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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Putting Our Faith in Education

20 May 2016

Dear Parents

DNA Workshops



Our pupils have been working here in school with research postgraduates from the Faculty of Biological Sciences at The University of Leeds to investigate DNA and its applications to research on skin and bowel cancer. They have been using a new portable biotechnology laboratory programme which introduces pupils to DNA and the technologies used to analyse it. The researchers answered questions from pupils about their research and about degree options and careers in bioscience. Topics covered included: *What is DNA? How does it work? How do we get it out of cells? How do we get enough DNA to be able to run experiments? How do we analyse it once we have it? What is polymerase chain reaction (PCR)? What is gel electrophoresis? What can we learn from extracted DNA?* It is hoped pupils will be inspired to choose science subjects beyond GCSE and consider a career in science. Pupils have been exploring our online DNA technology resource area at www.stem.leeds.ac.uk/DNA.

Traffic Problems in Meanwood

Leeds City Council have informed the school of planned roadworks in Meanwood from Monday 23 May for seven days. (Please see the school website for full details.) Traffic problems may delay journeys to and from school. Road users approaching from Meanwood and from the Ring Road are likely to be affected by road closures, diversions and temporary two way signals. Parents and pupils, especially GCSE examination candidates, are advised to take this into account when planning journeys to and from school next week.

No Mobile Phones in School

New guidelines for mobile phones will be put into place after half term i.e. with effect from Monday 6 June. The use of mobiles will be **forbidden on any part of the school premises**, including the school playgrounds and playing fields.

It is hoped that this will be considered an opportunity to make better use of time between classes with friends, to make best use of the school playing fields (if time and weather allows) and to develop a resilience to the demand that a phone can put upon the user. It is well documented that timewasting, bullying and overuse of social media can have a hugely detrimental effect on progress at school and on pupils' sense of wellbeing. Despite the work of staff with a number individuals, there is still an element of poor language and inappropriate messaging that occurs within the school.



New school rules which will be shared directly with pupils are:

- All mobile phone use is now forbidden **on all parts of the school premises**, including the school playgrounds and playing fields.
- If a student does bring a mobile phone in to school, it must be kept out of sight and remain switched off throughout the school day.
- If a phone is seen, a staff member will take the phone and it will not then be available for collection until the end of the school day.
- A second offence would result in the pupil losing the phone for a longer period of time.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones, whether this takes place on the school premises or while travelling to and from school.
- In the case of repeated warnings or in response to a serious breach of the rules we will withdraw our permission for the student to bring a mobile phone to school. Parents will be informed of this by letter and asked to support the school in its enforcement of the ban.

It is suggested that pupils leave their phones at home for the day. Students who need to contact a parent in an emergency should gain permission from their Form Tutor or Year Leader and ask to use one of the office phones. We will be very grateful for your support in this. It was clear at the recent Parents' Forum that the revised policy has the overwhelming support of parents. I would of course be happy to discuss any concerns that may arise from the new regime.

School Uniform

It is a requirement that all pupils, other than those in current Year 10, wear the new school uniform by September 2016. Our uniform suppliers are *APC Clothing* and *Jo Brand Plus*. Further details may be found on the school's website. The school's expectations and uniform requirements may be found on pages 23 to 25 of your child's planner and in the *Dress for Success* booklet on the school's website. <http://www.cardinalheenan.com/index.php/about-the-school/uniform>

Half Term

The half term holiday begins at 3.15pm on Friday 27 May for all pupils. School re-opens at 8.55am on Monday 6 June. Please ensure that pupils return to school after the break punctually, wearing correct school uniform and bringing with them a refillable plastic bottle for water. It is essential that pupils remain rehydrated and drink water regularly throughout the day in the warmer weather of the summer months.

Reflections in Refugee Week



The school is delighted to host an event in partnership with the Leeds branch of The Council of Christians and Jews next month. Dr Casey A. Strine will give a lecture entitled *Reflections in Refugee Week, How Involuntary Migration Shapes the Book of Genesis* in our school hall on Thursday 23 June at 7.00pm. The lecture will be of special interest to pupils in Years 8 and 9 who will be undertaking an in-depth study of Judaism and The Old Testament as part of the learning in preparation for the new GCSE in Religious studies. Dr Strine is a Vice-Chancellor's Fellow and Lecturer in Hebrew Bible at the University of Sheffield. The event is free of charge. All parents and pupils are invited.

Rugby Victors



The school's Year 9 boys' rugby team won the Sky Try Nines Cup tournament, held at Lawnswood School on Thursday 12 May. Year 7 boys were competition runners up, narrowly missing out in the final to Temple Moor High School. Congratulations to all our players and to Coach Mr Hayden.

Yours sincerely

E A Cox
Headteacher