



# VERITAS

CARDINAL HEENAN  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023



We are immensely proud of all the incredible hard work that our students have put in during their time with us, especially after such a difficult and disrupted period due to the pandemic. Everyone in our school community has worked tirelessly to ensure that students are able to progress onto their chosen post-16 pathways and we look forward to seeing what they will achieve in the future.

#### Headline Figures:

**87%** of our students achieved Grade 4+ English and maths – we are really proud of this figure, as this opens up the routes to progression onto post-16 courses

**35%** of all grades achieved were grade 7 or higher

**87%** of all grades achieved were grade 4 or higher

We would like to thank them for their individual contributions to our school, they have shown incredible resilience and commitment to their education and for their outstanding contribution to our “happy School” (Ofsted Feb 2023). We wish them good luck in the future.

### SPORTING SUCCESS

Cardinal Heenan's tremendous sporting success in the 2022/23 school year was recognised with a third place in the first division of the Leeds School Sports League. The Leeds School Sports League ranks schools in Leeds based on their performance across all events and all sports in the area. In its inaugural season last year, Cardinal Heenan were placed into the second division due to the size of the school and comfortably topped the table and were promoted to the top tier. Our third place last year is a tremendous achievement especially considering the size of our school and the fact that we do not have a sixth form. Congratulations to all our students and staff for this fantastic sport success.

Follow us on X (twitter) at @CHCHSLeeds



## YEAR 7 FORGE NEW FRIENDS AT SUMMER SCHOOL



At the start and end of the summer break, we were delighted to welcome our new Year 7s into our Summer School, where they could get used to the school environment, forge new friendships with their future classmates, and spend some time with our staff. Students had PE lessons on our wonderful fields, got creative in our art rooms, had a walk around the local area and made some incredibly impressive pizzas!



## YEAR 7 WELCOME MASS

The parents and carers of all of our Year 7 students are warmly invited to our Mass of Welcome on Wednesday 4 October, as part of our Tutor Evening, which will be said by our Priest Chaplain, Fr Yemane. This is a wonderful way to introduce our families to the Catholic life of our school and we look forward to seeing you there. The evening begins at 5pm.

## NEW STAFF MASS



On Thursday 14 September, we held our New Staff Welcome Mass in the Chapel, celebrated by our Priest Chaplain, Fr Yemane, assisted by our head students who read and our choir who sang. It was a lovely occasion, and a great way to make our new staff members feel part of our community. We welcomed:

**Mr Arscott** (Maths)                      **Miss Buckle** (Assistant Head of PE)   **Mr Caden** (Head of Science)

**Mr Wolstenholme** (English)   **Mrs Phelan** (Drama and English)   **Miss Riley** (History)

**Mr Mangeolles** (Science)        **Miss Baldwin** (Science)                **Mr Pidhajeckyj** (RE)

**Mr Chan** (Business)                **Miss Lawn** (History)

**Miss Williams** (Reception)      **Miss Richardson** (Food)

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



As ever, we are striving to provide the best possible learning experiences for our students both in and out of the classroom. We believe in educating the whole person and providing opportunities to enrich as many different areas of children's lives as possible so that they can fulfil their God-given potential.

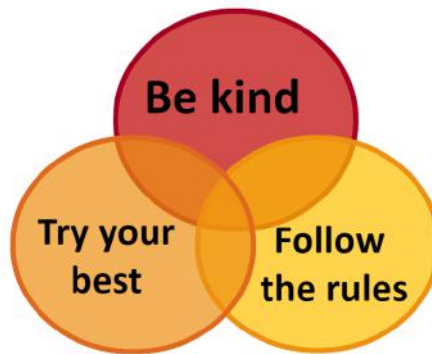
We have a wide and varied extra-curricular programme which takes place during and outside of school hours which ranges from competitive sports to debating and step aerobics to chess club. Afterschool activities are from 15:30 - 16:30 unless otherwise specified.



The programme is already up and running and further details can be found on our website. Please encourage your child to get involved in as much as possible!

## TRY YOUR BEST

# CHCHS Principles of Behaviour



This year, we will continue to focus on the principle 'Try Your Best'. All students have attended an assembly which outlined our continuing expectations and ways in which they can demonstrate that they are trying their best. As last year, we are focussing on:

- Take responsibility for having the correct equipment everyday\*
- Ensure all your work meets the Cardinal Heenan Presentation Expectations
- Be thinking about the answer to every question in all your lessons
- Accept that making mistakes is part of the learning process
- Make sure your classroom conversations are focussed and supportive

A copy of the Presentation Expectations can be found in the school planner.

\*As a minimum, all students should come to school equipped with a blue or black ball point pen, a green pen, a pencil, a ruler and a scientific calculator.

## HOMEWORK AND PLANNERS



All students have been issued with a new Planner for the school year 2023-24. It would be helpful if you could regularly use this to check that homework is being completed as required by teachers. This is also an easy way to communicate with your child's form tutor if you have any concerns you wish to raise. Please pay particular attention to the pages dedicated to the Home-School Agreement and the Emergency Closure of the school.

The Student Planner has been provided to students free of charge. However, as you will be aware, there is a constant pressure on our school budget and so in order to offset costs, the school is asking

parents to make a voluntary contribution of £3 per student (a maximum of £6 per family) towards the cost of the Planner for the year. Please make contributions via ParentPay no later than Friday 6th October 2023. The school is unable to accept cheques or cash in payment. For more information about ParentPay please see the front page of the school website.

## ATTENDANCE



Excellent attendance and punctuality are key to ensuring that our students achieve the best possible outcomes, supporting parents as the first and most important educators of our children. It is the responsibility of students, parents and school to work in partnership to ensure all of our children are able to access everything that Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School has to offer.

We are proud of our attendance figures, which are and have been significantly above national average over recent years, indeed, we were in the top 10% of all FFT secondary schools for attendance last academic year. We, however, are also acutely aware of the impact that each absence can have on the outcomes of children.

Attendance and punctuality are again, therefore, included in our key areas of focus this academic year.

The attendance policy was updated last year and is available on the school website. Please do not hesitate to contact our Student Services Manager, Ms Marks if you have any queries or require any support.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS



As we start a new year, please can we encourage you to apply for free school meals if you are eligible? At this difficult and uncertain time, it is more important than ever to claim support that you are entitled to, it also makes sure that the school can provide additional support wherever possible. To see if you are eligible please see our school website or go to <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-for-free-school-meals>

## TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

In order to reduce congestion and pollution, we encourage parents/carers to avoid bringing their child to school by car, wherever possible. **If you need to drop off/pick up by car, please do not park or wait in the bus lane.**

If you have any queries about the school bus service, you can contact Metro directly via [wymetro.com/schools](http://wymetro.com/schools) or telephone 0113 251 7272.

Students should only be travelling on school buses if they have a yellow card for that particular bus number. Please emphasise to your son/daughter that behaviour on buses is monitored and challenged by school. We expect high standards of behaviour on our school buses in line with our behaviour policy.

## UNIFORM

At Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School, we are proud of our school uniform, which was designed by our students and other members of the school community in 2015. We know that our high expectations and standards are one of the reasons why our school is oversubscribed and our uniform plays a significant part in this. Indeed, the Department for Education believe that a uniform plays a key role in:

- promoting the ethos of a school
- providing a sense of belonging and identity
- setting an appropriate tone for education

In addition to this, Cardinal Heenan believe that the little details are important and can make a difference in what we are able to achieve together; in our assemblies we often call these the "critical non-essentials". Uniform shouldn't be something that our students have to think about every day because it should be just part of their routine. This allows them to focus on the learning and extra-curricular opportunities on offer. Our "Dress for Success" booklet, as well as page 26 and 27 of the student planners set out exactly what our uniform expectations are.

One of the key criteria in the development of this uniform was that the cost to families is reasonable and secures good value for money. Wherever possible we will support families who are unable to afford particular items. We also recommend the Leeds Zero Waste uniform exchange: <https://leedsuniformexchange.org.uk>. This exchange is a fantastic initiative to both help financially and reduce our environmental footprint. There are also several Facebook pages, simply search "Cardinal Heenan uniform" in the marketplace search bar. For any further information regarding uniform assistance please contact [info@cardinalheenan.com](mailto:info@cardinalheenan.com).

## PARENTAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS



The Parental Voluntary Contribution Scheme is a fund which we are able to use to enrich the learning environment and experience of our students in many ways. In the past, we have been able to purchase our minibuses which transport students to sporting fixtures, trips and other events, we have installed basketball hoops on the lower and upper yards, we have run enrichment activities, bought sporting equipment, musical instruments and drama equipment. If you are able

to contribute any amount at all, we would be extremely grateful.

The amount contributed is for you to decide, for example, £5 or £10 per child (up to a maximum of two children per family). All donations will be spent on our children and ensuring that their school experience is as fulfilling as possible. If you are able to contribute to the PVC funds please use the following details:

Sort code: 05-01-21

Account: 32081978

Cardinal Heenan Capital Fund Reference: Your child's name



# KEY 2023-24 DIARY DATES

## Autumn Term

**Wednesday 4 October 2023:** Year 7 Welcome Mass and Tutor Evening

**Friday 6 October 2023:** Staff Training day (School closed to students)

**Saturday 7 October 2023:** Open Day, 10am-1pm

**Monday 30 October - Friday 3 November 2023:** Half Term

**Thursday 16 November 2023:** Staff Twilight (School closes to students at 12:50pm)

**Monday 27 November 2023:** Year 11 Consultation Evening

**Friday 1 December:** Staff Training Day (School closed to students)

**Thursday 7 December:** Year 11 Exam Preparation Day

**Friday 22 December:** End of Term (School closes a 1pm)

## Spring Term

**Monday 8 January 2024:** Start of Term

**Monday 8 - Friday 19 January 2024:** Year 11 Mock Exams

**Thursday 11 January 2024:** Year 10 Consultation Evening

**Wednesday 24 January 2024:** Year 9-10 Options Evening

**Tuesday 6 February 2024:** Year 8-9 Options Evening

**Monday 12 - Friday 16 February 2024:** Half Term

**Monday 19 February 2024:** Staff Training Day (School closed to students)

**Thursday 22 February 2024:** Year 9 Consultation Evening

**Friday 1 March 2024:** Year 8 & 9 Options Form Deadline

**Monday 18 March 2024:** Year 7 Consultation Evening

**Thursday 28 March 2024:** End of Term (school closes at 3:20pm)

## Summer Term

**Monday 15 April 2024:** Start of Term

**Wednesday 8 May 2024:** Year 8 Consultation Evening

**Wednesday 15 May 2024:** Year 10 Preparing for Your Next Steps

**Monday 27 - Friday 31 May 2024:** Half Term

**Tuesday 25 June 2024:** Staff Twilight (School closes to students at 12:50pm)

**Wednesday 10 July 2024:** Staff Twilight (School closes to students at 12:50pm)

**Friday 19 July 2024:** End of Term (School closes at 1pm)



**Open Day**  
**Saturday 7 October**  
**10:00am to 1:00pm**

Headteacher's talks:  
10:15am, 11:15am &  
12:15pm



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

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