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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Putting Our Faith in Education

8 December 2017

Dear Parents

Appointing a new Headteacher

Mr Carey, Chair of Governors, writes: *I am writing on behalf of the Governing Body to let parents and guardians know that we have started the process to recruit a full-time Headteacher. The advert has now been placed and we are looking to interview candidates at the end of January 2018.*

The Governing Body is clear that Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School has the potential to be an outstanding school and we are looking for a dynamic and successful leader who can help us achieve this ambition in the near future. As we know from previous experience, recruiting a new Headteacher is not always straightforward. However, we believe that advertising early and promoting the brilliant academic results of the school – across the range of pupils – will help attract the right standard of candidate and mean we can secure the best outcome for the school.

Recruiting early also means we can ensure a smooth transition from the current Headteacher, Mr Whelan, to the new Headteacher. Mr Whelan, who agreed to lead the school for this academic year while we recruit a new Headteacher, brings great experience and expertise to the Leadership of the school and is committed to working with us to achieve the best handover possible.

We are confident that we will be successful in getting the right Headteacher and will keep you updated as we go along.

Drop Everything and Read

All pupils and staff will take part in 30 minutes of dedicated *Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)* time on Friday 15 December. Please remind your child to bring a book into school on the day.

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who bought books, stationery or posters from our Book Fair in November. The event raised £367 in new books for the school library. These will soon be available for borrowing in a special 'new arrivals' section of the library. Our Librarian Miss Burns has been able to purchase most of the titles nominated by students during the book fair. Miss Burns and Miss Gallagher, Literacy Coordinator, were delighted to see so many students talking about books and reading at the recent Year 7 tutor evening. It is pleasing to see the whole school community sharing enthusiasm for literature. Special thanks to the family of former pupils Emily and Joseph Dee who have made a large donation of books to the school library. These will be of great benefit to our current pupils.

Visitors in School

The procedures for letting visitors into school have been reviewed and strengthened in order to ensure that all our pupils continue to be safe throughout the school day. From today anyone who wishes to gain access to the building via the visitor entrance must state their name and business using the wall-mounted intercom outside the Reception entrance. Reception staff will ask questions to verify a visitor's identity before releasing the locked doors to give access to the Reception corridor inside the school building. Most visitors will remain in this locked corridor or adjacent interview rooms throughout their visit. Visitors admitted to the main school during the working day will be accompanied by staff throughout the visit.



Stephen Lawrence
EDUCATION STANDARD

St Vincent's Christmas Grotto

On Saturday 2 December Marella Tiona, Jessica Chang, Chloe Ruane, Branadine Gyimah, Kamile Kozlovskaja and Vanessa Nartey volunteered at St Vincent's Christmas grotto where local children had the chance to meet Santa, receive a gift and enjoy a mini Christmas fair. The event was attended by hundreds of children and their families. The volunteers from Cardinal Heenan were a credit to the school, helping to welcome visitors and coordinate arrangements. Thank you to pupils and staff who have made donations of money and gifts to the SVP appeal. Food, clothing and gifts were distributed. Your further contributions will help fund hampers, gifts and the St Vincent's Christmas dinner. Donations will be collected until Friday 15 December.



Advent Service of Readings and Carols: Monday 18 December

In the final week of term parents, pupils, staff and friends of the school are invited to our Advent Liturgy of reading and carols, followed by a Christmas-themed musical celebration. It will be held in the School Hall at 7.00pm on Monday 18 December; we look forward to seeing you and your families there. Following the seasonal readings and carol singing, warm mince-pies, soft drinks and mulled wine will be served during the celebration. All proceeds raised will be donated to St Gemma's Hospice. Please make it a date for your calendar and join us.

Non-uniform day, Monday 18 December

Pupils will be allowed to wear their own clothes on Monday 18 December in exchange for a donation of £1 to the Advent appeal for the SVP. The monies raised at Cardinal Heenan will be sent to the St Vincent's Support Centre, a community project of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), dedicated to changing the lives of families living in poverty across Leeds. The SVP is an international Christian voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to anyone in need, without discrimination. I know that we can rely on pupils to support the initiative. Prizes will be awarded to the best festive Christmas jumpers.

New Date for Year 8 Options Evening: Thursday 1 March 2018

Year 8 parents, please note that the Year 8 Options Evening will take place on Thursday 1 March 2018 at 7.00pm. This is a change from the January date published in the School Calendar.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Whelan'.

P Whelan
Headteacher