

Tongue Lane, Leeds LS6 4QE

Telephone: (0113) 887 3240
Facsimile: (0113) 294 0320
E-mail: info@cardinalheenan.com
Website: www.cardinalheenan.com
Headteacher: Miss E A Cox MA MBA



CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Putting Our Faith in Education

26 February 2016

Dear Parents

Ski Trip

A group of Cardinal Heenan pupils and staff who spent half-term at the Italian ski resort of Folgaria arrived back safely in the small hours of last Sunday morning. The mountains of Trentino in northern Italy provided an unforgettable backdrop for our 42 pupils. Snow conditions were excellent. Nine pupils were experienced skiers. The 31 beginners made huge strides forward. After six days most had perfected snow ploughs and parallel turns: some conquered the most challenging black runs. The week ended with pupils testing their skills, each group racing down a prepared slalom course. Gold medals went to Cameron Leeds, Joe Fitzpatrick, Dylan Charlesworth and Orla Flannery. Après-ski activities included tobogganing, ice skating, tubing and bowling. I am grateful to the visit leader Mr Teggart and to his team of Mr Hartwell, Miss Thomas, Mr Richmond, Mr Palmer and Miss Bishop for giving up their half term holiday to accompany our pupils. Preparations are already underway for a future trip.



Good Shepherd Appeal 2016

Bishop Marcus has written to pupils, staff and parents asking us to make a big effort in raising funds for this year's Good Shepherd Appeal in support of Catholic Care. This charity helps disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our own communities. 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. Bishop Marcus writes: 'Our Lord knows the burdens we have in our lives. He also knows our great desire to find joy and fulfilment. In the last year Catholic Care held nearly 15,000 one to one sessions with children and young people in our schools and with families who were experiencing difficult times in their lives'. Catholic Care supports many needy families 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.

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.

Standards of School Uniform

Standards of uniform have improved greatly since the introduction of new burgundy school blazers last September. Pupils across all year groups have opted in to the new uniform and it is clear that pupils are also proud to wear the new PE kit. I am grateful for the support of parents and the hard work of school staff in achieving these standards. Parents and pupils are reminded of the school's rules on uniform, make-up, trousers, skirt lengths and jewellery. Recently a number of pupils have not been coming to school in appropriate footwear. Please note that trainers and plimsoll style shoes are not permitted. The school's expectations and uniform requirements may be found on pages 23 to 25 of your child's planner and in the *Dress for Success* booklet on the school's website.

<http://www.cardinalheenan.com/index.php/about-the-school/uniform>



Stephen Lawrence
EDUCATION STANDARD

As you are aware, it is a requirement that all pupils other than those in current Year 10, wear the new school uniform by September 2016. Our uniform suppliers are *APC Clothing* and *Jo Brand Plus*. Further details may be found on the school's website

Election Success for Scarlet

Congratulations to Year 10 pupil Scarlet Rowe, 15, on being elected to represent Leeds at the UK Youth Parliament. The election result was announced at a special event at Leeds Civic Hall last week. Scarlet campaigned on a manifesto to improve bus transport, including free travel for young people. She will now regularly meet with MPs and local councillors, organise events, run campaigns, make speeches, hold debates and ensure that the views of young people are listened to by decision makers. Scarlet told the **Yorkshire Evening Post**: "I think that UK Youth Parliament is really important to ensure that young people's voices are heard. We are the future. It shows how our generation really can make a difference." <http://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/latest-news/top-stories/a-new-generation-of-politicians-for-leeds-1-7741855>



Drop Everything and Read, Thursday 3 March

The whole school will take part in another dedicated *Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)* time on Thursday 3 March when all pupils and staff will spend 25 minutes in silent reading. This activity is part of a national initiative to promote reading within schools. Please remind your child to bring a reading book to school every day. It is important that it is to hand next Thursday. By encouraging your child to read, you will be supporting progress across the curriculum. Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been given a *Reading Passport* by their English teachers. This document lists 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.



Next Thursday is also *World Book Day*.

A book token will be given to all pupils by English teachers. Your child can then take the token to a bookshop and get £1 off any full price book or audio book, as long as it would normally cost at least £2.99. The tokens are valid from Monday 29 February until Sunday 27th March. Alternatively, tokens may be swapped for one of two exclusive, new and completely free books: *Spot the Difference* by Juno Dawson or *Kindred Spirits* by Rainbow Rowell.

Author Martyn Bedford will be coming in to school to meet pupils on Tuesday 8 March. He will be reading from his new book *Twenty Questions for Gloria*. Our

Catch Your Pet Reading photographic competition closes on Tuesday 1 March. It has attracted some interesting entries.

Music Showcase, Tuesday 1 March

Mrs Keith, Curriculum Leader of Music, and Miss Hill, Teacher of Music, have organised a showcase event in which our GCSE Music students will perform live to an audience on Tuesday 1 March at 7.00pm in our School Hall. Parents of pupils involved are regular attenders but the talents of our students are worthy of wider appreciation. Please join us for a foot-tapping evening. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Mrs Keith at school for more information.

Year 9 Parents' Evening, Thursday 3 March

If you are the parent of a Year 9 pupil, please ensure that you have made appointments with your child's subject teachers to attend the Parents' Evening on Thursday 3 March, 4.00-7.00pm. Every parent should make the effort to attend in order that we can provide you with valuable information regarding your child's progress and work together to ensure the very best outcomes across the subjects. Miss Stott, Achievement Leader and Miss Waite, Year Manager, will be in attendance and are available for appointments to meet with parents.

Early School Closure for Pupils on Tuesday 8 March

The school will close to pupils at 1.20pm on Tuesday 8 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.

Goodbye to Mrs Jennings

Just before half-term we said goodbye to Mrs Jennings, Lead Learning Mentor since 2005, who has moved on to another post. We are grateful for her work in supporting vulnerable pupils and we wish her well for the future.

Yours sincerely



E A Cox
Headteacher