

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



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Dear Parents

Performance Tables

School performance data released by the Department for Education yesterday, based on last summer's examinations results, shows that 67% of pupils at Cardinal Heenan achieved the benchmark of five good GCSEs including maths and English. The national average for all state schools across England of 56.6% fell by four percentage points compared with 2013.

In 2014 key indicators for all performance measures achieved by the school were higher than the national and local averages.

2014 Results	School Performance Percentage	Ranked position in Leeds (39 academies and state schools)
% of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and mathematics	67%	8
% of pupils achieving English Baccalaureate (GCSEs at grades A*-C in English, mathematics, sciences, a language and a humanities subject)	38%	6
Pupils achieving making expected progress between Key Stage 2 and 4 in English	74%	11
Pupils making expected progress between Key Stage 2 and 4 in mathematics	73%	11

New School Uniform

The school is introducing a new uniform and PE kit next September. This simple, smart, affordable uniform will be on sale from July 2015 and available to pupils in Years 7 to 9. It will be compulsory for new Year 7 pupils in September 2015. It is intended that all pupils currently in Years 8 and 9 will be wearing the new uniform from September 2016. Pupils now in Years 10 and 11 will be able to wear the existing uniform until they leave school.

A new uniform policy, to be launched in September, will be called "Dress for Success". The policy signals to our pupils that the way they dress is important and will help determine their success in every interview that they have in the future.

Parental views are being sought and this feedback will be used to shape the uniform policy. More details about the parental consultation will follow.



Drum and Percussion Masterclass at Cardinal Heenan

On Thursday 29 January pupils from across the year groups attended a drum masterclass delivered by Jeff Rich, world famous drummer and former member of the rock band Status Quo. Our pupils enjoyed a lively, interactive event which traced the development of the drum and percussion from earliest times to the present day and enabled our pupils to have hands-on experience. Some 100 pupils showcased their drumming skills in a lively performance. Thanks to Mrs Keith, Curriculum Leader of Music, for organising the event.



Year 8 pupil Marcus Wearing entertains Jeff Rich of Status Quo

International Selection

Three Cardinal Heenan pupils have been selected to represent the Great Britain at the International Sports Federation for Catholic Schools (FISEC) Games in Malta during July. Conor Hopkinson and Megan Driscoll (Year 10) will both compete in athletics events whilst Zara Paniagua-Gutierrez (Year 8) will represent the swimming team. All three of our pupils compete regularly up to county and to national level in their respective disciplines. Nominations for the national squad are made by catholic schools and colleges across the whole country: times are compared to select the strongest performers.

Conor, Megan and Zara are looking forward to meeting their teammates at Gatwick Airport on 8 July before a week of competition in which they will challenge for gold, silver and bronze medals. They will compete against the best representatives from Austria, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Palestine, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, USA, Brazil and Croatia.

The FISEC Games is a well-established event going back some 65 years. Many competitors have gone on to achieve success at Olympic and Commonwealth level. The event is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Papal Office. It will be one of the foremost 'age group' multi-sport events this year.

Conor, Megan and Zara are engaged in fundraising to meet the costs of taking part in the games (£750 each).

Education Sunday: 1 February 2015

Each year the Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrates education Sunday, when we give thanks to God for the work of our Catholic schools and ask his blessing on them for the coming year. This year, our theme is 'All Gifts and All People'. St Paul teaches the "just as each of our bodies has several parts and each part has a separate function, so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body and as many parts of it, we belong to each other" (Romans 12: 4-12). Our schools, therefore, have a distinctive vocation; rooted as they are in the Church's mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and serve the poor in all we say and do. The mission of The Catholic school is help all those who teach, learn and work in them to use their gifts to their full potential to discover God, each other and themselves. In our parishes on Sunday we will pray for the success of all Catholic schools.

Year 8 Options

It was wonderful to see so many Year 8 pupils and their parents at our recent information meetings and consultation evening. The options fair held in school last Monday was also a very busy event. Year 8 pupils have been given a choices form and an information booklet: *The Right Path for You*. This is available on the school website for reference:

http://www.cardinalheenan.leeds.sch.uk/downloads/curriculum/KS4_Curriculum_and_Option_Choices.pdf

Pupils have been invited to taster sessions so that they may find out about the subjects that are new to them: *GCSE Business; BTEC Construction and BTEC Health & Social Care*. These will take place next week. Senior staff will also be advising pupils in small groups. Completed option forms should be returned by Tuesday 24 February. Our pupils have been advised to make good use of the intervening time by talking to parents, subject teachers, tutors and Mr Gaffey, our Careers Officer, before taking decisions.

Spring Half-term Holidays: Friday 13 February until Tuesday 24 February 2015

Please note that the half term holiday begins at 3.15pm on Friday 13 February. School re- opens to pupils on Tuesday 24 February. Monday 23 February is a staff training day when pupils are not in school.

Yours sincerely



E A Cox
Headteacher