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Headteacher: Mr P Whelan MA



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Dear Parents

Mr Whelan

Steve Carey, Chair of Governors, writes:

I am writing to let you know that our interim Head Teacher, Mr Whelan, has been diagnosed with a condition that is likely to mean that he will be absent from school for the rest of the term. Everyone at the school wishes Mr Whelan a speedy recovery. I am sure that parents and pupils will keep Mr Whelan in their thoughts and prayers.

The school remains in good hands, however, and arrangements have been made to cover Mr Whelan's absence. Mr Gibbons, Deputy Headteacher, and Dr Caldwell, acting Deputy Headteacher, will take over Mr Whelan's responsibilities until the end of the term. We are also looking to agree an arrangement which will see Mr Kelly, the newly appointed Headteacher who is due to take up his post in September 2018, spend more time at the school between now and the end of term.

Mr Whelan has done an excellent job since his appointment in September 2017 and the Governing Body has every confidence that the cover arrangements will continue to see the school expertly led.

Finally, the GCSE examinations which started this week for Year 11 pupils will not be affected by Mr Whelan's absence or the cover arrangements that have been put in place.

Mr Whelan writes:

My apologies for being out of action at this time: it is deeply frustrating and disappointing. I will miss the day to day conversations that I have with the young people from the Cardinal Heenan community. I would like to send my best wishes to Year 11 pupils starting their GCSE examinations this week. I will keep them in my thoughts and prayers.

A Season for Examinations

Year 11 pupils, who have been working hard for the GCSE examinations throughout the year, have been sitting the first of their many papers this week. Teachers here have provided our Year 11 students numerous revision materials and much advice in addition. Our students' diligent approach has been impressive. There has been good attendance at the many revision and intervention sessions delivered by teachers across the range of subjects. Pupils in Years 7 and 8 have also made a very good start to their internal school examination this week. Please remember all our pupils taking examinations in your prayers.

Preparing for Lourdes

Year 10 pupils who will be taking part in the Leeds Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes later this term enjoyed a briefing presented in school this week by the Leeds Diocesan Youth Service. It began with icebreakers and fun facts about whether a particular image is in Lourdes or not. The whole group joined in a very enjoyable and informative interactive session. The morning ended with a presentation on the rosary as the group joined together in praying a decade for the pilgrimage.



Words in the City

Two teams of Cardinal Heenan pupils from Years 9 and 10 participated in a 'poetry slam' as part of a *Words in the City* festival at The Carriageworks Theatre, Leeds, on Friday 11 May. Competition was fierce but our pupils shared their ideas thoughtfully and with confidence. Congratulations to Oracene Drovi, Kya O'Reilly, Marella Diaye and Aaliyah Francis on winning the *Best Performance* prize for composing and presenting a poem entitled 'Fake Friends'. Not the least of their achievements was to share the billing with Simon Armitage. It's not every day that you share a stage with the Oxford Professor of Poetry! The event was supported by *Ilkley literature Festival*.



Winning Chemists

A Year 7 team of young chemists, members of our Science Club, picked up a prize this week at the Salter's Festival of Chemistry.

Congratulations to Lily Mae Collier, Anna Cookson, Maria Cruz Lopes and Eve Thorp. The Heenan chemists were strongly commended by judges for recommending improvements to experimental techniques in tasks they were asked to perform.

The Heenan team were pitched against Horsforth, Gateways, Corpus Christi, Prince Henry's Otley and the Grammar School at Leeds, amongst other local schools.

The event was hosted by the School of Chemistry at the University of Leeds Very well done!

Leeds Book Awards



16 pupils from Years 7 to 10 attended the Leeds Book Awards at Leeds Civic Hall this week. They met several authors, including local poet Toria Garbutt. All our students represented the school creditably and greatly enjoyed discussing the shortlisted titles with the authors and with students from schools across the city.

Honours for Jamie

Year 7 pupil Jamie Broadhurst is proving to be a very talented swimmer. He was recently awarded a gold medal in an event at Harrogate Spa and a bronze medal for 50m breaststroke by The Borough of Kirklees Swimming Club (BOK). Jamie has been selected to compete at the 2018 Yorkshire Championships.

Engineering Workshop

Year 9 pupils took part in an interactive engineering workshop in which each team member was given a role, e.g. designer or finance manager. The task was to design and build a water filtration system. Our pupils assembled and soldered an electronic water-detector and made a circuit for an electric pump. At the end of the session each team's design was tested before pupils gave a presentation explaining their design formula and costings. The event was hosted by a Smallpeice Trust trained educator and was designed to complement the national curriculum in science, technology and maths by demonstrating the relevance of these key subjects in the wider world. Congratulations to all involved.

Cricket

The Year 7 cricket team have made a promising start to the season, winning two league matches including an away victory over The Grammar School at Leeds by eight wickets after knocking off 61 runs from only 11 overs. The Heenan side picked up batting and bowling bonus points in the process. A very close game against Beckfoot Oakbank School in the Yorkshire Cup was a gripping encounter. Eye-catching performances from Year 7 boys included Abdul Chaudray's unbeaten 25 and retirement in the Yorkshire Cup, as well as Archie Farrell-Smith's 25 against GSAL. Bowling by Thomas Winteringham included a tally of two runs scored from three overs for two wickets. The squad hope to maintain their current form for the remaining eight league games, starting with Allerton High and Horsforth away next week. The Year 10 cricket team started their campaign away at Woodhouse Grove in the Yorkshire Cup. Years 8 and 9 teams are training hard for a run of fixtures in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely



V W Gibbons & P J Caldwell
Acting Headteachers