



8 January 2016

Dear Parents

### Year 11 Mock GCSE Results Day



Year 11 pupils had a taste of August yesterday morning when they took part in a mock GCSE Results Day. They were handed the subject grades attained in the recent mock examinations in sealed envelopes, to replicate GCSE results day. Judging by the atmosphere, there were some fraught nerves before grades were issued by tutors but many pupils appeared pleased with their progress at this stage. Dr Caldwell, Assistant Headteacher, said that he was impressed with the pupils' engagement in progressing their own achievement. He emphasised that there is still time for pupils to consolidate and improve grades received yesterday. Miss Adamson, Year 11 Achievement Leader, said, "I am moved by the impact of sharing results yesterday. It's been great to hear Year 11 pupils discussing how they can improve before their summer exams. I can't wait to see the difference this renewed focus will make." 14 pupils achieved six or more mock GCSE

results at the top grades (A\* or A), a strong showing at this stage. Particular congratulations must go to Nathan Allison and Carina Font for achieving 10 GCSE mock grades at A\* or A.

As you might expect, not all pupils achieved gratifying grades: much

work remains to be done.

Some 42 pupils had meetings yesterday morning with senior staff to review results and make action plans for improvement. Pupils involved said that they

found these one to one sessions very helpful. They have resolved to work smarter and harder. Well done to those who were pleased with results. For pupils where outcomes were lower than the challenging targets set, hard work is needed to match the resolve seen yesterday.



### Behaviour for Learning (BfL)

The school continues its drive to ensure high standards of *Behaviour for Learning (BfL)* for all pupils, so that they engage strongly with learning and make rapid, sustained progress. BfL grades are collected for all pupils in every subject each half-term by the school, allowing key staff to identify the strengths and areas for development for each pupil. This, in turn, helps to inform interventions in the classroom and additional pupil support where required. BfL grades are reported to parents three times each year, usually at the end of term.

#### Key to Behaviour for Learning Grades

- 1 Outstanding. The pupil could not reasonably be expected to do any more.
- 2 Good. The pupil is working well and contributing positively to his/her own learning.
- 3 Requires Improvement. The pupil is passive in many aspects of his/her own learning.
- 4 Inadequate. Pupil behaviours prevent learning.



	<b>Half Term 1 October 2015</b> <i>Average BfL Grade</i>	<b>Half Term 2 December 2015</b> <i>Average BfL Grade</i>	<b>Improvement</b> July-December
Year 7	1.49	1.50	
Year 8	1.72	1.71	-0.19
Year 9	1.69	1.65	+0.13
Year 10	1.67	1.69	-0.03
Year 11	1.78	BfL data available to parents in February 2016	

Pupil data for half term two (November and December 2015) indicates that there is very good engagement with learning by pupils across all year groups. Grades are consistently high. The summary table shows that the average *BfL* grade ranges between Outstanding and Good. It also shows improving *Behaviour for Learning* since the beginning of the school year, with the exception of Year 7 and Year 10 where the grades have shifted by just 0.01 and 0.02 of a grade respectively but remain consistently high.

Subject teachers are working closely with pupils to advise on how improvements may be made in lessons. Where there is evidence that there are significant issues across subjects, a whole school intervention is being conducted by Year Managers and, where relevant, Achievement Leaders.

#### **Rewarding Pupils with High *Behaviour for Learning* Grades**

Reward events will be held each day during morning break in the week beginning 17 January to recognise pupils who have achieved high *Behaviour for Learning* grades across a range of subjects. Pupils demonstrating high levels of motivation in their learning and preparedness to apply themselves in their work will be invited to enjoy refreshments in the school Conference Room. The events will be attended by myself, other senior members of staff, Achievement Leaders, Year Managers and tutors. Parents will be notified if their son or daughter has been invited to a reward event.

#### **Fresh Approach to School Lunches**

Following a review of school lunch provision in response to concerns of pupils and staff over the past few months, our catering provider *Caterlink* has devised tempting new menus and set new ambitions for its food standards. Initial feedback from pupils and staff is encouraging and we are expecting this to continue. The catering team are very keen to win the hearts and stomachs of our pupils. The school will monitor feedback carefully to inform future developments. Please encourage your child to eat a hot meal each day in the dining room. The new menus may be found at <http://www.cardinalheenan.com/index.php/about-the-school/healthy-eating-menus>

#### **New Additions for the Safety and Well Being of Pupils**

A hand sanitiser has been installed at the entrance to the school dining room. Although this does not remove the importance of washing hands, it will complement the school's work in encouraging a safe, hygienic environment for all. Please encourage your child to use the hand sanitiser before eating in the dining room. An additional drinking water dispenser has been fitted on the upper floor of the school between Humanities and the Maths corridors. A fourth water dispenser will arrive in the next few weeks. Please provide a plastic bottle for your child so that he or she maintains hydration by drinking water regularly.

## Business and Enterprise



Some 54 Year 10 pupils took part in *Cashpoints* on Thursday 7 January, as part of the school's business and enterprise programme in conjunction with Leeds Education Business Partnership. Our pupils worked in groups to set up and run businesses. Congratulations to *Autodeal*, the most successful enterprise, run by Jeffrey Agyei, Layla Carney, Karina Kruk and Tahlia Pasley. Individual pupils aimed to become best *Money Manager*. The awards went to: Niall Duffy, Joseph Laverty, Eoin Murray, Bernadette Kpau, Wiktoria Cieslak, Kieran Boyd, Sean-Paul Gibson, Aukse Ruseckaja, Karina Kruk and Alex Dickinson. The experience increased pupils' business awareness and developed their understanding of the need for competitive sales, marketing strategies and monitoring cash flows with vigilance. Vital skills developed included working in a team, solving problems, thinking creatively, effective communication and managing money. Professionals offered guidance throughout the day, providing constructive feedback on each pupil's contribution. The experts came from organisations such as Her Majesty's Revenue Commissioners, O2 Telephonica (one of the UK's leading providers of telecommunications), Leeds City Council and the Department for Work and Pensions. They helped our pupils to learn the skills, behaviour and attitudes expected in the modern workplace. Special thanks to Mr Matterson who organised it all and to Mrs Evans for their assistance throughout the day.



## Year 8 Options

### Options Fair

An options fair for pupils will take place during the school day on Monday 18 January. Year 8 will have the opportunity to meet older pupils already studying the various KS4 courses and to ask questions of the learners themselves.

**Thursday 21 January: Year 8 Options Information Meetings 5.00pm and 7.00pm**

Letters to parents, recommending one of the three pathways for studies at Key Stage 4, will be given to Year 8 pupils in the coming weeks. Information meetings for Year 8 parents and pupils about options will be held in the School Hall on **Thursday 21 January**. The first meeting, at 5.00pm, will be for parents of pupils recommended for Pathway 1 (GCSE Combined Science and a vocational course). A second meeting for parents of pupils recommended for Pathway 2 (GCSE Combined Science) and Pathway 3 (GCSE Triple Science) will take place at 7.00pm. (Please note the different start times.) These occasions will provide an opportunity to find out more about courses on offer and to discuss which of these may be best suited to your child. Senior staff will be available to discuss curriculum choice with you on the evening.

**Options Booklet**

A booklet setting out details of each core and option subject and a Directed Choices form will be issued to Year 8 pupils on Tuesday 26 January.

**Wednesday 3 February: Year 8 Parents' Evening, from 4.00pm to 7.00pm**

This is an opportunity for Year 8 parents to meet with their children's subject teachers. Senior staff and the teachers who will be delivering KS4 courses will be available to discuss curriculum choice with parents and pupils on that occasion.

**Monsignor Bernard Doyle**

This week we learnt the sad news of the death of Mgr. Bernard Doyle, the longest serving and oldest priest in the Diocese. He died peacefully on Monday 4 January at the age of 95 and had served as a priest for over 71 years. Much of his priestly life had been spent in education. In 1961 Mgr. Doyle became the first Headteacher of the newly created St Thomas Aquinas School, Leeds. (St Thomas Aquinas and neighbouring St John Bosco School were amalgamated to form Cardinal Heenan in 1978.) In September 1965 he became Principal of Christ's College, Liverpool, a post he held for 21 years, training many men for service as Catholic teachers. He also became a major influence in Catholic Education nationally during this time. In 1974, he was appointed a Prelate of Honour by Pope Paul VI with the title *Monsignor*. When Christ's College became part of Liverpool Hope University, Mgr Doyle was appointed a Senior Fellow of the new University. Year 8 pupils attended a Mass for the repose of the soul of Mgr. Doyle celebrated in school yesterday by Father Sean Crowley, our Priest Chaplain. Details of funeral arrangements follow. Thursday 14 January 5.00pm: Reception of the body with Evening Prayer, Mount St. Joseph's (Little Sisters), Shire Oak Road Headingley, Leeds; Friday 15 January 12.00 noon: Requiem Mass at Leeds Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Marcus.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Reminder: Emergency School Closure**

On rare occasions it may be necessary to close the school, in conditions such as heavy snowfall which leaves the school site inaccessible. The decision to send children home or to close the school will be taken only when absolutely necessary for the safety of pupils and staff. Should the decision be made to close, a text will be sent to parents and an announcement will be given on the school website [www.cardinalheenan.com](http://www.cardinalheenan.com). You will receive the text only if you have provided the school with a current mobile phone number. Please notify the school as soon as possible of any changes to your contact details. Notice of closure will also be sent to Radio Leeds and Radio Aire. Please ensure that page 9 of the Pupil Planner has been completed. This informs the school about travel arrangements for your child on such days. If the school closes early and parents are not prepared for their children to be sent home, pupils will be supervised in school until parents collect them. In the event of severe weather, please do not telephone the school to seek clarification about possible school closure. It is likely that a large number of callers will result in a constant engaged tone. The education of your child is very important to us: school closures will occur rarely.

Yours sincerely



E A Cox, Headteacher