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2 October 2015

Dear Parents

Open Evening for Parents of Pupils in Primary Schools, Monday 5 October, at 7.30pm

Parents of pupils currently in primary schools are invited to find out about what the school has to offer your child: high academic achievement; excellent teaching; superb learning facilities; many clubs, sports and activities; pastoral care and support. The evening is an occasion to meet the school's senior staff. This evening is for parents only. Please do not bring children to this meeting.

Early School Closure Due to Open Day Planning: 1.20pm on Friday 9 October

School will close to pupils at 1.20pm on Friday 9 October in order to allow staff to make preparations for Open Day which will take place the following day, Saturday 10 October. The morning session will take place with lessons as normal until 12.15pm, followed by lunchtime. School buses will collect pupils at 1.20pm and leave the school grounds at 1.30pm. If you have difficulty making safe provision for your child due to the early closure, please contact Mrs Martland at school (887 3240) before Wednesday 7 October, in order that supervision arrangements may be put in place.

Open Day for Everyone, Saturday 10 October, 11.00am – 1.30pm

Everyone is invited to see the school at work at our Open Day. Meet our pupils and staff. Join in many quizzes, games, challenges and fun activities. Find out about an education for your child at Cardinal Heenan. Open Day is for everyone: children, parents, friends and family. All welcome!

Training Day on Monday 12 October

Please remember that Monday 12 October is a staff training day when there will be no school for pupils. School begins again on Tuesday 13 October at 8.55am.

See the School in Action, Wednesday 14 October, 9.30am and 11.30am

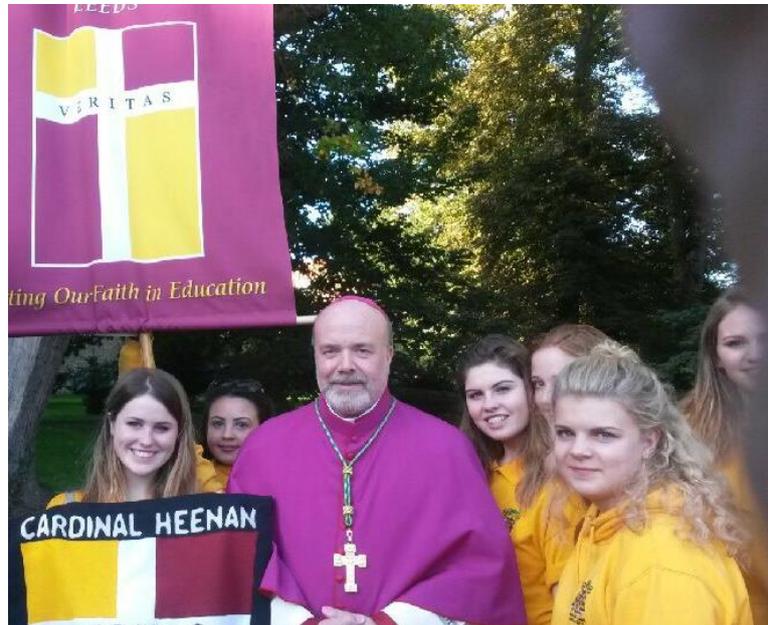
Parents of pupils currently in primary schools are invited to see our pupils and staff in action on a typical working day. Two guided tours will take place at 9.30am and 11.30am. Please book your place by ringing Mrs Martland on 887 3240.

Mass of Welcome

Our Mass of Welcome for Year 7 pupils and their families took place in a packed Sports Hall last Tuesday evening. It was a moving expression of the ethos of our school community. Many thanks to Fr Sean Crawley, our new Priest Chaplain, and Fr Tim Wiley, Parish Priest at St John Mary Vianney, for celebrating the Mass with us and to Mrs Hayden, our Chaplaincy Coordinator, for helping our new pupils to participate in the superb liturgy. The music was well led by Mrs Keith and Mrs Hill and our pupil choirs and musicians. Special thanks to all who attended: the pupils themselves and their families, the representatives of our partner primary schools, staff and governors.



Educational Visits



Year 11 pupils enjoyed beautiful, sunny weather as part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham last Saturday. The behaviour of our pupils was impeccable throughout a long day (6.30am to 10.00pm). They were accompanied by Miss Whitford.



Visits to Saltaire for History fieldwork were also a great success this week. Year 10 pupils were very busy compiling data on life in the model village during the 19th Century for their GCSE controlled assessments. Thanks to Mr Wild, Mr Corcoran, Mrs Langan, Mrs Rutherford and Mrs Evans who accompanied them.

Proposed Change to Admission Arrangements from September 2017 Onwards

Our governors wish to adopt a new diocesan model policy for admissions to this school from September 2017. Full details are on the admissions pages of our school website: <http://www.cardinalheenan.leeds.sch.uk/admissions>. If you wish to comment on the proposed changes, please send your comments in writing to the Governing Body, marked for the attention of Mrs Martland. Alternatively, comments may be emailed to mmd@cardinalheenan.com. Please respond no later than Thursday 12 November 2015.

Government Change to School Attendance

Regular attendance at school is vital to help children achieve and get the best possible start in life. There is a strong link between good school attendance and achieving good results: children who frequently miss school often fall behind. All compulsory school age children are required by law to receive an education and it is the duty of parents and carers to ensure that they are supported to do so. If you are experiencing problems with ensuring your child gets to school, then please discuss your worries with us. Our attendance officer, Mrs Hansbro, will work with you and support you to help get your child to school. From the beginning of this academic year, September 2015, the government is reducing the persistent absence threshold from 15 per cent to 10 per cent. This means any child with 90% attendance is considered a Persistent Absentee. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, then we will refer the case to the local authority's *School Attendance Service*. This body may take legal action, in order to reduce the number of Persistent Absentees. Good school attendance is a priority for the school: we know this has a huge impact on the outcomes for young people. We are grateful to parents for your support in maintaining the school's high levels of attendance.

Yours sincerely



E A Cox, Headteacher