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Dear Parents

School Priorities 2015-16

As you will be aware the school evaluates its work on a regular basis in order to identify ways in which it can ensure outstanding practice at all levels. At the beginning of each academic year the focus for the work of the school for the year is defined in a series of objectives and targets agreed by governors and senior school leaders. These are set out in a detailed plan. Progress against the targets, set out on this School Development Plan, are measured regularly at all levels across the school.

The development plan is based on the four sections set out in the school inspection framework (OFSTED handbook) but as a voluntary aided Catholic school it also includes focus on the Catholic Life of the school.

A summary of the school's focus for 2015-16 is attached. It may be helpful to note that all five sections include a vision statement relating to the school's aspiration to be outstanding in all aspects of its work and a summary of ongoing work to raise pupil achievement further.

Music Showcase

All parents and pupils are warmly invited to a Year 10 GCSE Music Showcase next Tuesday 22 September at 7.00pm in the School Hall. This is an opportunity to hear the work of Year 10 pupils who play a variety of instruments (flute, strings, keyboards etc.). Please join pupils and staff for what promises to be a most enjoyable occasion. Admission is free of charge. Refreshments will be served at the interval. The performance will end at approximately 9.30pm.

Green Pen of Progress

A school initiative known as *The Green Pen of Progress* helps pupils to advance their learning. If pupils are to benefit from teachers' marking and make high levels of progress, then they need to improve their knowledge and skills by responding to feedback received from teachers' marking of their work. Pupils are advised about what need to do in order to benefit from teachers' marking. Every pupil is expected to write something in response to the marking. Please encourage your child to use the Green Pen of Progress in order to make the improvements required.

My Maths

Increasing numbers of pupils are using tablet devices to access curriculum resources, revise and complete homework for Mathematics on the *My Maths* website, www.mymaths.co.uk. This is not feasible through the default browsers on such devices. However, using *My Maths* on iPad and android tablet devices is simple via the *Puffin Academy* app. This is free to download. The school's IT Services team, in consultation with the Maths department, has produced a "how to guide" that can now be found on the school website at <http://www.cardinalheenan.leeds.sch.uk/component/content/article?id=255>.

Using *My Maths* on such devices gives pupils far more opportunities for completing homework and revising!

Extra screen time 'hits GCSE grades'

A recent BBC report will be of interest to parents...

An extra hour a day of television, internet or computer game time in Year 10 is linked to poorer grades at GCSE, a Cambridge University study suggests. The researchers recorded the activities of more than 800 14-year-olds and analysed their GCSE results at 16. Those spending an extra hour a day on screens saw a fall in GCSE results equivalent to two grades overall. The researchers analysed the habits of 845 pupils from schools in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk at the age of 14 years and six months. The pupils' heights and weights were recorded and they had to wear a physical



activity monitor for five days including a weekend. The researchers correlated the data with the pupils' GCSEs, taken the following year. Pupils who did an extra hour of homework and reading performed better than their peers, while extra physical activity appeared to have no effect on academic performance. On average, the 14-year-olds said they spent four hours of their leisure time each day watching TV or in front of a computer. The researchers found an additional hour of screen-time each day was associated with 9.3 fewer GCSE points at 16 - the equivalent of dropping a grade in two subjects. Two extra hours of screen-time was associated with 18 fewer points - or dropping a grade in four subjects.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-34139196>

Yours sincerely

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

E A Cox, Headteacher