run businesses. Teams competed to be the most successful enterprise and individual pupils aimed to become best 'Money Manager'. The experience increased participants' business awareness and developed understanding of the need for competitive sales, marketing strategies and the importance of monitoring cash flows with vigilance. Vital skills were developed including: working in a team, solving problems, thinking creatively, effective communication and managing money. Professionals offered guidance throughout the day, providing constructive feedback on each student's contribution. The experts came from organisations such as Her Majesty's Revenue Commissioners, O2 Telephonica (one of the UK's leading providers of telecommunications), Bizenko (an online social network for business marketing), Leeds City Council and the Department for Work and Pensions. They helped our pupils to learn the skills, behaviour and attitudes expected in the modern workplace.

Special thanks to Mr Matterson who organised it all and to Mrs Evans for their assistance throughout the day.



Climate Change Presentation

On Tuesday 20 January we welcome Ben Oldham, Leeds Diocesan Manager at CAFOD, the official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales. Mr Oldham will be in school to make a presentation on *Climate Change* to pupils in our school's CAFOD group. The pupils will be taking the opportunity to present him with a cheque for £1,925.61 to CAFOD, the proceeds of fundraising in school. Many thanks to all parents for supporting your children's fundraising efforts so generously during our Advent appeals and to Miss Whitford who facilitates our pupils' CAFOD group.

Year 8 Options

Thursday 22 January: Year 8 Options Information Meetings 5.00pm and 7.00pm

Letters to parents, recommending one of the three pathways for studies at Key Stage 4, have been given to Year 8 pupils today. Information meetings for Year 8 parents and pupils about options will be held in the School Hall next **Thursday 22 January**. The first meeting, at 5.00pm, will be for parents of pupils recommended for Pathway 1 (single GCSE Science and vocational courses). A second meeting for parents of pupils recommended for Pathways 2 and 3 (double and triple GCSE Science courses) will take place at 7.00pm. (Please note the different start times.) These occasions will provide an opportunity to find out more about courses on offer and to discuss which of these may be best suited to your child. Senior Staff will be available to discuss curriculum choice with you on the evening.

Options Fair

An options fair for pupils will take place during the school day on Monday 26 January. Year 8 will have the opportunity to meet older pupils already studying the various KS4 courses and to ask questions of the learners themselves. In the coming weeks pupils will also have opportunities to sample the new courses available.

Options Booklet

A booklet setting out details of each core and option subject and a Directed Choices form will be issued to Year 8 pupils on Monday 26 January.

Wednesday 28 January: Year 8 Parents' Evening, from 4.00pm to 7.00pm

This is an opportunity for Year 8 parents to meet with their children's subject teachers. Senior staff and the teachers who will be delivering KS4 courses will be available to discuss curriculum choice with parents and pupils on that occasion.

Early Closure on Wednesday 21 January

A reminder that the school will close to pupils at 1.20pm next Wednesday 21 January. An early lunch will precede tutor time before dismissal. Staff will be involved in analysing pupil data and the co-ordination of classroom support and challenge strategies.

Yours sincerely



E A Cox
Headteacher