



11<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

## **SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD**

All the research indicates that parents expressing an interest in their child's day has a positive impact on examination results and progress. In a recent questionnaire, some parents responded that they wanted to know more about how they could support their child and know more about what they are taught. I hope that the following information is of value.

You will be aware that we recently held well attended curriculum parents evenings. Copies of these documents are available on the website. I encourage you to refer to these as they will inform you about what your child is studying and provide you with the opportunity to discuss this.

The following will also be of interest:

All homework set should be recorded in your child's planner. Homework is set regularly, once a week for most subjects, twice for core subjects. As a school we monitor this; your feedback is welcome. You can also check what homework is being set on Frog. Please ask your child for their access details. You can also monitor your child's progress, attendance, punctuality and behaviour on Go4Schools. In order for you to obtain access we require your email address. A separate letter and email will be sent out explaining how to log in.

Prep time, introduced in September, is helping to support the completion of homework but it is not intended to be the only time homework is completed. Your child should be studying for an additional hour each day as a minimum, more for years 10 -13. Homework clubs are also run each evening from 3.30pm to 5pm.

The extra-curricular programme is now available on noticeboards at school and on the website and music tuition letters inviting your child to take instrumental lessons have been sent home. All children in year 7 should be participating in at least one extra-curricular activity during prep, and we encourage all students to participate in at least one activity each week.

In meetings with individual parents recently, some were not aware that they can access Go4Schools from home, our assessment and behaviour tracking system. On this you can see your child's current academic level and daily staff reports on what has gone well as well as any concerns. This will include any homework they have not completed or detentions set. It is a powerful basis for discussion and review. In order for you to obtain access we required your email address. A separate letter will be sent out explaining how to log in. I will be writing to you shortly to arrange a date for parents to receive further training on this if needed.

A key key focus since September has been on attendance and punctuality with significant positive impact. Our attendance is well above the national average. Every day present increases your child's chances of academic success. Every day absent or late damages it. Thank you very much for support.





# Cardinal Pole Catholic School

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One final area of support. Healthy eating is an important part of wellbeing. At school we provide a free breakfast club and nutritious, competitively priced and delicious food at break and lunch time. Sadly, some children are not taking advantage of these facilities and are using local fast food take aways. Not only is this against school rules as they are not permitted in these local shops in uniform, but they are also damaging their long term health and well-being. These habits result in them being unable to focus in lessons as the day progresses. Can I ask that you discuss this with your child and we will do so also.

I do hope that your child has been enjoying the many trips and visits this term. We often receive wonderful feedback, from the students about the trip and the public about how well they have represented the school. Most recently, the Year 7 were on Pilgrimage to Canterbury, the resting place of Cardinal Pole. They were a credit to the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Ms J Heffernan  
**HEADTEACHER**



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'Show us your face and we will be saved'