



energising abilities

Cardinal Pole Catholic School

October 2013

Cardinal Pole Catholic School Parents Newsletter

website: www.cardinalpole.co.uk

Headteachers Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

We had much to celebrate as a school community as we started the new school year. Our excellent results brought what has been an exciting year to a positive close. The hard work and planning that went into the preparation of our students for exams was rewarded as we received our results. We were grateful that this success enabled our students to access top universities, and graded as significantly above national average for progress. With 87% A*-C grades at A Level, our results have placed us in line with elite sixth form providers and we have been graded 1, outstanding. At GCSE, year 11 students secured 81% 5A*-C grades, a phenomenal performance for them. Over two thirds of our current year 11 have already secured at least one GCSE at C grade or above. Some have secured five, whilst others have secured two or more A/A* grades at this early stage. They have been congratulated through formal assemblies.

The school has recently been praised for excellent attendance – over half of our students have a 100% attendance record – being here is the first step to securing the excellent results we are all working towards. There will be a special focus on this in the next newsletter.

The year has already been a busy one with a range of exciting events, from our first appearance in London Open House, a visit from Bishop Sherrington and the celebration of the feast day of two of our saints, Mother Teresa of Calcutta and St Francis of Assisi. It was good also to host the Deanery Meeting and Mass. This week we have seen the Year 10 attend retreats in Canterbury where they learned more about the life and values of Cardinal Pole.

The summer school for year 6 into 7 was a great success. Further trips and visits have taken place to Greenwich and the National History Museum and over 100 of our students participated in the 'Ten Bridges Walk' for charity. Students are especially enthused at the prospect of trips to Rome and France. Sporting activities continue to provide significant extra-curricular activities and our year 7 football team, which showed great promise last September, were London Cup winners. The school were also delighted to win the Hackney Schools Competition.

The school has also agreed to host a charity which focuses on securing access to higher education for children in schools in socially deprived areas. On return to school we supported the launch of 'mybigcareer'. Meg Hillier MP and a range of industry and educational links also attended. We hope the link will ensure students receive further timely advice and support with their university applications. The charity will also assist in providing opportunities for internships and work shadowing – a real chance for our students to gain experiences which will advantage them in the job market.

Enjoy the half term.

Ms J. Heffernan
Headteacher

Bishop Sherrington Visits Cardinal Pole!



We were delighted to welcome Bishop Sherrington to the school on Thursday 26th September 2013. I know he has been very busy since his appointment in visiting schools in the Diocese. The Bishop visited all classrooms and met with staff.

The Sixth Form were enthused by the presentation on the "World Youth Conference" in Rio.

The conference was a memorable sight and the Bishop urged our Sixth Form students to use their leadership skills to witness to their faith.

Bishop Sherrington said that Cardinal Pole is a "very important beacon in Hackney".



Exam Results - Year 11 & Early Entry

Cardinal Pole Catholic School was delighted to see their Summer 2013 results out perform national benchmarks in English and maths GCSE grades.

Year 11 students were determined to share in the success of A Level results, securing 81% GCSE C grades and above. Students were excited about their results and looking forward to sixth form life. Mr English, Assistant Headteacher, stated 'Students made good use of post school and Saturday revision sessions to ensure they made good progress.



'It has been an exceptional year, our new school, our OFSTED and now the best results we have had to date. Our maths and English results were described by OFSTED as 'Outstanding' and this year we have continued to exceed results nationally. I am especially proud of our achievement in maths which exceeded national results for C grades and above by 10%.

Keyna McKenzie and Kennedy Nwosu managed to balance their roles as a Hackney Youth Parliament Members with exam success, securing 10A*-C grades each, most of them at A grades.

Dorothy John was especially delighted in securing 10A*/A grades. Our students have shown that they can secure exam success whilst also developing the skills they will need to be future leaders and we are very proud of them.

We are delighted to see the hard work of all involved, student, parents and staff, have such positive outcomes, preparing them well for the next phase of their studies. We were especially pleased to see so many of our successful students returning to the sixth form where they can feel secure that they will continue to flourish.'

In addition to our achievement in GCSE for Year 11, we were impressed at the achievement of early entry Science in Year 9 and early entry Maths and Science in Year 10.

Congratulations to all students, especially our students who secured two or more A/A* grades at the end of Year 10.

We are expecting great things from them.
Ms Heffernan - Headteacher

Year 13 results - An Exceptional Year!



Our Year 13 students waited anxiously for their results on exam day-they need not have worried.

Results this year were exceptional by any standards. Student secured 87% A*C grades and 64% A*C grades, not only securing our results as the best in Hackney, but placing the school in the same league as some of the very elite sixth form providers.

The national benchmark for A level results placed the school in the very highest bracket for student progress, grading it a 1, excellent. We were all delighted with the results, especially as they resulted in our students accessing many of the most prestigious universities.

University destinations included Durham, Bristol, Southampton, Queen Mary's, Surrey, Warwick, UCL, UEA and Exeter.

There were some exceptional results for individual students, for example the following students all got three straight A's!

Rebecca Aderotimi,
Atticus Branch,
Joshua Ogun-Coker
Irine Opoku

Numbers recruiting to the Sixth Form have now grown to such an extent that this year we limited our sixth form open evening to current Year 11 and are looking to secure a sixth form extension.

The new Sixth Form Head of Learning, Mr Allison said: "The students that have recently left us for pastures new leave with our best wishes".

They can be immensely proud of their achievements academically and their full contribution to the wider school community. We had a record number of students progressing to the prestigious Russell Group and 1994 Group Universities due to the tireless effort put in by students, teachers and tutors alike.

I look forward to working with our current Sixth Form students to help them achieve and progress on to their chosen universities and careers.

Summer School

During the summer holidays Cardinal Pole hosted our first summer school scheme. The Summer school was open to year 6 pupils joining us in September and over 90 pupils attended.

The programme focused on academic based work in English and Maths, supporting some and challenging our gifted and talented cohort. The scheme was an opportunity for new entrants to gain a feel of secondary school life, develop relationships with their peers and build skills.

Pupils experienced various PE activities, making jewellery, team building exercises through making marshmallows and spaghetti towers, circle time, trampolining, writing their own poems and making a 3D city, amongst many other activities. If that wasn't enough, pupils enjoyed a fun trip to All Star Lanes in Stratford and Adventure Island in Southend.

Ms Norbal - Pastoral Support Manager - Year 7



Feedback from the year 6's

"Summer school has made me feel safe about coming to Cardinal Pole because I know there are lots of staff you can go to talk to" Caleb M

"I liked Maths and the way we do lots of challenges" Teneeka

"I enjoyed everything because it made me more confident to be in secondary school" Caleb M

"I enjoyed bowling and PE because it was fun" Kirsty

"I enjoyed everything, PE Maths and the bowling trip, plus the poetry workshop" Sade

"Enrichment is fun I completed my bracelet and earrings and Miss Norbal is fun"

"I liked how Cardinal Pole paid for us to go Southend for free" Aaron

"PE was great we learnt different skills in different sports" Jordan K



Curriculum Judo for Year 7 Pupils at Cardinal Pole

For the first time at Cardinal Pole we have introduced the opportunity for all year 7 pupils to have 6 judo lessons where they will be given an introduction to this exciting sport.

Pupils have the added opportunity to attend judo for free after School on Thursdays from 3.30-5pm which is funded through Arsenal PL4S programme.

The club is open to all pupils and offers a great opportunity for pupils to stay fit and learn with Calvin who is the Head Coach.

Mr Purcell - Head of PE

Maths Challenge



In July, Cardinal Pole sent three teams to the annual Hackney Maths Challenge at Queen Mary's University.

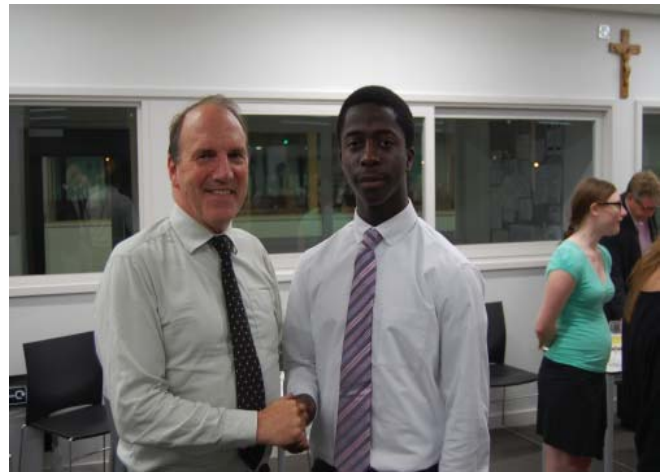
Eight secondary schools contested an extremely competitive challenge. Although none of our teams were awarded a medal they were an absolute credit to the school. The year 7 team did particularly well in answering 11 of the 12 questions correctly.

Mr Frimpong and myself were extremely proud to have accompanied the students.

Mr Lake - Learning Mentor



My Big Career Launch



Cardinal Pole hosted the launch of MyBigCareer last month. The charity offers bespoke and tailored programmes to raise children's aspirations and support students as they progress onto further education, university or the workplace. Students are given face-to-face careers guidance by expert advisers. The charity, which lists Dr Vince Cable, the Business Secretary, as its patron, is being piloted in Hackney.

We were delighted to welcome Simon Hughes MP, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Meg Hillier, MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch. The launch had cross party support with Nick Clegg, the Deputy Prime Minister stating 'There are few things more important than helping young people to think through and prepare for the rest of their lives.....good quality personalised careers advice, supporting young people to make the most of opportunities.....I wish MyBigCareer the very best of luck as they embark on launching their careers charity.'



Students were excited to meet MPs and representatives from industry. The school is already making good use of the advice available as they prepare for the next phase of their lives.

Marie Gega - "I came to Ms Streatfield seeking advice regarding my personal statement, her support has been invaluable. She has been a great help to myself and other students at Cardinal Pole."

Gilbert Radulescu - "Ms Streatfield has been more than helpful, she has expert knowledge and clearly great at her job. I can't thank her enough for her work and advice on my options for the future and help with my personal statement."

Mr Fonseca - Assistant Headteacher

Serious about Science

On Friday 27th September, fifteen of our top Year 9 scientists were invited to join students from twelve other schools at the Royal Institution in central London, for an exciting event called "Serious about Science".

Foluwaso Olufowobi (9C) describes the day:

Our trip to the Royal Institute included many exhilarating moments, all of which were done in a friendly manner so as to get the point across. We learnt how simply using someone's surname, we can find heaps of information about: where they live; the car registration plate and all about their family. We also learnt how to build a deconstructed mobile phone in the space of minutes, to mimic what would be required from soldiers out in the field.

During this trip we found out an interesting fact about the Sun; we found out that it's actually very tiny compared to the other stars in the universe. This was not all we found out but also that if you are able to fire a ball/misile fast enough on the outer surface of the Earth in space, it will completely orbit the earth going so fast it would go straight through your head!

We were provided with refreshments and lunch as well as a quick windsurfing lesson all about how pressure causes the sail to move. We finished with a demonstration of fireworks and explosions! Overall, it was a good experience and a very interesting display of work.

Mr Askoolum - Head of Science



New Staff

We welcome the following new staff to the school:

Ms McCormack	2nd in Charge RE
Ms Place	HOD Art
Mr Brookman	HOD Music
Mr Evans	English Teacher
Ms Dennehy	English Teacher
Mr Keiler	English Teacher
Mr McGowran	Science Teacher
Ms Moss	Science Teacher
Mr Williams	ICT Teacher
Mr O Donoghue	Head of Learning KS4
Mr Ogunmefun	Business Teacher
Ms Gare	PE Teacher
Ms Byrne	Design technology Teacher
Ms Kaur	Sociology/Psychology Teacher

I wish them all continued success.

Ms Heffernan - Headteacher

Supporting Your Child & Homework

The turnout at the recent Curriculum Evenings was impressive and feedback from parents was very positive.

The evenings provided information on both the curriculum and how to help your child to succeed.

The Curriculum Evening for Year 8 and 10 takes place on Thursday 7th November 2013.

Homework is a key focus at present. Evidence shows that where homework is completed and assessed, it really does contribute to raising achievement.

We will shortly be arranging a "parents forum" to discuss this topic.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Ms Whyte - Deputy Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2013

Half Term - Students return at the normal time of 8.35am on Monday 4th November 2013

Thursday 7th November 2013

Year 8 Curriculum Evening 6-7pm
Year 10 Curriculum Evening 7-8pm

Thursday 14th November 2013

Year 9 Curriculum Evening 6-7pm

Thursday 21st November 2013

Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening 5.30 - 7.30pm

Thursday 12th December 2013

Year 11 Parents Evening 4.30-7.30pm

Thursday 19th December 2013

Carol Concert

Friday 20th December 2013

Last day of term - students finish at 12.30pm

Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January 2013

Christmas Holidays

Monday 6th January 2013

First day of term for all students

School Uniform

As the cold weather begins, can I take this opportunity to remind you that only school coats, hats and scarfs should be worn to, from and in school.

Can I also remind parents that earrings are plain gold or silver studs and that for girls tights or socks may be plain black or grey, socks knee high only.

Ms Laws - Deputy Headteacher

