



RESPECT
BELIEVE
ACHIEVE

Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

Honey's Green Lane, West Derby Address
Liverpool, L12 9HZ

0151 235 1430 Tel
www.cardinal-heenan.org.uk Web
admin@cardinal-heenan.org.uk Email

Ms K. Smyth Headteacher

KS/LL

July 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Another successful year draws to a close. This has been a positive year as we have started to resume life as normal having endured the exigencies of Covid. The return to familiar routines and systems has reassured the student body and given them a greater sense of safety and security. It is amazing how much has been achieved by the students, staff, parents and governors in one year. The achievements extend from the academic, to the sporting and the creative arts. We achieve so much because we work together as a team; this is one of the greatest strengths of the school.

The resumption of normal school life has enabled the various clubs to begin again with renewed enthusiasm and greater enlistment. The STEM club has been hugely popular with approximately 40 students attending each week. Amongst other things, students have carried out chemical analysis using flame spectroscopy to identify metals and have explored the structure of the lungs and heart through dissection.

We were delighted to host the Year 7 Welcome Mass again after a few years' interruption. Due to Covid restrictions it was celebrated twice, the first being for 7 East and the second for 7 West. The pupils were exemplary and participated in the mass with devotion and a sense of celebration. Both masses concluded with the Arky, Arky song which the pupils sang with gusto and to which, they heroically attempted the actions that accompany the song. The feedback from the parents was great, they expressed how they had missed these school events and their resumption had lifted their spirits.

We were delighted to return to Lowe House for the Year 8 retreats which the pupils really enjoyed as the input was peppered with fun activities that made learning about their faith enjoyable. This is an important stage in the spiritual journey of our pupils. Five of these Year 8 pupils received the bronze Faith in Action award: Joseph Leonard, Jacob Ngigi, Zach Farrell, Tomas Eyres and Benjamin Popoola, along with a Year 9 pupil: Alfie Mangan. These pupils have worked hard, in difficult and restricting circumstances, to achieve a bronze Faith in Action award. They have carried out many hours of voluntary work and have reflected deeply on the call of the gospel to love others. They are a credit to the school and their witness has been commended by Archbishop Malcom. They will continue next year to the silver award and will, I am sure, be successful in that too.

Cardinal Heenan's Eco Warriors have been working hard to make our school community more sustainable. Mr Melia, Ms Rushe and Ms Kelly are leading the Eco-Warriors this year. Their current project is focussed on reusing plastic water bottles. Every Wednesday after school they have been organising the used plastic bottles (after +72 hours of isolation following Covid-19 guidelines) and building recycling bins for each hub to continue to reuse the plastic items in our school for DT resources. They are planning on reusing paper waste to create homemade paper to sell at Christmas and Easter for card creation. This will develop our Eco Warriors enterprising skills, pave the way for a more sustainable future and support our fundraising.



A wonderful initiative this year has been the introduction of debating across the school. We had the Debate Mate launch trip on Thursday 3rd November 2021. We took 33 boys to a Liverpool John Moore's University lecture theatre, where they got an introduction to debating. Following the launch at JMU, our Debate Mate team have practised and competed in debating regularly throughout the year. There have been two teams that have competed in the Urban Debate League, the Debate Mate Cup and then the Deloitte Futures Month competition, and all participants have represented the school excellently. They have competed both on Zoom and face-to-face against students from other schools across the country, and they have performed admirably in each round. The culmination of their efforts was the Deloitte competition, where one of our teams pitched a business idea as they competed with over 300 other schools from across the country. They made the final, where they competed against another three schools, and ended up winning! They got a £1,000 reward to spend on developing their idea – a robotic recycling bin connected to an app that gamifies and rewards peoples' recycling efforts – which they have been doing since, in partnership with large multi-national organisations with different specialisms.

On the back of this success, two of the team members went on to compete in a public speaking competition against other schools within the Archdiocese. Again, our school performed incredibly well and one of the boys received a prize for coming in third place! A magnificent effort given the strength of the 22 student presentations on show. We are hoping that this part of our extra-curricular offer at the school will grow in strength and prominence as the next academic year progresses and we hope to achieve greater successes in the future.

It is difficult to identify the highlights because there are genuinely so many. Personally, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the Year 11 over the year. They started in September 2016 as fresh-faced children, but by the time they left, in July of this year, they were young adults. It is immensely gratifying to be part of their development and to see them reach their full potential. Staff, parents and governors came together last Friday to witness their graduation and to celebrate this through Holy Mass. This was a truly impressive and moving occasion. I trust that the students' hard work will be rewarded when the results are published on **Thursday 25th August 2022**.

The Year 13 graduation Mass was a great success and made up, in some small way, for the cancellation of their Year 11 graduation. On an individual basis a number of students have achieved prominence. Joe Downing and Sam Harker Year 13, have both successfully passed the interview process at Oxford University to study Law. Good luck to them and all our A level students as they await their results on **Thursday 18th August 2022**, we look forward to celebrating their success on that day.

In terms of achievements the school has once again reached success in a number of areas. In sport the **Year 11 A Football Team won the Liverpool Cup**. Year 10 were runners up in the Merseyside Cup, and their athletes were also successful with George Murray being the silver medallist in the long jump, Harley McCormack silver medallist in 100m, Tom Bramwell silver medallist in 800 m. The Year 9 A team won the Echo cup and the Year 8 A team reached the final of the Liverpool Cup. The Year 8 basketball team were runners up in the LSSP Liverpool schools. The Year 7 A Team are Merseyside Champions, Year 7 cross country team were Silver Medallists finishing second in the Liverpool League.

Our fundraising activities continued across the school throughout the academic year. The Sixth form shoe box appeal sent out 47 shoe boxes to children across the world. Our appeal for Ukraine has involved bag packing, a concert (organised and promoted by Jonathan Knott) and cake sales and currently has a value of over £2000. We have continued to support our families with 40 Christmas hampers, 26 giant turkeys and 26 large meat packs. We are currently running a foodbank for those affected by the cost of living crisis.

I am fortunate in having a hardworking and committed staff who share the same ideals and aspirations that I do. We want the very best for the children and we feel that every child only gets one chance at a good education and it is our express aim to provide that education. We are also fortunate in having committed parents who support us in all our undertakings. For this I am very grateful.

At the end of this term we bid farewell to a number of staff and wish them every success for the future. A special mention to Ms J Leech who has been an integral part of our school community for over 25 years and who will be taking up her new post as Headteacher of St Francis of Assisi. We wish her well in her new post. Mr P Pomford and Ms A Ventre are also leaving, we thank them for their many years of service in the pastoral care of our pupils.

At the start of the new school year, Years 8-11 will be starting back on **Monday 5th September 2022 at 10am**. This late start allows the Year 7 pupils time to settle into school as they will start at 8.40am.

Thus as we approach the end of the academic year it is important that we reflect and give thanks for all of the blessings we have received this year. On behalf of all the staff, may I thank you for your tireless support. Have a wonderful holiday.

Yours sincerely

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

K Smyth
Headteacher