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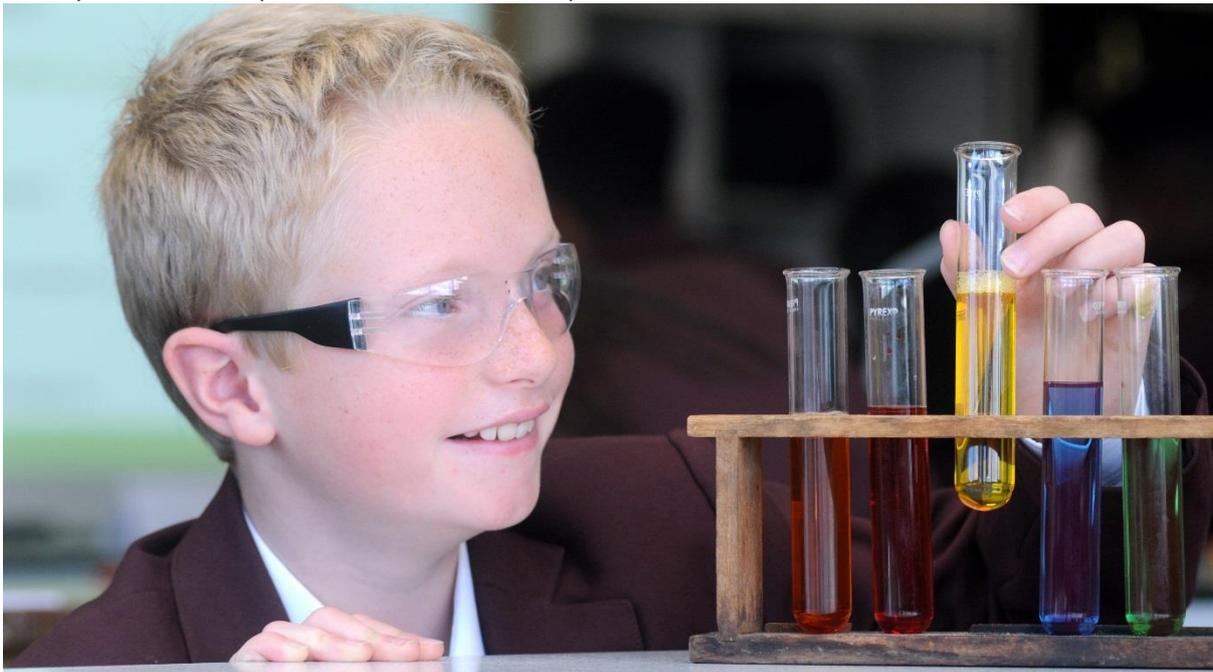


9 October 2015

Dear Parents

**Open Day for Everyone, Saturday 10 October, 11.00am – 1.30pm**

Everyone is invited to see the school at work at our Open Day tomorrow. Meet our pupils and staff. Join in many quizzes, games, challenges and fun activities. Find out about an education for your child at Cardinal Heenan. Open Day is for everyone: children, parents, friends and family. All welcome!



**Top Award for Joseph Ruane**

Congratulations to former Cardinal Heenan pupil Joseph Ruane on winning the *Catholic Young Writer Award 2015*. This prestigious national award is sponsored by the Catholic Union of Great Britain. The judges were unanimous in awarding the prize, describing Joseph's essay as 'of an exceptional standard'. It will be published shortly in *Faith* magazine. Joseph won a sixth form scholarship to Ampleforth College, North Yorkshire, as he was completing his Year 11 studies here. He left us in 2014 with seven GCSE passes at grade A\* and four at Grade A. Competition entrants were invited to analyse and discuss a passage from CS Lewis' *Mere Christianity* in which he examines Christ's claims to divinity. Joseph wins a trophy, book vouchers and a cash prize.



**Training Day on Monday 12 October**

Please remember that next Monday 12 October is a staff training day when there will be no school for pupils. Classes begin again on Tuesday 13 October at 8.55am.



See the School in Action, Wednesday 14 October, 9.30am and 11.30am



Parents of pupils currently in primary schools are invited to see our pupils and staff in action on a typical working day. Two guided tours will take place at 9.30am and 11.30am next Wednesday. Please book your place by ringing Mrs Martland on 887 3240.

### National Poetry Day



It was a 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' on Thursday as we celebrated *National Poetry Day*. Poems chosen by pupils and staff were read to the whole school at the start of each lesson. Special thanks to the volunteers who were brave enough to read the poems aloud to an audience of over 1,000 listeners at various times throughout the day. Patrick Crowe, Year 7, was suitably comic in a reading of *When I Grow Up* by James Carter. Sholto Rowe and Cian Tempest, Year 8, performed *Louder* by Roger Stevens with gusto. Happiness Chinembri, Year 10, approached *All the World's A Stage* from Shakespeare's *As You Like It* with dramatic verve. Nathan Allinson, Year 11, caught the mood of the season in a sensitive reading of John Keats' *Ode to Autumn*. Charlotte Fox, Year 11, rendered *Fairground Attraction* by Paul Cookson with a sureness of touch. Special thanks to Sholto who stepped in at the last minute to read *Why Are You Late for school?* by Steve Turner. Texts of the poems are available to download from the school website.

### **Keeping Healthy and Avoiding Norovirus**

Enjoying Keats in autumn has been one of the highlights of the week. Winter follows, of course, and with it may come norovirus, the 'winter vomiting bug'. A number of pupils have been affected by sickness bugs in recent weeks. These bugs thrive in warm atmospheres where many people work in one place. Schools are often breeding grounds and may be badly hit with pupils and staff becoming unwell. The illness itself often comes on quite quickly and can last a few days. One or two cases, whilst being unpleasant for the individuals concerned, often have little effect on schools. However, there is an obligation on all of us to minimise the risk of a significant outbreak and the disruption to children's education that may follow. *Public Health England* has issued the following guidance to reduce the risk of contamination:

- Regular thorough handwashing. Use soap and warm water, rubbing front and back of hands and between fingers; rinse carefully with water and then dry hands thoroughly. Washing your hands properly should take at least 15 seconds, about the length of time it takes to sing *Happy birthday to you* twice through!
- Hand washing is especially important after going to the toilet and before touching any food.
- Children need to be encouraged to wash their hands by having a good example set for them by adults and, perhaps, being shown how to do it properly.
- Germs can be spread indirectly by touching hard surfaces like door handles, desks and telephones. These should also be cleaned regularly to get rid of germs. Remember that, like your hands, it is important to dry surfaces thoroughly as well as cleaning them, to prevent bugs from multiplying.
- If you have a cold, use tissues to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues away as soon as possible and wash your hands. Try not to cough and sneeze directly into your hands. Wash them immediately if this is unavoidable.

### **CAFOD Harvest Fast Day**

Our newly formed pupil chaplaincy group, coordinated by Mrs Hayden, led activities in school last Friday to mark *CAFOD Harvest Fast Day*. Many thanks to pupils, staff and parents who supported the event with enthusiasm and to all the pupils and staff who attended the lunchtime Mass, celebrated by our Priest Chaplain, Fr Sean Crowley. £365 was sent to CAFOD.

### **Learning at Cardinal Heenan: A Parents' Guide**

During the forthcoming week a learning guide for parents will be sent home. It outlines the target setting and reporting process in school. It also sets out the school's policy on homework and key assessment dates for each year group. Guidance on revision is detailed, including reference to additional resources and revision guides. Please take the time to discuss the relevant assessment schedule with your child. Information is given about parents' evening and annual reports. An overview of how pupils should respond to teachers' feedback using the Green Pen of Progress is also provided. It is our aim to make pupils more responsible for their own learning and thereby to raise pupil progress. The booklet will be sent to parents electronically and may be downloaded from the school website; paper copies are available from Reception in school.

### **Information Evening for Year 9 Parents: 7.00pm on Wednesday 21 October**

For pupils in Year 9 further helpful information will be made available to parents and their children at the Information Evening which will be held in school at 7.00pm on Wednesday 21 October.

### **Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 12 November from 4.00pm to 7.00pm**

I remind parents of Year 11 students that a parents' consultation evening takes place on Thursday 12 November from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. This is an important opportunity to review progress prior to the mock examinations and to discuss revision plans with your child's teachers.

**Parent Forum Meeting 7.00pm on Wednesday 18 November in the School Hall**

A Parent Forum takes place each term and provides opportunity for parents to raise questions, provide feedback and meet members of school leadership team. The next forum will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 18 November. All parents are invited to attend. Details of the other Parent Forum meetings scheduled for this school year are given in the School Calendar.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Open Day tomorrow.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E A Cox', with a stylized flourish at the end.

E A Cox, Headteacher