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6 March 2015

Dear Parents

### The Good Shepherd Appeal 2015

Bishop Marcus has written to pupils, staff and parents asking us to make a big effort in raising funds for this year's Good Shepherd Appeal in support of Catholic Care. This charity helps disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our own communities. Here at Cardinal Heenan a qualified member of Catholic Care's social work service comes into school each week to provide advice, support and counselling for pupils and their families. Bishop Marcus writes 'Our Lord knows the burdens we have in our lives. He also knows our great desire to find joy and fulfilment. In the last year Catholic Care held nearly 15,000 one to one sessions with children and young people in our schools and with families who were experiencing difficult times in their lives'. Catholic Care supports many needy families with food, clothing and the basic necessities of life. It runs a residential children's home for young people who can no longer live with their own families. The charity supports children with learning disabilities, particularly those with autism spectrum disorder, and provides homes with care and support for adults with a learning disability.



Our pupils are being encouraged to pray, fast and give this Lent. They are very imaginative in their fundraising efforts for *Catholic Care*. Thank you for the support that you offer.

### Information Evening for Year 11 Parents, Wednesday 11 March 2015 at 7.00pm

Parents of pupils preparing for GCSE examinations next summer are invited to *Helping GCSE Students to Do Their Best*, an information evening to be held in our school hall next Wednesday 11 March, beginning at 7.00pm. At the meeting we hope to outline strategies that parents can 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. Whilst the meeting is intended primarily for parents, Year 11 pupils are welcome to attend, provided that they are dressed in full school uniform.



### World Book Day

Lots of reading is taking place in school this week as we continue our celebrations of World Book Day. On the day itself, 5 March, pupils and staff brought the book which they are currently reading into school. During English lessons pupils discussed books they have enjoyed. Titles chosen include many ever-popular titles such as Dickens' *Great Expectations*, Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Works by Roald Dahl and Jacqueline Wilson abound! Patrick Ferguson, Year 9 is even tackling James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Special thanks to Miss Burns who has coordinated this excellent initiative to encourage reading by pupils.



### Parent Forum at 7.00pm on Wednesday 25 March in the School Hall

The Parent Forum meeting for the spring term will be held in the school hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday 25 March. The focus for the meeting is outlined below:

1. "Dressed for Success": this session will provide an overview of the school's introduction of the new school uniform from September 2015. Discussion will range from the nature and style of the new uniform and outline minimum standards of dress for pupils across all years and how they will be implemented. We welcome parents' views and comments.
2. Update on revisions to annual reports to parents.
3. Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education: Leeds' *My Health, My School* Survey. This is an online anonymous pupil survey which the school is encouraged to use. The school wishes to canvas parents' views regarding suitability of the survey for use with pupils.

The session will end no later than 9.00pm and will be attended by members of the school leadership team and a number of other key senior staff. We hope to see you on 25 March: I would encourage parents of pupils in Years 7 to 9 to come along, particularly in relation to the phased introduction of the new school uniform. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

### Jazz Concert

Our pupils were greatly entertained by The Leeds Youth Jazz Rock Orchestra in school earlier this week. The group gave a performance and led a workshop for pupils. A number of Cardinal Heenan pupils who play in the LYJRO were performing. The orchestra was led by Mr Brendan Duffy, one of our visiting peripatetic music teachers.

Yours sincerely

E A Cox  
Headteacher

