



VERITAS

NEWSLETTER

A message from the Headteacher

This week we welcomed Ofsted to undertake an ungraded inspection of our school - our first inspection since 2018. The inspection provided us with the opportunity to celebrate our happy, harmonious learning community. I could not be prouder of our school community, and the commitment of our students and staff and it was lovely to hear the inspectors speaking so positively about our students.

We are now waiting for the inspectors to write their report which will provide you with information about the effectiveness of the school's work and provide recommendations about how we can further improve. We are expecting the report within 30 days, and I will share this with you at the earliest opportunity.

I would like to thank all of the students, staff, parents and carers for the work that has gone into this inspection - not simply in the two days that we were visited but for everything that they do, every day and in every learning opportunity.

Thank you all for the support you provide and most importantly, for trusting our school as we "borrow" them for five years and prepare them for their next stage of their journey.

As you will see from this newsletter there is a lot for our community to celebrate. This term we have held several Reward Breaks, these are events I look forward to, they provide the opportunity celebrate student successes in a relaxed environment. I look forward to seeing what our students achieve next and, this term, I could not be prouder of our community.

I hope everyone has a lovely half term.

Mr Kelly, Headteacher



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UPCOMING DATES:

Training day (school closed to students): Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 February

Y9 Consultation Evening: Wednesday 22 February

Options deadline: Friday 3 March

Y11 How to Revise & Tutor Evening: Wednesday 15 March

Y7 Consultation Evening: Monday 20 March

Y10 Reports Issued: Wednesday 29 March

End of Term: Friday 31 March

CAREERS WEEK

Our recent Careers Week provided a wealth of information to all our students to help ensure they are well prepared for their next steps when they leave Cardinal Heenan. The week started with over 140 Y11 students completing their interviews with Notre Dame Sixth Form College as part of their applications. It was fantastic to see how well all the students coped despite a few nerves!

Throughout the week all students discovered how the skills and knowledge gained in the different subjects they study could lead to many varied and exciting careers that they may not have heard of before.



At our Careers Fair, we were delighted to welcome professionals from a variety of organisations, including representatives from post-16 and post-18 education providers, universities and apprenticeship programmes. Throughout the Fair students were able to explore different career paths and ask any questions they had.



The week culminated in our Y7 and Y8 students enjoying an engaging theatre roadshow celebrating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) presented by MGA in collaboration with BAE Systems, The Royal Air Force, and The Royal Navy. This year the theme of 'From the depths of the oceans to outer space' explored the challenges faced in communicating in a variety of inhospitable environments and how science, engineering and technology have provided invaluable solutions. There were a range of tasks that the students participated in and demonstrations to help them understand concepts including the distance of earth to the sun.



A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our Careers Week. If you would be interested in helping in our mock interviews or providing career talks during our next Careers Week, in May, please contact Mr Gaffey on kgj@cardinalheenan.com.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



Supporting our students' emotional wellbeing is at the heart of Cardinal Heenan, and Children's Mental Health Week affords us the opportunity to focus on a key theme. This week we have focused on connecting with others and ourselves in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways.

Within our community we strive to support and respect one another, but sometimes the connections within our community can feel challenging or difficult. This week, we have explored how each individual can make connections through the simplest of actions and how connecting with others helps bring a sense of purpose and belonging by participating in activities like sport, music and volunteering. Students considered their interactions online, how confidence can be affected by online activity and discussed some strategies to help support them.

Y8 AND Y9 OPTIONS



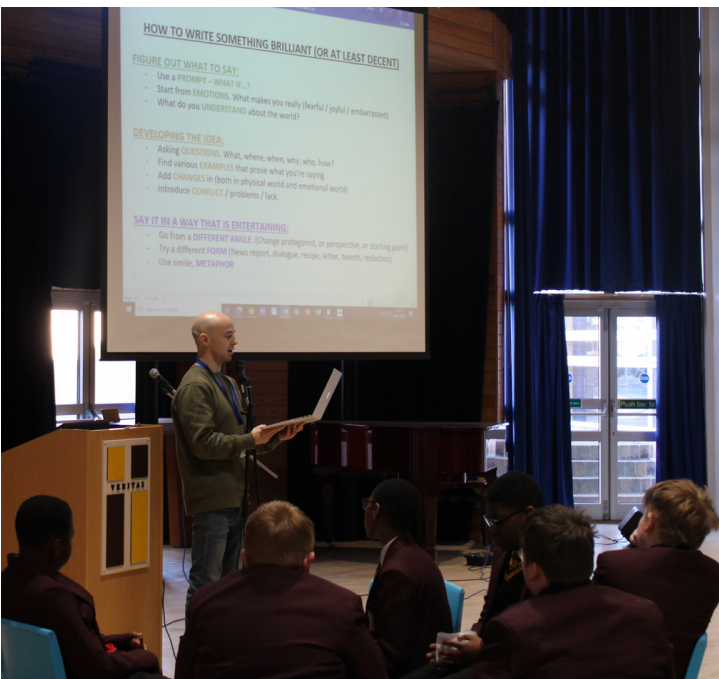
It was wonderful to speak to so many Y8 and Y9 parents and carers at our Options Information Evenings. Students also enjoyed speaking to their peers at the Options Fair, providing them with the opportunity to learn more about what studying the subject is actually like.



To find videos of the process, the options available and subject information, please see the curriculum section of our website which will help students to make the right decisions for them.

The Options deadline is Friday 3 March 2023.

Y7 POETRY SLAM

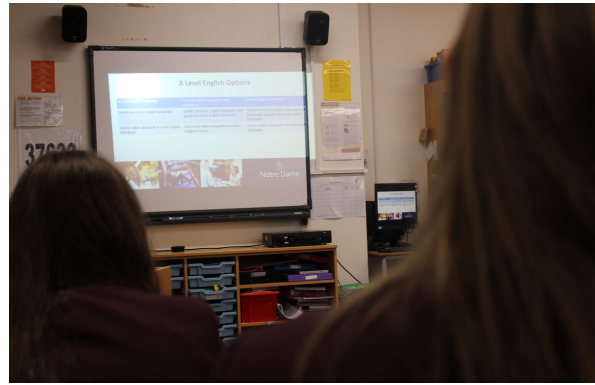


This week 90 of our Y7 students took part in the city-wide poetry slam competition. The session was run by acclaimed poet and Leeds based rapper, Andy Craven-Griffiths.

During the workshop Y7 students were introduced to slam poetry and explored the role that poetry plays in popular culture. Working in teams, the students created poems and explored a range of philosophical questions and contemporary issues, including mental health and what it would be like to wake up as a professional footballer! The teams then performed in the 'rhyme battles' to be crowned the school's poetry slam champions.

Congratulations to the winning team: Daniel, Jensen, James, William, Brylie and Elijah who will perform their poem 'Parents' at the city-wide final in March.

WHY STUDY A LEVEL ENGLISH OR DRAMA?



Recently staff from the English and Theatre Arts departments at Notre Dame came and spoke to Y11 students about why these are such fantastic subjects to study at A Level. The session also gave the students the opportunity to get to know the staff at Notre Dame a little better, and to ask any questions they had about the courses, entry requirements or future pathways.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND HOW IT CAN AFFECT YOUR EMPLOYMENT



BBP University and School of Law delivered an insightful session on how social media can affect your current and future employment to our Y10 and Y11 students. The students examined legal cases and considered what the grounds can be for a fair dismissal arising from your personal social media. Some of the cases were eye opening!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH: VOLUNTEERING

This year over 100 Y9 and Y10 students are working towards their Bronze Award. A key part of the award is volunteering and making a difference to other people's lives by using their skills and experience in the local community. The students are busy with a wide range of activities including selling Valentine's Day gifts in school, working with St Gemma's hospice to collect Christmas trees and working within local parishes.



LENT

On our first day of school after half term students and staff will attend Ash Wednesday Services in their year groups. As Lent starts students and staff receive the ashes as a sign of penance, to live our Lenten promises and grow closer daily to God.

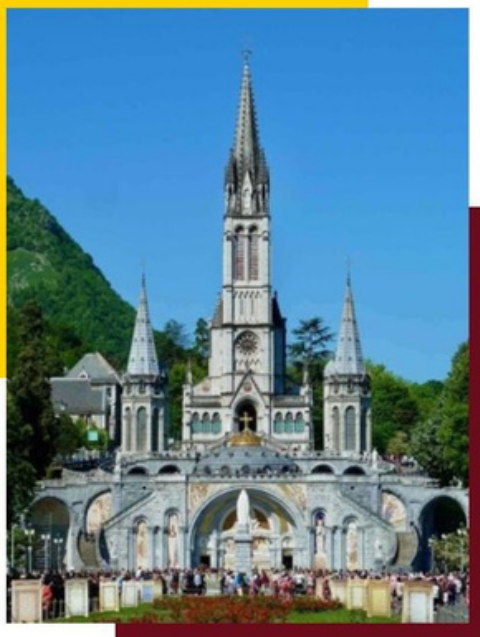
Cardinal Heenan will mark Lent by encouraging our community to reflect, pray, give and draw closer to God.

We are supporting CAFOD's Big Lent Walk; each year group are aiming to walk 606 miles as a collective. Students are being encouraged to walk whenever they can, and can choose who they walk with. We simply ask that you help them achieve this challenge and support us to raise money via ParentPay (further information will be sent after half term). This year students are encouraged to virtually walk in the footsteps of Cardinal Heenan by visiting the significant places of his life. His journey began in London then to Durham, to Leeds then to Liverpool and ending at Westminster Cathedral.



The tutor group Lenten fundraising returns this Lent to support the Good Shepherd Appeal which is the charity of the diocese as well as CAFOD, the official overseas aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Each form group will be generating ideas to raise money and then working with their form tutor to execute their plans. Last year there was a great buzz around school and a huge range of fundraising activities, from splat the teacher to bake sales and a range a of student versus staff sporting competitions. We are looking forward to seeing what they come up with this year!

LOURDES FUNDRAISING



This July students from Y10 will go on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France with the Diocese. The trip is a unique experience where they will put our school virtues of faith, hope and love into action. The Cardinal Heenan team will support the pilgrims travelling with the diocese and help the smooth running of the trip. The students will also have the opportunity to explore Lourdes and its beautiful location in the Pyrenees.

In preparation for the trip, students are fundraising both in and out of school. In their regular meetings they are learning about Lourdes as a centre of Catholic pilgrimage, the sorts of things the pilgrims will do and what it is like to be a helper with the Diocese.

Did you know:

- Lourdes attracts 5 million pilgrims every year.
- There have been 70 confirmed miracles linked to Lourdes.
- The Cardinal Heenan staff accompanying our students have been to Lourdes over 20 times between them.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

During the week of the 27 January staff and students remembered the atrocities of the Holocaust and more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Mr Wild and some students created and delivered an assembly that highlighted the atrocities but also allowed reflection, and prayer. Thank you to the students who read.

During lunchtime of the 27 January, staff and students came together in the chapel to reflect on the past and pray for a better future, one student wrote "everyone should learn from history and never repeat it again" a prayer we hope will come to fruition.



PERFORMING SHAKESPEARE



11 of our Y7, Y8 and Y9 students recently participated in the school heat of this year's ESU Performing Shakespeare Competition, judged by a panel including the Head of English and Head of Theatre Arts from Notre Dame Sixth Form College. The competition aims to 'inspires students to express their passion, ideas and imagination through the medium of performance, while simultaneously developing fundamental oracy skills.'

The eight performances of Shakespearean monologues or duologues included a monologue as Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream; Juliet and The Nurse in a duologue from Romeo and Juliet and Shylock from The Merchant of Venice.

Congratulations to Eryn, Sophia and Ene from Y7 who will compete in the regional heat. Special mention to Poppy from Y9 who was commended. Thank you to everyone who participated and all your hard work.

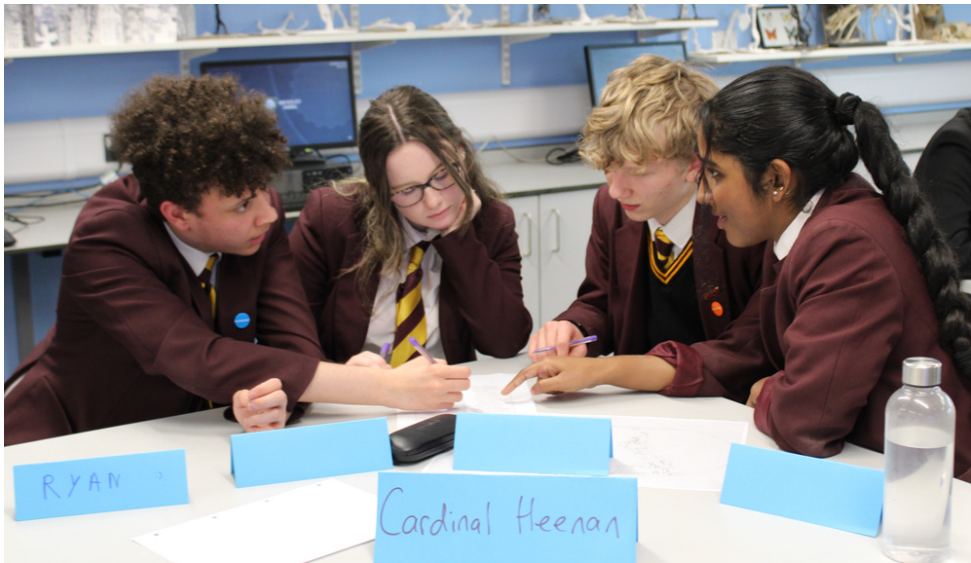


PUBLIC SPEAKING



Well done to our public speaking team who competed in the ESU Public Speaking competition at Abbey Grange and are through to the regional final which will be held at St Peter's School, York next month.

WORLD WISE QUIZ



On February 8, Cardinal Heenan competed in the regional round of the WorldWide Quiz. Designed by the Geographical Association, it tested our young Geographers on a wide range of topics including current affairs, geological processes and rivers around the world. The quiz followed a University Challenge style set of questions, with real-time results to maintain the competitive spirit. The highlight of the quiz was the quick-fire question round where teams answered 10 geographical questions in 1 minute. Other rounds included a buzzer round as well as a guess the location round.

Congratulations to our team: Maria, Philip, Isabella and Ryan who came second in a close fought battle against the other local schools.

DEBATING



It has been a successful and busy term for our debaters who have seen them compete in both the ESU Schools' Mace competition and the Womble Bond Dickinson/Leeds Salon Year 10 and 11 Debating Competition 2023.

Congratulations to the team who have dealt with some challenging motions including opposing the motion "This House would use proportional representation in UK national elections" and strong opposition such as Carr Manor, St Aidan's Sixth Form and North Halifax Grammar. The students have consistently impressed judging panels and we look forward to seeing them in action next term.

SPORT NEWS

GIRLS' FOOTBALL



The Y7 girls football team's performance this season has been exceptional. They are the first Cardinal Heenan team to make the quarter final of the ESFA National Cup in decades.

Throughout the rounds they have played some great matches including St John Fisher, King Egbert's and in the last round beating St Augustine's High School by 5-3.

As we get to the final stages of the competition a live draw took place on 6 February. The team, staff and parents came together for pizza and treats to watch the live draw. They will play Cheadle Hulme, Stockport in the quarter finals. Good luck to the whole team, enjoy the experience and we look forward to supporting you.



BOYS' FOOTBALL

The depth of football throughout the school is impressive, and a reflection of the commitment of students and the staff involved in coaching.

Congratulations to the Y11 footballers who are playing brilliantly. This week they faced St Cuthbert's High School, Newcastle to play in the ESFA National Cup quarter finals. It was an incredibly tight match with both teams hitting the bar several times. Unfortunately, despite outstanding defence they were marginally beaten 1-0. The teamwork throughout was first-class, they are still competing in two competitions, fingers crossed they can add to the silverware they won last year.



Our Y10 footballers are through to the quarter finals of the Leeds School's Cup following their 7-0 win over Farnley Academy.

The Y9 footballers recently played reigning Leeds champions, Ilkley Grammar in a friendly, winning 4-3. The team is currently top of the league and into the quarter-finals of the Leeds Cup.

Fantastic squad performance from our Y7 footballers against Roundhay School this week, winning 3-0, they dominated possession leaving very few opportunities for the opposition. Good luck in the semi-finals of the Leeds Cup.

Good luck to all the teams next term.

BASKETBALL



Congratulations to the Y10 and 11 basketballers who have qualified for the Leeds Finals.

Earlier this term they competed in a tournament hosted by Lawnswood. The team won two out of three games, they showed exceptional teamwork and displayed strong attacking skills earning them a 14-0 win against Leeds West and an 8-4 win over Lawnswood.

Good luck in the Leeds Finals.

CRICKET

Some of Y8 girls recently played at an indoor cricket tournament at Wakefield High School. For most of the girls this was their first attempt at cricket, and they did fantastically well. Playing three matches against Wakefield Girls, Leeds West and Allerton High, winning 1.

Y8 boys played at Woodhouse Grove playing GSAL, Leeds West and Allerton High, winning 2 out of 3 games. The boys gained high praise from the Yorkshire Cricket representatives who organised the tournament.

The students represented the school brilliantly and are looking forward to the upcoming cricket season.

NETBALL

The teams are all showing fantastic commitment to training and all making good progress. There haven't been many games this term, but recently the U14 girls won 19-17 against Prince Henry's Grammar School, special mention to Player of the Match Erin. The U13 girls lost 9-5, showing great improvement and well done to Player of the Match Sarah M.

OUR BOOK RECOMMENDATION



Smart - Kim Slater.

This heartwarming novel centres around young would-be detective Kieran, who is determined to solve the murder of a local homeless man. Kieran is a remarkable young man, whose differences are his strengths as he is able to overcome the prejudices of the world around him and become a voice for people like him - the people who society doesn't always value.

ART GALLERY

A selection of some of our Y8 study into bugs and insects



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