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CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Putting Our Faith in Education

9 September 2016

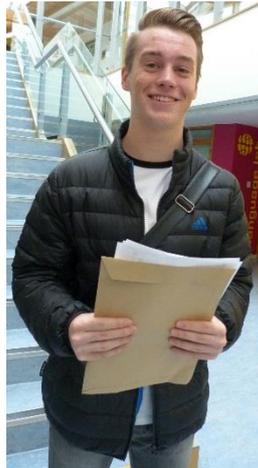
Dear Parents

New School Year

Congratulations to our pupils on the excellent start made to the new school year. Standards of uniform are very high. Many thanks to parents for ensuring that your children are turned out so well. It is wonderful to see all pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 wearing our smart new uniform. It is also pleasing that so many pupils in Year 11 have chosen to wear it instead of the legacy uniform. They look smart, professional and business like. The new uniform is compulsory for all pupils in Years 7 to 10. Year 11 students are obliged to wear the new broad striped maroon and gold clip-on tie but may wear the legacy uniform if they wish to do so.

Excellent Results

There were many smiling faces here in school on Thursday 25 August, GCSE Results Day.



The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) recognises students' achievements across a core of selected academic subjects. Those who attain grades A* - C in English, Mathematics, two Science subjects, a language and a humanity (either Geography or History) are deemed to have achieved the EBacc. This year 49% of our students achieved the English Baccalaureate, a percentage which is significantly higher than the mostly recently published national average (for 2015) of 23%. This high performance maintains a three year trend.



Stephen Lawrence
EDUCATION STANDARD

Key performance indicators for 2016 are given below:-

- 75% of all the grades awarded to Cardinal Heenan pupils were Grades A* - C
- 81% of all pupils gained A* - C in Mathematics
- 64% of all pupils gained A* - C in English
- 25% of all grades were Grade A and above
- 20% of all pupils gained five or more A* or A grades

50% of our History students achieved the top grades A* or A. The corresponding percentages for other subjects were: 42% in French, 40% in English Literature, 37% in Religious Studies, 32% in Geography and 21% in Spanish. 44 pupils students gained these top grades (A* or A) in Mathematics, 14 in Physics, 12 in Chemistry, 12 in Biology and 10 in Business.

Congratulations to Year 11 pupils on achieving these excellent GCSE results, especially to the pupils who gained the top grades (A* and A) in all their subjects: Nathan Allinson, Carina Font, Kitty Grenham and Jasmine Webster. Carina and Nathan gained ten A*s each.

Further details of the 2016 results will be published in our forthcoming examination results newsletter.

Operatic Role for Jakub

Congratulations to Jakub Packo, Year 8, on being selected to appear in Opera North's new staging of Benjamin Britten's *Billy Budd* at the Grand Theatre, Leeds. Being chosen to join the cast of a professional production is a considerable achievement. The show, a co-production with *Nederlandse Reisopera*, runs in Leeds from 18 to 29 October before touring to Nottingham, Salford, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

Warm Welcome

Many have commented that our school staff are looking younger these days. We welcomed 11 new staff members at the start of term: Mrs McGinley, Curriculum Leader for Business Studies; Mrs Wild, Progress Learning Centre Manager; Mr Edney, Assistant Curriculum Leader for Physical Education; Mr Easter, Teacher of English; Miss Barnes, Teacher of Religious Education; Mrs Hammond, Teacher of Music and English; Teaching Assistants Mrs Cruz, Miss Moore, Miss Di Presa, Miss Roskowska and Mrs Nazir. Mr O'Flanagan, will join us as a Teacher of Science from January 2017.

Existing staff have been appointed to new roles: four teachers become members of the school's Senior Leadership Team: Miss McMinn as Director of English; Miss Donnelly as Director of Mathematics; Mr Bownass as Director of Science; and Mrs Powell-Wiffen as Director of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and English as an Additional Language (EAL). Miss Hudson has been appointed as Assistant Curriculum Leader for Science. Mr Palmer becomes Achievement Leader for Year 7. Miss Bishop, Miss Clarke, Mr Coldwell and Mrs Welbourne become Coordinators of Teaching and Learning; Dr Bradley is our new Coordinator of Personal, Health, Social and Citizenship Education (PHSCE). Miss Burns is a Teacher of English and Library Support Assistant. Mrs Crossland and Mrs Brumskill become Cover Assistants. Mrs Clinch becomes Year Manager during Mrs Keinhorst's maternity leave. Mrs Plygawko takes up a new role as Data and Assessment Manager. Mrs Firth becomes the school's Examinations Officer; Mr Broadley becomes IT Network Manager; Mrs Walker has been appointed as Senior Science Technician. Our pupils are served by so many accomplished, enthusiastic and highly qualified staff. We hope that all our pupils and staff will have a happy and successful school year ahead.

Walsingham: Saturday 17 September

Pupils are warmly invited to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 17 September. This is a wonderful event which enables parishes and schools to come together for sharing of faith, reflection and prayer. The day starts early with a 6.30am departure and includes visits to the Catholic and Anglican shrines to Our Lady. Return will be at approximately 9.00pm. Places are available at £20 each. Family members are also invited. Please contact Mrs O'Neill, Curriculum Leader for Religious Education, for details.

Year 7 Cognitive Ability Tests (CATS)

We will be testing all Year 7 pupils by means of nationally recognised tests known as Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) in the fortnight beginning Monday 19 September. Four tests assess a pupil's ability to reason with and manipulate different types of material through a series of verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial ability tasks. These tests provide teachers with a comprehensive profile of a pupil's reasoning abilities, the core abilities related to learning. The resulting data can then be used to identify a pupil's strengths, weaknesses and learning preferences, providing accurate and reliable information that is essential for personalised learning. The more we know about a pupil, the better position we should be in to offer a learning environment and ways of teaching and learning that allow pupils to maximise their potential. Further information may be found online at:

<http://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/cat4-cognitive-abilities-test-fourth-edition>

If you have any additional questions please contact Dr Caldwell, Assistant Headteacher, at school (887 4320).

School Buses

All pupils using the school buses must carry and produce a yellow boarding pass every day and travel on the school bus indicated on this pass. Failure to produce a boarding pass will prevent access to the school bus. In addition, all pupils must also show the driver a current *Under 16 Photocard* which entitles pupils to pay half fare. Bus operators have informed the school that any pupil without this pass will be charged £2.40, the full fare, instead of the £1.20 half fare. Parents can get an *Under 16 Photocard* at Leeds Central Bus Station. Proof of the child's age and address is needed. Alternatively, complete the application on line at <https://ticketsandpasses.wymetro.com/tickets-and-passes/under-26-and-students/under-16-photocard/>. A valid UK passport and a digital passport-quality photo are needed to make online applications. The only exceptions to the above relate to pupils entitled to a Zero Fare pass. New school bus services to and from Cardinal Heenan have been operating from the start of term last Tuesday. Click here for timetable information:

<http://www.generationm.co.uk/your-school/schoolfinder/C/CardinalHeenanCatholicHighSchool/#school>

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority has written to parents with details of the services which apply for each pupil. For further information about education transport telephone 348 1122 or see <http://www.generationm.co.uk/> Mr Corcoran, Assistant Headteacher, is the point of contact for issues relating to special school bus services.

Planners

All pupils have been issued with a new Planner for the school year 2016 - 17. I remind parents of the need to read important information and sign the following pages:

Page 12	Home-School Agreement
Page 14	Emergency Closure and Non-Uniform Days
Page 15-16	After School Activities

The Pupil Planner has been provided to pupils free of charge. As you will be aware, there is a strain on our school budget this financial year. In order to offset costs, the school is asking parents to make a voluntary contribution of £4 per pupil (a maximum of £8 per family) towards the cost of issuing Planners for the year. Contributions should be made by *ParentPay* no later than Friday 16 September 2016. The school does not accept cheques or cash in payment.

Early School Closure for Pupils on Wednesday 28 September

The school will close to pupils at 1.20pm on Wednesday 28 September. School buses will collect pupils from school at 1.30pm after an early lunch. Parents, please contact school without delay if this early closure causes you childcare problems. Pupils who are unable to get home may remain in school, supervised by staff, until 3.15pm. Normal lessons will be suspended. The time gained will be used by staff in training for raising achievement as part of the school's strategies for attaining consistently high levels of pupil progress.

Mass of Welcome, Thursday 29 September

Parents of Year 7 pupils are asked to note that the Mass of Welcome for Year 7 pupils will take place at 7.00pm in the school Hall on Thursday 29 September. 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. I look forward to seeing pupils and their parents.

Open Evening for Parents of Pupils in Primary Schools, Monday 3 October, at 7.30pm

Parents of pupils currently in primary schools are invited to find out about what the school has to offer your child: high academic achievement; excellent teaching; superb learning facilities; many clubs, sports and activities; pastoral care and support. The evening is an occasion to meet the school's senior staff. This evening is for parents only. Please do not bring children to this meeting.

Open Day for Everyone, Saturday 8 October, 11.00am – 1.30pm

Everyone is invited to see the school at work at our Open Day. 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!

See the School in Action, Wednesday 12 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. Please book your place by ringing Mrs Martland on 887 3240.

Yours sincerely



E A Cox
Headteacher