

Tongue Lane, Leeds LS6 4QE

Telephone: (0113) 887 3240
E-mail: info@cardinalheenan.com
Website: www.cardinalheenan.com
Headteacher: Mr P Whelan MA



CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

2 March 2018

Dear Parents

Good School

A copy of the letter that I have just received from *Ofsted*, following our recent Inspection, is now on the school website.

Inspectors state that your child continues to attend a good school. *Ofsted* describe the outcomes achieved by our pupils as very high. They note strengths in the quality of teaching and strong gains in the rates of progress that current pupils make across all year groups, particularly in English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education and Humanities. Inspectors found that standards and challenge remain high.

The inspector's letter states that our students enjoy school and are keen to attend. They recognise the importance of high standards, particularly in dress and behaviour. The great majority take pride in their work and reflect on their learning so that they understand key concepts well. Pupils respond well to challenges offered by their teachers so that their learning improves even further. Most enjoy school.

Teaching was identified as good. Leadership at all levels, including governance, is strong. Safeguarding arrangements are secure.

Ofsted will visit again in three years' time for the next cycle of inspection. The report is an excellent basis on which the school can build.

The lead inspector also drew attention to matters of which I was aware and had already started to address. He indicates that some students do not feel listened to: I have heard similar opinions during my own student voice activities. This is why we have held elections for a Student Council, set up a new Student Chaplaincy Group and have begun to appoint nominated Student Ambassadors for subject areas.

The inspector found that the school deals very well with incidents of bullying of which we are aware and that students know such incidents to be rare. We will, however, overhaul our reporting and identification procedures on bullying with all staff and make it a focus of our training.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge that this excellent *Ofsted* report results from the endeavours of pupils, present and former staff, parents, carers and governors. This strong partnership makes for effective education. Cardinal Heenan is a good school and is widely accepted as such. This is why we receive three times as many applications to enter the school than we have places for. Thank you for your continuing support.

Steve Carey, our Chair of Governors, writes

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to say that we, too, are delighted that Cardinal Heenan has again been recognised as a good school. The bedrock of such an outcome is the provision of quality teaching for every pupil, delivered by the dedicated, talented staff we have at the school. I am also pleased that the leadership provided by Mr. Whelan and his Senior Leadership Team, and by my colleagues on the Governing Body, has been rated as strong. Governors and the senior leaders work together very closely on all matters to help ensure that we provide the right curriculum and the right environment for all pupils to thrive. I would



like to assure parents and carers that we will continue to work closely in order to build on the strengths of the school and to address the issues identified in the report.

Performing Shakespeare

Congratulations to Year 7 pupils Amelie Wolstenholme and Lola Kennedy on winning a place at the national final of the English Speaking Union's *Performing Shakespeare* competition. Their performance of the duologue between Juliet and her nurse from *Romeo and Juliet* has won them a place on the West End stage! They will travel to London on Tuesday 20 March for the final, to be staged at The Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue. The two were amongst 11 Cardinal Heenan pupils who won through to the regional final held at Teesside High School last Tuesday. They were Year 7 pupils Chloe Beaumont, Lily Collier, Lola Kennedy and Amelia Wolstenholme and Year 9 pupils Patrick Crowe, Alice Hobson, Isabel Itoe, Liam McCartney, Caitlin Pigott, Wiktoria Szczygielska and Amelie Thompson. The standard of work produced by our pupils was very high: all were praised by the judges. Well done to Amelie and Lola. Thanks to Miss Gallagher for coaching our pupils in this richly rewarding experience of celebrating Shakespeare's genius.

Top Table for James

Congratulations to Year 7 pupil James Pears on reaching the last 16 of the English Under-14 Snooker Championship. This national tournament was played in Leeds last weekend. To qualify for the last 16 at the age of 11 years of age is a huge achievement.

James is not the first Cardinal Heenan pupil to win acclaim in this sport. Paul Hunter, a three-time Masters Champion and winner of the British Open and the Welsh Open (twice), was a pupil here. Paul was diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumours and died shortly before his 28th birthday in October 2006. The Masters trophy was renamed in his honour in 2016. May he rest in peace.

Lourdes Group at Immaculate Heart Church

Year 10 pupils who will be taking part in the Leeds Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes met at Immaculate Heart Church on Tuesday evening for some team-building activities and a chance to pray and socialise together. Mr Wicker gave a talk on the history and impact of Lourdes and its significance for Catholics today. Our pupils discussed questions for future pilgrims to the shrine and learnt something of what their work might mean for the sick pilgrims they will be helping. Ice breakers included working as a team to build the tallest freestanding tower out of spaghetti, marshmallows and jelly babies!

The group joined parishioners for evening Mass which was celebrated by our Priest Chaplain Fr Josh Hilton and concelebrated by Canon Wiley, one of our school governors. Our pupils were servers and presented the offertory gifts. The evening ended with pizza and prayers for our pilgrimage preparations. All the pupils involved were a credit to Cardinal Heenan.

Special thanks to Mr Wicker, Mrs Holder and Mr Easter for leading the event.



New Date for Year 8 Options Meeting, Tuesday 20 March at 7.00pm

The Year 8 options information meeting for pupils and parents has been rescheduled. It will now take place on Tuesday 20 March at 7.00pm. Letters suggesting an options pathway for each pupil were issued earlier this week. Today Year 8 pupils will be given an Options Booklet setting out the details of the KS4 curriculum from next September. An Options Fair will be held in school on Monday next, 5 March. This gives Year 8 the opportunity to discuss options with pupils in Years 9 and 10 who are already studying the GCSE and vocational subjects available.

The Beast from the East

I wish to thank parents and carers for your patience with us during these days of challenging weather. We opened the school on Wednesday morning because many students were already in transit on school buses as conditions deteriorated. On the advice of Metro we finished early because there was no guarantee that Metro would be able to provide school bus services at 3.15pm. Along with many schools we closed on Thursday due to health and safety issues related to travelling. Today the site team did fine work in clearing snow and ice so that there is safe access for pedestrians, buses and cars.

Book Reviews

Each week we include a book recommendation from a member of our school community. Pupils who would like to see a favourite book featured in this column should see Miss Burns, School Librarian, for an application form.

This week's reader is Year 9 pupil Wiktorja Szczygielska, Vice-Captain of the Year 9 football team. *First Class Murder* by Robin Stevens is a favourite story of hers. Wiktorja writes, "I chose this book because I enjoy mysteries and stories about detectives. I enjoy thinking about the clues and trying to solve problems."

Dates for The Diary

Tuesday 6 March GCSE Music Showcase at 6.00pm

Thursday 8 March Year 9 Parents' Evening from 4.00pm to 7.00pm

Tuesday and Wednesday 13-14 March GCSE Music performance examinations

Thursday 15 March Year 11 Examination Preparation Evening for Parents at 7.00pm

Tuesday 20 March Year 8 Options Information Meeting for pupils and parents at 7.00pm

Thursday 22 March Issue of Progress Reports for pupils in Years 8 & 10

Monday 26 March Year 10 Parents' Evening from 4.00pm to 7.00pm

Tuesday 27 March Year 9 Young Shakespeare Company performance of Romeo & Juliet

Thursday 29 March End of Spring Term for Pupils

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



P Whelan
Headteacher