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Dear Parents

Headteacher Appointment

Mr S Carey, Chair of Governors has asked me to pass on some good news to parents:

“Governors have appointed Mr Dominic Kelly as the new Headteacher of Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School, following a thorough, two-day process earlier this week. Mr Kelly is currently Deputy Principal of Notre Dame Sixth-Form College, Leeds. We believe that Mr Kelly has the vision, drive and skills to move the school forward. We are confident that you will make him feel very welcome when he takes up the post on 1 September.”

In September Mr Kelly will be joined by Miss Sarah Barnes, our newly appointed Deputy Headteacher. She is currently Deputy Headteacher at the David Nieper Academy in Alfreton, Derbyshire.

This news follows the recent Ofsted judgement that standards are high and rising in this school and that Cardinal Heenan pupils make strong progress. It has been a good news term.

Inclement Weather

My apologies to all parents and carers for the second recent school closure. As I am sure you are aware, the snow which fell heavily during the Thursday morning rush hour was unexpected and caused huge issues on the roads. Metro informed us that school special bus services to Cardinal Heenan would have a late start and, a short time later, that they would not run at all. Many staff were stuck in stationary traffic at that stage and for very long periods afterwards. It was not possible to send a message to parents via School Gateway until 8.00am because the service worked very slowly, unable to handle large numbers of school users, each attempting to send thousands of texts simultaneously. The best we could do in these challenging circumstances was for a colleague to post a message on Twitter (from a car also in a traffic jam). This then appeared on the school website. When circumstances permit, the school will always try to issue a message through the Gateway app and to post a message on the school website, in addition to alerting local media and the www.leeds.gov.uk website.

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Parents will be advised early next week of a new date for this meeting by text message via the School Gateway app.

Lent Fundraising

This Lent we are asking pupils to support a food bank run by the St Vincent's Support Centre, a community project which is dedicated to changing the lives of families living in poverty across Leeds. We are looking for donations of tinned meat, tinned fruit and vegetables, pasta, biscuits, cereals etc. The project is run by the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). This is an international Christian voluntary organisation which tackles poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to anyone in need, without discrimination. Thank you to all those who have already donated. We need more items!

A number of pupils have signed up to complete sponsored walks for the Diocesan Good Shepherd Appeal. Thank you to all those who are supporting the fundraising events which are being held in school at break and lunchtimes.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Large numbers of pupils took the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation today as part of the school's Lenten programme of prayer and liturgy. Many thanks to local priests who gave generously of their time to administer the sacrament: Reverend Fathers Josh Hilton (our Priest Chaplain), Canon Tim Wiley, Fr Marc Hornsey and Fr Emmanuel Adindu.

Book Reviews

Each week we include a book recommendation from a member of our school community. Pupils who would like to see a favourite book featured in this column should see Miss Burns, School Librarian, for an application form.

This week's reader is Alfie Harkin, Year 9. Alfie is Captain of the Year 9 rugby team. His favourite book is *Raven's Gate* by Anthony Horowitz. Alfie writes, "This is a fast-paced novel, packed with intrigue and suspense. It's the first in *The Power of Five* series. Once you've tried *Raven's Gate*, you won't be able to resist the others."

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



P Whelan
Headteacher