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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

Former Cardinal Heenan Pupil Becomes University Chancellor

Former Cardinal Heenan Pupil Deborah McAndrew has been appointed as the new Chancellor of Leeds Trinity University.

Born in Huddersfield, Deborah lived in Leeds throughout her childhood and was a pupil here from 1982 to 1987, in the days when this was a 13-18 school. After completing A-levels here she moved on to a degree in Drama at The University of Manchester. She trained as a teacher before embarking on a successful career as a writer and actor. Having worked extensively in theatre, television and radio in a career spanning almost 30 years, Deborah co-founded Claybody Theatre Company in Stoke-on-Trent in 2013, where she is currently Creative Director.



Deborah has performed and published plays including original work, such as the World War One drama *An August Bank Holiday Lark* which won the National Theatre Award for the Best New Play of 2014. She has also adapted classic novels for the stage, such as Charles Dickens' *Hard Times*, which runs at The West Yorkshire Playhouse next month. Beginning her acting career in the 1990s on the cobbles of *Coronation Street*, where she played Weatherfield regular Angie Freeman, Deborah has appeared regularly in BBC Radio Drama. Her theatre credits include work for London and regional theatres, and national touring. She last visited her old school in 2014 to present trophies and certificates at our annual presentation evening. Deborah is the sister of current staff member Mrs Price, Pupil Behaviour and Wellbeing Manager.



Deborah was quoted in the press this week paying compliments to her schooling. She said: "I was educated through the Catholic schools of Leeds and I have remained close to my roots. Higher education should be a gateway through which young people pass into fulfilled and productive lives." Deborah's official installation as Chancellor will take place on Friday 15 June 2018. She follows on in the role from another former Cardinal Heenan pupil, BBC Sports presenter Gabby Logan.



Holy Week Liturgy



It was a privilege to be part of our Holy Week service at the end of last term when 1,000 pupils and staff assembled in our school Sports Hall for a commemoration of The Passion of The Lord and liturgy based on the Easter Triduum. A special thanks to the many pupils who took leadership roles as readers, singers, actors and musicians. Thank you for parents and pupils who were so generous in your donations for the St Vincent's food bank. Monies are still coming in for the diocesan Good Shepherd appeal. Year 8 pupil Oliver Chadwick-Chaplin deserves a special mention for raising over £53 by a sponsored fun run.

Golden Owl Emma

Congratulations to Year 7 pupil Emma Kitson who was amongst the winners at this year's Leeds Young Filmmaker Golden Owl Awards. Emma's short animation *A Message in a Bottle* will be shown outdoors on the Leeds Big Screen in Millennium Square. The Golden Owl Awards celebrate the best new filmmaking talent from across the city. The world's first films were made in Leeds in 1888 by Louis le Prince and today our city is a leading centre for film culture. Congratulations to Emma on becoming part of a proud tradition.



University Debating

Year 11 pupils took part in the world's largest residential schools' debating competition at The University of Durham just before Easter. Congratulations to Year 11 pupils Joseph Grindrod, Ruby Joseph, Kate McDermott, Molly McWilliams, Sara Mendoza and Una Ward on producing outstanding performances. The event involved numerous debates, mainly against sixth formers from the independent sector. Schools attending this year included Eton College, Westminster School and Dulwich College. Motions were varied and included, 'This house believes that progressive political candidates and parties should refuse to accept donations from corporations and high net-worth individuals.' Our pupils were magnificent, as usual, gaining a couple of second places from four teams in some debates. Special thanks to Dr Bradley and Mrs Evans who gave

generously of their time in accompanying pupils to Durham for the weekend and in preparing pupils for this marvellous, aspirational opportunity.

Festival of Science



A group of Year 7 pupils attended The University of Leeds as part of the Festival of Science on 28 March for a whistle-stop tour of hands-on activities in medicine, sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics. There were opportunities to investigate the habitats of crayfish, to find out about neurons, to look at how the heart rate changes during exercise and much more.

Science Day at Leeds Beckett

Pupils visited Leeds Beckett University on 27 March for Science Circus where they enjoyed workshops and activities on robotics, speech and language therapy, computing, physiotherapy, acoustics, bioluminescence, dietetics, nutrition and nursing. The event represented the broad spectrum of scientific, technological and engineering-related degree courses available.

Politics Matters

Politics Matters is a well-established, annual event to promote engagement in the political life of Britain today. It gives pupils from schools across Leeds an opportunity to interact with councillors and political commentators. This year's event took place on 19 April at Leeds Beckett University and was presented by Dr Paul Wetherly, Reader in Politics at Leeds Beckett. Our Year 10 pupils met with James Vincent, BBC Yorkshire Political Editor, and Leeds Councillors Mohammed, Robinson, Bentley, Goodall and Smart to discuss local government, policies, manifestos and the role of local councillors. The event was organised by Cardinal Heenan and Roundhay School in partnership with the Politics and Applied Global Ethics Team of Leeds Beckett University.

Interviews for the Refugee Council mentoring scheme

Congratulations to Year 10 pupils Tessa Duffy, Ella Brownbill and Ciara Aveyard on being selected for interview as part of the Refugee Council mentoring scheme

Poetry Slam

Performance poet Andy Craven-Griffiths was in school recently as part of the school's collaboration with Ilkley Literature Festival. Our visiting poet worked with groups of pupils to discuss the writing process from inspiration to finished piece and to demonstrate ways to apply this process to creative writing. Pupils came up with their own performance poems for the forthcoming *Words in the City* project. The judges found it very tough to make a final decision but the two Cardinal Heenan teams going through to the final at the Carriageworks Theatre in May are: Oracene Drovi, Emma Hughes, Marella Diaye, Aaliyah Francis, Kya O'Reilly and Romai Thorpe for their poem about the nature of friendship and trust. A further team of Patrick Crowe, Ellie Walker, Lucy Moyo, Natalie Kangai and Alicja Gulmantowicz will present a poem as extended metaphor on a visit to the zoo to explore the impact of stereotyping and prejudice.

Special mentions are due to Alison Chokuda and Rachel Luzitu who were very sporting in congratulating other participants and continued their discussion about the pressures of social media expectations long after the selection day was completed. Dion Dube and Christian Chisadza led a group of much younger students (Henry Oduro, Aداugo Okofor and Anya Weaver) to share the theme of difficult personal experiences maturely and sensitively. Jordan Faba and Nathaniel Alota stepped out of their comfort zones and became fully involved in group performances.

Yours sincerely



P Whelan
Headteacher