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8 May 2015

Dear Parents

School Governor Update

At a recent meeting of the school's Governing Body Mr David Murray resigned as Chair of Governors, a role in which he has served very ably since 2010. Mr Murray's work commitments now mean that he currently spends a large proportion of the working week away from Leeds and is therefore unable to give up his time as freely as he would like. As Chair of Governors, Mr Murray has given generously of his expertise and shown an unfailing commitment to high standards for all our pupils. We are grateful for Mr Murray's significant contribution to the work of the school and pleased that he will remain on our governing body.

Mr James Hillyard, a senior accountant at KPMG, has been elected as Chair of Governors. He has held the position of Vice Chair of Governors for a number of years. He has very good understanding of governing bodies and is ably equipped to address the range of issues currently facing schools. Mrs Mary O'Shea, Foundation Governor, was elected as Vice Chair of Governors. Mrs O'Shea has been a governor at Cardinal Heenan since 2011 and is the parent of a pupil currently on roll.

I attach a list of current governors and their designations for your information:

Mr J Hillyard	Chair of Governors
Mrs M O'Shea	Vice-Chair of Governors and Parent
Mrs H Angstman	Foundation Governor & Parent
Mr P Connell	Parent Governor
Miss E Cox	Headteacher
Mrs R Evans	Staff Governor
Mr M Gan	Foundation Governor
Mr R Harker	Foundation Governor
Mr D Murray	Foundation Governor and Parent
Mr A Nelson	Co-opted Governor
Mrs T O'Sullivan	Co-opted Governor
Mr K Partridge	Parent Governor
Mr B Poulter	Foundation Governor
Mrs J Rooney	Foundation Governors and Parent
Rev T Wiley	Foundation Governor
Mrs A Woliter	Foundation Governor

I am grateful to all governors for continuing commitment to improving school outcomes for every pupil.

Advance Notice: Early School Closure for Pupils on Thursday 11 June 2015

The school will close to pupils at 1.20pm on Thursday 11 June 2015. Priorities for School Development planning in 2014-15 require subject teachers and support staff to review curriculum plans and revise schemes of work, in view of significant changes to GCSE in all subjects which are being introduced. The initiative is part of the school's strategy to ensure high standards of subject delivery across all year groups. An early lunch will precede tutor time before dismissal. School buses will collect pupils from school at 1.30pm. School meals will be served earlier than usual. Please contact school if this early close causes childcare problems. Pupils who are unable to get home may remain in school until 3.15pm. Staff supervision will be provided but normal lessons will be suspended. The time gained by staff will be used conscientiously to plan and map provision in light of curriculum change.



School Calendar 2015-16

Please find the school calendar for 2015-16 below. Dates of terms and holidays have been matched to those in our feeder primary schools wherever feasible, in order to assist with child care arrangements. Please note that the first day of the Autumn Term for pupils is **Thursday 3 September 2015**.

School Calendar for Parents Academic Year 2015-2016		
Holiday	Schools closed to pupils	Schools open to pupils
Autumn Term begins for pupils		Thursday 3 September 2015
Autumn mid-term	Friday 23 October 2015	Monday 2 November 2015
Christmas	Friday 18 December 2015	Tuesday 5 January 2016
Spring mid-term	Friday 12 February 2016	Tuesday 23 February 2016
Easter	Thursday 24 March 2016	Monday 11 April 2016
May Bank Holiday	Friday 29 April 2016	Tuesday 3 May 2016
Summer mid-term	Friday 27 May 2016	Monday 6 June 2016
Summer	Friday 22 July 2016	

Staff Training Days will take place on Wednesday 2 September 2015 and Monday 22 February 2016. There will be no school for pupils on Staff Training Days. Please note: three additional training days will be notified to parents.

School General Election 2015

Pupils at Cardinal Heenan voted in their own General Election yesterday. They took the lead in electing their own representatives and canvassing votes. Candidates Margarita Budreviciute (Year 10, Labour), Alessia Da Costa (Year 9, Conservative), Adam Smith (Year 8, Liberal Democrat) and Ethan Hussey (Year 7, Amity) awaited the results anxiously prior to the count yesterday afternoon.

The results for the 'Heenan constituency' are as follows:

Amity (Independent Party)	142 votes
Conservative	147 votes
Labour	484 votes
Liberal Democrats	94 votes

Labour were therefore declared the winner in what political commentators might describe as landslide.

Congratulations go to all our pupil candidates, canvassers and party workers for their professional approach to the election and their strong representation of Party views and principles. Many thanks also to the pupils who organised polling in a secret ballot and the counting of votes.

Year 11 GCSE Season Begins

A Testing Time

GCSE examinations for Year 11 begin on Monday next, 11 May. The start of study leave was marked by a moving Leavers' Mass celebrated by our Chaplain Father Michael Doody. Many thanks to the large numbers of parents who joined their children for their last Mass in school. An assembly followed, covering some of the lighter moments of our leavers' time at Cardinal Heenan.

A full programme of revision sessions runs alongside the GCSE examination timetable. Pupils attending those revision classes which have already taken place have found them most useful. We wish Year 11 every success in their examinations and look forward to seeing many of them at the Leavers' Prom in late June. GCSE results will be published on Thursday 20 August at 10am.

Internal school examinations for pupils in Years 7 and 8 also begin next week (on Monday 11 May). Year 9 papers follow from Monday 1 June onwards. Year 10 students have completed their examinations. All our pupils are working towards target grades in every subject. Reports for Year 10 students will be sent home on Wednesday 24 June. Year 7, 8 and 9 reports will be issued on Wednesday 15 July.

Fun Run



Mr McQuillen-Strong, Headteacher at Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Leeds, has been in touch. As organiser of the recent charity fun run in memory of Ann Maguire, he praised the courteous, and polite behaviour of Cardinal Heenan pupils who took part in the event. The day raised funds for the Ann Maguire Arts Education Fund and was held at St Theresa's Catholic Primary School in Cross Gates.

Some of our pupils acted as marshals, others as runners. I am told that they showed great enthusiasm in assisting the many young children in the race, even running alongside them and applauding all the way to the finish line.

Yours sincerely

E A Cox, Headteacher