OCTOBER 2026

CARDINAL HEENAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

VERITAS NEWSLETTER

A message from the Headteacher

It has been a busy start to this academic year, and we already have lots to celebrate as a school community.

In August, we celebrated the exceptional achievements of our Class of 2026 - once again placing us as one of the most successful schools in Leeds. Their results are a testament to their dedication and commitment to becoming the people God calls them to be, and to the support they received from our entire school community: their own commitment to learning; the hard work and dedication of staff; and, of course, the invaluable support of their parents and families. I look forward to celebrating their success with them at our annual Presentation Evening on 17 November. We were also delighted to receive our certificate for our exceptional attendance - placing us, once again, in the top 10% of all schools nationally.

Our extra-curricular timetable is busier than ever, and it is wonderful to walk around school at lunchtimes or after school and see so many students taking part in everything from badminton and cross-country to Chess Club and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. You will find full details of our extra-curricular programme on our website. There really is something for everyone, and I urge all students to try something new over the course of this year.

I would also like to thank our Governing Body for the support they give to our school community. It is important to recognise the significant contributions of this team of volunteers, who are passionate about helping us to improve all aspects of school life. We were delighted by the interest parents showed in our recent election for new parent governors, and I am pleased to welcome Daniel Furniss and Rosie Hanley to our Governing Body.

Our annual September review process once again highlighted the expertise of our curriculum leaders in driving forward our outstanding curriculum offer. Leaders at all levels across the school continually seek ways to develop and enhance our students' experiences, and all staff work tirelessly to achieve this vision. This term, we have welcomed several new members of staff across the school, and they have quickly become valued members of our community: Miss Adams in our RE Department; Mrs Carne in our Music Department; Mrs Freeman in our English Department; Miss Laing as our Technology and Practical Arts Technician; Mr Gillespie as Cover Supervisor and PE Assistant; and Miss Waller, Mr Bateson, Miss Hurley and Miss Leeds in our Curriculum Support Department.

I would like to thank all staff for the way they have welcomed these new colleagues into our community. It was wonderful to see so many staff at the New Staff Welcome Mass in September. Thank you to Fr Chris for joining us to celebrate the occasion, and to our senior students for their readings and prayers.

I would also like to congratulate all our students on a fantastic first half-term. Our Year 7 pupils have made an outstanding contribution so far, and it was brilliant to see so many of them and their families at their Welcome Mass in September. I was especially proud of our wonderful altar servers, musicians and readers, who played an integral role in supporting Fr Paul during this special celebration. It was particularly fitting that this was Fr Paul's first Mass as our new Priest Chaplain.

Our Open Day in October was a wonderful opportunity to see our community in action as we welcomed prospective students and their families. It was fantastic to see so many students giving up their time on a Saturday to support primary pupils as they make important decisions about their next steps. I regularly remind families that we, as a school, feel privileged to 'borrow' your children for the time they are with us, and events such as Open Day provide opportunities for students to share their school with the wider community.

As part of our commitment to working positively with our local community, I would also like to remind everyone of the importance of parking considerately and safely in and around the school. Please be mindful of our neighbours, avoid blocking driveways or pavements, and take particular care around school entrances and pedestrian crossings. By following parking restrictions and showing consideration for local residents, we can help to keep our students safe and maintain the positive relationships we value so highly with those who live and work in the surrounding area. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

I am delighted to share some very positive news: thanks to the generosity and support of our school community, we have now raised enough money to replace the minibus that was stolen. This is a fantastic achievement and a wonderful example of what we can accomplish together. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, supported our fundraising efforts or helped to raise awareness of our appeal. Your kindness and generosity will help ensure that our students can continue to benefit from the visits, activities and opportunities that make such an important contribution to school life.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our families for their continued support of the school, including through our Parental Voluntary Contributions. The PVCs play an important role in helping us provide opportunities and resources that go beyond what can be funded through our core budget. Contributions help us to enhance students' experiences both inside and outside the classroom, supporting projects such as sports equipment and team kits, musical instruments, educational visits, school productions, enrichment activities and improvements to the school environment. This scheme is entirely voluntary and we deeply respect that not every family will be in a position to contribute. However, if you are able to support us through a regular monthly contribution or a one-off donation, it will make a meaningful and lasting difference to the opportunities and experiences we can provide for our students. A suggested £5 a month donation per pupil would generate over £50,000 a year to be spent on enhancing school life for our children. You can contribute in one of the following ways:

Set up a monthly standing order via your bank
Sort Code: 05-01-21
Account Number: 32081978
Account Name: Cardinal Heenan Capital Fund
Reference: Your child's name

Parent Pay
Make regular payments or a one-off donation via ParentPay (please note, this will continue to show as an active payment to allow you to make further contributions should you wish to do so).

Finally, I would like to wish everyone in our school community a joyful, safe and restful half-term break. Thank you to our students, staff, parents, families, governors and wider community for everything you do to make our school such a special place to learn and grow. I hope our sports teams and coaches have a wonderful time in Malta representing the school and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for the second half of the term on Monday 2 November.

Mr Kelly, Headteacher

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

CHAPLAINCY

VERITAS STUDENT JOURNALISTS

This edition of Veritas is formed almost entirely of contributions from students. Our team of student journalists have written articles, taken photographs and edited the newsletter. They have worked together to share ideas and then written and edited each article. They have celebrated all aspects of our school life and are developing skills to help them become the people God calls them to be.

Any students who would like to join our team of student journalists should email newsletter@cardinalheenan.com or see Miss Burns for more information.

FAITH IN ACTION BY AUDREY

In this half term, our Faith in Action and Chaplaincy groups have started our fundraising towards supporting people affected by the recent disaster in Nepal. Our fundraising efforts have gone to support overseas charities like CAFOD to help people affected by the crisis.

We have organised the selling of sweet bags, thanks to the generosity of our students bringing in sweets and materials, but also giving up their lunchtime every Wednesday to piece everything together.

Next half term, we aim to support local charities like St. Gemma's Hospice by making and selling the bracelets sweet cones and candy canes, as well as selling poppies for the Royal British Legion and preparing our service for Remembrance Day through music, supported by our school choir.









LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

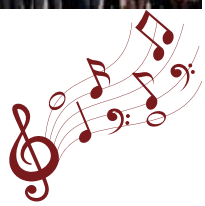
PRAYING TOGETHER
NATIONAL DIOCESAN SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE MASS BY AUDREY

We lent our new school minibus and driver to the Cathedral Choir to support our choir members who sang with the Leeds Cathedral Senior Girls Choir as they travelled to Hinsley Hall after school to sing at the National Diocesan School Commissioners' Conference Mass.. Students were a great credit to the school and sang beautifully, clearly demonstrating how singing – from primary school provision upwards – brings young people into the Church and strengthens their commitment.

Diocese of Leeds Director of Music Tom Leech said: 'It was a beautiful demonstration of the way our whole-class Schools Singing Programme flows into the wider life of the Church, and the excellent commitment and enthusiasm of our young choir members!'



Holy Mass was celebrated by Bishop Marcus, Chairman of the Catholic Education Service (CES), who has said that the Diocesan Schools Singing Programme, a national version of which has now been successfully started in most Catholic Dioceses across the UK, is: '...one of the most effective forms of evangelisation I have seen and experienced.'



NEW STAFF WELCOME MASS BY AUDREY

We welcomed new staff with mass in the chapel led by Fr Chris. This was a fantastic opportunity to spend time with our wider school community and celebrate the strength of Catholic education in our diocese.







"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself."

Matthew 22: 37-39

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP BY AUDREY

This half term, collective worship has been planned by 7EHL, who considered ways we can all take part in our faith community and school work; our faith in action group, who offered their prayers to people affected by flooding Nepal, as well as our school virtues and their hopes for our new students; and 7DFE, who inspired us with our mission statement and our school prayer.

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PRAYING TOGETHER

ETHOS DAYS BY EVE

At the end of September, all tutor groups in Year 7 took part in an Ethos Day to welcome us to Cardinal Heenan and find out more about the people in our tutor group. During these days, we did icebreakers, hymn practice and went on an Emmaus walk around the school fields finishing with a questionnaire and visit to the school chapel for our first tutor group service.

To start the day, the Year 7s played human bingo to find out interesting facts about each other, they played religious themed games such as Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and some fun games like Splat. These games helped them discover things about people in their tutor group who they may not know already.

On our Ethos day they did hymn practices with some Year 10 students who sing in the school choir as well as the teachers who run choir. This part of the day helped us to learn new hymns ready for our welcome mass.

To find out more about each other even more, we went on an Emmaus walk around school grounds asking questions about our partner. Our form tutors had partnered the students with people they didn't know very well to give us an opportunity to make new friends.

To finish the day the two forms were split up one group went to the chapel to have a short service and see inside the chapel while the other form completed a questionnaire about the day before the two groups swapped over.

Overall, it was a fun day which really helped us to feel like we belong as part of this new school community.









LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PRAYING TOGETHER

YEAR 7 WELCOME EVENING BY GRACE

After four weeks in our new high school, it was time to officially welcome all the new families to our school community. Students, parents and siblings gathered to celebrate Mass together. Fr Paul gave a lovely homily talking about belonging and what it means to be part of a community. Well done to all of the Year 7s who read on the evening.

After the Mass, Mr Mangan and Mrs Hayden talked about the importance of homework and how the parents can encourage their children to complete their homework on time and he also shared about how they are doing the homework system differently to previous years and how they are spreading it out and building it up in the coming weeks.

In addition, Mr Mangan talked to us about online safety and how parents should ensure that they are aware of the way students are using mobile phones. He also spoke about some apps that parents can use to link their phone to their children's phone. Finally, he encouraged the students in the room to be more mindful about their online activity.

Mrs Hayden shared her own experiences of her son starting high school this year and congratulated the parents in the room for the support that they have shown to their children during this change.

Before the Mass started, parents and families got a chance to speak to the form tutors about their child and how they are settling in.

I thought that the evening was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate us joining the Cardinal Heenan community.







LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

CAREERS GUIDANCE

OPEN DAY BY MARIA AND ISABELLA

As part of our annual Open Day, students from Year 8, Year 10 and Year 11 toured around parents and children who are thinking about applying to join our school.They demonstrated our school virtues perfectly and really made our school shine brightly. On Saturday 10 October, many primary school students and their families filled our corridors with enthusiasm and confidence as they learnt what our great school has to offer.

Year 7 and Year 9 students showed off their learning in departments from Technology to Drama and from Science to PE. Throughout the day, students showed every bit of our amazing school and were complimented by parents about how helpful and knowledgeable they were.

In the English department, visitors were asked to solve the detective puzzle, a captivating challenge that let our visitors think about clues and use deductive methods to solve the crime. In Maths, our wonderful visitors had to answer a maths trivia spread across the entire corridor - challenging yet demanding of their determination and resilience!

And, in RE, our guests got to experience our lovely chapel and were even given a rosary.

At Cardinal Heenan, we strive to be the best version of ourselves, in our studies and in our everyday lives- and that includes our teachers and staff. We encourage each other to excel at being the person God calls us to be. We strive to support newcomers to join us in this journey.

Overall, the tours on Open Day really helped make the day a success and showed what a brilliant school community we have.









CAMBRIDGE SUCCESS

Congratulations to Cardinal Heenan Head Students of 2023-24, Lois and Jayden, who have recently started their studies at Cambridge University. Both students were participants in the first year of our successful Preparing for Excellence scheme in school and continued to strive for excellence while studying for A Levels. Jayden was a member of The Twelve, the Diocese of Leeds' student leadership group, while Lois took a leading role in extra-curricular activities at Notre Dame. Good luck to both of them!



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE

Y8 STEM DAY BY ELEANOR

A group of us went to Leeds University for a STEM day. We learnt lots about computing and AI. There were loads of skill builder activities and chances to practise our mathematical reasoning. I really enjoyed the maths element - the games and puzzles were really cool and we had to work together to solve the different problems.



YEAR 11 NEXT GEN CAREERS FAIR BY LUCY

This event gave us the chance to find out about college courses and careers in new and developing areas. I spoke to lots of different colleges including Leeds City College and Elliot Hudson College about the art courses on offer there as I would like to do something creative when I leave Cardinal Heenan.



EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL BY ISABELLA

Excellence assemblies led by Ms Tiffany and the head students have helped to inspire excellence by focusing on attendance, behaviour and attention to learning. This inspires us as individuals to follow our school principles of Try your best, Follow the Rules and Be Kind. This made our whole school community think about how we can be excellent in school and the different ways we can show excellence during our time at school. This was then followed by assemblies which showed examples of excellence in our year groups.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

COMMUNITY ACTION

COMMON GOOD INFLUENCERS

The first assignment for our Common Good Influencers, supported by prefects, was to plan and lead assemblies to all year groups explaining what the Common Good project is all about and encouraging them to take part.

In these assemblies, Common Good Influencers talked about some of their experiences from last year with visits and projects such as our regular visits to Penny Field School and Brandon House care home, litter picking, bird box making and gardening.

We then continued to talk about how Common Good doesn't just help our community but also the students taking part, in improving skills of conversation, time management and courage. These skills are fantastic to add to applications and CVs for things like prefects, sixth form and jobs, but also support pupils to become the people God is calling them to be.

We also shared the ways in which anyone can get involved and outlined our plans for monthly challenges for everyone. In our meeting the following week, we had many students from all year showing an interest in getting involved or returning to projects they joined last year.











LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

EXPLORING SUBJECTS IN GREATER DEPTH

AUTHOR VISIT BY GRACE AND EVE

All Year 7 pupils enjoyed an author visit from Rachael King, who talked to us about her book The Grimmelings and about the way her love of reading and stories inspired her to become a writer. She uses her interests, including horses and mythology, to inspire the stories she writes. She talked about getting over the fear of failure and her techniques for improving her stories. She also told us about the process of transforming one of her novels into a TV series which has appeared on Netflix in New Zealand. She inspired us to read more and we are both planning to read her book.



GEOGUESSR CLUB BY EMILY



Geoguessr is an online geography and trivia game. It virtually places you in a random spot in the world and shows you a Google Street View image of that place. You then have to use clues from the image to guess where in the world you are. It is competitive as you have to play against other people, whether in class, or online. Geoguessr club meets in B31 every Tuesday lunchtime to compete against other students - and Mr Jones, who is a Geoguessr champion!

IS MATHS THE ROOT OF EVERYTHING? BY TALIAH

We travelled to Leeds Playhouse for this event which was part of the Leeds International Festival of Ideas. We listened to a panel talk hosted by Countdown's Rachel Riley with a group of people who use maths creatively in their daily lives and jobs. I thought it was really interesting as it should us how maths can be used in unexpected ways and by people you wouldn't expect, for example musicians and composers.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH BY ISABELLA

Black History Month in October is widely celebrated in our school with assemblies and cultural activities that represent and celebrate black culture and achievements. We are learning about the theme of 'Honouring Our Communities' in our daily lessons, and about everyday individuals whose unseen contributions have had an impact on us here and now in different subjects and areas.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
AMNESTY

WE ARE SEEKING DONATIONS OF THE BELOW INSTRUMENTS IN FULL WORKING ORDER TO ENHANCE OUR MUSIC DEPARTMENT:

- VIOLIN (3/4 AND FULL SIZE)
- CLARINET
- FLUTE
- SAXOPHONE (ALTO AND TENOR)
- TRUMPET



PLEASE DROP ANY DONATIONS TO RECEPTION.

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

LIVING THE VIRTUES



Our virtue in focus for this half term is WISDOM



Definition:

You take time to think about what choices you should make and ask God and others about it.

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

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Tillie	Jonathan	Rachel	Adam	Mia
Eve	Oliver	Gracie	Matthew	Kobe
Zara	Rim	Caiden	Harrison	Oscar
Sorcha		Emilia	Jayden	Jack
Emily			Matthew	Macie
Eamon				

Our students have demonstrated wisdom through their positive start to the school year. Many students volunteered to showcase individual subjects or our school as a whole at our Open Day, supporting visiting prospective students to make informed choices about their next steps. Year 11 students have attended Open Events and sessions in school hosted by a number of different sixth form and college providers across the city, seeking support to take their next steps. Pupils across all year groups have participated in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities, which give them the opportunity to find and develop their own unique talents. Building on this, Year 10 students should take some time during the half term break to reflect on the opportunities provided by our Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, and seek advice from friends and family members before applying.

**TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
AND DO NOT RELY ON YOUR OWN INSIGHT.
IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM,
AND HE WILL MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PATHS.**

PROVERBS 3:5–6

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

NETBALL - BY GRACE AND NIAMH



CHCHS U15S VS CARR MANOR

Our Under 15 team started the season with a 10-1 win against Carr Manor. The girls made a great start to the season, winning every quarter, which meant not only were there multiple shots but also countless denied shots from the defensive unit of Grace B and Catherine. This meant the girls finished with a well-earned 10-1 victory. The first quarter was about settling back into the rhythm of match play and getting used to playing together again, with only one training session so far for the U15's this year.

In the second quarter, the focus shifted to keeping possession and holding the ball in the attacking half. This was done well by shooters **Kaima, Olivia, and Grace O,** with a range of shots. By the third quarter, the girls were driving into different spaces and making the most of their passing opportunities in the centre third with great communication, done nicely by the centre court **Jess, Alice, Loretta and Niamh.** Confidence was high heading into the final quarter, and the team continued to work hard while trying different passes, including the bounce pass.

There were plenty of individual moments throughout the match and the opposition's player of the match was **Niamh**.

CHCHS U15S VS GATEWAYS

The Under 15s continued their great start to the season showing great determination against Gateways. Although their second match of the season ended in a 17–9 defeat to Gateways, the team came away feeling positive about their performance. Having found Gateways tough to beat in previous matches, the girls focused on playing their own game and showed plenty of progress.

The first quarter began at a fast pace, with CHCHS taking the first centre pass. Both teams put goals on the board, while Gateways won and took advantage of a few turnovers to build their lead.

A few positional changes in the second quarter saw Kaima, Alison, Loretta and Catherine work hard in defence, with the team focused on maintaining pressure and making Gateways work for their opportunities.

Heading into the third quarter, the message was to stay positive and play with more aggression. The girls responded brilliantly, winning the quarter and putting Gateways under pressure with their determined play.

In the final quarter, the team kept the ball in their attacking half for longer, with Grace O, Niamh, Olivia and Jess showing some great movement around the shooting circle and creating passing options. At the final whistle, the girls were pleased with their efforts and felt that another quarter might have given them a chance to close the gap further. Although the result went Gateways' way, there was plenty to be proud of, including a great performance by opposition player of the match Niamh. We have take lots of positives from this performance and hope to build on this in our next match.

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

CHCHS U14S VS CARR MANOR

The Under 14 girls opened their league season with a closely contested match against Roundhay. Despite a determined effort from CHCHS, Roundhay edged ahead to finish with a 14–9 win.

Following their recent friendly against Gateways, the girls were straight into the game. The second quarter focused on winning the ball back in Roundhay's shooting circle, with Alanna and Eva S doing a great job of regaining possession, and the team worked together to pick up the pace. In centre court, Eva K, Alex, Isla Mc and Anna worked hard to intercept sideline passes, centre passes and any looping balls.

The third quarter was all about closing the gap. Play moved back and forth, with CHCHS keeping the pressure on Roundhay and working hard to respond with a goal whenever one was conceded. The final quarter showed the girls' focus. They kept calm under pressure, particularly around the shooting circle, where Gracie O, Mollie and Sofia T had shown consistent shooting throughout the game. Roundhay secured a few turnovers from CHCHS centre passes late in the match, and although the girls continued to push, they couldn't quite close the gap before the final whistle.

A promising first league performance, with plenty of determination and teamwork to build on and Eva K being named Opposition Player of the Match.

CHCHS U14S VS GATEWAYS

On 1 October 2026 the Year 9 netball team played a tough match against Gateways school. During the first quarter, the Cardies girls had a good start leading 5-1 with good defence and a good attacking strategy. With many of the girls working hard to get away from their defender and doing well in keeping the opposite team out of the shooting third. With 3 goals scored by the Goal Attack Mollie and two scored by Goal Shooter Grace, the girls started the match with a steady lead going into the second quarter.

At the start of the second quarter the girls maintained their lead despite conceding 5 extra goals over the course of the quarter making the score at half time 9-6. The girls worked hard in defence with new additions to the team Lily and Belicia doing well defending against the other team. The girls increased the score with another goal from Sofia and another scored by Grace.

After half time, the girls were inspired to increase their lead with Anna, Eva and Alexandra working hard in centre court to prevent Gateways from establishing a lead. During the 3rd quarter, the girls fought hard but sadly lost their lead by two goals making the score by the end of the 3rd quarter 13-9. The girls fought valiantly especially defenders Alana, Isla and Eva S who displayed excellent teamwork skills to avoid the other team gaining any more points.
After a disappointing previous quarter, the girls were motivated with help from captain Eva and coach Mr Wynne who encouraged them to keep a consistent game and try their best to even out the score.

Sadly by the end of the match the Cardies girls were defeated by a score of 17-12 by the end of a very close, evenly matched game. The girls played extremely well and fought hard and displayed a valiant effort ready for the upcoming netball tour to Malta. Their centre Eva played amazingly and was awarded player of the match due to her outstanding performance that helped the team score as many points as they did.

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

FOOTBALL - BY SOFIA AND ERIN

In September the Year 9 girls football team had their first Leeds cup match of the season and won 5-1, with goals scored by Indeeyah, Alaska and Georgia. Following on from the first win, the Year 9 girls were back in action on Friday and were looking forward to playing in the prestigious National Cup. After their success in getting to the Quarter Finals last year, the Year 9's are the only girls team from Cardinal Heenan that have been entered into the competition this year.

To start their campaign, Cardinal Heenan hosted St Aidens from Harrogate. From the first whistle the girls set out to add the pressure on the visitors, winning every duel and always looking eager to create chances. Cardinal Heenan took the lead, looking very confident and hungry to get another. The opposition fought hard to get back into the game and it wasn't long until St Aidens came back with a goal making it 1-1. This made Cardinal Heenan fight even harder to once again regain the lead before half time, making it 2-1 .

In the second half, both goalkeepers made some excellent saves to keep the score as it was. With Cardinal Heenan's strong attack they scored again making the final score 3-1. The opposition gave their player of the match to Sienna and Cardinal Heenan gave it to their goalkeeper. A fantastic first match for the Year 9 girls in the National Cup and they look forward to the next round.

Unfortunately, at the end of September, the Year 9 girls football team lost 1-4 to Immanuel Academy ending their National Cup journey hopes for this year. Cardinal Heenan played some good football creating chances straight away looking confident going forward, however Immanuel Academy gained the lead with a good goal scored from the wing which put them in front.Cardinal Heenan didn't let their heads drop as they continued to press in the opposition's box putting the pressure on the visitors to keep their one goal lead. Cardinal Heenan then managed to equalise with a great penalty scored by Olivia Butler which brought the Year 9 girls back into the game making the score 1-1. Both teams looked dangerous going forward forcing both goalkeepers to make some great saves, unfortunately the visitors scored 2 more goals and at half time the score was 1-3.In the second half Cardinal Heenan were very eager to get back into the game creating lots of chances but just couldn't get the ball into the back of the net. Both teams had lots of possession until Immanuel Academy scored in a counter attack making the score 1-4. Sadly, Cardinal Heenan just couldn't score the 3 goals in time, meaning a departure from the competition and ending the journey in the National Cup this year.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

FOOTBALL - BY SOFIA AND ERIN

Cardinal Heenan Under 12 girls have had a strong start to the season. Led by their top tier coaches, Mr Gaffey and Mr Bateson, they have won 4 matches in a row by a considerable margin. So far, all 25 students who have attended football training have represented school in at least one fixture.

Their first game was in the Leeds Cup against Mount St Mary's. The girls definitely felt nervous about their first outing but they won 5-1 - a confident start to the season.

Their second game was the first County Cup match of the season against Ilkley Grammar. They were definitely feeing the pressure before this game but smashed it and also won this game 5-1! This spread a positive attitude throughout the team going into the next match.

In their next league game, the team thought they could relax a little bit but, in reality, the team still gave their all and finished 5-2 winners.

Going into their fourth game of the season, the team once again felt the pressure, as this was their second County Cup game against Temple Moor. The team went into this game with a positive attitude and came out with their best result of the season so far - a 7-0 win!

So far, the Cardinal Heenan Year 7 girls have made a fantastic start to the season and we hope to continue this throughout our time at school.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....
PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

CROSS COUNTRY BY NATHAN



Our cross country team are getting ready for our 3.6km race at Cardinal Heenan on 8 November. Our training has been quite tough as we have been practising on the hills in the school grounds, but we are all slowly improving and getting fitter.



We have done a 5 km run to help build our stamina and some hills and shorter intervals to work on our speed. Cardinal Heenan won last year overall, so we are hoping to do well again this year.

We know the race will be difficult, but we will keep trying our best, encourage each other and hopefully make our school proud!

PADEL BY ETHAN

A group of us have been going to padel training once a week. This is a new sport for our school and we have really enjoyed learning about it. During the sessions, the coaches run through some training drills to help us to improve our game. At the end of each session, we play a few games against students from other schools. Luca has been the stand out performer for Cardinal Heenan so far this term.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTING SUCCESS



- Alaska (Year 8) has signed for Huddersfield Town Under 14s. Well done, Alaska!
- Daisy (Year 9) was crowned 2026 Edge Off-road British Cross Country Champion in the Youth Girls class. She has also won 2nd place in the National Sprint Series - Ladies class. Well done, Daisy!
- Former student, Rhys Chadwick, played 45 minutes for Leeds United against Manchester United in front of a crowd of 82,300 people at Croke Park in a pre-season friendly match. Well done, Rhys!
- Over the summer, Grace (Year 10) competed at the British Summer National Swimming Championships. Her best results came in the 100m and 200m breaststroke events, where she won bronze medals. Well done, Grace!



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 and we will share them with our school community.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR COMMUNITY

AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR HEAD STUDENTS

This week's interview is with our new head students Evan, Lola, Finlay and Princess. Thank you for giving up your time to speak to us.



What inspired you to apply to become a head student?

Princess: I was inspired by the past head students to step up for the role. I wanted to be just like them in the future - they were great role models!
Evan: During my time at school, I also looked up to the head students and wanted to be like them. I also want to leave school having had a positive impact I can look back on.
Lola: I also wanted to make a difference and create a bridge of communication between staff and students.
Finlay: I wanted to make a positive change as well - and give younger students a voice.

What are you hoping to achieve this year?

Princess: This year I want to be a positive influence in school.
Finlay: I want every student in school to feel heard and represented. I also want to leave a positive legacy.
Lola: I want to use the forums to build that bridge between staff and students, especially to help Year 7 with transition.
Evan: I want to work closely with the prefects who run the forums as I believe it is a valuable opportunity to hear from all students. As a team, we are also looking to make some physical improvements to the school environment.

What have you enjoyed so far about the role?

All: Working together!
Evan: We have enjoyed working with each other and the prefect team to come up with new ideas and plan upcoming events, such as culture week. I also love wearing my gold tie!
Princess: I really appreciate the team of head students and prefects. Their support means an infinite amount!
Finlay: I've really enjoyed meeting new people and representing our school.

Have you encountered any challenges?

Finlay: Balancing school work and my head student responsibilities with my social life outside of school has been challenging at times.
Lola: I've had to adapt to balancing school work with the tasks and meetings we have to do as part of the head student role.
Princess: Time management is something I am working on - you need to be able to organise your time effectively to get everything done!
Evan: I definitely feel more organised than when I started, I had to learn to balance my school work with this role.

What do you particularly like about being a student at Cardinal Heenan?

Lola: The extra curricular opportunities on offer, the community in school and our wider community.
Evan: I like the sense of community and belonging that you feel when you are here. The school provides lots of opportunities to help you to develop as a person and feel like you are part of something bigger.
Finlay: I also like the feeling of community. The staff and lessons are great as well!
Princess: I like getting involved with events supporting younger students - it really helps me to feel fulfilled as I am fortifying our community.

What clubs or extra curricular activities have you been involved with in school?

Finlay: I've mostly been involved with Common Good projects, like Brandon House and Penny Fields.
Evan: I've played for the school football team and been to basketball, table tennis, cross country and debate clubs.
Princess: I've been to lots of clubs over the years - currently I am part of the choir and I attend netball training every week.
Lola: I've played football and netball since Year 7 and supported the Common Good project.

What do you do in your spare time?

Princess: I love music, so most of my free time is spent listening to my favourite songs.
Lola: I love football but I also do lifesaving and play piano and guitar.
Evan: I also play football and basketball and enjoy spending time with my friends and family.
Finlay: I play drums and guitar.

What would you like to do in the future?

Evan: I want to study A Level Maths, Geography and Economics at Notre Dame, then go on to do something in the environmental sector related to economics.
Finlay: Like Evan, I want to do Maths or Economics at University.
Lola: I want to go to college to study Maths, Geography and PE then onto university but I'm not sure what I want to study yet.
Princess: I want to be a chemist in the future - I really want to use my passions for good!

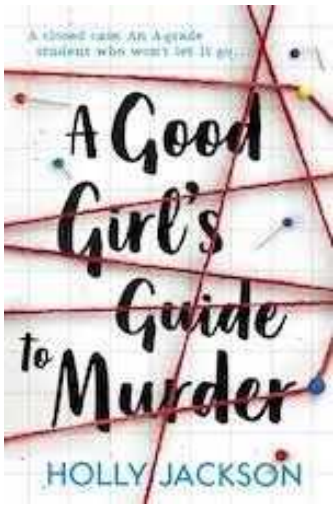
Thank you for giving up your time to speak to us.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

STAFF AND STUDENT WELLBEING

BOOK RECOMMENDATION - SOFIA (YEAR 9)



Sofia recommends *A Good Girls Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson. This is a great read for anyone who loves detective fiction. The story unfolds through the perspective of a 17 year old student re-opening a forgotten murder case in a small town on the outskirts of London. This story champions a female who does not follow the crowds ,who is confident and determined to not let anyone stop her from proving the innocence of the presumed murderer. This book grips the reader from the very first chapter, keeping them on edge of their seat throughout this thrilling story.

STUDENT FORUM BY ELSIE

As senior prefects with responsibility for student voice, we led forum meetings with all year groups about the learning environment at Cardinal Heenan. We identified some common trends in the discussions. Students in all years commented on the high expectations that staff have for students at Cardinal Heenan and many students really valued and appreciated this. All students felt that the behaviour system is fair and works well and are happy when teachers apply it consistently to . Representatives from all year groups felt that, at Cardinal Heenan, poor behaviour is challenged and that this helps to facilitate learning. Year 11s commented on how they really value it when teachers hold them to account for the quality and quantity of work they produce. Students understand that teachers are helping them to be the person that God calls them to be.Thank you to everyone who contributed to the forums this half term. We have had the chance to feedback on our meetings during a whole staff briefing and will continue to share your views with school staff and senior leaders.

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.

UPCOMING DATES:

Monday 2 November: Return to school
Tuesday 3 November: Flu Immunisations
Wednesday 4 November: Year 7 Disco
Tuesday 17 November: Class of 2026 Presentation Evening
Thursday 19 November: Early finish for pupils at 1pm
Thursday 26 November: Year 11 Exam Preparation Day
Wednesday 2 December: Year 11 Consultation Evening
Friday 4 December: School closed to pupils
Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 December: Year 11 English Language Mock Examinations
Friday 11 December: Year 11 Mock Speaking Examinations begin
Wednesday 16 December: Advent Service
Friday 18 December: Last day of term (full day)

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