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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Putting Our Faith in Education

3 March 2017

Dear Parents

Lent

We began the season of Lent this week with Ash Wednesday services for all year groups. Our pupils are being encouraged to pray, fast and give this Lent. Prayer services will be held in the school chapel at morning break as follows:

- Monday: Praying the Stations of the Cross
- Tuesday: Exploring our faith through scripture
- Wednesday: Using symbols to pray
- Friday: Reflection on a Lenten theme

Please encourage your child to come along to the voluntary Mass celebrated each Thursday lunchtime. There will be opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 9 March when a team of visiting priests coordinated by our Chaplain, Fr Sean Crawley, comes into school. Pupils are very imaginative in their fundraising efforts for *Catholic Care*. Thank you for the support that you offer.

To Work Is To Pray

Last Sunday 27 pupils travelled to Ampleforth, the Benedictine Abbey in North Yorkshire, for a three day residential religious retreat. It began with an Emmaus walk, followed by Sunday Mass and a reflection on the parable of the forgiving father. Pupils volunteered insightful questions on relationships and forgiveness, showing a willingness to search for meaning and purpose in their lives as young Catholics today.



On Monday the group explored deeper questions on life after death, science and religion and religion and politics. Fr Bede OSB skilfully encouraged the group to delve deeper into their faith journey. Other activities included joining the monks for Compline, their prayers at the end of the day, and *Lectio Divina* on Caravaggio's 'The Taking of Christ'. Living for this short time in a monastic community helped all to understand something of the balanced life of prayer and work envisioned by the rule of St. Benedict. Pupils were grateful for a period of silent study in a deeply religious



Stephen Lawrence
EDUCATION STANDARD

setting. This helped them to see the importance of putting their faith into their work as they prepare for forthcoming examinations. Fr Bede invited each pupil to take a small pebble, which he blessed, back to Cardinal Heenan. He suggested that the pupils might look to their pebble as a symbol of faith in the testing weeks ahead to remind them of the presence of God as they approach examinations.

We are grateful to Fr Bede, who has a long standing connection with our school, for leading the retreat and to Mrs O'Neill, Mr Mangan and Mrs Hoyland for accompanying the pupils.

Table Tennis



The school's Year 8 table tennis team are now ranked third in the city. Congratulations to Filip Morus, Joseph Ellis, Oliver Chadwick-Chaplin and Joseph Darley.

Debate Matters

A Cardinal Heenan debating team overcame strong opposition from Roundhay High School to reach the final of *Debate Matters*, part of the Leeds Festival of Ideas. Congratulations to Year 11 pupils Scarlet Rowe, Maddie Rose, Sean Carey and Alex Cserna for winning their debates. Alex also won best speaker. The competition is run by the Leeds Salon, a group which organises discussion of contemporary political, cultural and scientific issues. This year's event is sponsored by Switalskis Solicitors. Prize sponsors are the Human Factor and Safety Group at the Institute for Transport, Leeds University, and the EU Horizon 2020 project, Empower. The final takes place at the Heart Centre on 22 March.

Yours sincerely



E A Cox
Headteacher