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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

26 January 2018

Dear Parents

School Council



School Council met this week for a working breakfast, embarking on brainstorming sessions to highlight issues and suggest improvements to the experience of pupils in school. The Council is divided into four focus groups: environment; teaching and learning; welfare and wellbeing; citizenship, political voice and student health. The session provided those involved with opportunities to develop employability skills such as leadership, communication, listening and teamwork.

The Council members are: Ruby Joseph, Molly McWilliams, Lydia Berha, Joseph Grindrod, Kate McDermott, Ben Boam, Christian Tchokogoue and Molly Innes (Year 11); Jessica Hamilton, Dion Dube, Dominic Laverty and Jack Burke (Year 10); Folefac Efuetajong and George Rowley (Year 9); Alex Franz and Bronte McCann (Year 8); Mason Villa and Niamh Birks (Year 7)

Olympic Goal for Conor



Former Cardinal Heenan pupil Conor Loftus, who left us 2010, has been making the news recently. Conor, a boxer for the Great Britain team, hopes to be selected for the GB team at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. He was a winner in the 2017 Elite Three Nations boxing competition, adding the trophy to his Amateur Boxing Association senior titles gained in 2014 and 2015. Such is Conor's determination that he has postponed university studies in order to take up boxing full time. Read more at: <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/sport/boxing/boxer-conor-loftus-aims-to-put-down-an-olympic-marker-at-gb-championships-1-8896432>



New Mission Statement



School Council members have been discussing our school's Mission Statement and making suggestions about how its wording might be updated and made more accessible to all members of our school community. Following our pupils' input the debate will be widened to involve teachers, parents and school governors.

Debating

Cardinal Heenan pupils have won through to the 2018 final of *Debate Matters* after a series of qualifying rounds. Molly McWilliams and Kate McDermott proposed the motion *This House Should Welcome the Advent of Human Genome Editing*. In a separate contest Joseph Grindrod and Ruby Joseph opposed the motion *This House Believes We Should Accept the Risks Inherent in Contact Sports*. Both teams were pitted against speakers from Carr Manor School and won their debates, following some searching and in-depth questioning by judges and members of the audiences. Molly McWilliams also won Best Speaker. The *Debate Matters* competition is organised by *The Leeds Salon*, a public forum for debate around contemporary political, cultural and scientific issues. The qualifying rounds in which our pupils were involved took place between schools in the north of the city. Similar qualifying rounds for schools from central and east Leeds are underway. We will be notified shortly which schools we will face in the final. It will be held at the Headingley Enterprise and Arts Centre on 21 March as part of the Headingley Festival of Ideas.



Wednesday 31 January: Year 8 Parents' Evening, from 4.00pm to 7.00pm

All Year 8 parents are invited to meet with their children's subject teachers on Wednesday evening next week. Year 8 pupils will be considering option choices for KS4 in the coming weeks: this is a good opportunity to discuss curriculum choices with subject teachers. We look forward to seeing large numbers of parents on this occasion.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 31 January:	Year 8 Parents' Evening, from 4.00pm to 7.00pm
Thursday 1 February:	Issue of Progress Reports for Pupils in Years 7, 9 and 11
Thursday 8 February:	Ski Trip to Sestriere, Italy (until Thursday 15 February)
Friday 9 February:	School Closes for Half Term
Sunday 18 February:	Year 11 Retreat to Ampleforth until Tuesday 20 February
Monday 19 February:	Staff Training Day: School Closed to Pupils
Tuesday 20 February:	School Re-opens after Half Term
Tuesday 20 February:	Year 11 PiXL Examinations in English & Maths (until Thursday 22 February)

Yours sincerely



P Whelan
Headteacher