



VERITAS

NEWSLETTER

A message from the Headteacher

As we approach the final half term of this school year, I reflect with immense pride on the many successes we have enjoyed as a school community. Our Year 11 students have begun their GCSE and Level 2 examinations with dedication and determination and are taking this opportunity to demonstrate their individual talents as they strive to become the people God calls them to be. Alongside their academic focus, they continue to care for and support one another, reflecting the message of kindness from our three principles. Today, we celebrated their journey with a joyful and moving Leavers' Day, including our annual Leavers' Mass attended by students, tutors, and families, followed by a special Leavers' Assembly led by Mrs Millington, Head of Year 11. It was a fantastic opportunity to reflect on and celebrate our time together.

I am equally proud of the Year 10 students, who engaged thoughtfully and maturely in the application process for student leadership roles. Following an incredibly competitive process, I am delighted to announce that our new head student team are: Head Students: Evan and Lola, Deputy Head Students: Finlay and Princess. I am confident that they will lead our school community with wisdom and courage, supported by their team of prefects and senior prefects. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Head Students, Oliver, Tilly, Gracie, Jacob and Shalom for their inspirational leadership. I am sure that the new student leadership team will continue to build on the best traditions they have inherited.

As this half term comes to a close, we also bid farewell to Mrs Turner, who has served as our School Business Manager for over 20 years. I would like to thank Mrs Turner for her commitment to ensuring that all students in our school receive a high quality education and are able to access a wide range of opportunities. In recent years, Mrs Turner has been instrumental in our successful exit from PFI, as well as in the development of the MUGA. This half term, she has worked closely with Mrs Lattimer, our new School Business Manager, to ensure a smooth transition. I know that all members of our school community will join me in wishing Mrs Turner a very happy retirement.

Earlier this week, I accompanied a group of our Faith in Action students along with Mrs Davies to a service at St Anne's Cathedral, where they presented a cheque for £1,500 to the Good Shepherd Appeal on behalf of the school. Thank you to everyone who generously supported our Lenten fundraising efforts, which also enabled us to make great progress towards our fundraising target for a new minibus. I also want to express my appreciation to the staff and students who led these fundraising efforts.

I know that many members of our school community are deeply concerned about increasing divisions across our city and the rise in antisemitism seen nationally. On behalf of our school community, I reached out to the headteacher of Leeds Jewish Free School to offer our support. Ms Hope, Miss Burns and I took a group of Year 9 students to the school to participate in an inter-faith event aimed at building positive relationship and awareness. It was wonderful to see the students interacting with their counterparts and learning about each other's faiths and lives. We look forward to building on this link into the future.

When we return after half term, many students will be involved in end-of-year assessments, work experience, the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and a wide range of educational visits, sports fixtures and enrichment activities alongside their academic studies. I would like to thank the staff who make these events possible and encourage all students to embrace these opportunities with enthusiasm and commitment.

In the meantime, I wish everyone in our school community a joyful, safe, and restful half-term break.

Mr Kelly, Headteacher

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PRAYING TOGETHER YEAR 10 LOURDES FUNDRAISING

Year 10 students are looking forward to the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes with preparation sessions in school and fundraising in their parishes. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising at St Urban's last week. We will also be providing refreshments at Immaculate Heart of Mary on Sunday 24 May. All donations welcome.



EARTH DAY ASSEMBLIES

All year groups celebrated Earth Day on 22 April. This year's theme was **"Our Power, Our Planet"** and students were encouraged to think about ways to get involved with community action and championing clean energy sources. This followed on from our Careers Week and Green Careers Week earlier in the year, when students considered the environmental and social impacts of potential future careers. During these assemblies, pupils reflected on Catholic Social Teaching and the importance of stewardship and caring for our shared home, along with Pope Francis' teaching, in *Laudato Si'*, which highlights the fact that care for the environment is inseparable from caring for the poor and vulnerable, as environmental degradation disproportionately impacts them.



As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace

1 Peter 4:10

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This half term, collective worship has been planned by 7LSA who considered ways we can all take the start of a new term as an opportunity for a fresh start and prayed for the courage to make any necessary changes to get the best out of school life; 8DFR, who prayed for all past members of our school community and asked God to care for them; and Year 9 RE classes, who inspired us with their prayers of solidarity and support for our Year 11 students as they embark on their external examinations. As a community, we pray that they can show the courage and hope needed to do their best in all examinations. Year 9 RE classes also dedicated their prayers to peace in our world and prayed for world leaders, that they may have the courage required to make difficult decisions and work together for peace.

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

CAREERS GUIDANCE

LEEDS YOUTH SUMMIT AND POLITICS MATTERS

A group of Year 10 students visited Leeds Beckett University and Leeds Civic Hall to use their voices for change and learn more about the various roles and processes involved in local and national politics.

Students presented their views on a range of contemporary topics as part of the Leeds Youth Summit, as well as listening to the issues affecting other young people across the city.

They then had the chance to interview Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr Dan Cohen, about his experiences both as Lord Mayor and as councillor for Alwoodley ward. Students learnt more about the way that people are able to effect change locally and the way in which local council budgets are managed.

Students presented their views on recycling, sustainability and graffiti and became more confident with public speaking. The day also provided a fantastic opportunity for students to hear a diverse range of views and use these to support and develop their own understanding of a variety of issues.



YEAR 10 PREPARING FOR NEXT STEPS EVENING

Year 10 students and their families were invited to their 'Preparing for Your Next Steps' Evening this week. During this event, staff shared revision techniques and information about working memory and the ways in which students can use this to support their revision. Students also received information about the timelines for key events throughout Year 11 and the support that is available to them in school.



YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 10 students are finalising their preparations for work experience and Mr Gaffey is coordinating health and safety checks to ensure placements can go ahead successfully. Students will be working in a diverse range of industries, from ornate masonry to music production and the NHS. Work experience provides a fantastic insight into the workplace and it gives students the chance to consider careers in different industries and build the skills which future employers value. Thank you to all of the employers who have agreed to host our students.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

VISIT TO LEEDS JEWISH FREE SCHOOL

A group of Year 9 students, accompanied by Mr Kelly, Ms Hope and Miss Burns, visited Leeds Jewish Free School in May. Staff and students spent the morning together learning more about each other's faiths and their experiences in our two schools. We met the school's headteacher, Mrs Kelsey and Rabbi Topp and joined students on a tour of the school. Year 9 student journalist, Niamh, tells the story of the day.

Recently, a group of Year 9s visited Leeds Jewish free school. The school was much smaller than ours but even though it was smaller, everyone there was very friendly and proud of their school community.

When we arrived, some of the students gave us a tour around the school. They showed us their classrooms, prayer areas, and shared information about what school life is like for them. It was interesting to see the differences between their school and ours, especially how important religion and tradition are in their daily routines.

During the visit, we also met Rabbi Topp. He spoke to us about Judaism, Jewish traditions, and the importance of community and respect. He answered our questions and explained some religious practices that many of us had never learned about before. It was a really informative experience and helped us understand more about Jewish culture and beliefs.

After the tour and discussion, we took part in some ice-breaker games with the students. One of the games was "What Biscuit Would You Be?", where everyone had to choose a biscuit that matched their personality. It was funny and helped get to know each other better.

We also played a game called Splat, which was fast-paced and competitive. Everyone enjoyed it, and it created a lot of laughter and teamwork between both schools.

Overall, the visit was enjoyable, educational, and a great opportunity to meet new people. We learned a lot about Judaism and experienced a different school environment while having fun at the same time and can't wait to welcome them to our school.



YEAR 11 LEAVERS MASS AND CELEBRATION

Today we have celebrated our Year 11 students and looked back on the five years they have spent with us. Students were joined by their families for a special mass of thanksgiving which provided the opportunity to reflect on their shared experiences in school and the memories they have made together. This mass was planned with students' input, giving them the opportunity to share songs and memories from their time at school.



They then went on to enjoy an assembly and presentation featuring photos, stories and shared memories of the educational visits they have attended, sports days and fixtures they have participated in and friendships they have made at Cardinal Heenan. As ever, we reminded them that we will continue to pray for them and their next steps every time we say our school prayer. We reflected together on their many contributions to our school community and the way they have built on the best traditions they have inherited.

We look forward to celebrating with many of our Year 11 students at their prom in June. Mrs Millington, their Head of Year; Mrs Forbes, their Assistant Head of Year; the Year 11 Tutor Team and all staff who have worked with them over the years would like to wish the Class of 2026 the very best of luck for the future.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

COMMUNITY ACTION

COMMON GOOD INFLUENCERS

This month, the Common Good group focused on the topic of refugees and the importance of creating welcoming communities for people seeking safety and a new start in life.

As part of the project, we joined a video call hosted by A Day of Welcome, together with many different schools across the UK. Our discussions and activities focused on how we can encourage kindness, inclusion, and understanding. It was inspiring to connect with students from other schools and hear how schools everywhere are working to support refugees and promote acceptance.

During this online event, we also listened to Giel, a refugee from South Sudan, speak about his personal experiences. He shared the challenges he faced having to leave his home and begin a new life in another country. His story was emotional, powerful, and helped us better understand the difficulties many refugees experience. At the same time, he spoke about the importance of hope, support, and being welcomed by others.

The session encouraged us to reflect on how small actions, such as showing kindness or making someone feel included, can make a huge difference to people who may feel isolated or uncertain in a new environment.

Overall, this month's Common Good focus was both educational and meaningful. It helped us develop greater empathy and awareness about refugee experiences while reminding us of the importance of creating communities where everyone feels safe and welcome.

STUDENT LEADERS

Good luck to our outgoing student leadership team - Olly, Tilly, Gracie, Jacob and Shalom. Thank you for your commitment to our school and the way in which you have led our school community, building on the best traditions you have inherited. We are delighted to announce that the head students for 2026-27 will be:

Head Boy - Evan

Head Girl - Lola (Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School)

Deputy Head Boy - Finlay (Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School)

Deputy Head Girl - Princess (Holy Rosary and St Anne's Catholic Primary School)

They are looking forward to leading our school community and developing the events and initiatives which previous head students have started, as well as bringing in their own ideas. Good luck!



GOOD SHEPHERD FUNDRAISING

A group of Faith in Action students, accompanied by Mr Kelly and Mrs Davies, attended a special service at St Anne's Cathedral, where they presented a cheque for £1,500 to the Good Shepherd Appeal on behalf of our school community. Thank you to everyone who supported our Lenten fundraising efforts.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

EXPLORING SUBJECTS IN GREATER DEPTH

LEEDS BOOK AWARDS

A group of Year 7 and 8 students travelled to Leeds Central Library and Leeds City Museum for the awards ceremony for this year's Leeds Book Awards. Throughout the year, students from across the city have read the shortlists for Middle Grade Fiction, Middle Grade Graphic Novel, Teen Fiction and Teen Graphic Novel and each student voted for their favourite shortlisted titles in each category.

On the day, students had the chance to speak to the shortlisted authors and illustrators during the teen panel event in Leeds Central Library, before walking over to the Leeds City Museum for the award ceremony. The ceremony was led by students from different participating schools and hosted by acclaimed poet, performer, and theatre-maker Ruth Awolola, who shared a selection of her poetry with the audience.



After the ceremony, students were able to spend time talking to the authors and illustrators during an informal book signing event. Finally, we had some free time to explore the museum exhibits. The students represented Cardinal Heenan incredibly well, asking insightful questions and learning more about the life of an author or illustrator. It was fantastic to spend the day celebrating reading and books with students from across Leeds, especially during the National Year of Reading. Thank you to everyone at the School Library Service and Leeds Libraries for planning such a fantastic event.



UKMT JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

This term, a group of Year 8 students put their mathematical skills to the test in the UK Maths Trust's Junior Maths challenge. Designed to challenge and inspire young mathematicians across the country, the competition features a series of increasingly challenging problem-solving questions that push students to think logically, creatively and strategically. Students worked very hard, tackling tricky puzzles and applying their mathematical reasoning under timed conditions. Congratulations to Chloe, Jacob, Leo who achieved Gold certificates, along with many other students who gained Silver and Bronze awards.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH!

Staff and students arranged a 100th birthday party for Sir David Attenborough. Guest of honour was the life size cut out of Sir David which has pride of place in B31. Students watched examples of Sir David's work throughout his career and had the opportunity to record their own editions of Planet Earth III through BBC Children in Need's Voices for Nature scheme.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

LIVING THE VIRTUES



Our virtue in focus for this half term is HOPE

Definition:

You know that when life gets hard you don't give up but carry on hoping that things will get better. You dream of a better world or something better that will come in the future. You live for something greater than yourself. Your hope drives out selfishness and boredom and encourages you to engage with your community and do good works. You trust that God is at work moving the world towards what is good.

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

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Jazlyn	Layla	Asriel	Siofra	Noah
Junaid	Alisia	Bramwell	Hermela	Vimbayi
Camilla	Daisy	Matthew	Suzy	Evie
Kaiden	Benjamin		Liya-Beth	Chanel
Izabella				Heidi
David				

Our Year 11 students have demonstrated hope through their trust in the hard work they have done throughout their time in school. They have started the process of formal examinations placing their trust in each other, their expert teachers and themselves. They celebrated their time in school together on Friday. Year 10 students have expressed their hopes for the future through the process of applying for student leadership positions. Year 9 students have been finalising their preparations for the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Students are also preparing for geography fieldwork trips to Hornsea and Malham. The Common Good Influencers and Chaplaincy groups continue to lead on a variety of community and faith projects and encourage students from all year groups to support them.

**THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR
STRENGTH. THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES; THEY
WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY, THEY WILL WALK AND NOT
BE FAINT.**

ISAIAH 40:31

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

GIRLS CRICKET



The Year 8 girls cricket team recently took part in Yorkshire County Cricket's 'Chance to Compete' U13 Girls West Yorkshire qualifier at Hunslet Nelson Cricket Club.

Although the girls narrowly missed out on a place in the finals, they had a fantastic day of cricket, winning two matches along the way. To top it all off, they finished in style by beating the eventual tournament winners, in a friendly match by an impressive 58 runs! A brilliant effort from the whole team.



This is our third year participating in girls cricket events, with the current Year 11 students starting our girls cricket journey. The development of girls cricket in school is one of the best traditions they will hand on to future students. It is fantastic to see participation in sport continuing to grow across the school.



GIRLS FOOTBALL

The Year 7 girls football team reached the final of the Leeds Schools Cup. Although they were beaten in the final 3-0, they have had an impressive start to their school football journey this year, participating in local and national competitions, sometimes against older opposition. Well done girls!



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT ATHLETICS

Athletics club on Thursday afternoons provides the opportunity for students to build their physical fitness. They have made the most of the sunny weather with a range of sprint and long distance training drills. Many students who represented school in cross country events earlier in the year have gone on to participate in Leeds Schools Athletics.



INDIVIDUAL SPORTING SUCCESS

- Former student Rhys Chadwick made his Premier League debut on the bench for Leeds United away at Tottenham Hotspur last week. Well done, Rhys!
- Niamh (Year 9) won the British Championships in Jiu Jitsu. Well done, Niamh!
- Amelia (Year 9) plays for Harrogate Town AFC and has recently played for their under 16 side. A fantastic achievement at such a young age.
- Leon (Year 10) has been selected to play for Poland National Football team in an upcoming Under 15 fixture against Switzerland. Well done, Leon!
- Year 8 students Evie and Orlaith and Year 7 Aine have taken part in Irish Dancing competitions in Newcastle and Manchester over this half term. Well done girls!
- Maria (Year 7) participated in the KUGB National Karate Championship, held at the University of Nottingham as part of the celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the Karate Union of Great Britain. She performed incredibly well, gaining a silver medal and a place on the podium. Well done, Maria!
- Holly (Year 8) recently travelled to Florida to compete in the International Cheer Union (ICU) world championships. She competed as part of her club, White Rose Cheer, and was also chosen to represent England. Her White Rose Cheer team finished fourth and Team England finished second. A fantastic achievement - well done, Holly!



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 MR EASTER

This half term, Veritas caught up with Associate Assistant Headteacher, Mr Easter, to find out more about his role in school.

How long have you worked at Cardinal Heenan?

9 years in total. I started as an English teacher and have worked in a number of roles in the pastoral team during my time here.

What is your favourite thing about your job in school?

Showing students that they are capable of more than they thought they were.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I think education is the best way to create a more equal and better society and so I wanted to dedicate my time and energy to something useful!

What do you do when you are not at school?

I like to play golf and football, go to comedy gigs but my main passion is probably travel. Anyone who has ever been taught by me or attended one of my assemblies will know how much I like to talk about all of the amazing places in the world that I have been fortunate enough to visit.

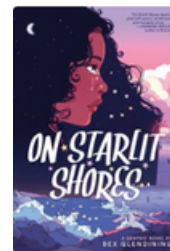
Thank you for giving up your time to speak to us.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

STAFF AND STUDENT WELLBEING BOOK RECOMMENDATION - MISS BURNS

Miss Burns recommends *On Starlit Shores* by Bex Glendining. This beautiful graphic novel won the Leeds Book Award Teen Graphic category having been a firm favourite with our Leeds Book Awards book group. It tells the story of Alex, who returns to the seaside town she grew up in following the death of her grandmother. The novel explores themes of loss and identity and the way our memories shape us.



COLOUR RUN FUNDRAISER

On Tuesday 23 June, we will host our first ever Cardinal Heenan Colour Run in partnership with Friends of St Urban's. This will be a fun-run style obstacle course where children will dodge, weave and climb 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, Leeds Printing Company and Mone Bros Ltd for their contributions to our signage, obstacles and colour stations around the course.

ST PAUL'S OFSTED REPORT CARD

Congratulations to staff, students and families at St Paul's Catholic Primary School on their recent positive Ofsted report card. The full report can be found here - <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/147485>.

STAFF WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Our staff wellbeing committee plans regular events for our school community. Every Friday, staff enjoy cakes and fruit in the staffroom and we are beginning to establish special interest groups for staff at different stages in their lives and careers.

STUDENT WELLBEING

Year 11 students have been supported through the process of their external examinations by all members of our school community. As well as support from staff, they have had the option to access workshops delivered by MindMate around coping with exam stress.



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:

1-17 June - Year 11 External Examinations
6-7 June - Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition
9 June - Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Hornsea
12 June - Year 8 Mop-Up Vaccinations
16 June - Sports Quiz and Sports Awards
17 June - Science Fair
17 June-1 July - Y10 Mocks
18 June - Year 11 Prom
23 June - Year 5 Day Ambassadors Day
23 June - Colour Run Fundraiser

24 June - External Exams Contingency Day
25 and 30 June - Year 8 Geography Field Trips to Malham
2-10 July - Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes
7 July - Non-Feeder Year 6 Additional Transition Day
8 July - Year 6 Transition Day
9 July - Year 6 Parent Information Evening
13-17 July - Year 10 Work Experience
14 July - Sports Day
21 July - Last Day of Term



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