



VERITAS

NEWSLETTER

A message from the Headteacher

It has been an incredibly busy start to this academic year and we have lots to celebrate as a school community. In August, we celebrated the exceptional achievements of our class of 2025. Their results are among the best in the city and diocese and are testament to our school community – the hard work from staff, students' commitment to excellence and the invaluable support of their parents and families. I look forward to celebrating their success with them at our annual Presentation Evening in November.

Our extra-curricular timetable in school is as busy as ever, and it is wonderful to walk around school at lunchtimes or after school and see so many students taking part in everything from sports fixtures and cross country to drama club and Duke of Edinburgh. You will find details of the full extra-curricular programme on our website. There really is something for everyone and I would encourage 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 important contributions of this team of volunteers who are passionate about helping us to improve all aspects of school life. Look out for opportunities later in the year to apply to become a parent governor, I'm sure you will find it both a valuable and rewarding role. Look out for opportunities later in the year to apply to become a parent governor, I'm sure you will find it both a valuable and rewarding role.

Our annual September review process has once again highlighted the expertise of our curriculum leaders in leading our outstanding curriculum offer – leaders throughout our school are always looking for ways to develop and improve the experiences of our students and staff work tirelessly to achieve this vision.

This term, we have welcomed new staff across the school and they have quickly become part of our school community. We welcome Mr Skingle to the Curriculum Support department, Mr Reeve in our Music department during Ms Pendred's maternity leave and Mr Fitzpatrick, a former student of CHCHS returning as our new facilities manager. We also congratulate Ms Hope who has been appointed to the role of Assistant SENDCO, Mrs Stanton as our new Initial Teacher Training Lead Practitioner, Mrs O'Grady as Administrative Assistant to the Pastoral and Curriculum Support department and welcome back Mrs Broxup who is returning to the PLC following her maternity leave. It was wonderful to see so many current and new staff at our staff welcome Mass in September. Thank you to Fr Yemane for joining us for this special occasion and well done to our head students who offered prayers of intercession.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students on a fantastic start to this academic year. Our Year 7 pupils have made an outstanding contribution so far, and it was great to see so many of them and their families at their Welcome Mass in September. I was especially proud of our wonderful singers, altar servers and readers who were integral in supporting Fr Yemane celebrate such a special Mass. Students in all years have thrown themselves into school life – it is fantastic to see so many contributions from student journalists throughout the sports pages of this newsletter. Year 11 have responded brilliantly to their roles as leaders in school with many of them volunteering to speak in assemblies and support and inspire our younger students. Our Open Day in October was a great chance to see our community in action as we welcomed prospective students and their families and it was lovely to see so many students giving up their time on a Saturday to support younger students as they make decisions about their next steps. I frequently remind families that we, as a school, feel privileged to 'borrow' your children for the length of time they are with us in school and events like Open Day provide the opportunity for students to share their learning with their families and the wider community.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone in our school community a joyful, safe, and restful half-term break.

Mr Kelly, Headteacher

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

CHAPLAINCY

FAITH IN ACTION

Our Faith in Action group celebrated their successes from last year with a rewards breakfast. They met with members of our senior leadership and chaplaincy teams in the library and discussed their plans to build on these successes this year.



The Faith in Action group work closely with our Common Good Influencers to drive student participation in all aspects of school life and community engagement.

CHOIR

Our school choir meet every Thursday in the Chapel to raise their voices in prayer. They performed together for the first time at the Year 7 Settling In evening, where they led the hymns in the Welcome Mass. Special mention to Michelle and Ene, whose beautiful performances of 'Reine du Ciel: Alleluia' in the Chapel were a highlight of our Open Day. We are always looking to expand our choir - all students are welcome to come along on Thursday lunchtimes at 12.50pm to get involved.



NEW STAFF WELCOME MASS AND FAMILY OF SCHOOLS MASS

We welcomed new staff with mass in the chapel led by Fr Yemane. Immaculate Heart of Mary also hosted a family of schools mass with staff from our feeder primary schools. This was a fantastic opportunity to spend time with our wider school community and celebrate the strength of Catholic education across the diocese.

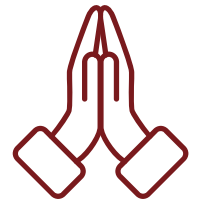


COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This half term, collective worship has been planned by 7LSA who prayed for strength to support those in need in our school community; those experiencing poverty in Leeds and around the world and anyone affected by conflict; and 7RRN who guided us to consider ways to show kindness to others. Students spend part of an RE lesson in the chapel, reflecting on the message of the gospel and discussing the ways they can put this into practice through prayer and action.

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PRAYING TOGETHER ETHOS DAYS



Our Year 7 students celebrated their Ethos Days alongside their tutors and our Chaplaincy team in school. These days give students the chance to understand more about the unique Catholic nature of our school, as well as helping them to get to know members of their tutor group.



Students impressed us with their enthusiasm and thoughtfulness on these special days in school. They worked together to plan their first tutor group service. These services were celebrations of their individual talents and they reflected on the idea that we are all pearls from God and that they will have opportunities to shine throughout their time at school.

As well as looking to the future, students reflected on the past and created shields representing their time at primary school. They took Emmaus walks, giving them the opportunity to talk to friends and remember that Christ accompanies them on their journey through life. They also learned our school hymn and prepared readings for their welcome mass. The Ethos days were an excellent way for Year 7 students to celebrate a fantastic start to life at Cardinal Heenan.



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

John 10:10

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

SHARING OUR FACILITIES WITH

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOLLOWING OUR

PFI EXIT

We are pleased to share that, following our exit from the PFI agreement, Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School has now regained full control of our school site. This marks a significant and positive change for our school community, opening up a range of exciting new opportunities.

One immediate benefit is the ability to expand our lettings offer. We are now in a position to offer a variety of our facilities for hire, including the sports hall, main hall, and potentially our playing fields. If you are interested in hiring any of these spaces, please visit our website for further details.

In addition, this new chapter allows us to build direct relationships with local businesses and tradespeople. If you are part of a local company or work in a trade and would like to explore opportunities to work with us, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our School Business Manager at info@cardinalheenan.com.

We are excited to strengthen our ties with the local community and look forward to working together in the future.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

CELEBRATING SUCCESS OUTSTANDING 2025 RESULTS - AMONG THE BEST IN LEEDS AND THE DIOCESE

Last week, the Department for Education (DfE) released the 2025 headline figures for schools on the Compare School and College Performance in England website. Yorkshire Evening Post's report on schools in Leeds can be found here: <https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/education/top-leeds-secondary-schools-2025-gcse-results-5370259>

Our Summer 2025 results place us, once again, among the highest-performing schools in both the City of Leeds and the Diocese. Key highlights include:

- 72.6% of our students achieved a grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSE — the highest of all Leeds secondary schools and across the Diocese.
- An Attainment 8 score of 58 — also the highest in Leeds and across the Diocese. This score reflects how well pupils have performed in up to eight qualifications, including English, Maths, three English Baccalaureate subjects (such as sciences, computer science, history, geography, and languages), and three additional approved qualifications.

We are especially proud to be the highest-performing school in Leeds and across the Diocese in these measures for disadvantaged students. The DfE defines disadvantaged students as those who have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) in the past six years, or who are currently or have previously been looked after by a local authority.

These exceptional outcomes are a testament to the dedication of our staff, the commitment of our students, and the strength of our shared Catholic values.



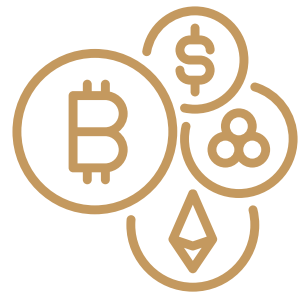
LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

CAREERS GUIDANCE

YEAR 10 BANK OF ENGLAND



Year 10 Business students enjoyed a talk from a representative of the Bank of England on currencies and the evolution of cryptocurrencies and the impact these will have on global economies. They also learnt about careers at the Bank of England and the skills they will need in a modern workplace.



YEAR 8 AND 9 CYBER FIRST AT LEEDS UNIVERSITY

Year 8 and 9 Computer Science students attended a cyber first event at Leeds University where they learnt about courses related to computer science. They took part a variety of talks, seminars and lectures in the School of Computer Science, as well as touring the university campus with undergraduate student ambassadors.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE YEAR 10 DIGITAL CAREERS FAIR

A group of Year 10 Computer Science and Digital iMedia students attended Leeds Arena for a digital careers fair. This event is aimed at inspiring students to consider careers in the digital and tech sectors and bridging the gap between employers and talented individuals who have the potential to become their future workforce.



YEAR 7-10 BBC BITESIZE CAREERS ROADSHOW

We were delighted to welcome the BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow into school this month. Hosted by Jasmine Takhar, the host of BBC Introducing and the Official British Asian Music Chart on the BBC Asian network, this event was an opportunity for students to question the panel about their career paths and the experiences that led them into their wide range of roles.



All students in Year 7-10 attended one of the panel discussions throughout the day. These events were a fantastic opportunity for students to be inspired by the panellists' stories, as well as asking insightful questions about the many options available to students in a wide variety of industries.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE YEAR 11 NOTRE DAME TALK

All students in Year 11 attended a talk from Notre Dame about the options for further study at the college. Visiting staff talked about the range of opportunities and different courses available for students, as well as the ways in which the college supports students' spiritual development. Students were also invited to attend Notre Dame's Open Day on Saturday 22 November.



YEAR 11 LEEDS MATHS SCHOOL TALK

Selected Year 11 students attended a talk from Robin Wilne, the principal of Leeds Mathematics School. He spoke to them about the opportunities for specialist mathematics teaching at the school and the chance to further develop a love for mathematics and problem solving. Students were also invited to attend the Maths School's Open Event on Saturday 8 November.



YEAR 11 RESTART A HEART DAY

All students in Year 11 participated in 'Restart a Heart' day on Thursday 16 October. This important day provides individuals and groups with the opportunity to learn and practise CPR and other lifesaving techniques which could be vital in an emergency situation.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

OPEN DAY 2025

It was fantastic to open our doors to our community at our Open Day in October. Visitors had the opportunity to tour around our school, meet staff and get an insight into lessons at Cardinal Heenan.



Visitors could choose to be escorted around school by our enthusiastic student tour guides, who were able to offer their own insights into life at Cardinal Heenan; or explore independently. In every room, they met staff and students who engaged them in conversations about the range of subjects on offer, as well as our excellent pastoral support systems.



Among other opportunities, prospective students and their families had the chance to try out a range of number and logic puzzles in the maths department; consider the impact of marketing and branding through taste testing in the business and enterprise department; try out a range of experiments with the science department and see the laser cutter in action in the technology department.



As always, it was great to see so many current and former students in school. We are very proud of our students who give up their time to support younger students in making decisions about transition to high school. It is also fantastic to catch up with former students when they visit with their younger siblings or even bring their own children to visit.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

COMMUNITY ACTION

COMMON GOOD INFLUENCERS

THIS HALF TERM'S COMMON GOOD UPDATE WAS WRITTEN BY NIAMH, A COMMON GOOD INFLUENCER IN YEAR 9.

The Common Good project is a way for us to put Catholic Social Teaching into action. We do this in many ways - we help to clean up in our local area; sing and sign at Pennyfields School; hampers for refugees and others less fortunate than ourselves; helping at events at Brandon House Care Home; running after school clubs at St Urban's and so much more.

Our main event this half term has been the Afternoon Tea with Leeds Irish Health and Homes, where we served refreshments and spoke to visitors. Some of our students also led the music and dancing.

With so many students helping out and bringing new ideas, like having a school vegetable garden, school compost bins and so much more, there's always something new to get involved with. That's what I love about the Common Good Project = there are so many opportunities to use our talents to help others and make our community even stronger.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

FINDING OUR VOICE

DRAMA CLUB

Our Drama Club continues to go from strength to strength. They are currently preparing a range of monologues and ensembled pieces, including extracts from 'Scrooged' and Shakespearean monologues and duologues in preparation for the English Speaking Union's Performing Shakespeare competition.

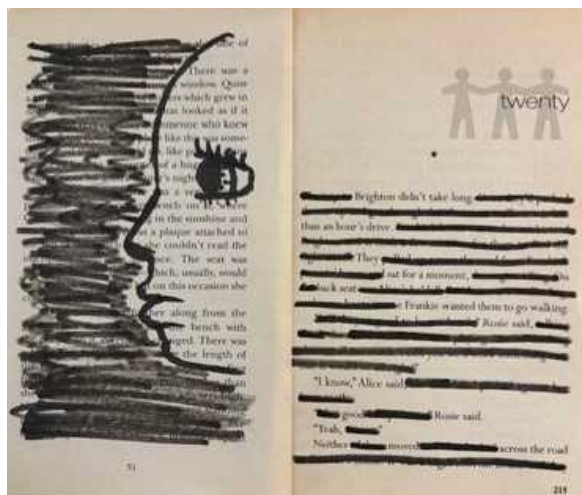


DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Our debating society are preparing for a range of local and national competitions. Alongside studying a range of controversial and morally complex cases for the Ethics Cup, they are also preparing to debate the merits of a tourist tax in busy cities, as well as preparing speeches about the role of NATO in our modern world. They have also found the time to discuss the changing position of the arts, with one student preparing a speech entitled 'Cinema is dead - and we've killed it' and others preparing speeches about their favourite artwork - ranging from album covers to graffiti - for Leeds University's Discover Articulation competition.

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

We celebrated National Poetry Day in school with English teachers sharing their favourite poems with their classes. In the library at lunchtime, pupils were invited to create blackout poems using pages from recycled books, as well as using magnetic poetry tiles to compose their own poems.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

EXPLORING SUBJECTS IN GREATER DEPTH

YOUNG GEOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Year 7 and 8 students were invited to enter the Royal Geographical Society's Young Geographer of the Year competition. The theme for the competition was 'Understanding Islands'. It is estimated that our planet contains almost 670,000 islands, many of them uninhabited. The competition invited students to research a number of these islands and present their findings in a poster. The Geography department were impressed with the standard of entries, which included posters about Easter and Christmas islands, Bora Bora, the Maldives and Yesterday and Tomorrow islands. The winning entry in school came from Jacob (Year 7) who won a £15 Amazon voucher and his entry, along with entries from Szianne, Ronan, Edith, Sophie and Maria, was submitted to the judging panel for the national competition. Well done to everyone involved!



Students from all year groups are also invited to submit designs for a flag to travel on the ship RRS Sir David Attenborough to Antarctica. Designs should aim to include an element of CHCHS and must not contain any political messages. Please email entries to ljs@cardinalheenan.com by Thursday 31 October.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

We celebrated the European Day of Languages in school on Friday 26 September. Now in its 25th year, the European Day of Languages gives students the opportunity to explore languages and celebrate the range of languages spoken in school and across Europe. Students were invited to create a poster sharing the benefits of language learning for community and empathy. The winning entry came from Year 7 student Bella, who also sang a song in a number of European languages which was played in tutor time on the day. You can listen to Bella's song here - <https://www.cardinalheenan.com/calendar-news/our-news/european-day-of-languages/> During tutor time activities, pupils were also invited to become languages detectives, using their linguistic skills to identify a range of different languages from clips.



Y8 DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

As part of a cross-curricular project between the Languages and Art departments, Year 8 students have been studying the Mexican Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebrations. They have explored the symbolism of the brightly coloured 'calaveras' used to honour loved ones during the festival and will create their own calaveras during the half term break. As many students choose to create edible calaveras on biscuits and cakes, they will be running a bake sale at break time on Tuesday 4 November, raising money for charity.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

EXPLORING SUBJECTS IN GREATER DEPTH

SCIENCE MAGAZINE CLUB

The first edition of our newly relaunched Science Magazine *Scientia est Vita* is now on our website. Check out our exclusive preview below then read the rest of the magazine [here](https://www.cardinalheenan.com/wider-curriculum/science-magazine-scientia-est-vita/):
<https://www.cardinalheenan.com/wider-curriculum/science-magazine-scientia-est-vita/>

Science News

By: F. M. and M. B.

Nobel Prizes

The Nobel Prizes are special awards given to people who have made amazing discoveries or helped the world in big ways. In science, they are awarded for breakthroughs in subjects like medicine, physics, and chemistry. These discoveries help us understand how our bodies work, how the universe behaves, or how materials are made. Winning a Nobel Prize means your work has changed the way people think or live, and it is one of the highest honors a scientist can receive.

BREAKING NEWS!

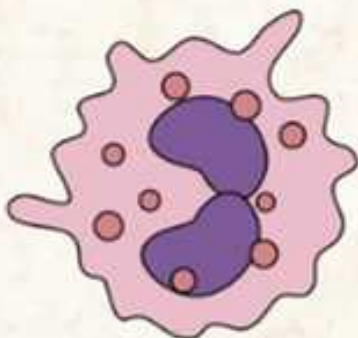
Scientists snag the Nobel Prize for cracking the code on why our immune system isn't a self-destruct button!

The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine goes to the brainiacs who figured out how our immune system plays bouncer, kicking out nasty invaders while letting our own cells party on.

Their big discovery? "Security guards" within the system that boot out rogue elements trying to turn on us. Cheers to keeping the peace!

The Prize for Chemistry was awarded for creating new materials called metal-organic frameworks. These materials can trap gases and even collect water from the air. This could help solve problems like clean energy and getting water in dry places.

The Prize for Physics was received for showing how tiny particles behave in electric circuits. Their discoveries are helping scientists build super-powerful computers called quantum computers.



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 you must do and ask God and others about it.

You help others to make the right choices.

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

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Briden	Joel	Alana	Finlay	Conal
Harry	Isaac	Theo	Michelle	Elena
Francis	Edneyza	Harrison	Beth	Aoife
Lucy	Grace	Isla	Elijah	Salem
Carmen	Xavier	Jayden	Emmanuel	Milo
Jake	William	Loretta	Maria	Atlanta
Oliver				Salem

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 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

Extra-curricular sports clubs continue to be well attended. Thanks to the staff from across the school, led by the PE department, who give up so much of their time to support training and fixtures in a wide variety of sports. Huge numbers of students participate in a wide range of team and individual sports at lunchtime and after school every day. These opportunities help students to build healthy habits for life. Team updates for this half term have been written by students.

FOCUS ON: NETBALL

All netball match reports have been written by Year 9 student, Niamh, who has chosen journalism for the skill section of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. Alongside supporting Miss Goode and Miss Thomas with netball training for younger students, Niamh has attended netball fixtures and written match reports for Veritas.



YEAR 7/8 RALPH THORESBY VS CARDINAL HEENAN

As we arrived at Ralph Thoresby, the team warmed up with the Year 9/10 team then practised some drills before the first quarter. This new team kept the ball in the attacking third for most of the first quarter. Before we knew it, we were into the second quarter with some great intercepts from the Cardinal Heenan centre and wing defence but the opposition defended tightly too. By the fourth quarter, the team's energy was still high as they fought for possession of the ball. Final score: 1-0. Player of the match: Belicia.

YEAR 7 CARDINAL HEENAN VS CARR MANOR

A great start to the match with Cardinal Heenan winning the first centre pass. As a new team, their communication and positive feedback to each other was excellent. Carr Manor entered the second quarter with a very tight defence although the Cardinal Heenan goalkeeper wasn't allowing them many attacking passes. Going into the third quarter, there were some great passing triangles from both teams but also a bit of scrambling for dropped balls. In the fourth quarter with only five minutes to work those successful passes, it was a tight game which finished 2-0 to Cardinal Heenan. Player of the match: Hadassah.



YEAR 10 CARDINAL HEENAN VS CARR MANOR

As our centre stepped into the circle it was all "Go! Go! Go!" right from the beginning! Cardinal Heenan were great with their quick high press, keeping the ball in our attacking third. In the second quarter, Carr Manor were challenging but Cardinal Heenan were successful with many interceptions. The third quarter brought more of the same along with many successful shots. We went into the fourth quarter in the lead meaning Carr Manor had to fight for interceptions, goals and chances. A Carr Manor injury halfway through the final quarter saw a quick position change and the match ended 9-1 to Cardinal Heenan. Player of the Match: Sinead.

YEAR 8 CARDINAL HEENAN VS TRINITY ACADEMY

When we arrived, we started with a warm up and some shooting drills. We had a strong start in defence in the first quarter but injury meant we went into the second quarter a player down and with no subs to bring on. However, the team kept it together with minimal turn over of the ball. However, Trinity's passes were very strong. Into the third quarter with a full team, Trinity had some quick passes and intercepts. Into the fourth quarter with the score very close, both teams were on the attack and unfortunately Trinity came out on top in the end. Final score: 6-9. Player of the match: Eva.

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

FOCUS ON: BOYS FOOTBALL

YEAR 7 BOYS BY RILEY

Our Year 7 football team has started the season very strongly and has developed a great bond. Results wise, we haven't lost a game so far this year; winning 3-1 in the first round of the Leeds Cup and remaining unbeaten in a recent mini tournament. Also, our latest match ended in a 7-1 victory in the County Cup. We have a great group of lads who don't get too confident on the highs or too down on the lows. Of course, none of this would be possible without our great coach, Mr Coe, who is a busy man but still generously gives up his spare time to train our team and coach our games. We couldn't do it without him! It has been a great experience so far, as I'm sure the rest of the players would agree, you meet lots of people along the way as well. This is why anyone who joins Cardinal Heenan should give school football a go - no matter your experience, height, or skill level. Whether you play all games - 10 games, 1 game or even none - just give it a go at training as you will benefit massively from it just as my teammates and I have!



YEAR 8 BOYS BY OLIVER

Our Year 8 football team have bounced back after one loss in their first game. Although out of the County Cup, we have a strong side and still believe we have a good chance of progressing in other competitions. During our games so far this season, we have been strong together and have worked well as a team. This has really helped us as we are now showing our resilience and teamwork as the season goes on. As individuals, our team are great but when we work together we can be even greater! With only one defeat in the season so far, we feel we are a better side than last season and that there is still more to come from us!

YEAR 9 BOYS FOOTBALL FROM WILL

In our first game in the first round of the County Cup, we lost 8-3 against Ossett. After that, we had a league meet up which included a 2-0 defeat against Prince Henry's, a 4-2 loss to St Mary's, and a 3-2 loss to Ralph Thoresby. In these first four games, we had a rotating squad which, alongside four uncharacteristically poor performances, could explain these disappointing results. After a disappointing start to the season, things started to improve with another league meet up consisting of one win and two defeats but three solid performances. With a round one bye in the Leeds Cup, we faced Trinity Academy in the second round and beat them 5-1. A round 3 tie against Ralph Thoresby awaits us after half term. We then had our third league meet up with a 2-1 loss to St Mary's, a 2-2 draw with Abbey Grange and a 2-1 win over Benton Park, things are really starting to click within the team and we hope to build on this after half term.

YEAR 10 BOYS FOOTBALL FROM PIERCE

Our Year 10 boys team have won all of our league matches so far. As well as being undefeated in the league, we have also kept clean sheets in most games. We have also progressed to the next round of the Leeds Cup.

YEAR 11 BOYS FOOTBALL FROM SAM

The Year 11 boys team have started the year well, winning all three games - two in the league and one in the cup. Hopefully we can continue this winning streak after half term.

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

FOCUS ON: GIRLS FOOTBALL



YEAR 7 GIRLS BY ALASKA AND EVIE

Our Year 7 girls team have had a strong start to the season, winning three matches already. We have really enjoyed our football this season and hope that we will continue this great start to our time at school and increase our winning streak in future matches.

YEAR 8 GIRLS BY SOPHIA

This year, the Year 8 girls football team have won every single game, hardly conceding any goals in the process! We hope to maintain our winning streak and that our team only gets stronger from here. Other teams have not had a chance against our unstoppable defence and our free-scoring strikers have contributed at the other end of the pitch.



YEAR 10 GIRLS BY JANE

The Under-16 girls' football team are on incredible form this season, winning three games out of three so far. Their latest triumph came with an impressive 4-1 victory over Abbey Grange. Goals from Amelia, Jane, and Mary K sealed the win, showcasing the team's attacking strength and composure in front of goal. From the very start of the season, the girls have shown that they are a strong and competitive side, always playing with determination and teamwork.

Their unity and never-give-up attitude have been key to their success. Every player continues to give 100%, working together and supporting one another both on and off the pitch.

A fantastic achievement so far — the future looks bright for Cardinal Heenan U16 Girls!



CROSS COUNTRY

Cross country running has returned again this year to CHCHS with over 30 students now regularly attending training on a Thursday evening. The first race of the season is on Saturday 8 November at Cardinal Heenan with three other races to follow, with students competing for a team prize and individual prizes.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

As part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Physical and Volunteering sections, a small group of Year 9 students have set up a KS3 American Football club. The students worked together on a pitch to persuade staff to supervise the activity and are planning training sessions to build their skills and knowledge of the game.

GAELIC FOOTBALL

Gaelic football continues to grow in popularity with a boys team training every Thursday after school while our new girls team, which is being led by a group of Year 10 and 11 students, train on Tuesdays.

ESSA NORTH EAST SWIMMING GALA

A group of girls from Years 7/9 represented us in the ESSA North-East swimming gala (1 of 3 in the North-East). The Junior Girls team of Year 7 and 8 students came away with a fantastic result of 2nd place in both the Freestyle relay and Medley relay, just behind GSAL in both races.



INDIVIDUAL SPORTING SUCCESS

- Many of our students swim for City of Leeds Swimming Club. In the English National Swimming Competition over the summer, Patrick (Year 11) won bronze medals in 200m individual medley and 100m fly, while Grace (Year 9) won bronze in 200m breaststroke.
- Jaxon (Year 8) achieved his Blackbelt in kickboxing and in March this year he qualified to represent England at the WKU World Championships which takes place during the half term break - good luck Jaxon!
- Anna (Year 8) plays ice hockey for Leeds.
- Many of our students play for professional football clubs, including Burnley, Bradford City, Sheffield United and Doncaster Rovers.



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 MISS BURNS

For this half term's interview, Junior Librarian Matilda caught up with Miss Burns about her role in school.

How long have you worked here?

This is my 11th year at school and I have worked in various roles, all of them linked to the English department. My main job is in the library and that is where most students will have met me during their library lessons or at lunchtime, but I also work in the PLC with students who are new to English and I run the Duke of Edinburgh scheme in school as well.

What inspired you to do this job?

My mum was a teacher and I always knew I wanted to work with children. I did an English degree and then worked in primary schools for 5 years and it was there that I really became passionate about encouraging young people to develop the love of reading that I had as a teenager.

What's your favourite part of your job?

I love the fact that it is so varied - in a day I can go from library lessons, to English lessons and onto debating club or Duke of Edinburgh after school - but I always say that the 20 minutes I spend with 11LBS every day is my favourite part of the day! I think my range of roles gives me the chance to see most students at their very best - whether that's in a debating competition or competing in sports for the physical section of their DofE. I really enjoy the Duke of Edinburgh expedition every year - it's such a great way for students to show their resilience.

How many books do you read in a month?

I probably read about 6 books every month - I've usually got lots of different books on the go. I've usually got a book on my desk to read during library lessons, then a book that I read at home and an audiobook in the car.

What are you reading at the moment?

My in-school reading book is called Expected Goals - it's about how data has changed football. At home, I am reading our staff book club book, The Wizard of the Kremlin. This wouldn't be the kind of book I would usually choose and I am struggling to get through it. My audiobook is called But What Can I Do? and is about the ways that ordinary people can get involved with politics and their local communities to effect change.

What do you do in your spare time?

Most weekends I can be found watching my beloved Sheffield United - although this has been more of a chore than usual this season! I also love running with my two cocker spaniels, Jacob and Harry. Jacob and I are training for a 54km ultramarathon next year, so I'm doing even more running than usual training for that.

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



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

STAFF AND STUDENT WELLBEING BOOK RECOMMENDATION - ISOBEL YEAR 11

Isobel recommends A Thousand Boy Kisses by Tillie Cole. She says it is an emotional read and she thought the storyline was heart-breaking but beautiful!



MY SCHOOL FUND

My School Fund is an exciting initiative that combines the spending power of parents, guardians, school/nursery staff and other individuals to help boost school and nursery budgets. We are registered as a school, meaning individuals connected to the school can earn cashback rewards on their behalf as well as pocketing some for themselves when they spend with participating retailers, including Sainsbury's and Argos. Since its launch in 2020 over 11,000 participants have benefitted from the scheme, raising over £300,000 in card-linked rewards so far. This video tells you more about the scheme: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2KXOTxPAWc>

You can sign up here: <https://www.myschoolfund.org/#/ParentReg>



ATTENDANCE

At our school, we place a high priority on attendance and are proud to be ranked within the top 10% nationally. This year, we are launching a new initiative to continue support excellent attendance. Please see the attached letter for more details.

STAFF WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Our staff wellbeing committee continues to meet on a termly basis to plan activities and events in and out of school. Our Macmillan Coffee Morning raised over £180 for this amazing charity.

STUDENT FORUM

The focus of this half term's student forum was our new catering provision. Following feedback from student representatives, we have made changes in the dining room and the upper school 'pod'. Innovate have also updated the winter menu based on this feedback and the new menus can be found on our website [here](#).

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:

Thursday 6 November - Year 7 Disco

Saturday 8 November - Cross-country Event

Tuesday 25 November - Class of 2025 Presentation Evening

Thursday 27 November - Year 11 Exam Preparation Day

Tuesday 2 - Wednesday 3 December - Year 11 English Language Mocks

Thursday 4 December - Year 11 Consultation Evening

Monday 15 - Friday 19 December - Year 11 Language Mock Speaking Tests

Wednesday 17 December - Advent Service

Friday 19 December - Advent Mass / Half Day finish for Students

Follow us on Instagram [@CHCHSLeeds](https://www.instagram.com/CHCHSLeeds)



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