



CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

VERITAS

NEWSLETTER

A message from the Headteacher



As we have lit the candles on our Advent wreath, I have been reflecting on the hope, peace and joy that each represents, and this has focused my thoughts on how unique and special our community is. This term has been incredibly busy with the buzz of lessons, huge numbers of students participating in an extensive selection of extracurricular activities and fantastic sporting success. I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to ensure our students thrive and create a special community in which we can all succeed.

The last few weeks have been a hive of festive activity with several groups including our Enterprise Team, Chaplaincy and Duke of Edinburgh being as imaginative as possible to raise money and add to the festive build up. This week we have celebrated the Advent Service, held a Y7 Christmas disco, seen a brilliant selection of Christmas jumpers whilst also collecting for our Toy Appeal and donations of food for those in need. Needless to say, students and staff are very much in need of a rest!

It just remains for me to wish you all a peaceful and Holy Christmas and I look forward to welcoming you all back on 3rd January.

Mr Kelly, Headteacher



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UPCOMING DATES

Start of Term: Tuesday 3 January 2023

Y11 Mock Exams: Tuesday 3 January - Friday 13 January 2023

Year 9 Options Evening: Thursday 26 January 2023

Year 8 Options Evening: Tuesday 7 February 2023





COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS MASS



We were delighted to host a Mass on December 1st to welcome all of the new staff members that have joined CHCHS and its feeder primary schools this year. It was lovely to see staff from our school along with staff and students from St Urban's, Immaculate Heart, St Paul's, St Augustine's, Sacred Heart, Holy Name and Holy Rosary and St Anne's. Father Henry and Fr Yemane celebrated the Mass and it was lovely, even with the interesting twist of a fire alarm during the homily, and blessed and presented all new staff members with Romero crosses from us. We would like to extend particular thanks to the primary school choirs who joined with ours to make the music at Mass incredibly special.

ADVENT GIVING

For our Advent giving this year we have been showing we care for others by providing them with things they may need and collecting items to help families less fortunate than ourselves within our local community. We have collected gifts and food to put into hampers for the SVP alongside toys for children in our partner primary schools that may not receive gifts this Christmas. As ever, our students have been extremely generous and willing to help people in our community.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Our feast of festive fun was held on 1st December (it was a busy evening!) and the fayre is fast becoming a popular annual event. Hundreds of people joined us in the Sports Hall to enjoy music played by our wonderful students, tasty refreshments (the candyfloss was a particular hit!), games and activities and a host of fabulous stalls. With stalls run by school staff and students and external guests, we raised money for the Leeds neo-natal unit, our Duke of Edinburgh equipment fund, the SVP and St Gemma's. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.

PRESENTATION EVENING



On Thursday 24 November we celebrated the success of last year's Y11 students with our annual Presentation Evening. Students, staff and parents gathered together for one final time to celebrate their many and varied achievements throughout their five years at Cardinal Heenan - not least, achieving the best set of GCSE results in the history of the school! We were joined by Sunday Times bestselling author and ex-Cardinal Heenan student Tom Hindle who reflected on his time at CHCHS and how it had prepared him for success in later life (including Miss McMinn's English lessons!). Tom gave us a fascinating insight into the resilience, determination and bravery required to quit his safe job and follow his dream of becoming a writer. Tom concluded by offering some sage wisdom and inspirational advice for our students to carry with them into the next steps of their educational journey.

DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING SUCCESS

Our Debating and Public Speaking Group continues to grow. This term, we participated in the first round of the English Speaking Union's Schools' Mace and Public Speaking competitions. Our teams have progressed to the next round in both competitions and will compete in regional heats in January. In school, we have debated a wide range of topics, including restrictions on the sale of meat, proportional representation and digital manipulation in advertising. We are looking forward to participating in the Leeds Salon debating competition in January.

LANGUAGE CLUB

This term our Languages Club has delved into Greek and Roman mythology and explored the Japanese language.

Students have also shared their foreign home languages including Tagalog, Polish or Eritrean. One of our Y7 students, Kate did a great presentation about Tagalog Language.





DUKE OF EDINBURGH

We have over 100 students from Year 9 and 10 participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme this year. Students have started work on the physical, skill and volunteering sections of their Bronze Award. Students are giving back to their community by helping at Scouts groups, in charity shops and with a range of sports clubs. We also have a small fundraising group in school who are raising money to buy kit for their Duke of Edinburgh expedition. They raised over £180 at the Friends of Cardinal Heenan Christmas Fayre and have run a tuck shop and festive games stall at the Y7 disco.

CAREERS FOCUS

This half term has been a busy one for Careers events. Our students have enjoyed a range of trips and talks including: Leeds University for psychology tasters; Year 7 explored the careers of Medicine and Dentistry at Leeds University and enjoyed practical sessions included shaping teeth and having a go at replacing a filling; LLS spoke about potential careers in the sports industry and motivational tools for success; Quarry House ran an employability session for our EY Year 10 students; Willmott Dixon delivered a fascinating virtual talk to our construction groups and our Y8 & 9 students enjoyed a presentation about careers in the NHS and the skills to succeed. Thank you to everyone who has supported us and provided invaluable information to our students.



Our Y11 students have been making some big choices about where to progress to next year; visiting colleges and other providers and completing their applications. Everyone in Y11 receives a 1-1 careers and guidance interview with a member of the Careers Team to help them in their next steps and we are really excited to see what their future plans will bring. We are also looking forward to our first Careers Week of the academic year, which will take place in January (w.c. 16th), during which all departments in all years will discuss where their subject can lead. We will also be holding our Careers Fair, visits from employers, and sixth form college interviews during that week.



SPORT FOCUS

The school was recently awarded the L.S.S.A Shield for winning last year's Small Schools Competition, which is testament to our participation levels but also the success within a wide variety of sports. This has certainly continued this year!

FOOTBALL

The Y7 boys' football team has started off the season in great form, winning 6 games out of 7, with the only defeat coming in a 1-0 game we dominated. We are also progressing through the Leeds Cup.

The Y9 boys' football team is undefeated against all Leeds schools this year, putting us at the top of the league! We are also through to the semi-finals of the County Cup, having beaten the Wakefield champions in the quarters.

The Y10 boys' football team are in fantastic form, playing 6 matches, winning 5 and losing 1, narrowly missing out on a place in the county cup final to Rastrick in a hard-fought semi-final. The boys have played some scintillating games, scoring over 40 goals and conceding only 7! Victories have come over Horsforth, Pudsey Grammar, Leeds City Academy, Shelley College and West Leeds Academy. The hunt for silverware continues into the new year with cup and league matches to come.

Congratulations to our Y7 girls' footballers who have reached the last 32 of the ESFA National Cup. They beat a strong St John Fisher's team on penalties and a very strong team from Oldham.

CROSS COUNTRY

Last Saturday we were once again the proud hosts of a successful cross-country event. We had a large team representing the school, the race was used to select the team to compete for the Leeds Schools Team in the West Yorkshire Schools Championships. 18 athletes ran with some standout performances throughout. Congratulations to Evie, Jamie, Joel, Sam, Will, Elsie and Mary who all qualified.

Our final race of the season will be on Saturday the 11th of March 2023 at Woodhouse Grove.



BASKETBALL SUCCESS

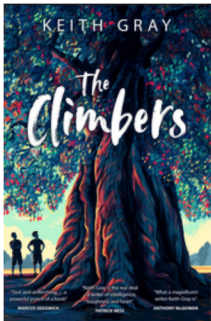


This half term has seen our basketballers participate in several tournaments across Leeds. Both teams, Y7,8 &9 and Y10 & 11, have won every match which is testament to their hard work. Their commitment to training is steadfast with 40 students training every week and pushing each other to succeed.

NATIONAL SELECTION

Congratulations to one of our Y7's, James Hawsworth, who has been selected to play Pool for England. James will represent his country against France in January in a series of games to be played in Leicester. James has done amazingly and is now receiving national recognition for all his work and commitment! Well done James, a fantastic achievement!

REVIEW OF THE CLIMBERS FROM MR TEGGART



A great book about young people and the friendships and difficulties they might face. A really easy read but one that explores interesting themes in a different way, the style is light and at times funny but the central characters really grab you. They're not entirely likeable and that's one thing I liked!

HAVE A PEACEFUL & HOLY
Christmas

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