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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Putting Our Faith in Education

8 September 2017

Dear Parents

A New Start

The start of a new academic year is always an exciting time in school and it was a great pleasure to welcome pupils on Tuesday, especially our new Year 7 pupils as they begin their secondary education. The enthusiasm, good behaviour and excellent standards of uniform shown by our pupils do you credit as parents and carers.

It is now my privilege to lead Cardinal Heenan as a modern school embracing a strong Catholic ethos, commitment to high academic standards and respect for all. My aims as Headteacher will be to ensure that this is a happy, secure, caring Catholic school where pupils are cherished and challenged to achieve. A love of learning will be inspired by high quality teaching which develops individual strengths and talents. Staff will encourage and celebrate creativity, original thinking, imagination, effort and achievement. We will teach the importance of moral values and showing consideration for others.

In the short time I have been here I have been hugely impressed by our students. They have been courteous, polite, well-mannered and focused on their studies. The commitment of all the staff, (teaching, associate staff, the site team and catering team) towards achieving excellence has been equally impressive. It is my role to harness the talents of all those who work in this community, so that our students can be the best that they can be. The way that we can achieve this is to ensure that everyone has high expectations of themselves and others.

My priorities are to ensure that your children experience: intellectually challenging teaching; a work-centred environment; high standards consistently applied in the classroom; clear rules governing behaviour; homework for all pupils set regularly; marking of pupils' work promptly and constructively by teachers; regular formal examination practice; frequent monitoring of progress; defined academic goals; strong partnership with parents; extra-curricular activities and enrichment.

The school builds upon the standards set by parents. In maintaining and further raising standards, we look for your continued support. Your vital role in the education of your children is very much appreciated.

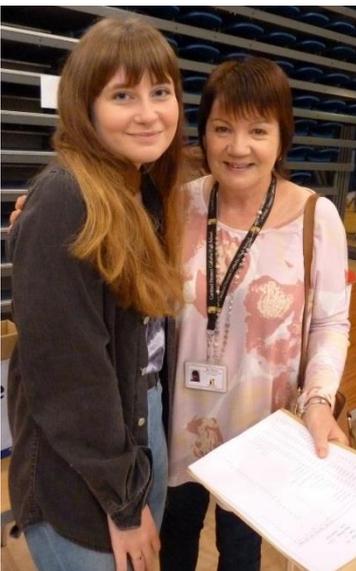
New Staff

Governors have been active in recruiting highly gifted teams of well-qualified subject teachers and specialist staff. I am delighted to welcome the following new staff to Cardinal Heenan: Mr A Wickremaratne, Curriculum Leader for Religious Education; Miss Bell, Mrs Brunton and Miss Deedigan Teachers of English; Miss C Griffiths, Assistant Curriculum Leader for Mathematics; Mr Brayshaw, Miss Mawer and Miss H Schiedermeier, Teachers of Mathematics; Dr Casttelino, Dr Chugg and Mr Henderson, Teachers of Science; Mr Molloy, Teacher of History; Mr Dobson, Teacher of Languages; Mr Milligan, Music Instructor; and Year Managers Mr Birtles and Mrs Price. Following their recent weddings, Miss Barnes, Chaplaincy Co-ordinator, has become Mrs Holder and Miss Scott is now Mrs Millington. Several staff were privileged to attend the ordination of Fr Joshua Hilton, our new Priest Chaplain, during the summer. It was my pleasure to welcome him to the school on Wednesday when he met staff and pupils. He will be actively involved in shaping Chaplaincy and the Catholic Life of the school in the coming weeks. I congratulate staff on significant promotions to important roles: Mrs. Welbourne and Mrs. Powell Wiffen have joined School Leadership as Assistant Headteachers. Mr R O'Flanagan, Director of Science, and Mr Mangan, Director of Mathematics,



have become Associate Assistant Headteachers. Mr Easter becomes a Literacy Co-ordinator. All took up their new duties at the start of term.

Best Ever GCSE Results



Congratulations to the 2016-17 cohort of Year 11 students who have just achieved the best ever results at this school. The percentage of pupils gaining good passes (A*-C) in five subjects including English and Maths (at the new grades 9-4) is 76%, a rise of 13% on last year. 79% achieved a good pass in both English and Maths, a 15% rise since 2016. The school is anticipating a very positive Progress 8 score, the new value added headline measure that takes over from 5A*-C including English and Maths this year, though the final score will not be known for several weeks yet.

For the first time this year new top grades in English and Maths (9, 8 and 7) replace the previous top two (A* and A). Only the top 3% of pupils nationally have been awarded a new 'super' grade 9.

Joseph Laverty, Alexandra Cserna and Madeline Rose are amongst the school's top performers. Joseph passed all his GCSE subjects at the top grades including the new super grade 9s in English Language, English Literature and Maths and six subjects at Grade A* (including Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

Alexandra Cserna gained the super 9 in Mathematics and English plus a further seven A* grades. Madeline Rose achieved super 9s in Mathematics and English and six A*s. Both girls achieved the top A* grade in all three sciences.



Four pupils, Eamon Boyle-Smith, Alexandra Cserna, Joseph Laverty and Madeline Rose, passed 10 subjects at the top grades (A* and A), as well as passing English and Maths at the super grade 9.

14 pupils have passed 10 subjects at top grades A* or A, or equivalent. They are Eamon Boyle-Smith, Freyja Bradshaw, Happiness Chinembiri, Wiktorcia Cieslak, Louis Connell, Katie Rose Crowe, Alexandra Cserna, Siobhan Doherty, Joseph Hemsworth, Darragh Kennedy, Matthew Kerrigan, Joseph Laverty, Madeline Rose and Scarlet Rowe.

Cardinal Heenan has improved on last year's GCSE results and has further increased its positive gap with national results. 29% of all grades achieved at Cardinal Heenan were awarded A*-A (9% above national). Our strong position compares very well to a national picture of fewer high grades, including top grades dropping for the fifth consecutive year.

Recording Achievement and Behaviour

At the start of term we moved to a computerised system of recording pupils' achievements and sanctions for behaviour. This allows tutors to see what achievement points they are receiving in their lessons and also any behaviour comments they might get, so that tutors, Achievement Leaders and the behaviour team can support pupils more effectively in their pastoral mentoring role. For details see the updated Behaviour Policy on our school website

<http://www.cardinalheenan.com/downloads/Key%20Documents/Policies/Behaviour%20Policy.pdf>

Every member of staff has a key role to play in promoting and sustaining the highest standards of behaviour for learning so that each person is encouraged and supported to the highest levels of educational achievement. In the future we plan to make this information available to parents online. More information to follow.

National Cup Win for Joanne

Congratulations to Year 9 pupil Joanne Harrington on winning county and national honours. She was part of the Yorkshire under-13 girls' cricket team which won the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Girls' National Cup, defeating Kent in the final at Grantham in August.

Year 7 Mass of Welcome Wednesday 27 September

I look forward to seeing Year 7 pupils and their parents at our Mass of Welcome on Wednesday 27 September at 7.00pm in the School Hall. This is a family event and you are very welcome to bring members of your family with you. Year 7 pupils should attend the evening in full school uniform.

Paying for School Meals and Planners

The school uses a secure, cashless online payment service called *ParentPay*. Please note that *ParentPay* and not cheques or cash must be used to pay for school meals, educational visits, peripatetic Music lessons and other monies due to school. Payments can be made by credit or debit card. In addition, cash can also be paid in via local PayPoint stores. Initially, a parent will need to log-in and set up an account. Every parent has been sent a letter by post to the home address with activation details for *ParentPay*, including your personal Username and set up Password. If you have not already done so, please use this information to activate your ParentPay account. For more information about *ParentPay* please see the front page of the school website.

Yours sincerely



P Whelan
Headteacher