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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Putting Our Faith in Education

18 November 2016

Dear Parents

Parents' Forum, Wednesday 23 November

Our next Parents' Forum begins at 7.00pm next Wednesday in the School Hall. All parents are invited to attend. Please come along to discuss the issues below with members of the School Leadership Team:

- **New accountability measures for secondary schools.** The Department for Education has introduced changes to the secondary school accountability system, in an attempt to raise standards. A presentation will outline the key changes and the new interpretation of how successful schools are defined.
- **Provision of extra-curricular activities for pupils.** The school is keen to offer opportunities for all pupils that engage them in school life, inside and outside lessons, and make their learning experience positive, rich and varied. This session looks at provision offered and invites parents' views on areas they wish to see developed.
- **School Development Plan 2016-17.** I will share a summary of the aims and objectives of the school development plan which is based on the school's evaluation of its past performance. Parents are invited to give feedback and highlight any other areas they would like to see addressed as school priorities.
- **Responses to questions raised by parents.** Please provide questions in advance wherever possible in order that detailed and helpful responses may be provided.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Digital Day



Pupils in Year 9 enjoyed *BIMA Digital Day* on Tuesday 15 November. 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. Digital professionals from the Bolser agency in Leeds visited us to give presentations on life in the industry. Pupils then worked on digital design, coding, mobile apps, social media and web development projects. Much of the day was spent working on a series of digital challenges for clients TATA, Cancer Research UK and Standard Life. Our pupils tackled briefs that included: developing a digital creative solution to improve the lives of



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people living in diverse communities; designing a game which encourages people to save money; and providing a digital solution to raise awareness of cancer, focusing on the connection with obesity. Project teams then pitched their concept, *Dragon's Den* style! The Bolser team commented: 'We were blown away by the effort the students put into coming up with unique solutions to the brief, while never losing focus on the users. We had a great time at Cardinal Heenan and really value the opportunity to invest in the next generation of designers, developers, UX experts and account managers.'



Employability Workshop



The Army in Education Team visited us on Monday 14 November to deliver an Employability Workshop. The two hour session developed skills essential for employment: teamwork, leadership, communication skills, management, problem solving, planning and organising.

Former Pupils in Remembrance Parade at Officers' College

Three of our former pupils, Harry Cooke, Hannah Playford, and Matt Cariazo, took part in a remembrance parade last Sunday at Welbeck, The Defence Sixth Form College in Loughborough, Leicestershire. The three began boarding at the college in September last year. On completion of their A levels in 2017 they will receive an annual bursary from their sponsoring services (RAF and Navy) whilst at university. Welbeck offers only 185 places nationwide each year to young people pursuing a career as engineering or technical officers in the British armed forces. Matt, Harry and Hannah were each interviewed three times and spent two days before selection boards which assessed their leadership and organisational abilities, critical and independent thinking, team building and social skills. They also took fitness, medical and psychometric tests. All three had to get excellent exam results too, including a Grade A in GCSE Maths. They achieved 34 high grade GCSE passes between them. Hannah Playford passed nine GCSEs at the top A* grade and three at A. We are very proud of Hannah, Harry and Matt. These are the military officers of the future. To have three from the same comprehensive school is rare and worth celebrating.



Year 11 Mock Examinations

The overwhelming majority of our Year 11 students are working hard in preparation for their GCSE mock examinations which begin on Thursday 24 November and run until Friday 16 December. Year 11 students have been reminded of the need to plan their time effectively in order to complete a programme of revision activities. Statements of proposed public examination entries will be sent home in January. Full reports will follow on Thursday 2 February.

Training Day

Please remember that Monday 28 November is a staff training day when there will be no school for pupils. School begins again the following day at 8.55am.

Yours sincerely

E A Cox
Headteacher