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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Putting Our Faith in Education

27 May 2016

Dear Parents

Leeds Book Awards

20 students in Years 7 to 10 attended the Leeds Book Awards at Pudsey Civic Hall on Wednesday. They met several authors, including Lisa Williamson who was awarded the 14-16 prize for her powerful novel *The Art of Being Normal*. Our pupils relished discussing *Jessica's Ghost* with writer Andrew Norris. He won the 11-14 award for his heartfelt tale of teenage friendship and the supernatural. Our pupils Cindy Moyo and Alessia Da Costa were praised for insightful questions to Lisa Heathfield, author of *Seed*, Cardinal Heenan's pick of the 14-16 shortlist. All our students represented the school creditably and greatly enjoyed discussing the shortlisted titles with the authors and students from schools across the city.



A Testing Time

Our Year 11 students have made a fine start to an intensive period of GCSE examinations. These continue unabated after the half-term break. Study leave begins this afternoon. Year 9 pupils take their examinations from Monday 6 June until Friday 17 June. We hope that all our examination candidates will make good use of the week ahead to follow a programme of revision, using the resources provided by teachers. The Year 11 Leavers' Mass will be celebrated on the morning of Tuesday 21 June. Parents are invited to join their children for their last Mass in school. The Year 11 Prom follows on Wednesday 22 June.

No Mobile Phones in School

New guidelines for mobile phones will be introduced after half term i.e. with effect from Monday 6 June. The use of mobiles will be **forbidden on any part of the school premises**, including the school playgrounds and playing fields.

It is hoped that this will be considered an opportunity for pupils to make better use of time between classes with friends, to make best use of the school playing fields (if time and weather allows) and to develop a resilience to the demand that a phone can put upon the user. It is well documented that timewasting, bullying and overuse of social media can have a hugely detrimental effect on progress at school and on pupils' sense of wellbeing. Despite the work of staff with a number of individuals, there is still an element of poor language and inappropriate messaging that occurs within the school.

New school rules which will be shared directly with pupils are:

- All mobile phone use is forbidden **on all parts of the school premises**, including the school playgrounds and playing fields.
- If a student does bring a mobile phone in to school, it must be kept out of sight and remain switched off throughout the school day.
- If a phone is seen, a staff member will take the phone and it will not then be available for collection until the end of the school day.
- A second offence would result in the pupil losing the phone for a longer period of time.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones, whether this takes place on the school premises or while travelling to and from school.



- In the case of repeated warnings or in response to a serious breach of the rules, we will withdraw our permission for the student to bring a mobile phone to school. Parents will be informed of this by letter and asked to support the school in its enforcement of the ban.

It is suggested that pupils leave their phones at home for the day. Students who need to contact a parent in an emergency should gain permission from their Form Tutor or Year Leader and ask to use one of the office phones. We will be very grateful for your support in this. It was clear at the recent Parents' Forum that the revised policy has the overwhelming support of parents. I would of course be happy to discuss any concerns that may arise from the new regime.

School Uniform

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. 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>

Dates for Your Diaries

Please note key dates from the school's calendar for 2016-17 below:

Holiday	School Closes	School Opens
Summer	Friday 22 July 2016 at 1.30pm	Tuesday 6 September 2016
Autumn mid-term	Friday 21 October 2016 at 3.15pm	Monday 31 October 2016
Christmas	Weds 21 December 2016 at 1.30pm	Tuesday 3 January 2017
Spring mid-term	Friday 10 February 2017 at 3.15pm	Tuesday 21 February 2017
Easter	Friday 31 March 2017 at 1.30pm	Tuesday 18 April 2017
May Bank Holiday	Friday 28 April 2017 at 3.15pm	Tuesday 2 May 2017
Summer mid-term	Friday 26 May 2017 at 3.15pm	Monday 5 June 2017
Summer	Friday 21 July 2017 at 1.30pm	

Staff training days will be held on Monday 5 September 2016, Monday 28 November 2016 and Monday 20 February 2017. The school will close early for pupils (1.30pm) on Tuesday 4 October, Wednesday 1 March and Thursday 15 June to facilitate staff training. The Opening Evening meeting for parents will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 3 October 2017. Open Day for prospective pupils, their parents and families will take place on Saturday 8 October 2017 from 11.00am to 1.30pm.

Half Term

The half term holiday begins today, Friday 27 May, at 3.15pm for all pupils. School re-opens at 8.55am on Monday 6 June. Please ensure that pupils return to school after the break punctually, wearing correct school uniform and bringing with them a refillable plastic bottle for water. It is essential that pupils remain rehydrated and drink water regularly throughout the day in the warmer weather of the summer months.

Reflections in Refugee Week

The school is delighted to host an event in partnership with the Leeds branch of The Council of Christians and Jews next month. Dr Casey A. Strine will give a lecture entitled *Reflections in Refugee Week, How Involuntary Migration Shapes the Book of Genesis* in our school hall on Thursday 23 June at 7.00pm. The lecture will be of special interest to pupils in Years 8 and 9 who will be undertaking an in-depth study of Judaism and The Old Testament as part of the learning in preparation for the new GCSE in Religious studies. Dr Strine is a Vice-Chancellor's Fellow and Lecturer in Hebrew Bible at the University of Sheffield. The event is free of charge. All parents and pupils are invited.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E A Cox'.

E A Cox
Headteacher