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Dear Parents

School Council Elections

A new school council, consisting of ten pupils, will be elected by pupils in the coming weeks. The new body will represent pupils' opinions on school matters and raise issues with school leaders. It will meet for the first time before the end of term and then every week to discuss issues and propose solutions. One boy and one girl from each of Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be elected by pupils. (A boy and a girl to represent Year 11 will be elected by the *Pupil Leadership Team*. Elections to this body took place last term.) School Council members will be responsible for carrying out plans agreed. All pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 are invited to stand for election by writing a statement of no more than 140 characters on 'Why you should vote for me'. Candidates will present their statements during hustings at year group assemblies. Each pupil in Years 7 to 10 will have a vote. Parents, please encourage your child to consider standing. Candidates' election statements should be handed to Miss Whitford or Mrs Serra Clarke by Wednesday 2 December.



Careers Education

Our pupils have participated enthusiastically in a number of careers education events this month. Many thanks to all the organisations who provided mock careers interviews for Year 10 pupils earlier this week. The interviewers were: Sarah Smith of Sarah Smith Family Law; Carmel Gallagher, Omega Training Services Limited; Tara McGinley, UK Civil Service; Rebecca Smith, MITIE Group plc; Debbie Slater and Sakura Berry, Urquhart-Dykes and Lord LLP; Jean Hayles and Sharon Simister, Health Education Yorkshire and Humber; Nicola Foster, MITIE; Graham Fisher, Capita; Chris Cheesebrough and Celina Handalage, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust; Lynn Hemsall, LYCK Sweets Ltd; Mark Gardiner, Charles Warwick Ltd; Charese Lock, Lloyd's Banking Group;

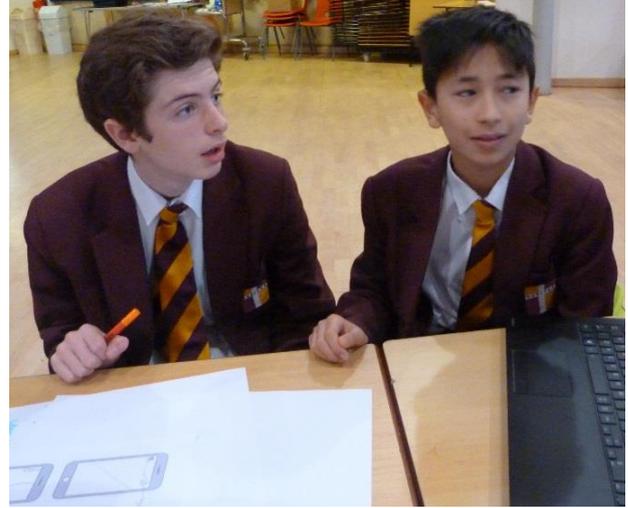
Graham Webb, Leeds Metropolitan University. Following a very successful day I received the following from Carmel Gallagher, *Director, Omega Training Services Limited*

'Thank you for inviting me to be part of the interview event today. I had the pleasure of meeting eight of your pupils, all of whom presented themselves exceptionally well. I was impressed by the obvious pride they take in wearing their school uniform. Though they had many and varied career aspirations, or indeed were still unsure about their next steps, they spoke with confidence and conviction. Please congratulate them on their performance: I would have been happy to employ every one of those I met. My thanks also to the staff team who organised the event. It ran without a hitch.'

The Leeds Catholic Careers Roadshow took place on 10 November at Corpus Christi Catholic College. The event was very well attended by our pupils and parents, including over 60 pupils from Years 10 and 11. Our attendees asked questions and gathered information to inform future career choices from over 40 exhibitors, including employers, apprenticeship providers, universities, the armed services, local sixth forms and further education colleges. It was very encouraging to see and hear our pupils engage so enthusiastically in helping to shape and determine their own destinies. It was equally pleasing to see Lizzie Elmslie, a pupil who left Cardinal Heenan two years ago, as an advocate promoting *Key Training Limited*, her employer. Lizzie's initial contact with this organisation was made at the same event when she was in Year 11!



Digital Day



Pupils in Years 8 and 9 enjoyed *BIMA Digital Day* on Tuesday 17 November. This is an initiative created by the British Interactive Media Association (BIMA) to introduce pupils to the possibility of embarking on a career in digital industries. Digital professionals visited us to give presentations on life in the industry. Pupils then worked on digital design, coding, mobile apps, social media and web development projects.

Henry V

Yesterday 30 pupils enjoyed an enthralling production of Shakespeare's *Henry V*, streamed to our school from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford upon Avon. It was a thrilling experience of Shakespearean theatre at its very best.

Feedback from Parent Forum Meeting

Parents gave their views on reporting pupil achievement and attainment at last Wednesday's forum. As you will be aware, the Department for Education has announced that there will no longer be National Curriculum levels; schools have been given the freedom to set up their own systems for assessing pupils' learning. As a result, primary schools across the country will not use levels to define pupil attainment at the end of Year 6. Continued levelling against National Curriculum levels at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) is no longer possible. The grading system for GCSE is also changing, as outlined in previous letters. It is for this reason that the school will identify a new system for reporting pupil progress to parents which is clear, accurate and informative.

A review of school uniform by parents at the forum produced the following results:

	Yes	No	Other
The new school uniform was introduced well	90%	-	10%
The phased introduction of the uniform is appropriate	95%	-	5%
The costs of uniform are reasonable	50%	30%	20%
APC make the uniform easily available	30%	60%	10%
The PE Kit is appropriate	86%	14%	-
Current options on sports legwear should be maintained	68%	16%	16%
<i>Dress for Success</i> has improved standards of uniform	90%	-	10%

Issues raised included:

- Finding good use for old school uniform
- Higher costs involved when ordering on line, due to delivery charges
- Desire to have a local school uniform supplier, providing more competition with APC
- Improve the quality of the *clip on* school tie

If you wish provide to feedback on these or any issues, please contact school at info@cardinalheenan.com. Parental views on sportswear for girls, particularly whether sport leggings should be worn as an alternative to shorts or tracksuit bottoms, would be very welcome. The next Parents Forum is scheduled for Tuesday 22 March at 7.00pm. Please make this a date for your diary and let me know of any topics you wish to see discussed.

Music

A new IT development in school gives all our pupils free access to the sheet music creation software *Finale Notepad*. This software enables pupils to compose, playback and print sheet music at home. A more fully-featured version of the software, *Finale Songwriter*, is installed on computers in the music department. Pupils may therefore complete music assignments at home and in school. Instructions on how to download *Finale NotePad* may be found on the school website under useful links for students:

<http://www.cardinalheenan.leeds.sch.uk/component/content/article?id=255> A short user-guide for pupils is attached.

British Comic Awards

Last Friday, six students from Years 9 and 10 attended the *British Comic Awards* ceremony at Leeds Art Gallery. They enjoyed presentations from the nominated authors about their graphic novels and comics and participated in a drawing workshop led by the creators of *Team Ketchup* comics, based at Skipton Library. Pupils shared their own drawings, in inks, crayon and paints, with the nominated authors. The highlight of the day was a meeting with EdieOP. She commented that the illustrations of Amber Midgley, Year 10, were 'absolutely amazing'! (*For the uninitiated...* EdieOP, a pen name, is the author of the popular graphic novel *Maleficium*.)

Tutor Evening

Parents of Year 7 pupils are invited to meet their child's tutor on Tuesday 24 November from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. Please contact school without delay if you have not yet made your appointment. We look forward to seeing many parents on Tuesday.

Examination Season

Year 11 mock examinations also begin on Tuesday of next week with GCSE Art controlled tests. Formal written papers begin on Thursday 26 November and continue until Tuesday 15 December. These are very important examinations that will give pupils, parent and the school a very clear indication of how pupils are progressing at this final stage of compulsory formal education. Good luck, Year 11!

Book Fair

The lunchtime book fair will now run from Monday 23 November to Thursday 26 November, as part of our continuing drive to encourage pupils to read for pleasure. Over 200 titles will be available including fantasy, thrillers, non-fiction, comedy and lots more. Prices start from £2.99. There will be opportunities for parents of Year 7 pupils to review and buy new books at the Tutor Evening on Tuesday. Every pupil who purchases a book will be entered into a prize draw for £15 worth of free books and asked to nominate books they would like to see in the library. There is an opportunity to win a further £10 for the best book review. Please support the initiative and encourage your child to read a book for pleasure.

Training Day

Please remember that Monday 30 November is a staff training day when there will be no school for pupils. School begins again on Tuesday 1 December at 8.55am.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E A Cox', with a stylized flourish at the end.

E A Cox, Headteacher