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**CARDINAL HEENAN**  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
*Putting Our Faith in Education*

22 April 2016

Dear Parents

### Raising Aspirations



Year 9 pupils enjoyed a very lively presentation by Andrew Muhammad this week, as part of the Access and Widening Participation programme of Leeds Beckett University. The project is designed to raise aspirations and attainment in order to help young people to prepare for and succeed in university life. The talk was a precursor to our forthcoming *Flood a School* event, where university student ambassadors from different faculties will be available to answer our pupils' questions about specific courses and university life.

### Music Award

A bronze certificate in music has just been awarded to our school in recognition of the high musical standards achieved by our pupils and staff. Cardinal Heenan is ranked in 632rd place amongst the nation's schools, due to our excellent GCSE results in Music last year. The award was made by the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM), the UK's professional body for musicians.

### County Honours

Congratulations to Joanne Harrington, Year 7, on being selected for the Yorkshire girls' county age group cricket squad for the new season. Playing for one's county is great honour! Joanne has been rewarded for much hard work and commitment to the sport.

### Visit of Author Cathy Cassidy

The bestselling children's author Cathy Cassidy will be in school on Wednesday 27 April. She will be speaking to pupils about the writing process and her new novel *Broken Heart Club*, published this week. Research shows that author events in schools inspire children and help them on their journey to a love of reading.

### Book Fair

Last week's Book Fair took a grand total of £424. Books worth £169 will be donated to our school library as a result. Many thanks to all pupils and parents who supported the event.



### **Shakespeare's Birthday**

A group of Year 9 pupils saw a new production of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, streamed live to one of our classrooms from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford upon Avon, on Thursday, 21 April. *Young Shakespeare Nation* is a project led by The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), in conjunction with the Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts. It will make all of Shakespeare's plays accessible to children across the country. Our pupils have seen a number of RSC productions recently, including *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Henry V*, *Love's Labour's Lost* and *All's Well That Ends Well*. They have joined others from schools across Britain and as far away as the USA and Australia in some of the largest live classroom events ever held. Teaching resources provided in advance by the RSC are enabling our pupils to gain the most from the performances. The experience is helpful in preparing pupils for the demanding new GCSEs in English Literature which will have increased emphasis on understanding the works of our country's greatest writer.

Tomorrow, 23 April, the country commemorates 400 years since the death of the bard. Our pupils have been encouraged to sample some of the many broadcast events this weekend, especially *Shakespeare Live* from the RSC on BBC2 at 8.30pm on Saturday.

### **Educational Visit to Spain**

There are still places left on our educational visit to Spain next year. The trip takes place from Friday 26 May to Monday 29 May 2017. The price of £635 includes return flights with coach transfers, accommodation at a three-star hotel, all meals, and a wide range of programmes, visits and excursions to destinations including Barcelona and Montserrat, the famous mountain-top Basilica and monastery. Please ask your child to see Mrs Stanton for details.

### **Parent Forum, Wednesday 4 May**

A Parent Forum takes place each term and provides opportunity for parents to raise questions, provide feedback and meet members of school leadership team. The next forum will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 4 May. Please email school [info@cardinalheenan.com](mailto:info@cardinalheenan.com) if there is a particular topic that you would like the forum to discuss. All parents are invited to attend.

### **Bank Holiday, Monday 2 May**

Please note that the school will be closed on Monday 2 May. Classes resume as normal at 8.55am on Tuesday 3 May.

### **Saying Goodbye**

Today we will be saying goodbye to Mr R Lian, who has been the school's ICT Systems Manager for the last four years and eight months. In fact he has been with the school for 10 years if we count a previous innings. He has managed our school ICT network and developed it into one of the most advanced in any Leeds school. All our pupils have 24/7 secure remote access to their school files and to a free copy of Microsoft Office. (See the school website for details.) We thank him for his significant contribution to the work of the school. He is taking up the post of Information Technology Manager for West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. <http://www.cardinalheenan.com/index.php/useful-links/for-students>

Cover assistants Miss Liversidge and Miss Ryder have also moved on to new posts. We wish our leavers every success in the future.

### Feedback from Parents

Thank you to parents who attended the recent Year 7 Parents' Evening. Responses to the questionnaire indicate high levels of parental satisfaction. Parental views on the work of the school are always welcome. Please contact us by telephone 887 3240 or email [info@cardinalheenan.com](mailto:info@cardinalheenan.com).

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Total
My child is happy in school.	56%	44%	0%	0%	0%	100%
My child is making good progress at school.	51%	48%	1%	0%	0%	100%
Pupils behave well in school.	40%	55%	3%	1%	1%	100%
Teaching is good.	47%	53%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best.	58%	42%	0%	0%	0%	100%
The homework given builds well on what my child learns at school.	41%	54%	1%	0%	4%	100%
My child has adequate amounts of homework.	29%	55%	11%	0%	5%	100%
Staff treat all children fairly and with respect.	50%	46%	0%	0%	4%	100%
My child is encouraged to be healthy and to take regular exercise.	40%	51%	4%	0%	5%	100%
My child is safe and is well cared for at school.	55%	44%	0%	1%	0%	100%
Bullying incidents are dealt with effectively in school.	35%	42%	1%	0%	22%	100%
I am kept informed about my child's progress.	40%	53%	6%	0%	1%	100%
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions, suggestions or a problem.	44%	52%	3%	0%	1%	100%
I understand the school's procedure for dealing with complaints.	32%	56%	5%	0%	7%	100%
My child knows who to go to if there is a problem.	51%	49%	0%	0%	0%	100%
The school welcomes the views of parents.	42%	51%	1%	0%	6%	100%
There is a good range of activities including trips or visits.	35%	56%	6%	0%	3%	100%
The school is well run.	49%	50%	1%	0%	1%	100%
The school's proposal to replace the headteacher's weekly letter with frequent news items on the school website will keep me better informed.	33%	40%	15%	4%	8%	100%

Yours sincerely



E A Cox  
Headteacher