



RESPECT
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Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

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Ms K. Smyth Headteacher

JR/KS

19th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of a long term and the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. It has been a very busy and challenging year, a year which marks my tenth anniversary as headteacher. I would like to thank you for your incredible support over this time. I feel extremely fortunate to be the headteacher of a school which has tenacious and resilient students, committed and hardworking staff members and encouraging and supportive parents/carers.

The prospect of Christmas cheers us and lifts our spirits and as it draws closer, we can remind ourselves that this is a time of year when it is commonplace to find that the spirit of human kindness is alive and well. Let us embrace this by ensuring that we enjoy the festivities and take time to look out for those close to us, whilst being ever mindful of those less fortunate than ourselves, none more so than the innocents who are suffering in the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. Let us embrace the Christmas message of peace and goodwill to all mankind by praying for reconciliation and lasting peace.

Spiritually, we prepared the students in our Advent Service and Christmas Concert and through the prayers and reflections which have been used in assemblies, collective worship and in the curriculum. Year 9 pupils George, Daniel, Anthony, Louis and Daniel received their Bronze Faith in Action Award. The Advent Service and Christmas Concert were resounding successes and it would be remiss of me if I didn't mention some of the solo performances, in particular Patrikas Lengertas, Joe Woolerton, Vincent Ejeromedoghene, Harry Cunningham, Shaye Tambourini-Gunning and Jonathan Knott.

Over this last term, the school has been incredibly busy with a host of events most notably the Year 7 Welcome Mass, which was an uplifting celebration of our faith. Other significant occasions were: Joseph Leonard's eloquent debut on BBC Radio Merseyside discussing the impact of debate and excellent oracy he has developed within Cardinal Heenan. One of our Year 8 pupils, Leighton has successfully launched his own clothing brand 'Mountain Eclipse Clothing,' already receiving attention from comedian Adam Rowe and entrepreneur Wayne Lineker. Our fantastic STEM Club received a Silver Quality Mark, which will now allow them to access more opportunities for networking and guest speakers.

Our Arts Department has been awarded a Gold Artsmark Award. Meaning that we are now one of three secondary schools in Liverpool to receive gold status for the award, and one of only 18 schools within the entire northwest. Cardinal Heenan was commended for how we "use the arts for wellbeing, with a focus on pupil mental health and developing cultural capital." In response to our engagement in the 'The World Reimagined Project', we were gifted our very own globe titled 'Falling through the cracks' which is displayed on the grass in front of our school reception.

Year 10 pupil Ben won the BBC Young Reporter Competition for his report on 'AI - teenagers' take on the evolving technology.' Ben and his classmates were featured on the BBC Breakfast show sharing their thoughts on the role of AI in education.



There were 19 Year 13 pupils who received the first ever Cardinal Heenan Sixth Form Scholarships, each receiving up to £1,500 for demonstrating excellence in their GCSE results and progress in Year 12. The Cardinal Heenan Scholarship has been kindly donated by alumni Andrew and Tracey Gossage who continually support our school and students' progress. A team of 15 Year 12 and 13 students competed in the prestigious Bar Mock Trials held in Liverpool's Crown Court. The Cardinal Heenan Music Recital saw many music students perform in front of an audience for the first time. Year 13 pupil Finn performed at the Liverpool Philharmonic, supporting Harry Tonks.

In sport the school continues to excel with all our football teams still actively engaged in local and national competitions. On an individual basis our Year 8 pupil Luke C won gold in the WUMA Kickboxing National Championships. On a staff note, Miss Gerrard, our Data and Examinations Officer won a silver medal at the British Trampolining Championships.

At the end of November, we welcomed an Ofsted inspection of RE. As I write, we await the final report but I am confident that their findings will endorse the spirit of Christianity which is so evident in everyday school life. In this respect the school has again provided Christmas food hampers for the local community. I thank all those who donated to this cause, in particular I would like to make a special mention for Myles Ambrose in year 9 whose donations alone made up three hampers. It was a wonderful contribution. On Christmas Jumper Day our staff and sixth form students raised £202 for Save the Children.

As a school we believe that teachers should teach, students should learn, adults should be role models, and there needs to be rules and discipline in schools. None of these statements should be controversial, but in the education system, as it stands today, they are. We are not perfect but we have worked hard to provide the best possible education for your son. We will continue to work hard next term and will use feedback to improve further. It is clear that despite all the challenges we are currently faced with, the school's values of respect, belief and achievement continue to thrive at Cardinal Heenan.

This will be the last time that I communicate with you in this form because next year we will be changing how we share information and news updates. From January 2024, all school information will be shared via our school website and social media channels. Please follow us on social media for updates, reminders and an insight into what our students are up to each week at Cardinal Heenan.

So as Christmas approaches we hope there is still the same warm feeling we had as children and the same love that envelops our hearts and our homes. Should you require any Christmas gift suggestions, may I offer the following?

To your enemy, forgiveness
To your opponent, tolerance
To a friend, your heart
To every child, a good example
To all, charity
And to yourself, respect.

On behalf of the students, staff and governors, I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and the part you play in making sure that our philosophy of Respect, Believe, Achieve is in everything that we do, as we work together to offer the very best learning opportunities and experiences for your son.

May I wish you, your family and the students a holy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing in the new year.

God bless.



Ms K Smyth
Headteacher