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Dear Parents

Reading for Pleasure

The school is about to launch a Reading for Pleasure scheme for all pupils in Key Stage 3. Inspiring a love of reading in our pupils has always been an important aim of the school. The novels which pupils study in their English lessons are carefully selected so that they are enjoyable, accessible, challenging and thought provoking for pupils. The school strives to ensure that this enjoyment of literature does not end when the pupils leave the classroom, despite the attraction of social media, computer games and television.

Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be given a *Reading Passport* by their English teachers next week. This document will contain the names of four *core texts* that your child will be expected to have read by the end of the school year in July 2016. Each core text will present something new and interesting and will capture the imagination. At times pupils may find elements of the text challenging: this will help them improve their reading ability. Reading the four core texts is a minimum expectation: we hope to see pupils reading many more. The texts are differentiated and suitable for each child's reading ability. We believe that the level of challenge within these texts will enhance and develop reading, literacy, writing, imagination and critical thinking skills.

All core texts may be borrowed from our school library. We suggest that local public libraries are used too. Parents may, of course, wish to buy copies of the recommended texts. They are widely available.

Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will have a designated *Reading for Pleasure* lesson, once a fortnight, as part of the English curriculum. During this lesson pupils will read the chosen book and will be set challenges and tasks in order to engage with characters, themes and structure and to think critically about author's craft. As your child completes a book, there will be a place in the reading passport for you to sign and date, as proof that extra reading is taking place.

In addition to dedicated time in English lessons, pupils in **all** year groups will be reading during registration time every Monday and Wednesday. It is expected that all pupils at Cardinal Heenan will have the selected *Reading for Pleasure* book with them at all times during the school day. As part of promoting a love of reading across the school, pupils will occasionally be asked to read in other subjects. They will also take part in dedicated *Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)* time once a term. During our annual enhancement week in July a *Reading for Pleasure* day will include activities based on the books which pupils have been reading during the year. There will also be visits by authors and a series of reading workshops.

This scheme is part of a national initiative to promote reading within schools. In addition, pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 are about to embark upon an entirely new English curriculum. Success in this new programme of study depends upon the ability to read, evaluate and analyse texts effectively. By encouraging your child to read, you will be enabling him or her to access a range of complex texts and supporting progress across the curriculum.

A printed copy of a booklet for parents of pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be sent home next week. It offers tips on how to share in the enjoyment of reading with your children. Our *Reading for Pleasure* scheme relies on parental support. We hope that you will encourage your child to read more frequently. There is a comprehensive reading list in your child's passport. *The Times Education Supplement's* recommended reading list for young people has been combined with our own suggestions. I know that we can rely on the support of parents in promoting the love of reading.



Mass of Welcome

Parents of Year 7 pupils are asked to note that the Mass of Welcome for Year 7 pupils will take place at 7.00pm in the school Hall next Tuesday, 29 September. This is a family event and you are very welcome to bring members of your family with you. Year 7 pupils should attend the evening in full school uniform. I look forward to seeing pupils and their parents.

Open Evening for Parents of Pupils in Primary Schools, Monday 5 October, at 7.30pm

Parents of pupils currently in primary schools are invited to find out about what the school has to offer your child: high academic achievement; excellent teaching; superb learning facilities; many clubs, sports and activities; pastoral care and support. The evening is an occasion to meet the school's senior staff. This evening is for parents only. Please do not bring children to this meeting.

Early School Closure Due to Open Day Planning: 1.20pm on Friday 9 October

School will close to pupils at 1.20pm on Friday 9 October in order to allow staff to make preparations for Open Day which will take place the following day, Saturday 10 October. The morning session will take place with lessons as normal until 12.15pm, followed by lunchtime. School buses will collect pupils at 1:20pm and leave the school grounds at 1.30pm. If you have difficulty making safe provision for your child due to the early closure, please contact Mrs Martland at school (887 3240) before Wednesday 7 October, in order that supervision arrangements may be put in place.

Open Day for Everyone, Saturday 10 October, 11.00am – 1.30pm

Everyone is invited to see the school at work at our Open Day. Meet our pupils and staff. Join in many quizzes, games, challenges and fun activities. Find out about an education for your child at Cardinal Heenan. Open Day is for everyone: children, parents, friends and family. All welcome!

Training Day on Monday 12 October

Please remember that Monday 12 October is a staff training day when there will be no school for pupils. School begins again on Tuesday 13 October at 8.55am.

See the School in Action, Wednesday 14 October, 9.30am and 11.30am

Parents of pupils currently in primary schools are invited to see our pupils and staff in action on a typical working day. Two guided tours will take place at 9.30am and 11.30am. Please book your place by ringing Mrs Martland on 887 3240.

Yours sincerely



E A Cox, Headteacher