



RESPECT
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Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

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Ms K. Smyth Headteacher

KS/LL

11th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of this term, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks for everything you have done to support our school community. From September onwards, your encouragement, your kindness, and the thoughtful messages you have shared with us have truly lifted the whole staff team. We are also incredibly grateful for the commitment you have shown by attending Parents' Evening, and for your presence at our Awards Evening and Advent Service as we move toward Christmas. These moments of partnership between home and school are what shape the strength of our community.

During Advent, we reflect on the words from *Isaiah 9:2-7*: "**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.**" Those words have felt especially fitting this term, as we have watched the boys shine in so many different ways through their learning, their service to others, their creativity, and their determination.

It has been a term filled with joy and achievement. Our Sixth Formers continue to make us enormously proud. Leyton and Joe have secured places to study Law and History at Oxford University, while James, Sean and Mazen are now studying Medicine at the University of Liverpool. We have welcomed twenty-one external students from schools across Liverpool into our Sixth Form, each one adding something special to our community. Forty-six of our Year 13 students have also received the Cardinal Heenan Scholarship this year, using it to support essential costs such as new laptops, driving lessons and university preparation.

Across the school, there has been a wonderful sense of energy and ambition. Our students won first place at St Julie's Battle of the Bands with an unforgettable performance of *Beat It*, and our Bar Mock Trial team brought home another victory with maturity, confidence and outstanding teamwork. Our wider community spirit was recognised publicly too, when Cardinal Heenan was named the Most Inspirational School in Liverpool at the Educate Awards and achieved second place across the whole North West. The judges described us as a "feel-good school" and spoke warmly of the joy and aspiration they saw in our pupils an affirmation of everything we strive to nurture here.

This term has also offered remarkable experiences beyond the classroom. Year 11 pupils explored the stunning landscapes of Iceland on their physics trip, witnessing glaciers, geysers and the Northern Lights. Our Sixth Form students created lasting memories on their cultural visit to New York, and our new Year 7s began their journey with us in a beautifully reverent Welcome Mass that set the tone for their time at Cardinal Heenan.



Our choir has carried the message of Advent into the wider community, singing carols at Tesco Deysbrook to raise money for Claire House and preparing to sing at the Royal Liverpool Hospital next week. Their joy and generosity remind us of the true spirit of this season.

It has also been an exceptional term for school sports, and we are immensely proud of our pupils' dedication and success on the field. Our teams have delivered outstanding results across various competitions, showcasing remarkable talent and resilience. A massive congratulations goes to our Year 8 and Year 11 A teams for reaching the prestigious final of the Liverpool Schools Tournament, a fantastic achievement that highlights their hard work and teamwork. Additionally, our Year 7 and Year 9 A teams are performing admirably and progressing well through the National Cups, demonstrating promising potential for future rounds. The success extends beyond the A teams, with all our B teams also continuing their strong involvement in their respective National Cups, reflecting the depth of sporting talent throughout the school.

We also want to highlight some outstanding individual achievements. Our best wishes and congratulations go to current pupils Wil A, Francis B, and Harlow M, who have all been called up to represent their respective England squads, a truly outstanding accomplishment. Oliver C and Max H both were successful in the team GB muaythai in Italy and in representing England both secured Gold in their weight division. We are also delighted to share that former student Maxi M has been selected for the North West England Boys Golf squad for the upcoming year, serving as an inspiration to our current pupils.

To support the continued success and participation across all our teams, we are appealing for donations of used football boots. If your son has outgrown his current boots, we would be incredibly grateful if you would consider donating them to the school for others to use. Donations can be dropped off at the school office. We look forward to seeing what further success the new year brings!

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, who work tirelessly to provide rich experiences and outstanding care for every pupil. I am deeply grateful to every colleague for their commitment and their belief in the potential of our young people.

As we approach Christmas, I hope that the "great light" Isaiah speaks of fills your homes with peace, hope and joy. Thank you once again for your trust, your partnership and your ongoing support. It is a privilege to serve this community and to work with your sons each day.

I wish you and your families a happy, restful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Smyth', written in a cursive style.

Ms K Smyth
Headteacher