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24 February 2017

Dear Parents

### Karate World Championship Medal for Alicia

Congratulations to Year 11 pupil Alicia Hu on being awarded bronze medal at the recent Karate World Championships. This is a highly impressive achievement, especially as Alicia started competing only last year. She also won third place in the European Championships and has gained a place on the England team! She now needs our votes after being nominated for a *Yorkshire Choice* award, in the *Young Sporting Achievement* category, following her world class performance. Please vote for Alicia and encourage others to do so:

<https://wetherbyhour.wufoo.com/forms/zb02ymh0vqnrri/>

Voting is open until 1 March 2017

### Lent 2017

Our Lenten programme begins next week with Ash Wednesday services for all year groups. A 'Good Shepherd', one of the titles given to Jesus in the Gospels, cares for all of his sheep, especially those who are most vulnerable. This Lent our pupils will be supporting the diocesan wide Good Shepherd appeal, a fundraising initiative to raise money for the work of Catholic Care and other charities that the school chooses to support. Plans are underway for the various fundraising activities. Catholic Care supports many needy families in our own communities with food, clothing and the basic necessities of life. It runs a residential children's home for young people who can no longer live with their own families. The charity supports children with learning disabilities, particularly those with autism spectrum disorder, and provides homes with care and support for adults with a learning disability. Here at Cardinal Heenan, a qualified member of Catholic Care's social work service comes into school each week to provide advice, support and counselling for pupils and their families.



Our pupils are being encouraged to pray, fast and give this Lent. They are very imaginative in their fundraising efforts for *Catholic Care*. Thank you for the support that you offer.

### Staff Training

It was good to see our pupils again on Tuesday after the half-term break last week. Staff returned to school on Monday for a very busy training day. Sessions included *Expectations and Obligations of Staff on The Catholic Ethos of the School* led by Fr Michael Hall of Barnabas Education. This was followed by meetings and workshops on: strategies for effective teaching and learning; improving the progress of pupils', including barriers to learning for disadvantaged pupils; and performance management. Health and safety training included: basic first aid; sessions on the use of Epi-pens and the school defibrillator; staff responses to issues such as choking and obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and its effects on young people.

### Early School Closure for Pupils on Wednesday 1 March

The school will close to pupils at 1.20pm on **Wednesday 1 March**. School buses will collect pupils from school at 1.30pm after an early lunch. Parents, please contact school without delay if this early closure causes you childcare problems. Pupils who are unable to get home may remain in school, supervised by staff, until 3.15pm. Normal lessons will be suspended. The time gained will be used by staff in training for raising achievement as part of the school's strategies for attaining consistently high levels of pupil progress.



**Year 11 Mock Examinations in English Language and Mathematics**

GCSE mock examinations in English Language and Mathematics for Year 11 pupils will take place in school from Wednesday to Friday next week. Following the marking of these papers, pupils will be provided with information about the recommended areas for improvement suggested by their answers. In order to have maximum impact on GCSE examination performance, subsequent lessons in English and Maths will focus on these identified areas. Teaching will be targeted at the relevant knowledge and skills to be improved. Resources to revise gaps in knowledge and skills will be provided.

All our Year 11 pupils now have free access to two PiXL apps for smartphone and tablet (GCSE mathematics and GCSE English Literature) to help them identify their strengths and area to develop in these subjects. Users of the apps report improved examination skills. Details have been given to pupils by their teachers. Please encourage your child to make use of these excellent resources.

**Ski Trip**

A group of Cardinal Heenan pupils and staff who spent half-term at the Italian ski resort of Sestriere arrived back safely last Saturday evening. The alpine village provided an ideal location for our 54 pupils. I am grateful to the visit leader Mr Teggart and to his team of Mr Hartwell, Miss Bishop, Miss Thomas, Mr Richmond and Miss Donnelly and for giving up their half term holiday to accompany our pupils.

**Preparing for Confirmation**

Pupils who live in the parish of Blessed John Henry Newman Parish (the churches of St. Theresa, Crossgates; St. Gregory, Swarcliffe; and Corpus Christi, Osmondthorpe) and who are in Year 8 are invited to take part in a programme of preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. Application forms are available at the back of each church. For further information contact Mary Gairn, Parish Administrator 264 5260. Please respond by the end of February.

Yours sincerely



E A Cox  
*Headteacher*