



CARDINAL HEENAN  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

# VERITAS

## NEWSLETTER

### A message from the Headteacher

As we approach the end of another successful term at Cardinal Heenan, I would like to pay tribute to the incredible staff and students that we work with every day. The commitment, dedication and hard work that has been on show throughout the school this term has been unapparelled.

Our Year 7 students have settled into Cardinal Heenan well and are already making significant contributions to the wider school life. Our older students have continued to impress me with their resilience, ambition and kindness. As our Year 11 students begin to complete their GCSE mock exams in the new term, I would like to remind them all that results do not define the person that you are – actions and effort demonstrate your character far more. If you work hard and trust the advice that you are given, you will achieve everything that you deserve.

The staff at Cardinal Heenan are, without doubt, the most dedicated and talented staff body I have had the privilege to work with. Seeing our new members of staff build such positive relationships with their students and colleagues has been lovely and I am excited about how the school will continue to develop in the new year.

As always at the end of a term, we give thanks for the blessings we have received, the support that we have been given and the friendships that we have made. We say a collective goodbye to staff who are moving on to new adventures, namely Miss Bishop and Mr Coronil Martinez who have both contributed so much to our MfL department and our sports clubs and teams, Mr Mangeolles who has worked in our Science department and Mr Panesar (Junior) who has been an important member of our Learning Support Department.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our parents, carers and wider family networks. Thank you for the ongoing support that you give to the school throughout the year and for the sacrifices that you make on a daily basis to give your children so much.

I wish you all a safe, happy and Holy Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 8 January 2024.

**Mr Kelly, Headteacher**



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### UPCOMING DATES

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

**Y11 Mock Exams: Monday 8 January - Friday 19 January 2024**

**Y8 Reports Issued - Wednesday 10 January 2024**

**Y10 Consultation Evening - Thursday 11 January 2024**

**Y9 Options Evening: Thursday 24 January 2024**

**Y8 Options Evening: Tuesday 6 February 2024**



## ADVENT SERVICE



We were delighted to see so many parents, students, staff and other friends of Cardinal Heenan at our Advent Service last Thursday. The evening was one of reflection and preparation for the great gift we receive at Christmas and included wonderful readings, beautiful singing from our choir, a thought provoking performance from the drama group and a celebration of the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our school community. The evening was rounded off with a rousing and thoroughly joyful musical showcase which definitely got us in the mood for the festive season!

## ADVENT GIVING

Our Chaplaincy and Common Good Leaders have been collecting donations for the St Vincent de Paul Society's Christmas hampers. Thank you to all staff, students and families within our community who donated grocery items, toiletries and sweet and savoury treats for those in need.



## JOURNEY TO THE MANGER



Bronagh Daly from Leeds Church Institute visited twice in December to work with our Year 8 students. She led a workshop with Year 8s and the head students in which we explored the idea of the 'Journey to the Manger'. Students engaged in theological discussion linking scripture to our own experiences. Bronagh returned a few weeks later to share these ideas with Year 8 in a special assembly. This is part of a wider partnership which we hope to develop next year.

## PRESENTATION EVENING

The Year 11 'Class of '23' returned to school on 5 December for a celebration of their fantastic achievements at Cardinal Heenan. They received their well-earned GCSE certificates on the night, but the evening was about so much more, as our community came together to hear our Priest Chaplain; Fr Yemane's inspiring story, before sporting excellence was acknowledged, academic brilliance was recognised and effort, perseverance, kindness and contribution to the life of the school was lauded in front of parents, staff and governors. Good luck in the future Class of '23!



## DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING SUCCESS



Our debating and public speaking teams continue to enjoy success both in school and in local and national competitions. This term, we have progressed to the next rounds of the ESU Public Speaking Competition and the ESU Schools' Mace debating competition. We have also worked with students from Leeds University to prepare to compete in the Ethics Cup competition in January. We are also beginning preparations for the first round of the Leeds Salon Y10-11 competition, where our Year 11 students will be defending their title as last year's champions.

## DAY OF THE DEAD

Pupils in Year 8 celebrated their work in Spanish and Art with a bake sale in the style of Day of the Dead. They brought in cakes and sweet treats decorated with skulls and flowers to celebrate the Mexican event which occurs each year at the beginning of November. We raised an impressive £85 for CAFOD. Well done Year 8 for your generosity and fabulous hard work!!



# YEAR 7 STUDENTS MAKE A FLYING START!

## ETHOS DAYS

Our Year 7 students participated in a week of Ethos Days in September. We explored the theme of Emmaus and considered the different people who accompany us through our lives at school, at home and in our local communities. We listened to a talk from Fr Yemane about his journey from Eritrea to Leeds and how his faith has been shaped by his experiences. We played a range of games and team building activities to get to know our tutor groups better. We also went on an Emmaus walk to strengthen some of these connections.



## Y7 FORM MASSES

All Year 7 pupils have taken part in a class mass led by Fr Yemane. Throughout Advent, pupils wrote and led prayers and explored the theme of joy, culminating in their first tutor group masses as CHCHS students.



## DISCO!

Our Year 7 disco was a roaring success. Students danced the night away to music provided by our excellent Year 9 DJ team made up of students from the Duke of Edinburgh fundraising team, who also organised and led a dance off, various party games and a tuck shop. Thank you to everyone involved.





## ALL THINGS GREEN

In November we celebrated Green Careers Week with things such as talks from Leeds City Council around jobs in sustainability, a visit from Ranger David Preston on outdoor jobs in conservation and a trip to Arla for a Green Careers Fair. The Green sector is not only essential to the future of the World but is also a sector of growth and one in which pupils may want to aim to work in order to have a job with purpose. Eco Council has been expanding this year with lots of new recruits. We have invested in some wildlife equipment including a bird table and a hedgehog house and hope to do some work in improving the school site as a habitat in the coming seasons.

Pupils also raised money for environmental books for the library by selling cakes on open day. We have also been monitoring the switching off of lights and projectors in rooms and will be sharing our results with teachers to try to improve this behaviour. Pupils are hoping to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change and also tips for what we can do to reduce our own impact through weekly slides in the daily notices.

Cardinal Heenan has partnered with Leeds Development Education Centre (Leeds DEC) to organise a Leeds Secondary School Eco Council Summit at Leeds Town Hall on 25 March 2024. Our main aims are to share the successes of Eco Councils at Secondary Schools across Leeds so that we can learn from each other what is possible, and also to share our struggles and to provide training relevant to this on the day. If you are interested in helping with this please contact [kgd@cardinalheenan.com](mailto:kgd@cardinalheenan.com).

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH



We have record numbers of Year 9 students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme this year. They are currently involved in a wide range of activities as they work towards completing 3 months of physical, skill and volunteering in their chosen interest areas. For the physical section, pupils are building their fitness through rock climbing, jogging and a wide range of team sports. In the skill section, students are learning British Sign Language, cooking and first aid. For the volunteering section, students are supporting younger pupils in a range of sports clubs in school, fundraising to buy kit for our D of E expedition and working with a range of church and community groups including Scouts and Girlguiding. This year, we are very lucky to be participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Young Leader scheme. Two of our Year 11 pupils, Fred and Lorna, are working towards an accredited 'Young Leader' qualification and will be supporting our Year 9 students to complete their Bronze Award.



## ANTARCTICA DAY

A wonderful effort, again, from our Year 9 Geographers who have been designing flags, this time to send a to Antarctica. Well done to Priyan Gurung, Emeka Okonkwo and Nicholas Jones whose designs are pictured in situ!

## COMMON GOOD LEADERS

This year has seen the launch of a new student Leadership team called the Common Good Leaders (CGL). All students were invited to apply and 4 students were chosen from each year group to be Common Good Leaders. They have been meeting each week to discuss how we can strengthen our connections with the community this year in order to share love and build understanding with others and also to gain purpose. The CGL were also invited to CATCH in Harehills where they received an inspirational talk from Ash about leadership and connecting with the community.



As part of our efforts to build connections with our community we are now making weekly visits to Brandon House Care Home across the road. Any pupil is welcome to come and, so far, pupils have gone over simply to chat, we have had pupils go over to perform Elvis and pupils go over to perform Christmas Carols. The CGL have also written and encouraged others to write Christmas cards for the residents and carers at the Care Home.

We have also been building links with Penny Fields School and a group of pupils have been going over to learn Makaton Christmas songs with some of the Penny Fields pupils. The pupils had a great time and we look forward to expanding this relationship as the year goes on.

If you have any connections with the local community (Meanwood or Harehills) and would like to connect with our pupils or would benefit from their help in your community please get in touch with [kgd@cardinalheenan.com](mailto:kgd@cardinalheenan.com)



## BOYS WILL BE BRILLIANT

Our wonderful Year 10 and Year 7 boys brought some light to an otherwise dark and misty December evening last week when they got together, along with parents, for this year's inaugural Boys Will Be Brilliant event. The Year 10s will be working with the Year 7s on a weekly basis to mentor them into maximising every opportunity available to them at CHCHS.



# SPORT FOCUS

## SPORTS' AWARDS

Our re-arranged Sports Awards took place in October and there was a great turn out to celebrate our school's sporting success! Coaches spoke with passion about their hard working squads and individual and team awards were distributed. The big winners on the night, being named Team of the Year, were last year's Year 7 girls' football team who got to the final of the ESFA Cup in May.



## FOOTBALL



The Under 16 girls are, yet again, having a fabulous season, flying high in the Leeds Cup. As ever, they are ably led by Mr Gaffey and Mr Moore.

In addition, these coaches work incredibly hard with our wonderful Under 13 girls, who are also taking part in the Leeds Cup and are through to the 5th round of the ESFA National Cup.

The Year 11 boys are currently unbeaten in the Leeds League and are through to the quarter finals of the Leeds Cup so there is plenty to play for in the new year!

The Year 10 boys reached the semi-finals of the county-cup with an excellent away win at last year's finalists The Brooksbank School. Unfortunately in the semi-finals they were beaten by Ryburn School. They are hoping to win the league again after Christmas and have a strong run in the Leeds Champion of Champions competition. Joe Comiskey, Joe Biedka, Alfie Donohue, Eoin Durkan and James O'Rourke have all represented Leeds Schools FA this season.



## A BRIGHT FUTURE AT LUFC



Louie Dudley (Year 11) has recently been awarded a scholarship with Leeds United Football Club. He was scouted playing for his local team, Chapelton FC, back when he was in Year 6 and has been training 3 times a week with LUFC, with a match at the weekend, ever since. His hard work has now been rewarded with a two-year scholarship, which he (and we!) hopes will lead to a pro-contract when he is 18. Well done Louie!



## MUGA FINISHED IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!

Our Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA) has completed in time for Christmas, much to our delight! Work on the project started back in October but, due to several spells of dreadful weather, there have been a few setbacks to completion. It's ready now, however, and in the new year, will provide space for a variety of sports. Our Head of PE and Health, Mr Wynne, said, " We are very much looking forward to getting access to the new MUGA. It will provide a much-needed space for us to enhance both our curriculum and extra-curricular programmes. In PE lessons, staff are excited to introduce both handball and tennis into the curriculum.

Additionally, the extra-curricular opportunities we aim to offer are 5 a side football, cardio tennis, handball, as well as hosting local netball tournaments".



## CAREERS ROUND UP

It's been a busy term for Careers Events as our students continued to be wonderful ambassadors for the school at events including the BIMA Digital Day, Years 7 and 8 Dentistry Day and Year 10 Boys into Psychology Day at Leeds University, a Year 9 assembly with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. During Green Careers Week, alongside examining sustainable careers choices in lessons, we held a Careers Fair during which we welcomed Notre Dame Sixth Form, Leeds City College, The Yorkshire College of Beauty, Roundhay Sixth Form, Leeds College of Building and Allerton High Sixth Form, to name but a few!

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our Scholastic Book Fair raised over £180 in Scholastic vouchers which will be spent on new books for the school library. Thank you to everyone who bought a book or completed a nomination form – we were able to purchase all requested books and these are now on the shelves in the library.



HAVE A PEACEFUL & HOLLY  
*Christmas*

AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FROM EVERYONE AT  
CARDINAL HEENAN CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL

