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Headteacher: Mr D Kelly BA (Hons) NPQH



11 September 2023

Dear Year 7 Parents/Carers

I hope that your child has had a positive start to their time at Cardinal Heenan, and that they are enjoying making new friends, exploring new subjects and participating in the wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer. I write to share details of a number of events coming up in the next few weeks with you.

### **Welcome Mass and Settling-In Evening**

In coming to Cardinal Heenan, your child has not just joined a school, they have joined a community; one that we hope they will play an active part in for years to come. To help welcome your child and you into this community, we invite you to our Year 7 Welcome Mass and Settling-In Evening, which will take place in school from **5pm – 6.30pm on Wednesday 4 October 2023**. The evening will include key information for parents/carers about extracurricular activities, homework and pastoral care. There will also be an opportunity to meet your child's form tutor and ask any questions that you might have. We will also celebrate mass together with Father Yemani, our School Priest.

### **Ethos Days**

To support your child in settling in to Cardinal Heenan, and particularly into their new form group, we are holding our Year 7 Ethos Days next week. Ethos Days provide our Year 7 students with an opportunity to take a step back from the business of everyday life at school, and to learn a little more about the community that they have joined, as well as reflecting on their own skills and attributes and how they hope to put these to best use. On their Ethos Day your child will spend the full day with their form and their form tutor. As they are involved in a range of different activities, students are asked to wear their school PE kit for the full day. The Ethos Day takes place in school, and runs to normal school times. Your child should bring with them their planner and pencil case, but do not need any exercise books. Ethos Days will take place on different days for different forms:

- **7AFT and 7CRI – Monday 18 September**
- **7RPN and 7SAN – Tuesday 19 September**
- **7ACN, 7CFY and 7ERY – Thursday 21 September**

### **Baseline Tests**

To help ensure we are providing appropriate challenge and support for each student, we conduct baseline assessments at the start of Year 7. Like many schools nationally, we use the CAT4 assessment, which measures students' verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning potential. CAT4 assessments are carefully designed to be a measure of potential and, therefore, no preparation is required. In order to minimize disruption to timetabled lessons, students will complete their CAT4 assessments next week, on alternate days to the Ethos Days:

- **7ACN, 7CFY and 7ERY – Tuesday 19 September**
- **7AFT and 7CRI – Wednesday 20 September**
- **7RPN and 7SAN – Thursday 21 September**



CAT4 assessments take around 1hour 45 minutes and will be completed in the assembly hall. In addition, students will complete a reading test during English lessons next week, and a Maths baseline assessment, which they have completed in their Maths lessons today.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter or your child's transition to Cardinal Heenan, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to welcoming you to the school for the Welcome Mass and Settling-In Evening on Wednesday 4 October.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Stockton-Pitt', with a small flourish at the end.

Ms L Stockton-Pitt  
Acting Deputy Headteacher (Quality of Education)