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4 March 2016

Dear Parents

Mark Butterfield

It is with a sense of deep sadness that I write to tell you of the untimely death of one of our pupils. Mark Butterfield, aged 15, died in St James's Hospital last Tuesday after a brave struggle against leukaemia.

Mark was an intelligent, cheerful boy with a strong sense of humour. He will be remembered with great affection by many friends here at school. He will be sadly missed by staff and pupils. May he rest in peace.

Large numbers of pupils and staff attended a service of prayer and commemoration, led by our Chaplaincy Coordinator, Mrs Hayden, in the school hall on Tuesday. A memorial Mass attended by members of Mark's tutor group, staff and close friends was celebrated by our priest Chaplain, Fr Sean Crowley, here in school yesterday. Prayers have been said in assemblies throughout the week for the repose of Mark's soul. On behalf of the entire Cardinal Heenan community I have been in touch with Marks' father, to express our condolences to the family. Mark was an only child.

*Let our prayer come into your presence, Lord,
as we humbly ask for mercy:
and as in your love
you counted your servant Mark among your people in this world,
so bring him now to the abode of peace and light,
and number him among your saints. Amen.*

(From The Office for The Dead)

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.*

(Isaiah 43:1)

Funeral arrangements have yet to be finalised.

Lent

Our pupils have been attending Lenten services at lunchtimes in the school chapel. Mondays are reserved for quiet prayer and reflection. Guided meditation takes place on Tuesdays and The Stations of the Cross, led by Year 10 pupils, on Fridays. Pupils will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation next Friday, 11 March, when a team of visiting priests will be here in school for the day. Pupils have been inventive in their fundraising for Catholic Care, a charity which provides much support for children and their families in our diocese.



Information Evening for Year 11 Pupils and Parents, Wednesday 9 March

Parents of pupils preparing for GCSE examinations next summer are invited to *Helping GCSE Pupils to Do Their Best*, an information evening to be held in our school hall on Wednesday 9 March, beginning at 7.00pm. Teachers here have been working with pupils on a number of initiatives to raise achievement. At the meeting we hope to outline strategies which parents may use at home to support their sons and daughters and to assist them to make the most of their abilities and efforts. An information booklet will be issued at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E A Cox', written in a cursive style.

E A Cox
Headteacher