



CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

VERITAS

NEWSLETTER

A message from the Headteacher

It has been an incredibly busy start to this academic year and we have so much to celebrate as a school community. In August, we celebrated the exceptional achievements of our class of 2024. I started at Cardinal Heenan the year before this cohort and so they are the first students that I saw come from primary school all the way through to their current post 16 provision and I am immensely proud of the progress that they made academically, spiritually, socially and emotionally. Their hard work is reflected in the exceptional examination results they achieved, which are testament to the dedication with which they approached a range of challenges throughout their time in school. I look forward to celebrating their success with them at our annual Presentation Evening on Tuesday 10 December.

Our extra-curricular timetable in school is as busy as ever, and it is wonderful to walk around school at lunchtimes or after school and see so many students taking part in everything from sports fixtures to chess club and debating. The extra-curricular programme can be found on our website. There really is something for everyone and I would encourage all students to try something new over the course of this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students on an excellent start to this academic year. Our Year 7 pupils have made an outstanding contribution so far, and it was great to see so many of them and their families at their Welcome Mass in September. I was especially proud of our wonderful altar servers and readers who were integral in helping Fr Yemane celebrate such a special Mass. Year 8 pupils have thrown themselves into the wider life of the school and I was pleased to see the contributions of our Year 8 sports journalists in this newsletter. Year 9 and 10 pupils have started their option subjects with their usual dedication, and I know that Year 10 will spend time over the half term break reflecting on the unique opportunity to join the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. Year 11 have responded brilliantly to their roles as leaders in school with many of them volunteering to speak in assemblies and support and inspire our younger students. Our Open Day in October was a great chance to see our community in action as we welcomed prospective students and their families and it was lovely to see so many students giving up their time on a Saturday to support younger students as they make decisions about their next steps.

I would also like to thank our Governing Body for the support they give to our school community. It is important to recognise the important contributions of this team of volunteers who are passionate about helping us to improve all aspects of school life. Look out for opportunities later in the year to apply to become a parent governor, I'm sure you will find it both a valuable and rewarding role.

This term, we have welcomed new staff across the school and they have quickly become part of our school community. We welcome Mrs Dwyer to the Languages department, Mr Hart in our Music department during Ms Pendred's maternity leave, Ms Frazier in the Science department, Mrs Roberts in the English department, Mr Kyriacou in our Curriculum Support department and in the Maths department we are joined by Mr Coe as well as Mr Warren as Head of Year 11. We also congratulate Ms Cowley who has been appointed to the role of Head of Maths. It was wonderful to see so many current and new staff at our staff welcome mass in September. Thank you to Fr Yemane for joining us for this special occasion and well done to our head students who offered prayers of intercession.

Mr Kelly, Headteacher

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

CLASS OF 2024 EXAMINATION RESULTS

Results day in August was a wonderful event: it was fantastic to see our young people receive the grades that they worked so hard for and deserved. As a school, we are all immensely proud of the progress that they made, academically, spiritually, socially and emotionally. During their time in school, they faced challenges such as a global pandemic and remote learning during Years 7 and 8, changes to the taught curriculum – moving to a two-year Key Stage 4, a cost-of-living crisis in addition to the normal challenges of teenage lives. Throughout it all, this cohort supported each other, worked hard, grew as a community and have certainly passed on some excellent traditions to our younger students. Despite the challenges they faced, our Class of 2024 went on to achieve record-breaking results - the highest grades in the history of the school - beating a record which was only created the year before - and, once again, placing Cardinal Heenan amongst the top performing schools in Leeds. We are so proud of the Class of 2024, and their contributions to our school community (not least their initiation of our the inaugural Culture Day). We keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they continue with their post-16 journey and we are looking forward to celebrating their excellent results with them at their Presentation Evening in November.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

SUPPORTING TRANSITION

CHCHS OPEN DAY

On Saturday 12 October, we opened our doors for our annual Open Day. This is an excellent opportunity for prospective students and their families to visit our school and experience a taste of the wide array of curriculum subjects and extra-curricular activities on offer.

Students from all year groups were also involved in celebrating their learning in curriculum areas, with others volunteering to accompany visiting families on a tour of the school. This gave our prospective students the chance to find out about school life directly from our current students.

Thank you to all of the students who volunteered their time on a Saturday to support younger students with making important decisions about their next steps. If you have any questions about the admissions process, please contact admissions@cardinalheenan.com.



YEAR 7 WELCOME MASS

Thank you to everyone who celebrated our Year 7 Welcome Mass. It was a really special occasion that marked the start of the pupil's journey through Catholic education at Cardinal Heenan. The pupils participated beautifully and it was so special to see representatives from all seven tutor groups.



YEAR 7 ETHOS DAYS

Year 7 pupils took part in our Ethos days, giving the pupils a chance to reflect on their start to high school life and look forward to their journey over the next five years.

The purpose of this Ethos Day is to give our pupils an opportunity to grow in their understanding and appreciation of faith and spirituality. They are encouraged to share their experiences and gifts with others and to further build the relationships with other pupils in the year group. Pupils found this day a meaningful experience, being given the opportunity to pray, work and grow together, learning more about the school Ethos and how they will be living their faith journey together in the coming years.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

CHAPLAINCY

LOURDES REUNION

Each year we take students on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Through this we help students to realise their responsibilities to one another. By helping and serving others we reflect on ways we can become the person that God calls us to be. In September the Lourdes group attended the Diocesan reunion at All Saints Catholic College in Huddersfield. It was a great event where students and staff were able to revisit experiences from the pilgrimage, join together in prayer and communion with other schools and think of ways in which we could put into action Our Lady's call to Bernadette to pray. One student said "Lourdes was a once in a lifetime experience. I encourage everyone to apply!" If you are in Year 10 and thinking about Lourdes next year please speak to your RE teacher.



ART IN RE

We have recently displayed a hunger cloth in Mr Tunnecliff's classroom. Hunger cloths were first used in the Middle Ages to cover the altar during Lent. Hunger cloths are used in many communities throughout the world to depict key Biblical stories and messages. This one is written in Tigrinya (a language spoken in Eritrea and northern Ethiopia). We would love to hear from any families who could help us translate the text so we can use it in RE. Through this we can help to pass on to those we meet in the Christian virtue of faith.



ADOREMUS - THE TWELVE

On Saturday 14 September Jayden and Rosa, two students from last year's Year 11, and part of the Twelve (the Diocesan Youth leadership team) went to Adoremus, the National Eucharistic Congress. We conducted an exclusive interview with Jayden about the event.



Veritas: So Jayden, it was great to see you and Rosa on the photos. What made you go to the event?

Jayden: I went to the event in order to learn more about my faith journey, where God is leading me to, and also to connect with other young people who came for similar purposes.

Veritas: Excellent stuff. What did you do whilst you were there?

Jayden: The event mainly comprised of Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, and also a variety of workshops that focussed on discernment, the ranges of vocations and how to strive for holiness.

Veritas: Thanks Jayden. Finally, what experiences you had at school prepared you for this event?

Jayden: School masses and collective worship allowed me to have similar experiences, where people of the same age range as me engaged in matters concerning religion.

Bishop Philip Moger, the newly installed Bishop of Plymouth, was in attendance. Bishop Moger served as our priest chaplain when he was in Leeds. Please pray for him and his ministry.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

CAREERS GUIDANCE

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Our Year 10 students are currently in the process of applying for work experience placements for 14-18 July 2025. Work experience provides an excellent opportunity for students to experience the process of applying for a job, as well as gaining a unique insight into the workplace. Last year, pupils gained valuable employment skills with placements at local primary schools, restaurants and sports clubs. Many also went on to gain part time employment or internships through their work experience placement. If any local businesses or employers would be able to support a Year 10 work experience placement, please contact Mr Gaffey on kgy@cardinalheenan.com.

YEAR 11 RESTART A HEART

All students in Year 11 participated in 'Restart a Heart' day on Wednesday 16 October. This important day provides individuals and groups with the opportunity to learn and practise CPR and other lifesaving techniques which could be vital in an emergency situation. Thank you to First On Scene for delivering this vital training.



HEAD STUDENTS' ASSEMBLIES - BEING EXCELLENT

As part of their role as student leaders, our head students delivered assemblies to all students in Years 7-10. They reflected on the meaning of excellence and shared inspirational stories about some of the ways in which they have overcome difficulties to achieve excellence. The experiences they shared included the support they had received from classmates and teachers to overcome problems they encountered with curriculum lessons as well as the ways in which extra-curricular participation had helped them to overcome anxiety around public speaking.

YEAR 9 BE THE BOSS

Year 9 Business students took part in 'Be The Boss' - an entrepreneurial workshop aimed at encouraging them to consider starting their own business either now or in the future. Some students have been inspired by the workshop to create a business plan and have started to look at ways to use their skills and talents to generate income.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PASSPORTS

Students in all year groups continue to use their Personal Development Passports to celebrate their successes both in school and outside. The passports offer an invaluable opportunity for each student to reflect on the person God calls them to be. Students are encouraged to consider the ways in which they have lived the virtues of faith, hope, love, justice, solidarity, courage and practical wisdom.

GREEN CAREERS WEEK

We will celebrate Green Careers Week (4-8 November) in school. This event offers students the opportunity to explore careers which contribute towards sustainability and preserving or restoring the environment and our planet. These roles may be in any sector, not just those traditionally seen as 'green'.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

COMMUNITY ACTION

There are lots of ways to get involved with supporting our school and wider community. Find out about some of the initiatives we are supporting this year. Students should speak to the members of staff listed if they would like to get involved.

COMMON GOOD LEADERS

Building on the success of last year, the Common Good leaders have deepened their links in the local community and are continuing their work with Penny Field School and Brandon House Care Home. This half term, we challenged all students to find a way to show someone else how much they value them. We have many exciting projects coming up. Later in the year, our students will be developing their leadership and communication skills by coaching students at St Urban's. We are launching a school recycling scheme to encourage students and the wider community to bring old and unwanted devices for recycling. We will also be recycling old crisp packets to be ironed together to make life saving blankets to donate to a local charity supporting homeless people. Students will also be designing and building birdhouses to encourage wildlife on our school grounds.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH YOUNG LEADERS

We are recruiting for two Duke of Edinburgh Young Leaders. Young Leaders follow a training programme and support students participating in the scheme in school. To be eligible, students must have completed or be close to completing their Bronze Award. Any interested students in Year 10 or 11 should see Miss Burns, Mr Jones or Miss Baldwin for an application form.

READING LEADERS

Thank you to the incredible number of Year 10 students who applied to become Reading Leaders. Successful applicants have been informed this week and will begin their training after half term. They will then start to support students in Year 7, helping them to become more confident readers. We know that many students who benefitted from the support of a reading leader in Year 7 go on to apply to participate in the scheme in Year 10, building on the best traditions they have inherited and demonstrating their commitment to our school community.

Unfortunately, due to space and time restrictions, we are unable to offer all students a place on this scheme. However, any students in Year 10 who would like to contribute towards reading for pleasure in school in other ways should speak to Miss Harnett or Miss Burns about opportunities to support book clubs or volunteer as Junior Librarians.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



Our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning in the staff room raised over £200. Thank you to all staff who took part. Special thanks also goes to the students who entered the European Day of Languages bake-off, who raised £35 towards this total. The winning bake was produced by Erin (8AFT) and featured a celebration of all things European. Well done everyone!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A group of students from all year groups have led our Black History Month celebrations in school. They planned and delivered assemblies centred around this year's theme of 'Reclaiming Narratives' as well as sharing information with all students through the Daily Notices.

In the library, we have displayed a range of fiction and non-fiction texts related to Black History Month, with a particular focus on recognising and shifting some of the narratives around black history and culture.

We have also shared a selection of podcasts about influential black people throughout history, including Lord Constantine, who became the first black person to sit in the House of Lords. We also discovered more about the contributions of black men and women who served in various ways during the course of the First World War.

In school, we are keen to ensure that our curriculum reflects the diversity of our school community - from Year 7 when pupils study the Aztecs, Year 8 where students study the impact of the Spanish, Portuguese and Mughal Empires and Year 9 where students explore migration over time and the development of the Civil Rights Movement. Our Black History Month celebrations are one element of this commitment to a diverse and wide-ranging curriculum.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

DEVELOPING CREATIVITY

DRAMA

Our drama club continues to go from strength to strength, with many students from all year groups participating each week. We will be entering the English Speaking Union's Performing Shakespeare and Public Speaking competitions again this year.



2025 will see our talented actors, musicians and dancers present their production of Lionel Bart's Oliver! Students should speak to Miss McMinn or Mrs Phelan for more information and look out for information about the auditions process in the Daily Notices.

MUSIC

Mr Hart has been impressed with the participation in extra-curricular music lessons, as well as the creativity of our Year 11 students as they work on their GCSE compositions. A reminder that choir is open to all year groups every Tuesday at lunchtime and that the music rooms are available for rehearsals every Wednesday lunchtime.



ART

Congratulations to Amelia and Yzabelle who won prizes in the Leeds Dialogue Society's Eco Competition. They each won £50 as well as a prize for the school. Well done to everyone who entered.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

LIVING THE VIRTUES

Our virtue in focus for this half term is WISDOM

Definition:



You decide, based on what you know, what is the best thing to do. You take time to think about what you must do. You ask God and the people around you to support you in making the right decision. You reflect on what you know and what you have been told and then decide to do something which you think is best.

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

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Alyssa	Mikolaj	William	Lily	Toni
Chloe	Bramwell	Evie	Chidalu	Ulunma
Oliver	Matthew	Elsie	Amelka	Emilia
Evie	Elsie	Joshua	Lydia	Gracie
Sophia	Catherine	Francesca	Daniyal	Myla
Carmen	Matilda	Sam	Etomi	Cerys
Adeline		Adesewa	Wayne	Joshua

As well as trying their best in all of their lessons, many of our students have demonstrated wisdom by going the extra mile with homework tasks and extra-curricular activities. Pupils in all year groups have tried a range of extra-curricular activities and have reflected on and written about their successes in their Pupil Development Passports. Students in Year 9 and Year 10 have embarked on their option choices following a rigorous process which supports them to be the person God calls them to be - using their own unique talents to the best of their ability.

Our head students shared their wisdom in assemblies, telling younger students about times when they have shown resilience to find a solution to a problem and other occasions when they have relied on people around them for support to make the right decisions. Year 10 students should take some time during the half term break to reflect on the opportunities provided by our Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, and seek advice from friends and family members before applying.

**TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
AND DO NOT RELY ON YOUR OWN INSIGHT.
IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM,
AND HE WILL MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PATHS.**

PROVERBS 3:5-6

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

CROSS COUNTRY

We were well represented at the Leeds School Sport Association's first Cross Country meet of the year at Woodhouse Grove. Over 20 students from all ages took on a challenging course, with stand out performances from Phoebe (Year 8) and Joel and Will (Year 11). We are looking forward to hosting the next fixture at school on Saturday 9 November and hope to see lots of students and their families there. Well done everyone!



INDIVIDUAL SPORTING SUCCESSES

- Rosie (Year 8) competed in the Yorkshire County Short Course Championships in Sheffield over the weekend and became Yorkshire Champion in four events and runner up in two.
- Patrick (Year 10) is a member of the National Swimming Squad at the City of Leeds Swimming Club and competes at a national level. He will be attending a training camp in Lanzarote over half term.
- James (Year 9) has represented England at a national level in individual pool tournaments.
- Leon (Year 8) and Nelson (Year 7) both play for Sheffield United.
- Jane (Year 9) has signed for Leeds United and scored two goals against Manchester United in a recent fixture.
- Former pupils Issy and Mia are continuing their footballing careers with Sheffield United and Leeds United respectively.



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.

SPORTS JOURNALISTS

A number of students have volunteered to become sport journalists and are covering sports fixtures in the newsletter and on X, formerly known as Twitter. Thank you to Will, Jenson and Matthew for their contributions to this newsletter. If you would like more information about becoming a sports journalist, please speak to Mr Wynne or Miss Burns.

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Our girls football teams have made an excellent start to the year with a hectic schedule of fixtures. The U14 team are through to the semi-final of the County Cup and the third round of the National Cup. They are also currently top of the Leeds Merit Table.



The U13 team are through to the quarter final of the County Cup. Our U12 team have made a fantastic start to Year 7 and have proven that they intend to build on the best traditions they have inherited - they are through to the semi-final of the County Cup and the second round of the National Cup.

BOYS FOOTBALL

The Year 7 team are through to the second round of the Leeds Cup after a 5-2 win with Luca(2), Joel(2) and Oscar the scorers. Year 8 beat Carr Manor in the league and beat Brigshaw in the first round of the Leeds Cup. Markluv scored 8 goals for Leeds City Boys last weekend and has been scouted for Bradford City as a result of that game. This achievement is testament to the value of extra-curricular sport in school as Markluv had not played for an organised team before joining the school team in Year 7.



Year 9 won 2-1 against Roundhay with both goals from Max and also beat Morley 5-2. They are now through to the quarter finals of the Leeds Cup. Our Year 10 boys bounced back from defeat in the national cup with a 2-1 win in the County Cup - goals came from Aiden and Kieran with stand out performances from Aiden, Sam and Luke. The team are now through to the semi finals of the County Cup and the third round of the Leeds Cup. The Year 11 team are through to the semi-final of the County Cup cup and the third round of the Leeds Cup.

NEW EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORT

This term we have launched Rugby Union and Gaelic Football extra-curricular sports clubs. Gaelic Football is open to all students in Years 10 and 11, with all students welcome to join Rugby training. We also have Dance and Cheer club in the hall on Tuesdays after school, open to Years 7-9.



LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

WORKING WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

CATCH - VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Year 11 student, Kendra, who was named as Catch's 'Volunteer of the Month' for September. It was fantastic to hear about her dedication, compassion and tireless energy in all that she does. The charity describes her as an irreplaceable part of their team, saying "Whether she's caring for our animals or supporting our youth sessions, Kendra shows up every day with a smile and a heart full of kindness." Well done Kendra!



GOLF FUNDRAISERS

Over the summer holidays three Year 10 students took part in a charity event at their golf club, Sandmoor, in aid of Candlelighters.

The event was inspired by one of their teammates who was diagnosed with lymphoma and received support from The Candlelighters charity. Luke, Ethan and Noah were part of the junior section who collectively played 1000 holes, with each of the Year 10 boys playing 54 each (3 full rounds). They started at 6am and played through until 7pm. It was a great day played in high spirits, with over £12000 raised in total by members of the club - an incredible achievement for all involved!



IS MISE CARA BRAIN DISEASE FOUNDATION

The Is Mise Cara Brain Foundation, established in memory of former student Cara Mervyn, is hosting a charity event at Ameen's restaurant in Horsforth on 16 November. The Cardinal Heenan Class of 2024 continued to remember and celebrate Cara throughout their time in school through their annual 'Cakes for Cara' fundraising efforts. Please contact ismisecara@gmail.com for more information about this event.

LIVING OUR MISSION THROUGH....

STAFF AND STUDENT WELLBEING

BOOK RECOMMENDATION - YEAR 7

You may remember that, on their Enrolment Evening, Mr Kelly set our new Year 7 students the challenge of reading at least one book during the summer break. Many students chose books from the Lottie Brooks series. Special thanks to Aine, Lily and Eva who submitted excellent book reviews and suggesting a range of questions they would like to ask the author, Katie Kirby.



NEW STAFF MASS

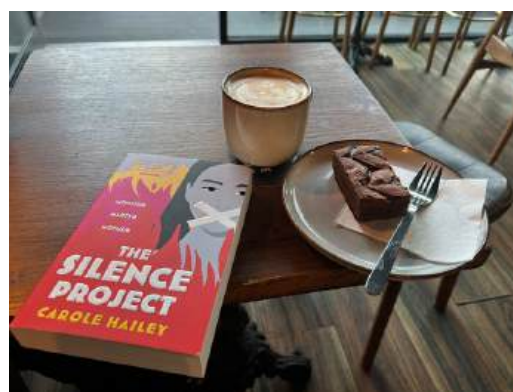
In September, we were joined by Fr Yemane and trainee priest Stephen to celebrate our new staff mass. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome new staff into our community of faith.

Our new student leadership team represented the student body by offering prayers of intercession which were inspired by the words of our school prayer.



STAFF AND STUDENT BOOK GROUPS

Our staff book group met for the first time this half term. We are proud to be a reading community. Students should speak to Miss Burns in the library if they would like to join a student reading group. We will also be involved in judging the Leeds Book Awards in school, as well as shadowing the Carnegie Award.



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:

- Thursday 7 November 2024: Year 7 Disco
- Monday 11 November: Remembrance Services in school
- Thursday 14 November 2024: Half Day for students, finish at 1.00pm
- Monday 2 December 2024: Staff Training - school closed for students
- Wednesday 4 December: Year 11 Consultation Evening
- Thursday 5 December: Year 11 Examination Preparation Day
- Tuesday 10 December: Presentation Evening
- Wednesday 18 December: Advent Service After School
- Friday 20 December: Last day of term



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