



CARDINAL HEENAN  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

# VERITAS

## NEWSLETTER

### A message from the Headteacher

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I am immensely proud that Cardinal Heenan continues to flourish as a happy, hardworking and thriving Catholic school community. Every day, our students inspire me through their dedication, commitment and the immense pride they take in their school. They consistently demonstrate the values that underpin our mission and contribute to the welcoming, purposeful atmosphere that is so evident throughout our community.

We are delighted to have once again been recognised within the top 10% of schools nationally for attendance. This achievement reflects the value our students and families place on education and the commitment they show to learning every day.

Our staff remain equally inspirational. Their dedication to continuous professional development and their determination to become the very best version of themselves is remarkable. They continually seek opportunities to refine their already outstanding practice, ensuring that every student benefits from the highest quality teaching and support.

Academically, we continue to see exceptional learning across the school. Our students are ambitious and strive to achieve their very best in every aspect of school life. Our Year 11 students recently completed their GCSE examinations with resilience, determination and maturity, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements when results are released on Thursday 20 August. School will be open from 9.00am to 11.00am for students to collect their results.

The Catholic life of Cardinal Heenan remains at the heart of everything we do. Staff and students engage wholeheartedly in collective worship, and today's end-of-year Mass was a wonderful celebration of our faith-filled community. It reflected our shared commitment to ensuring that every individual is valued and encouraged to play their unique part in the life of our school.

This half term has provided a wealth of opportunities beyond the classroom. Students have participated in activities ranging from the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, where Cardinal Heenan took the largest group of students for the third consecutive year, to the Duke of Edinburgh expedition, where students challenged themselves to become self-sufficient during a weekend in the Yorkshire Dales. They have also taken part in Geography fieldwork visits to Malham and Hornsea, while our Year 10 students completed a highly successful week of work experience. These experiences sit alongside the extensive programme of weekly extracurricular clubs that enrich school life. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the many staff who volunteer their lunchtimes, evenings and weekends to provide these opportunities. Their generosity and commitment ensure that our students benefit from experiences that extend far beyond the classroom. Sports Day was another excellent example of our school values in action, with every student encouraged and supported to participate. It is always inspiring to see our school community come together in such a positive and supportive way. If you do not currently participate in any extracurricular activities, I strongly encourage you to do so next year. It is often through these opportunities that the strongest friendships are formed and some of the most memorable learning experiences take place.

As a school community, we are saddened that Father Yemane will be leaving us this summer to take up a new parish appointment in Huddersfield. His contribution to the spiritual formation of our students and staff has been immense. Through his example, encouragement and faith-filled leadership, he has consistently embodied our mission of helping every individual become the person God calls them to be. We thank him sincerely for his dedicated service and wish him every blessing in his new role.

Student Forums this term explored the theme of belonging within our community. Feedback from every tutor group highlighted an overwhelming sense of pride, care and appreciation for Cardinal Heenan. It served as a powerful reminder of the strength of the relationships that exist throughout our school and of the importance our students place on belonging to this very special community.

Earlier this term, I shared the exciting news that we are working in partnership with North East Leeds Juniors FC (NEL) to develop a new 3G all-weather football pitch on our school site. This outstanding facility will significantly enhance both our PE curriculum and our extracurricular provision. North East Leeds Juniors will be leading fundraising efforts to help bring this vision to life, and further information will be shared in due course. In the meantime, if you, your employer, or an organisation you are connected with may be able to support the project through sponsorship, fundraising or other forms of assistance, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact James Homer in confidence at [nelclubsite@gmail.com](mailto:nelclubsite@gmail.com).

As another academic year draws to a close, we also say farewell to several valued colleagues. Ms Harnett leaves after serving our community as an RE Teacher and Literacy Lead. Mr McCafferty, our Technology Technician, has secured a place on a PGCE programme as he begins training to become a Food Technology teacher. We also bid farewell to Mr Scott, who has made a significant contribution as Cover Supervisor and PE Assistant, working alongside Mr Gaffey to develop girls' football, and finally to Mr Skingle, who leaves his role as Teaching Assistant to train as a primary school teacher. Mrs Atkinson, our Head of Art, will also be leaving us following a long period of illness. We continue to keep her and her family very much in our thoughts and prayers. Earlier this year, we also celebrated the retirement of Janet Turner, our Business Manager, after more than twenty years of dedicated service to Cardinal Heenan. Throughout her time with us, Mrs Turner played a pivotal role in ensuring that students and staff received the very best support and provision. We thank each of these colleagues for their valued contribution and wish them every success and happiness in the future.

We are delighted to welcome several new colleagues to our school community. Miss Adams joins us as an RE Teacher, Mrs Freeman as an English Teacher, Miss Laing as Technology and Practical Arts Technician, Mr Gillespie as Cover Supervisor and PE Assistant, and Miss Waller and Mr Bateson as Teaching Assistants. In addition, I am delighted to confirm the appointment of Mrs Roberts as Literacy Lead. Mrs Roberts will build upon the considerable success of our literacy strategy and continue to drive forward this vital area of school improvement. To further develop leadership capacity within the school, I am also immensely proud to announce that Mrs Feasey, Miss Richardson and Dr Free will be joining our Extended Leadership Team from September.

As we give thanks for the many blessings we have received throughout this year, we look to the future with confidence and hope. Our students, staff and families continue to make Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School a place where hard work is rewarded, friendships flourish, faith is lived out each day, and every individual is encouraged to become the person God calls them to be.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and prayers throughout the year. I wish you and your families a peaceful, happy and restful summer.

**With every blessing,**

**Mr Kelly, Headteacher**

# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## CHAPLAINCY

### FR YEMANE: GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

At the end of this year, Fr Yemane leaves his post as our Priest Chaplain. He has served our school community incredibly well over the past four years and has built strong links with staff and students through his regular Thursday visits. As well as the significant contribution he has made to masses and services for staff, students and families; Fr Yemane has become a key member of our school community and can often be found sharing lunch, a chat or a game of football with staff and students.

He has accompanied our school group on pilgrimages to Lourdes for the past 3 years and shared his remarkable story with our Year 7 pupils on their Ethos Days. He has also helped to strengthen our links with parishes through regular coffee mornings and deanery meetings, as well as inviting our students to the Eritrean National Feast Day of Our Lady held at Immaculate Heart of Mary in 2024. Everyone at Cardinal Heenan will keep Fr Yemane in our prayers as he embarks on his new role in Huddersfield.



# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## PRAISING TOGETHER

### END OF YEAR MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Today we joined together as a school community for a Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate all our achievements throughout this academic year.

The special occasions when our entire school comes together in prayer and thanksgiving demonstrate one of the best traditions of our school community, with student leaders representing their peers through the choice of readings, prayers and songs. Mass began with a procession celebrating the many wonderful opportunities students have enjoyed this year, including lessons and field trips; music and drama; residential and retreats; prayer and pilgrimage. At the end of Mass we celebrated our musical talents and watched a montage of photos and memories from the year.



### PRAYER INTENTIONS

Whenever Mass is celebrated in school we pray for the intentions of all members of our school community. If you would like us to pray for a particular intention (a person, a cause or something else) please fill the details out by clicking this link or using the QR code opposite: <https://forms.office.com/e/T9rcvTJfg4>



### CHOIR

Our choir have represented us at the music and drama showcase this half term, performing 'Rise Up' with a beautiful solo performance from Esosa.

They also performed at the Common Good Influencers' Afternoon Tea event in school as well as our end of year Mass of Thanksgiving. They have worked incredibly hard during their weekly rehearsals. Thank you to the staff and students who give up their time to prepare for the choir's vital role in leading our community in prayer and song.



I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This half term, collective worship has been planned by the Faith in Action group, who reflected on Refugee Week and ways in which we can welcome refugees into our communities, Year 9 RE classes who considered ways we can all work towards a hopeful future; Year 8 pupils who encouraged us to pray for our Year 11 cohort throughout their exams; and Year 9 students, who inspired us to use the final half term to try out a new after school club and discover a talent or interest which supports us in building links with our community and becoming the people God calls us to be.

## LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

# LEEDS DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

This year our school had the largest group out of all schools in the Diocese, with 35 students from Year 10 representing our school community on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The students gave up a week to volunteer by helping and supporting assisted pilgrims on their pilgrimage to Lourdes through taking them to and from events, supporting them in their faith journey and providing fellowship by getting to know them and each sharing their respective stories. This year was also Mrs Woliter's 30<sup>th</sup> pilgrimage (and counting!) to Lourdes. Throughout this time, she has shared special pilgrimages with many staff and hundreds of students. We thank her for her service over the years.

Alongside caring for their pilgrims, students had the chance to develop their own faith through procession and praise, as they attended catechesis sessions led by the Diocesan Youth Service. These sessions featured speakers who shared their own faith journeys and offered students the opportunity to reflect on their own faith. They also gave students the chance to get to know students from other schools across the Diocese.



Pictured below is our Year 10 group along with 17 additional students who used to attend our school and are now studying at Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College. Some of these came with our school two years ago but others had heard about how amazing the trip is and wanted to experience it for the first time in Year 12 (lower 6th) at College. This significant contribution from the students embodies our school prayer "help us to build on the best traditions we have inherited and hand on to those who come after us the Christian virtues of faith, hope and love..."

If you are in Year 9 and would like to learn more about the pilgrimage, check out the Lourdes noticeboard at the end of the RE corridor.



# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## CAREERS GUIDANCE

### TAYLOR'S OF HARROGATE VISIT

Year 9 students have visited Betty's and Taylor's of Harrogate twice during this half term. First, a group of students enjoyed a tour of their production facilities and craft bakery, where they met with staff working in a variety of roles and learnt about the range of careers available in the food industry, as well as ways to improve employability skills.

Then, a group of girls attended a girls' roundtable event where they discussed the challenges and opportunities for women in business and education. Students represented our school incredibly well and had the chance to ask questions and find out about the experiences of women working in a range of roles in the food industry. They were also able to share their own experiences in education and their aspirations for the future. Students were also invited to talk about their female role models and the ways in which they have inspired them to be the people God calls them to be.



## WORK EXPERIENCE

In July, our Year 10 students spent a week on work experience. With placements ranging from healthcare providers and schools to football clubs and cafes, all students had the chance to gain an insight into a unique workplace. Thank you to all of our partners who hosted students for these placements, which give students invaluable experience of the workplace.

# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE

### YEAR 6 TRANSITION EVENTS

In July, our incoming Year 6 students and their families attended a series of transition events. All students were invited to spend a day in school getting to know their tutors and other key staff, as well as beginning to make new friends in the tutor groups they will be with during their five years here. In the morning, Mrs Hayden, Mrs Marshall and Mr Kelly spoke to them about the best traditions of our school and advised them to make the most of the many opportunities on offer.

With their form tutors, they gained an insight into life at Cardinal Heenan and enjoyed a guided tour with Year 10 prefects and senior prefects. The Year 10 students also hosted Q&A sessions in each tutor group to give pupils the chance to ask questions about their experiences at Cardinal Heenan. The following evening, students and their families were invited to our Enrolment Evening, where they were able to learn more about the range of extra-curricular activities on offer, as well as trying out their new school uniform and the range of food available in the dining room. We look forward to welcoming them back to school in September.



### YEAR 5 TASTER DAYS

In June, we hosted students from our feeder primary schools for two Year 5 taster days. During the day, they were supported by Year 7 ambassadors and Year 10 prefects and started the day with an assembly and icebreaker games. They then went on to enjoy Maths, Spanish, ICT, Technology, Geography and Music lessons with our specialist teachers and facilities. One visiting student said, "I had a great day at Cardinal Heenan. I enjoyed all of the activities and even made some new friends. The Cardinal Heenan students who looked after us told us how much they love the school and I can't wait to join them in Year 7!" These taster days provide a valuable insight into life at high school and support students in making decisions about their next steps. Thank you to the staff and students from our feeder primary schools for their enthusiasm throughout both days.

### NOTRE DAME VISIT

During this half term, our Year 10 students travelled to Notre Dame for a taster day, giving them an insight into some of the options available to them when they leave Cardinal Heenan. Students attended talks from college staff about the range of courses offered and life at college. Students then attended three taster lessons in subjects of their choice, giving them the opportunity to try out a range of subjects and qualifications at KS5 level. They also enjoyed a meal from the college refectory and had some time to explore the campus together. At the end of the day, college staff answered any questions students had about college life, admissions and the support available.



## YEAR 11 PROM

In June, our Year 11 Class of 2026 celebrated their prom in Headingley. The event was incredibly well attended by staff and students and gave Year 11 the opportunity to come together to celebrate five years of friendship and hard work.

After making their grand entrances, students took group photographs with the event photographer and photobooth before enjoying a meal and dancing. The evening was a fantastic way to mark the end of their time in school and to celebrate the end of their external examinations. Good luck for the future, Cardinal Heenan Class of 2026!



CLASS OF  
= 2026 =  
♡



# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Articles written by student journalist, Niamh (Year 9). Look out for additional articles by Niamh throughout the newsletter.

### MAKATON DAY

To celebrate Makaton Day, a group of students visited Penny Field School to spend time learning songs using Makaton sign language with the pupils. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop our communication skills while celebrating the importance of inclusion.

The students welcomed us warmly with colourful flags they had made especially for our visit, making us feel part of their school community from the moment we arrived. Everyone enjoyed learning new signs together, singing songs and joining in with the activities. The highlight of the day was seeing the smiles and enthusiasm on everyone's faces. It was clear that the pupils had enjoyed spending time with us, and many were sad to see us leave at the end of the session. The visit reminded us how small acts of kindness and inclusion can make a real difference, and it is an experience we will all remember.



### LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES LUNCH CLUB

Students were delighted to help host another successful Tea Dance at Cardinal Heenan. Despite the extremely hot weather, there was a fantastic turnout, with guests enjoying an afternoon filled with music, entertainment and conversation. A special highlight was welcoming a former Cardinal Heenan student, who entertained everyone with a wonderful selection of songs. It was lovely to discover that he had once been taught by Miss Davies, who recognised him immediately.

Guests were also treated to an incredible Irish dancing performance by siblings Alanna (Year 9) and Daniel (Year 7). Their performance was enjoyed by everyone in the hall. The venue looked fantastic thanks to the handmade decorations created by our current Year 7 students during their welcome evening last summer. Throughout the afternoon, students served drinks and sweet treats, sold raffle tickets and spent time chatting with our guests, helping to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The Tea Dance was another wonderful example of our Common Good work, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for many more events in the future.



### REFUGEE WEEK - CHAPEL FM

As part of Refugee Week, a group of Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit Chapel FM to take part in a special celebration of different cultures and communities. It was an inspiring day that helped us learn more about the experiences of refugees on refugee week and the importance of making everyone feel welcome. Throughout the event, we enjoyed a variety of cultural performances, including music and songs from different countries. It was amazing to see so many cultures being celebrated, and the performances created a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone attending. One of the most powerful parts of the day was listening to several people share their personal stories. Hearing about the challenges they had faced, as well as their journeys to build new lives, gave us a much greater understanding of the experiences many refugees go through. Their courage, resilience and hope left a lasting impression on us all. The event also included the presentation of City of Sanctuary Awards, recognising organisations and individuals who have worked hard to create welcoming and inclusive communities. A special moment was seeing the Lord Mayor receive the award on behalf of Leeds, recognising the City's commitment to supporting refugees and people seeking sanctuary. The visit was both educational and inspiring. It encouraged us to think about the importance of kindness, inclusion and celebrating diversity within our communities. Which then helped us use all of it to present it in assemblies for every year group.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD - BY NIAMH

Recently, our Year 9 students completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. It was an unforgettable weekend that challenged us both physically and mentally, while giving us the chance to work together and create lasting memories. The expedition began with strong winds and heavy rain, making the first part of the walk even more demanding. Carrying heavy rucksacks over long distances certainly wasn't easy, but every group supported one another and worked together to navigate the route.

By the end of the first day, everyone felt a real sense of achievement after reaching the campsite. Once our tents were up, it was time to cook dinner and relax. Many groups spent the evening playing Uno, enjoying a game of football or chatting together before heading to bed. Some students were having so much fun that teachers had to remind a few tents that it really was time to get some sleep!

After what felt like a very short night, everyone woke to the sound of the nearby river, which many of us had mistaken for heavy rain. Unfortunately, just as we started making breakfast and packing away our tents, the rain really did arrive. Trying to squeeze soaking wet tents back into their bags quickly became one of the biggest challenges of the weekend.

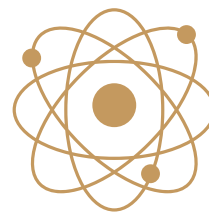
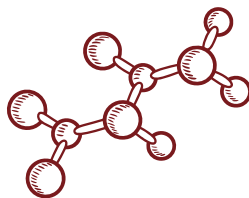
With the second day's walk underway, tired legs began to take over, but spirits were lifted by the sight of the ice cream van at the second checkpoint. Knowing the finish was getting closer kept everyone motivated, and crossing the finish line together felt like a huge achievement. We finished the expedition with a team photograph to celebrate everything we had accomplished. Although the weekend pushed us out of our comfort zones, it also helped us become more resilient, independent and confident. We strengthened friendships, learnt valuable navigation and teamwork skills, and discovered that the challenge was far more rewarding than we had imagined. Looking back, completing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award is something we are all incredibly proud of.



# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

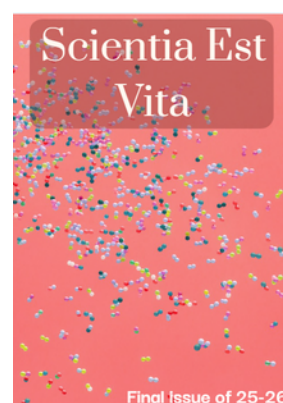
## YEAR 7 SCIENCE FAIR

Our third annual Year 7 Science Fair was a roaring success. Students submitted projects from a wide range of areas of interest. The winning entry came from Sophie, who invented a solar powered water bowl for her cat. Congratulations to Sophie and our runners up: Jazlyn, who created a model of the respiratory system; Rim, who designed a formula for removing poisons from the body; and Bella, who explored gemstones and minerals through time. Well done everyone!



## SCIENTIA EST VITA

The Science Magazine Club has done it again! They have worked hard through assessments and end-of-term-tiredness to produce the final issue of this year. In this final issue, the students have written about anything they found fascinating. They hope that you enjoy reading it as much as they enjoyed making it! You can check it out, along with all past issues, here - <https://www.cardinalheenan.com/wider-curriculum/science-magazine-scientia-est-vita/>



## UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students in this year's UKMT Maths Challenge. Pupils across the school demonstrated excellent mathematical reasoning, problem-solving and perseverance, earning an impressive range of Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates. Special congratulations to our Year 8 students, who achieved an exceptional four Gold certificates (Leo, Jacob, Harry and Chloe), alongside one Gold certificate awarded to a Year 10 student (Jacob). These results reflect the dedication, enthusiasm and mathematical talent of our pupils, as well as the commitment they have shown in developing their skills. Three of our Year 8 students were invited to the follow-on round, the Junior Kangaroo, where Jacob was awarded a bronze award - meaning he scored in the top 3.6% of all Junior Maths Challenge entrants. We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part in this challenging national competition and congratulate all of our certificate winners on their fantastic success.



## TOM HINDLE AUTHOR VISIT - BY NIAMH

Year 10 students, along with a selection of Year 9 students, recently had the pleasure of welcoming former Cardinal Heenan student and bestselling author Tom Hindle back to school for a fascinating talk about his writing journey. It was especially nice to hear that during his time at Cardinal Heenan, Tom was taught English by our own Ms McMinn.

He spoke about how his love of writing began as a hobby and gradually developed into a full-time career, showing us that following your interests can lead to incredible opportunities. Tom has now written five murder mystery novels, all of which have been published by Penguin. One of the most exciting things we learnt was that his novel *Murder on Lake Garda* is being adapted into a Netflix series, which was amazing to hear. Although becoming a successful author sounds exciting, Tom was also honest about the challenges of the job. He explained that writing isn't always glamorous and that much of an author's career involves waiting, whether that's waiting for feedback from editors, hearing from publishers or seeing a book finally reach readers. His honesty gave us a realistic insight into the publishing industry and helped us understand. Throughout the talk, Tom answered our questions and encouraged us to keep reading, writing and believing in our own ideas. His visit was both inspiring and motivating, and it was wonderful to hear how a former Cardinal Heenan student has gone on to achieve such success.



## REFUGEE WEEK

We celebrated Refugee Week in school through a series of assemblies reflecting on the theme of 'Courage' and considering the way in which simple acts can make an enormous difference to the lives of refugees in our community. In the school library, starter activities guided students towards the Refugee Week book list. Some Year 7 classes have also read *Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah in their class reading lessons throughout this half term. Reading is an excellent way to build empathy and allow students to understand more about other people's lives and sharing a story is one of the 'simple acts' that we can carry out to build bridges between individuals and communities.



## A MILLION ACTS OF HOPE

The Common Good team decided that they would like to create a display of hope during the summer term to show that Cardinal Heenan is strong, healthy, caring community where everyone feels they belong. They gathered messages of hope from tutor groups and staff members on heart shaped 'Hope Happens Here' postcards and created a display which will be proudly displayed in the school foyer, ready for the start of the new academic year.



## YOUNG HISTORIANS

Students from KS3 and KS4 have been working on their entries for the Historical Association's Young Historian Award. The competition, run in conjunction with the Spirit of Normandy Trust, gives students the opportunity to investigate, analyse and write about history. It encourages extended study and helps students to write about history in an incisive, interesting and critical way. The subject categories cover local history, the modern world and especially aspects of 20th-century history and our students have investigated a wide range of subject areas including the impact of the space race on Russian and American relations. Good luck to all students who entered the competition.

## GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK - MALHAM AND HORNSEA

Our Year 8 and 10 geographers have enjoyed fieldwork visits to Malham and Hornsea. In Malham, Year 8 investigated the impacts of tourism on rural areas and explored landscapes formed by rivers and glaciers. Year 10 visited Europe's most rapidly eroding coastline at Hornsea and considered the impact of tourism on local residents in coastal areas.



## YEAR 9 MATHS CITY AND LEEDS UNIVERSITY - BY NIAMH

A group of Year 9 students recently had the opportunity to take part in a two-day visit to the University of Leeds, where we explored the exciting world of Maths and Science through a range of hands-on activities. On the first day, we visited MathsCity, where we worked in teams to complete a variety of mathematical challenges and puzzles. The activities showed us that Maths can be fun, interactive and used in many different ways to solve real-life problems. It was a great opportunity to work together and put our problem-solving skills to the test. Afterwards, we walked back to the University for a Chemistry workshop all about acids and alkalis. We carried out experiments and investigated how different ingredients reacted with one another before using what we had learnt to create the perfect bath bomb formula. It was exciting to take part in practical experiments and experience what studying science at University could be like. On the second day, we returned to the University of Leeds to learn about the wide range of careers available in Maths and Science. Throughout the day, we took part in several interactive workshops, including one about earthquake detection and another called Blueprints of Life. In this engineering challenge, we worked in teams to design and build a strong, sustainable bridge. We even explored how real-life structures, such as the honeycomb pattern found in nature, can make buildings stronger while using less material. Unfortunately, because we were only able to stay for half of the day, we had to leave before the campus tour. Although we were disappointed to miss it, we still had an amazing experience and learnt so much over the two days. The visit gave us a greater understanding of how Maths and Science are used in everyday life and introduced us to a variety of exciting career opportunities. It was an inspiring experience that encouraged many of us to think about studying STEM subjects in the future.

# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## FINDING OUR VOICE

### LEEDS UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS QUESTION TIME

A group of Year 10 students travelled to Leeds University to participate in Schools Question Time. This event gives students the opportunity to question a panel of local and national politicians, business leaders and academics about the issues that affect their lives. Two of our students were chosen to put their questions to the panel. Chloe asked about ways to ensure that water companies met their responsibilities with regards to sewage disposal and keeping our waterways clean, while Welwitcha asked about the impacts of social media on young people. All students represented our school incredibly well and considered some challenging issues facing our society. Well done everyone.



### MUSIC AND DRAMA SHOWCASE

We held a Performing Arts Showcase in July, with musical and dramatic performances from choir, KS4 drama students and the drama club. With performances inspired by Blood Brothers, Hamilton and Heathers as well as extracts from Shakespearean tragedies; there really was something for everyone. Some students even composed and directed their own pieces and performed them on the night. The evening raised £370.00 which will go towards further arts opportunities for our students. Well done to all staff and students involved in this fantastic evening.



# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## LIVING THE VIRTUES

Our virtue in focus for this half term is COURAGE



### Definition:

You do something that needs to be done even when it is hard to do or you are scared to do it. Even though you are afraid, you overcome your fear and do the right thing. You know you can count on God's help and so you are never alone. Courage is personal bravery in the face of fear but it doesn't mean taking unnecessary chances just to look brave. Love can give us courage. It gives us strength and helps us to do the right thing without letting our fears stop us.

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

| Year 7    | Year 8 | Year 9   | Year 10 |
|-----------|--------|----------|---------|
| Hal       | Max    | Hazel    | Chloe   |
| Ella      | Lily   | Ben      | Megan   |
| Kristoff  | Oche   | Mikolaj  | Chloe   |
| Victoria  | Holly  | Scarlett | Honey   |
| Ruby      | Dylan  | Darius   | Eoin    |
| Annabelle |        |          | Sahara  |

Our incoming Year 7 cohort have demonstrated courage in making a new start. They made new friends on their Transition Day and became part of our wider school community. Our Year 11 students displayed courage through their approach to their external examinations and will develop this further as they continue to prepare for their next steps. Students had the courage to try out new skills at Sports Day and Junior Warrior. Year 10 students have been courageous as they take on new student leadership roles in school, as well as taking their first steps in the workplace through their work experience placements. Courage was also the theme for Refugee Week and our art students created a display which was included as part of the Refugee Week Schools' Art Exhibition. We hope that all members of our school community will have the courage to try something new - learning a new skill, getting to know their local area or taking up a new hobby - during the summer break.



**HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU? BE STRONG AND OF  
GOOD COURAGE; BE NOT FRIGHTENED, NEITHER BE  
DISMAYED; FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU  
WHEREVER YOU GO."**

**JOSHUA 1:9**

# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

### COLOUR RUN

On Tuesday 23 June, we hosted our first ever Cardinal Heenan Colour Run in partnership with Friends of St Urban's. Students from both schools dodged, weaved and climbed over the fun-run style obstacle course - all whilst being showered in a rainbow of powdered paint by our volunteers. Massive thank you to our main sponsor Mone Bros Ltd as well as our colour run station sponsors: Red Marketing Agency, MNPS Leeds, North Leeds Therapy, Bliss Bites Cafe, Manning Stainton, Razzamataz Theatre School - Leeds, Leeds Tyres and Leeds Printing Company for their contributions to our signage, obstacles and colour stations around the course. We raised a total of £2376.99 which will make an enormous difference to our minibus fundraising. Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered to make this such a special event. Well done to the students from Cardinal Heenan and St Urban's who ran on such a warm day - you were all amazing!



### CROSS COUNTRY

Our Year 9 and 10 girls and boys cross-country teams both finished the season top of their leagues (pictured here with their medals). The Year 9-10 team also won team of the year for our school, capping a fantastic year for cross-country running. Students regularly attend on Thursday afternoons to maintain fitness or to run with friends. Oscar has also had some wonderful individual success this year, finishing second across Leeds in cross-country running. As well as developing their own running, the cross country team supported when we hosted a number of primary schools from across the city in the Catholic Schools Cross Country competition in July. Students from Year 3-6 took on the undulating course around our school grounds. Well done everyone!



## GREGORY THE GREAT SHIELD

A group of Year 9 girls supported the organisers of the Gregory the Great Shield, a primary school 5-a-side football tournament held in July. They helped with organising and refereeing matches, ensuring that primary school pupils had a positive experience on the day. Well done to Immaculate Heart Primary School who won the tournament.



## BARCLAYS GO COACH AND GO REFEREE - BY NIAMH

We recently took part in the Barclays Go Coach for Girls programme, where we developed our coaching, leadership and teamwork skills before delivering a sports session to local primary school pupils. The morning began with planning activities for our Key Stage 1 session.



This helped us understand how to design fun drills that could be adapted for children of different ages and abilities. We then learnt about the STEP principle – Space, Task, Equipment and People – which showed us how small changes can make activities more inclusive and enjoyable for everyone. Our final workshop focused on what makes a positive coach. Along the way, one group even designed a memorable drawing of Mr Gaffey, complete with his famous pink tie and long, pointy shoes! After lunch, we practised setting up our activities before welcoming the primary school children.



Leading the session was more challenging than many of us expected because the sport was completely new to most of the children. However, as the session went on, everyone grew in confidence and the children quickly became more engaged. The best moment was presenting praise wristbands to children who demonstrated respect, determination and teamwork. Seeing how proud they were made all our hard work worthwhile. The experience helped us develop valuable skills in organisation, communication, leadership and problem-solving that we will be able to use both in school and beyond.

## BISHOP'S CUP FINAL

We were proud to host the Year 6 Bishop's Cup final in June, with a group of our staff and students supporting. Well done to Mr Whittle and his St Anthony's team who won the tournament.



## CATENIAN CUP FINAL



A group of Year 9 students supported with organisation and refereeing at the Catenian Cup final hosted by St Teresa's. Well done to Immaculate Heart of Mary Primary School who won on the day. Our students were praised as excellent role models for the younger students.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS DAYS

Our students have supported younger students at sports days for a number of our feeder primary schools. Students worked with primary school staff to organise events and encourage all pupils to get involved and try their best. It was fantastic to see our students acting as sporting ambassadors and encouraging the next generation of athletes.

## JUNIOR WARRIOR - BY NIAMH

Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 recently took on the challenge of Junior Warrior. Although the weather was incredibly hot, everyone ended the day soaked, muddy and smiling after tackling the obstacle course.

Some students almost lost their shoes in the deep mud, while others found the climbing and crawling obstacles tougher than expected. Despite the challenge, everyone encouraged each other to keep going and celebrated reaching the finish line.

After all the hard work, a well-earned ice cream was the perfect way to cool down. The only downside was trying to get changed while covered in mud and still dripping wet! Even so, the day was full of laughter, teamwork and unforgettable memories, making it an experience everyone would happily do again.



## SPORTS AWARDS

Our annual Sports Awards evening provides a fantastic opportunity to reflect on the many successes of our athletes throughout the year. With students rewarded for participation and performance, the evening recognises the achievements of everyone who has been involved with school sport throughout the year. Special congratulations to our team of the year, the Year 9 and 10 cross country team, along with their Coach of the Year, Mr Jones. Alongside the awards, sports leaders organised a quiz and raffle and the evening raised £1032.00 for our minibus appeal. Thank you to everyone who attended and donated.



## GOLF FUNDRAISING

Recently two of our Year 7 students, Bede and William, took on an incredible challenge. They got up at 3:00 a.m. and played four continuous rounds of golf in a single day to raise money for The Parklane Foundation for a project supporting children who need prosthetic limbs.

The organisers were absolutely blown away by Bede and William's commitment. In total, the boys and other participants helped raise around £12,500 for the charity, a fantastic amount that will provide new prosthetics and change the lives of many children. Their determination, and compassion to making a difference to the lives of other young people was inspirational.



While most of us were still asleep, William and Bede were already out on the golf course, pushing themselves physically and mentally for a cause much bigger than themselves. Their achievement reminds us that you are never too young to have a positive impact on others. We would like to congratulate William and Bede for being outstanding ambassadors for our school and for inspiring us all to use our talents to help others.

## INDIVIDUAL SPORTING SUCCESS

- Leon (Year 10) scored for the Poland Under 15 team in their 5-3 victory against Switzerland in June. Well done, Leon!
- Many of our students play for Leeds Schools. Well done to Eddie and Alaska (Year 7); Kryssle, Olivia, Sophia and Georgia (Year 8); Markluy (Year 9) and Manus, Pierce and Jacob (Year 10) for your involvement throughout the season.
- Jane (Year 10) scored as Sheffield United's Under 16 team won 4-0 in the Sheffield and Hallamshire FA Girls' County Cup Final against Huddersfield. Well done, Jane!
- A number of our students played gaelic football for JFK. Logan, Brendan, Will, Riley, Eddie and Joe, plus Shay, Rory and Louis who will be joining us in Year 7 in September, featured for the Under 13 side who won the Northern Games, won the U13s Plate and reached the semi final of the All Britain Championships Cup.
- Andrea (Year 10) successfully passed her gruelling black belt grading in Telford and was officially awarded her Black Belt in Kickboxing, achieving a Grade A performance. Reaching this milestone has taken eight years of rigorous training, discipline, and dedication. Well done, Andrea!
- Amelia (Year 9) competed in the Nissen Cup for trampolining in Switzerland, winning silver in the individual event and bronze in synchro. She also achieved gold in the 15-16 age category at British Qualifying 2 and gold at the English Championships. Well done, Amelia!
- Several of our students participated in the Scottish National Irish Dancing Championship. Daniel (Year 7) finished third in the U12 category and qualified for the World Championships; Alana (Year 9) finished 15<sup>th</sup> in the U14 category and qualified for the World Championship and Eibhlin (Year 10) finished 24<sup>th</sup> in the U15 category. Well done everyone!



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



## SPORTS DAY

Last week, we came together as a school community to enjoy Sports Day. As in previous years, tutor groups from Years 7-9 represented different virtues and displayed their team colours with pride.

All students participated in at least 2 events throughout the day, with a wide range of disciplines available to choose from. Sports included team games such as rounders, football and netball; indoor games including chess, Boccia and New Age Kurling; and track and field events including javelin, discus, speed bounce and even welly throwing! When they weren't competing, students cheered on their teammates and sang along to Mr Hartwell and Mr Tunnecliff on the drums. They also led us in the famous row, inspired by the Norwegian supporters in the World Cup.

After a fantastic day in which students competed incredibly well across all disciplines and gave their all for their teams; eventually Justice came out as the overall winners! Justice won the Year 7 prize, Love won in Year 8 and Justice were victorious in Year 9. Well done to all staff and students who made it such a fantastic celebration of sport!



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

## **CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR COMMUNITY**

### **AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS DAVIES**

**Our interview this half term is with our Chaplaincy Co-ordinator and RE Teacher, Mrs Davies.**

#### **How long have you worked at Cardinal Heenan?**

I started in 2006 as a student teacher so 18 years scarily! I did have a couple of years out to live in Australia but I always knew I wanted to come back here.

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

For me, it would have to be working with young people and getting the best out of them both in my subject RE but also through the Catholic Life of the school through encouraging them to use their talents in singing, reading, drama and fundraising. One of my favourite times of the school week is rehearsing with our choir who I am very proud of!

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

I love working with young people as they teach me something new everyday! No day is ever the same. I feel so lucky to work at such a special place with a strong sense of community where people welcome me everyday with a smile - both staff and students.

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

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, exploring new places and adore camping!

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



# LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

## STAFF AND STUDENT WELLBEING

### BOOK RECOMMENDATION - FLORENCE (YEAR 7)

Florence recommends *The Thread That Connects Us* by Ayaan Mohamud, a contemporary novel which follows two Somali stepsisters forced to navigate shared trauma, family secrets, and budding sisterhood after their father relocates his new family to London. Florence enjoyed reading about the different perspectives and working out how all of the stories intertwined. She particularly liked the fact that the novel deals with real world issues from migration to bullying in a sensitive way.



### STAFF WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The staff wellbeing committee continues to plan opportunities for staff to relax and spend time with colleagues. This half term, they organised a staffroom quiz, raffle, World Cup prediction league and summer secret buddy scheme. Next year, we will be running a buddy scheme to support new staff as they join our school community, as well as continuing to organise staff social events and special interest groups.

### LEEDS CATHEDRAL CHOIR

A group of our students from Years 7-10 performed as part of the Leeds Cathedral Choir in three performances broadcast on the BBC Radio 4 Daily Service in May - broadcast on the feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, the solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, and on the feast of St Thomas More and St John Fisher. The services were presented by Bishop Marcus, Canon Matthew Habron and Rowan Morton-Gledhill, with music from the Cathedral Choir, and you can listen to them using these links:



Our Lord Jesus Christ - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002wt63>

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002xgvn>

St John Fisher and St Thomas More - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002xzt8>

Well done to the students who were excellent representatives of both our school and the choir.

### KEEP IN TOUCH

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

### UPCOMING DATES:

Thursday 20 August 2026: GCSE Results Day

Wednesday 2 September 2026: First day of term for Years 7 & 11 only

Thursday 3 September 2026: All students return



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

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

Tel: 0113 8873240 • Email: [info@cardinalheenan.com](mailto:info@cardinalheenan.com) • Tongue Lane, Leeds LS6 4QE