



CARDINAL HEENAN  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

# VERITAS

## NEWSLETTER

### A message from the Headteacher

As we approach the end of a short but incredibly busy term at school, I would like to recognise the efforts of all staff and students in ensuring that Cardinal Heenan is a happy school, with strong links to our local community.

Lent provides us with an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with Jesus through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Many of our students have committed to their Lenten promises and have taken up the many opportunities for prayer and reflection offered by our Chaplaincy team throughout this half term. In addition, the school has become a hive of activity during Lent, with students planning and leading so many creative ways to raise money for the Good Shepherd Appeal. Thank you to everyone who donated - we raised over £3000.

This half term also saw many members of our dedicated staff team give up their time to support trips. Over the half term holiday, a group of Year 10 students travelled to Spain, where they improved their language skills and became immersed in Spanish culture. More recently, many of our Year 7 students enjoyed their first residential, where they spent quality time with their peers, developing existing friendships and making new ones, whilst the remaining Year 7 students took part in an in school retreat, focusing on how they have transitioned into Cardinal Heenan students.

Our Year 10 students have recently started the process of applying for the positions of head students, prefects and senior prefects and I am looking forward to the formal interviews with the Senior Leadership Team which will take place after the Easter holidays. They have impressive role models in the form of our current senior leadership team who have built on the best traditions they have inherited as they continue to raise the profile of student leadership in school. Our team of student leaders and their fellow Year 11 students continue to impress us with their hard work as they prepare for their examinations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their commitment to our school community. At Easter, we bid farewell to Mr Reeve, who has supported and inspired our musicians in lessons and collective worship during his time with us. Finally, I would like to thank our families for the support you give to me and our school community throughout the year. I often speak about the trust you place in us when you 'lend' us your children during their five years here and it is wonderful to see so many students making the most of all of the opportunities they are given.

Finally, I would like to wish our entire school community a happy and holy Easter and look forward to seeing you again after the break.

**Mr Kelly, Headteacher**

# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## CHAPLAINCY

### LENTEN FUNDRAISING

Students from all year groups have thrown themselves into fundraising for our annual Lenten almsgiving efforts. We have raised a total of £3169.75 for the Good Shepherd appeal throughout this half term. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time and money to support this appeal.



#### YEAR 11: £488.87

Year 11 set the standard for the half term with Easter egg raffles, a staffroom hundred square challenge, DIY scratch cards, an UNO tournament and a lucky dip.



#### YEAR 10: £491.80

Year 10 then took on the challenge, raising money through raffles, memory games, a lollipop lucky dip and a rap battle in the hall.



#### YEAR 9: £815.13

Year 9 continued with 'Splat A Teacher', ice pops, jelly bean jeopardy game, a sponsored silence, a staffroom football club challenge and a spelling bee event.



#### YEAR 8: £654.06

Year 8 showcased their baking talents with a cake sale, tuck shop and Easter egg raffle. They also invited students to 'Pie a Teacher' and made the most of the good weather by selling ice creams.



#### YEAR 7: £719.89

Finally, Year 7 closed the half term with a carnival event featuring a range of stalls and activities.

Well done to everyone for their excellent efforts in raising money for the Good Shepherd Appeal. Every tutor group in school was involved in at least one activity across the half term and it has been amazing to see so many creative fundraising events in school.

# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## PRAYING TOGETHER LOURDES MASS

36 Year 10 students are signed up for the pilgrimage to Lourdes in July this year. As part of their preparation, the group are meeting regularly and taking part in activities. The students have been involved with a range of Common Good activities on lunchtimes too to develop their communication skills and teamwork.



## MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

On Thursday, we came together as a school community for our Maundy Thursday service. Fr Yemane led us in prayer and followed Jesus' example of service by washing staff members' feet. Students from different groups led us in reflections on the sacrifices Jesus made for us. Members of our choir led the singing and Year 10 students observed the Stations of the Cross.

After the service, all students spent time in their tutor groups reflecting on our school mission statement and considering the ways in which we all live this mission everyday through demonstrating and developing the virtues.



I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

John 10:10

## ST JOHN VIANNEY ECCUP CHALLENGE

Good luck to everyone who is taking part in St John Vianney Parish's Eccup Challenge on Saturday 6 June to raise money for the Church Restoration Fund. The fundraising this year is focussed on redecoration and a new carpet at St Paul's Church following extensive restoration work. If you are able to sponsor this event, please donate via the JustGiving page - <https://justgiving.com/campaign/sjv-walk26> or register online here - <https://www.stjohnvianneyleeds.org.uk/>

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This half term, collective worship has been planned by 8DFR who considered simple ways we can all contribute time, money or resources to support our Lenten fundraising; 7LSA, who prayed for compassion and solidarity for those affected by conflict in our communities and around the world; and 9ERY, who inspired us to live our school mission through the virtues and helped us to reflect on the message of our school prayer.

# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## CAREERS GUIDANCE

### JUNIOR DETECTIVES

Four Year 8 students took part in a week of activities at the University of Leeds as part of West Yorkshire Police's Junior Detectives scheme. As well as giving them valuable insights into a range of roles in law enforcement and criminal justice, the scheme is aimed at reducing knife crime across the city by raising awareness about the consequences of knife crime on individuals, families and communities. Students will share their learning through assemblies in school. Over the week, students interviewed police officers, barristers and judges; learnt about forensics and crime scene investigation; and visited Leeds Crown Court. They also worked with student ambassadors from the University of Leeds.



### CONSTRUCTION SITE VISIT

Year 10 construction students took part in a site visit with Willmott Dixon where they learnt about the different roles in the construction industry and the measures site teams put in place to ensure projects are completed safely and efficiently.



### GSAL FUTURES CONFERENCE

Year 10 students attended the GSAL Futures Conference, where a group of GSAL alumni delivered workshops and seminars on a wide range of careers.

### I DIDN'T KNOW PHILOSOPHERS DID THAT!

A group of Year 10 students travelled to the University of Leeds to take part in a day of seminars and lectures organised by the Philosophy department aimed at debunking myths about philosophy and sharing the range of different roles which use philosophy and ethics. Topics included the rise of AI, earthquake safety and the discussion around public statues and commemorations.



### APPRENTICESHIPS ASSEMBLY

Year 10 and 11 students took part in a joint assembly delivered by representatives from BPP group. They learnt about the wide range of apprenticeship and degree apprenticeship programmes available in a variety of different industries. They discovered more about the application process and the ways in which degree apprenticeships can enhance their career opportunities. After the presentation, students had the chance to ask questions about apprenticeships and speak to ambassadors who have recently completed degree apprenticeships about their experiences.

# SPAIN TRIP

In February, a group of Year 10 students, accompanied by Mrs Stanton, Miss Serra and Mr Scott, visited Andalucía in the south of Spain on our first school trip to the region.

It was an action packed 5 days including tours of the spectacular Moorish architecture of the Alhambra palace in Granada, the Mezquita in Córdoba and the Plaza de España and Real Alcázar in Seville, where we were blessed with blue skies and an opportunity to soak up some sun.



Pupils and staff also enjoyed sampling local tapas and churros, making paella and gazpacho, watching a traditional flamenco show and taking part in an interactive language class. It was a delight to see the students trying out their language skills in real life scenarios. They showed real maturity, enthusiasm and kindness throughout. ¡Gracias a todos!



## YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL

Year 7 had a fantastic time on their residential retreat, enjoying a weekend that thoughtfully combined reflection and prayer with opportunities for challenge and team building.

On arrival on Friday, students got straight into their first activities in their groups. Everyone then came back together for dinner, followed by a big game of hide and seek in the dark.



Throughout the weekend, they took part in a wide range of team-building and adventurous activities, giving them the chance to grow and develop as the people God calls them to be. Evenings were filled with fun and laughter, including games of ambush and a lively silent disco, which helped to strengthen friendships and build a real sense of community.

On Saturday evening, students came together for a special service, where they reflected on the new friendships they had formed and shared their hopes for the rest of their time at school.



They represented our school community with pride, living out our virtues and strengthening their courage, solidarity, faith, hope, and love.



# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## COMMUNITY ACTION

### COMMON GOOD INFLUENCERS

#### REPORT BY NIAMH (YEAR 9)

This month, the Common Good group has continued collecting clothing donations for refugees as part of the Horsforth Town of Sanctuary appeal, alongside their regular meetings.

During this time, three of our Common Good leaders had the opportunity to visit the Irish Centre, where communities gathered and connected over a shared meal as part of a St Patrick's Day celebration and everyone enjoyed an afternoon of music and dancing.

Our weekly visits to Penny Field School and Brandon House care home have continued and we really appreciate the connection we have with our neighbours.

Many members of the Common Good group, along with the wider school, have also been participating in weekly fundraising activities within their year groups and forms. These efforts are supporting the Good Shepherd Appeal, with an Easter-themed focus.

Members of the school community from all year groups have been involved with all of the different Common Good projects this year. See Miss Goode or any of the Common Good Influencers if you would like to get involved.



# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## EXPLORING SUBJECTS IN GREATER DEPTH

### TASKMASTER

As part of the Leeds City of Maths celebrations, a group of students have taken on a mathematical version of Channel 4's Taskmaster challenge. With Mr Hartwell acting as our very own Taskmaster and Mrs Cowley as Cardinal Heenan's answer to Alex Horne, students have been challenged to think outside the box and work as a team to complete a variety of mathematical challenges based on shape, number and ratio.

As well as completing tasks as a team in school, each week pupils are challenged to apply their mathematical thinking in weekly at-home prize tasks, including searching for the best examples of maths in nature, and finding the most interesting symmetrical objects. This project has been a celebration of maths and a way for students to use maths in fun and practical ways.



### SCIENTIA EST VITA

The Science Magazine Club is once again proud to present our latest issue, this time all about superstitions and myths! This is a bumper edition with fascinating stories and articles on the various strange myths people believe. And all in time for April Fool's Day!

This time, we also ran a Primary feeder school competition to submit articles or posters on superstitions. There were so many entries, it was really difficult to choose the best, so we've included no fewer than 5 entries in this Issue. Well done to Amelia and George from Holy Name School for their winning entries!



### LEEDS BOOK AWARDS

A group of Year 7 and 8 students have been reading and reviewing the shortlisted titles for the Leeds Book Awards fiction and graphic novel categories. As part of their preparations for the awards ceremony in May, the group were invited to Leeds Central Library, where they had a tour of the historic building before creating and editing 'BookTok' videos about the shortlisted books. The group have now voted for their favourite shortlisted titles and submitted questions for the authors - we can't wait to find out the winners in May!



Leeds Book Awards

# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## LIVING THE VIRTUES

Our virtue in focus for this half term is LOVE



### Definition:

You accept someone as they are, you care for them, and care what happens to them and you want to share your life with them. You always think about another person rather than thinking about yourself. When you love you put into practice the “golden rule”, to treat others with the respect and kindness that you want for yourself. You love people you do not know by simple acts of kindness and by wanting the best for them.

The winners of the tutor group virtues prizes for this half term are:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Florence	Alexandra	Kaima	Jethro	Sarah
Maria	Jada	Lea	Leo	Ronia
Isabella	Belicia	Mina	Victor	Chidalu
Abbie	Adel	Matilda	Amelia	Isobel
Rose	Oche	Ava	Zelinna	Mollie
Annabelle	Ronan	Will	Sophie	Jacob
	Tricia	Natalia	Dorea	Daniel
		Emily		Isla
		Peter		
		Nahom		
		Loretta		

Students have demonstrated love through their magnificent fundraising efforts for our Lenten appeal. Students have shared the activities they love with others to raise money for worthwhile causes. Our Year 11 students have demonstrated love for their friends by supporting each other through their revision and our Year 7 students showed love through the team building activities on their residential. Lent provided everyone in our school community with the opportunity to strengthen and renew their relationship with Jesus.

**“YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. THIS IS THE GREAT AND FIRST COMMANDMENT. AND A SECOND IS: YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.”**

**(MATTHEW 22:37-39)**

# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

### CROSS COUNTRY

Our Year 9 and 10 girls and boys cross country teams both finished the season top of their leagues, with the Year 7 and 8 girls finishing fourth and the Year 7 and 8 boys finishing in eighth. All students represented our school with pride and we had an excellent turnout at all events throughout the season. Cross country club continues to be well attended, with staff and students making the most of the good weather and enjoying their regular Thursday run in the sun!



### BOYS FOOTBALL

Our Year 11 boys football team won a dramatic quarter final on penalties to reach the semi finals of the Leeds Schools Cup. Well done to everyone who has represented the team throughout their five years at Cardinal Heenan.

### GIRLS FOOTBALL

Our Under 12 girls team have qualified for Leeds Schools Cup semi final and won the Leeds Merit League.

Our U13s bowed out of the ESFA National Cup to last year's winners in an incredibly close quarter final - the final score of 0-1. Great performances cementing themselves in the top 10 schools in England. Their incredible cup run was featured in the Yorkshire Evening Post and they are looking forward to competing on the National stage again next season.

Meanwhile, the U14s have also reached the semi finals of the Leeds Schools Cup as well as winning their Merit League. Well done everyone!



### INDIVIDUAL SPORTING SUCCESS

- Grace (Year 8) has qualified for the British Swimming Championships, which will take place at the London Aquatics Centre over the Easter break. She has qualified in the 200m Breaststroke and is the youngest entrant in her event. This event forms part of the trials for the Commonwealth Games. Good luck, Grace!
- Aiden (Year 11) played 45 minutes for Burnley Under 21s - an amazing achievement at the age of 16!
- Alana (Year 9) has travelled to Chicago to compete in the Irish dancing world championships. Good luck, Alana!
- Former student, Ollie Casey, plays regularly for Blackpool FC's first team. Well done, Ollie!
- Former students Isaac Coleman (Rochdale Hornets) and Ethan Newbould (Midlands Hurricane) recently faced each other in a rugby league fixture.



We are always delighted to hear about our students' sporting successes outside of school. If you have any sports news stories about current or former pupils, please email them to [newsletter@cardinalheenan.com](mailto:newsletter@cardinalheenan.com) and we will share them with our school community.

# NETBALL



## MATCH REPORTS BY NIAMH (YEAR 9)

### Cardinal Heenan Year 9 vs Bishop Young

Our Year 9 netball team delivered an outstanding performance, securing a commanding 12–2 victory over the opposition. From the first whistle, the team demonstrated precision, speed, and excellent communication. The match was controlled from start to finish. Midcourt players dominated possession, feeding passes to the shooters, who capitalised on nearly every opportunity. The opposition did manage to take advantage of a few loose passes. However, defenders were relentless, intercepting passes and limiting the opposition's chances, which contributed to the low score conceded. Key highlights included fast breaks, strong teamwork, and strategic play that showcased the squad's cohesion. Even with a significant lead, the team maintained focus, finishing the game strongly and demonstrating great sportsmanship towards their opponents. This match not only reflects the skill and preparation of the Year 9s but also their dedication and teamwork. It was a truly memorable victory and a fantastic confidence boost for the squad moving forward. Player of the match: **Grace B.**

### Cardinal Heenan Year 8 vs Grammar School B

The match began with high energy as both teams battled for control of the centre pass. Our team started strongly, moving the ball quickly through the midcourt. Early defensive pressure from our Goal Defence, Cara, and Goal Keeper, Alanna, limited some of the opposition's opportunities. Our team responded well in the second quarter, improving their marking and increasing the speed of their passing. Midcourt players Eva K, Alex, and Eva S intercepted several passes, leading to fast breaks and goals from our shooters, Gracie and Mollie. In the third quarter, both teams were determined to take control. Our team demonstrated excellent teamwork, with strong communication and effective movement off the ball. Some brilliant assists from the Centre enabled our shooters to score, keeping us in the game. The opposition, however, continued to find gaps in our defence. The final quarter was intense, with both teams pushing hard. Our players showed resilience, scoring another goal and defending tirelessly. The match ended with a final score of 9–5. Player of the match: **Eva K.**

### Cardinal Heenan Year 8 vs Grammar School C

The match began with our players feeling the effects of the previous game. Sloppy passes and missed opportunities allowed the opposition to gain interceptions. Despite this, our defence held strong at key moments, and a couple of quick goals showed flashes of the team's usual quality. At the start of the second quarter, tiredness was still evident, with a few unforced errors creeping in. After recognising the dip in intensity, the coach delivered a motivating team talk, reminding the players of their strengths and the importance of working together. Energised by this, the team refocused, improving communication, passing more cleanly, and moving more sharply. With renewed energy and confidence, the team dominated possession. They experimented with a few position swaps, giving everyone the opportunity to contribute in different roles. Midcourt players drove fast breaks, defenders intercepted key passes, and shooters capitalised on their chances. Although GSAL had a strong defensive presence in the circle, our team adapted well. In the final quarter, despite some tired legs, communication remained strong, marking was tight, and passes were executed with precision. Both teams displayed excellent sportsmanship, encouraging one another and acknowledging good play. The match concluded with a solid 8–3 victory for our team. Player of the match: **Eva K.**

### Cardinal Heenan Year 9 vs Grammar School B and C

This match was a testament to our team's strength, adaptability, and spirit. Mid-game positional changes allowed all players to contribute in new ways, strengthening teamwork and understanding across the squad. Beyond the scoreline, players demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, supporting each other from across the court and celebrating the game. This performance leaves the team feeling motivated and confident for future challenges. The second match against Grammar School C proved to be a true test of endurance, teamwork, and resilience. Despite fatigue from the previous game, the team regrouped and showed determination and focus. Their ability to adapt, support one another, and maintain team spirit ensured a strong overall performance—demonstrating that, regardless of the result, they played as a united team.

# **LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....**

## **CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR COMMUNITY**

### **AN INTERVIEW WITH DR CASTELINO**

This week's interview is with our new Assistant Curriculum Leader for Science, Dr Castelino.

#### **How long have you worked at CHCHS?**

I worked here for 6 years previously, went away and worked at a different school for 2 years and, like The Backstreet Boys, am back again this year!

#### **What is your favourite thing about your role in school?**

Teaching Science! I love it when students 'get' what I am explaining and ask questions.

#### **Why did you decide to work in a school?**

This school community means a lot to me. Students, both past and present, staff, families, every single person make me feel like I am home at Cardinal Heenan.

#### **What do you do in your spare time?**

I love reading, mainly murder mysteries - Agatha Christie is my favourite! Other than that, I dance like everyone is watching and love spending quality time with my family.

#### **What one piece of advice would you give to students?**

Do your homework, kids! It'll help you with your learning.

#### **Thank you for giving up your time to speak to us.**



## LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

### STAFF AND STUDENT WELLBEING BOOK RECOMMENDATION - JACOB (YEAR 7)

Jacob recommends the Demonata series by Darren Shan. He liked the fact that the books are scary while still being accessible for younger students. He particularly enjoyed the detailed descriptions of the monsters and their unique characteristics.



### STAFF WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Our staff wellbeing committee hosts regular events in the staffroom including our regular 'Cake Friday' breaks. Each term, we also participate in fundraising activities including raffles and hundred club boards. This term, the proceeds from these fundraisers have been donated to the Teenage Cancer Trust who have supported members of our school community this year. We donated over £170 to this important charity.

### YEAR 11 EXAM PREPARATION EVENING

Year 11 students engaged maturely with their exam preparation evening last week. The evening focussed on ways to revise and prepare for exams while supporting positive mental health.

### PIANO SUCCESS

Well done to Year 9 student, Leon, who performed at the Rothwell Competitive Music Festival last Saturday. He won 1st prize in the Piano Recital Open Class and also the Young Musician of the Festival prize. Well done, Leon!



### ABOUT ME

Students were invited to participate in an art competition celebrating the things which make them unique. The artwork is on display in Mrs Craven's classroom. Well done to everyone who took part.



### KEEP IN TOUCH

We love hearing good news stories from our former staff and students. If you have any news stories related to current or past members of our school community, please send them to [newsletter@cardinalheenan.com](mailto:newsletter@cardinalheenan.com).

### UPCOMING DATES:



Follow us on Instagram at @CHCHSLeeds

Monday 20 April - First day of term for all pupils  
Tuesday 21 April - Year 7 Consultation Evening  
Wednesday 22 April - Year 8 Reports Issued  
Wednesday 29 April - Y8 Vaccinations  
Monday 4 May - Bank Holiday  
Wednesday 6 May - Year 8 Consultation Evening / Year 9 Reports Issued  
Friday 8 May - Year 11 External Examinations begin  
Wednesday 20 May - Year 10 Preparing for Next Steps Evening  
Friday 22 May - Year 11 Leavers Assembly / Last day of half term

[www.cardinalheenan.com](http://www.cardinalheenan.com)

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