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Dear Parents/Carers

### Chair of Governors Summer Update July 2023

Another academic year comes to an end, and I would like to wish all our Year 11 leavers health, wealth, and happiness in their future academic journey and in their chosen career paths. I hope they have enjoyed their time at Cardinal Heenan and will carry into their future lives the Catholic values and ethos embodied in our Mission Statement:

*“The Catholic Christian community at Cardinal Heenan endeavours to help students to know and build a relationship with Jesus Christ and to live the Catholic faith through prayer, sacraments, and service. We are committed to making learning challenging and enjoyable for all so that we will secure the best outcomes and remain lifelong learners who are committed to seeking truth.*

*We strive to help all to learn and grow, treating one another with respect and generosity, whilst supporting parents as the first and most important educators of our children. Our aim is to inspire excellence by encouraging every individual to be the person that God calls us to be, in preparation for this life and the life to come.”*

At Cardinal Heenan our aim is to develop each child to their full potential, and I am extremely pleased that this year we have developed a full diverse portfolio of extracurricular activities to support individual aspirations and character building. The following list of events and activities is not exhaustive but shows the options open to all our students as they progress through their formative years at Cardinal Heenan.

- **Duke of Edinburgh Award** - 100 students are working towards their bronze award.
- **Lourdes Trip** - 29 Year 10 students have visited Lourdes as part of the Leeds Diocesan Youth Trip.
- **Battlefield Trip** - 50 Year 9 students visited WW1 Battlefields to understand our history.
- **Conover Hall** - 50 students visited Conover Hall for an action-packed weekend in Shropshire.
- **Iceland** - 70 Year 9 and 10 students visited Iceland studying Icelandic history, culture, and traditions.
- **Malham** - Year 8 had a wonderful field trip to Malham with its stunning scenery.
- **Hornsea** - Year 10 geographers visited Hornsea for their Geography fieldwork.
- **Debating** - We won the Leeds Salon debating competition and were invited to the House of Lords for a tour. We reached the regional final of the English Speaking Union Debate Schools Mace Competition.
- **Poetry** - Year 7 team competed in the final of the Leeds 2023 Poetry Slam Final.
- **Geography** - Cardinal Heenan competed in the Geographical Association WorldWide Quiz.



- **Public Speaking** - We reached the Regional Finals for English Speaking Union Northeast.
- **Restart Heart Day** - 180 students were trained in CPR techniques.
- **Football** - Years 7/8/9/10/11 all excelled in various leagues and cup competitions with many individual students excelling in their field. Special mention to our Year 7 girls who reached the National Schools Final.
- **Individual achievements** - Many students excelled in winning awards in a number of sports including: **Rugby/Basketball/Swimming/Irish Dancing/Cross Country/Netball** and many other sports activities.

The list of events and activities and individual prizes achieved is far too long to list here. I would like to congratulate all those pupils who have attended the trips and those who have excelled in their pursuit of excellence in their chosen fields. I also would like to thank the parents and teachers for their support and for their commitment and time given to the pupils to make these achievements possible.

During the year a Peer review was carried out on Cardinal Heenan by a CEO and two headteachers of Diocesan Catholic High schools plus the Director of Secondary Standards. They identified the following strengths at Cardinal Heenan:

- The whole school share an ambitious vision to develop the academic and pastoral life of pupils and this is embodied in the systems, teaching, learning and high standards.
- Senior leaders have an accurate view of the school and have identified areas for development from detailed and robust analysis of outcomes. This is reflected in a comprehensive school and departmental development plans which are monitored closely.
- Outcomes evidence the outstanding impact of an ambitious and well-planned curriculum.
- High expectations of behaviour and attitudes are embodied in the conduct of pupils who behave exceptionally well and have overwhelmingly positive attitudes to learning.
- The curriculum and the school's wider work embodied through its three focus areas support pupils to be confident, resilient independent and to develop strength of character.
- Leaders ensure that highly meaningful engagement takes place with staff at all levels and that issues are identified. When they are identified they are dealt with appropriately and quickly.

After a period of staff stability, we are saying farewell to a number of staff this year who, having spent a number of years training and developing their skills, are now going forward to advance their careers in new schools. We wish them well in their future careers. I had the privilege this week to meet the new teachers on an induction program at the school and when asked for their first impressions they effused over how happy the pupils seemed and how welcomed they felt in the school.

We are also saying farewell to Fr Henry this year as he has been appointed parish Priest at St Benedict's Parish, Garforth. We wish him well in his new parish. Fr Yemani from St John Vianney Parish is our new School Chaplain and many of the students already know him and respect him.

During a difficult time of industrial unrest, financial and economic pressures on families, and uncertainty and challenges in many areas of our lives, the Governors would like to thank the school



leadership team, the teaching and support staff in the school, the parents, and the pupils, for all your support during the last academic year. Some of our key achievements this year include:

- Record achievement in our Year 11 GCSE examination announced August 2022.
- Successful OFSTED inspection during the Spring term.
- Two DfE attendance awards for the Autumn and Spring terms putting the school in the top 10% for attendance.
- Contract to build a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) to benefit both pupils and the wider community.

Finally, I would also like to welcome our new Year 7 children, and their parents, who are starting with us in September. I am pleased to report that we continue to be a heavily oversubscribed school and remain a school of choice for many families. We continue to work collectively with our Primary schools to ensure that our transition processes are effective and supportive and will be welcoming all of the Year 7 children into school for their Summer School experience over the holidays. I know you will make the new Year 7 pupils very welcome and encourage them to embrace our catholic culture and values.

God Bless.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Gardner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

M Gardner  
Chair of Governors