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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Putting Our Faith in Education

21 October 2016

Dear Parents

Visit to the First World War Battlefields



Thirty nine of our pupils and six staff have just returned from a four day residential educational visit to the First World War battlefields in northern France and Belgium. They visited the site of the Battle of the Somme, the Passchendaele Museum, Thiepval Memorial, the Tyne Cot and Langemark cemeteries and took part in a ceremony of the last post at the Menin Gate, a moving tribute to the courage and self-sacrifice of those who fell. The photograph shows Emma Wolstencroft and Cameron Bradbury standing alongside the ceremonial buglers and in front of the memorial which bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known. Our pupils laid a wreath on behalf of the Cardinal Heenan community. This valuable educational visit enabled pupils to engage in historical enquiry about different aspects of the war. It was led by

Mr Wild, Curriculum Leader for History, accompanied by Dr Bradley, Mrs Booth, Mrs Evans, Mrs Langan and Mrs Powell-Wiffen.

Festival Stage for Isaac and James

Two of our Year 8 pupils have been recognised as gifted writers of poetry by the Ilkley Literature Festival. Isaac Rose and James Preston, Year 8, were invited to read their own work before an audience at this year's festival. *Word Blend* was sponsored by the Ilkley Book Group. The boys attended a residential course in creative writing over the summer. Their work is printed below.

Remember

Remember cold, crisp autumn mornings, senses clouded by an aroma of black Italian coffee.
Remember warm summer days spent dozing in a lounge, soaking up radiant sun beams.
Remember cool air dancing in warm wind at dry coast, those spring months working late into night.
But now... air thick with fog and ash, barren landscape stretching miles, grass and trees dead.
Every minute could be your last.
The sun bleaching everything bone dry under its blanket of light.
Remember.
Isaac Rose



Stephen Lawrence
EDUCATION STANDARD

Turning

Only the sea waves to me now,
 Only the reeds will bow.
 Only the sun will smile down,
 Only the moon can frown.
 Only the cold to make me cry,
 Only my reflection to ever ask why.
 But there is no turning back.

Only the blanket of leaves embrace me,
 Only memories to accept my apologies.
 Only the floor to catch my fall,
 Only the climb will make me tall.
 Only others turn from happy to sad,
 Only others feel angry and mad.
 But there is no turning back.



Only the light can let me look,
 Only I can run out of luck.
 Only the fallen trees to hear me,
 Only if I could flee.
 Only the stars to give me direction,
 Only the earth to give me affection.
 But there is no turning back.

I am nothing. I have no history.
 What will happen is still a mystery.
 Am I space or pain or discovery?
 Am I just in eternal recovery?
 Am I the future, the past, the unknown?
 Am I just seeds that haven't been sown?
 I am nothing, a mystery,
 A discovery waiting to happen.

James Preston

International Prize for Emily

Congratulations to former Cardinal Heenan pupil Emily Dee on winning an international poetry prize. Emily, now 17, has won a Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award. Her poem, printed below, was selected from more than 6,000 entries from across the world. The award is organised by The Poetry Society.

The Causeway, Lindisfarne

In spring, when frost delays departure,
 the wooden pillars lock, speared into the sand.
 Snails creep across the rough bark,
 varnishing the rugged wood,
 seeking moonlight in the higher altitude.
 Tearful seals raise their sombre heads to the sky,
 smoothing the sharp rocks with their melancholy sighs.
 Moss-cloaked barriers restrain the sea
 as screaming winds power forwards
 and the moon, a silent engine,
 drags the weary water across the sand.
Emily Dee

May They Rest in Peace

It has been a week of funerals. Some of our pupils attended the Requiem Mass for Bishop David Konstant, as choristers and servers, at Leeds Cathedral on Tuesday. Another funeral took place in the cathedral the following day: Fr Michael O'Reilly was a teacher of religious education and mathematics here from 1965 to 1972, in the days of St Thomas Aquinas Grammar School. He is remembered as a dedicated, energetic teacher and a faithful priest of the diocese for the past 52 years. He would have been 82 this week. The funeral for Mr Theo Pinto-Fernandes, a most committed governor of our school, takes place at the Immaculate Heart church today. Our school community has been greatly blessed by the service of these three men. *Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Guide to Courses for Year 9

Thank you to the Year 9 parents and pupils who attended our Information Evening last Wednesday. Advice was given on how parents can provide support for pupils preparing for the new GCSEs and other examinations. In the week after half term all Year 9 pupils will be given a *Guide to Courses at KS4* and asked to take this home to parents. This booklet, distributed at the meeting, gives details of the main topics to be covered in each specification, tips for parents and useful websites for research and revision etc. The presentations delivered may be seen on the curriculum page of the school website: <http://www.cardinalheenan.com/index.php/curriculum/curriculum-overview>

Year 11 Skills Building Day



All our Year 11 pupils enjoyed a day of skills building activities last Tuesday. It included a focus on study skills and revision strategies in preparation for mock examinations, assistance in making post-16 education applications, writing personal statements and interview preparation. Pupils also participated in *Restart a Heart Day* and received training from Yorkshire Ambulance service in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). We were pleased to welcome Major Stan M Hardy, Deputy Lieutenant and The Queen's representative in West Yorkshire, who attended in support of the event.

Feast of All Saints

Our priest chaplain, Fr Sean Crawley, will celebrate Mass for all pupils in Years 7 and 8 on Tuesday 1 November, the Feast of All Saints. Pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 will have an opportunity to attend Mass at 1.00pm, just before lunch.

Presentation Evening for the Class of 2016 on Thursday 3 November

Former Year 11 pupils and their parents, members of staff and governors will be attending our annual Presentation Evening on Thursday 3 November in the School Hall. Our former pupils are asked to register from 7.00pm onwards to enable a prompt start at 7.30pm. This year's guest speaker is Fabian Hamilton, MP for Leeds North East and Shadow Minister for Defence & Foreign Affairs.

Any finally...

The school closes for the autumn half term break this afternoon and re-opens to pupils at 8.55am on Monday 31 October. Enjoy the holiday!

Yours sincerely

E A Cox
Headteacher