



.....energising abilities.....

Cardinal Pole Catholic School

December 2013

Cardinal Pole Catholic School Parents Newsletter

website: www.cardinalpole.co.uk

Headteachers Message

As the Christmas term comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank a much valued and respected member of staff. Mr Fearon is the Senior Science Technician at Cardinal Pole and he is retiring at the end of this term after more than 23 years with us. I wish him a long and happy retirement and our special thanks for the herculean task of moving the science department from the lower and upper school into the new, state of the art, science labs. A Mass of celebration is offered to him and his family on Wednesday 18th December at 3.30pm in the School Hall.

The Drama and Music Gala is on Monday 16th December in the School Hall at 6pm. Spaces are limited so you are asked to RSVP. The Christmas Carol Service will take place on Wednesday 18th December at 6pm at St. Dominic's. All are welcome to attend these events.

The Christmas Term ends on Thursday, 19th December at 1pm. Children on free school meals will have the opportunity for 'tuck' at break time. Next term begins at 8.35am on Monday, 6th January, 2014.

The Christmas term is usually the longest and most demanding of terms. It has had its joys and successes as well as its difficult moments. Some of our more difficult moments have been the deaths of close friends and relatives in our community and I know that we hold them and their families in our thoughts and prayers. Successes include continued improvements in attendance and the work of pupils and staff for charity. This has included raising money for the Philippines and the Hackney Food Bank Collection, as well as our annual collection for Providence Row, a local homeless shelter. Staff also had a charity 'Bake off'. Behind all these successes is a lot of hard work, co-operation, generosity and concern, even at cost to self.

At this time of the year, we are particularly conscious of the darkness and the chill of winter. Life is all too fragile and particularly for those in war torn parts of the world or closer to home; those living in poverty or on the streets. It can often feel as if they are forgotten and it may be hard for many people to believe that this is a time of promise and of hope. Despite the darkness of winter and at times our world, Advent reminds us that the Christ child comes to be with us in our humanity, with all our possibilities and weaknesses. In the promised coming of a small child, there is light and hope and infinite possibilities that at times can be difficult to vision. Every time the children and staff of this school co-operate together over something like the Carol Service or their works of charity, we know that this promise continues to be real through them. Thank you for your support this term. Wishing you and your families the promise and love of Christmas.

Jane Heffernan
Headteacher

Every Little Helps!

Year 7 students were delighted to sing Carols to raise money for Providence Row and to collect food donations for the Hackney Food Bank at our local Tesco's. It was great fun. Many thanks to Tesco for allowing us to collect outside of the store and to the school community for their generous efforts.

Mr Clark, Teaching Assistant



Year 7 tackle their first Additional Learning Day

The Year 7's first Additional Learning Day was a fun packed experience run by Young Hackney. Pupils were divided across the year into groups and given the opportunity to work together and participate in various activities including cupcake and presentation box decorating, team building, a relationship auction and a newspaper tower challenge. Year 7 described the day, quite simply, as it being "THE BEST!"



"Additional Learning Day was fun, it was a great way to bond with others" Shante, 7C.



"We got to work with people from different forms and play games which helped build relationships with different pupils"
Ayo, 7N.

Creating a Buzz...

At the start of the term, Year 7 pupils were given the opportunity to pick a book from a list of 12, as part of the BOOKBUZZ reading programme. The school then funded the whole of Year 7 for the supply of their chosen books.

To assist students with their selections, during registration time the pupils were able to listen to Author interviews and discuss the books on offer before making a decision. They all then received their book of choice in November.

You can find more information about Bookbuzz , plus gain advice on supporting your child's reading and literacy from their website at www.bookbuzz.org.uk

Ms Hayward, Librarian

Extra Curricular Activities

There are many ways to get involved in music at Cardinal Pole. All students are offered the opportunity to learn an instrument and can join a variety of lunchtime and after school groups. Instrumental lessons are subsidised by the school so the cost to parents is just £20 per term (£2 per lesson). All students who learn to play an instrument are expected to join one of the school ensembles. Students from Cardinal Pole have recently performed for the Jack Petchey Awards Ceremony at Stoke Newington Town Hall and the Hackney Gala at the Hackney Empire.

Following the move to the new school the Music Department has two upright pianos which are surplus to our requirements. If you know of anyone who would like a piano please contact the Mr Brookman in the Music Department.

Ensemble Activities

Lunchtimes 1.30 – 2.00

- Monday – Choir
- Tuesday – Wind Ensemble
- Wednesday – Junior Drumming
- Thursday – String Ensemble & Senior Vocals
- Friday – Senior Drumming & Choir

After School 3.15 – 4.00

- Monday – Yr11 GCSE Support
- Tuesday – Orchestra
- Wednesday – Music Tech Performance
- Thursday – Music Tech Composition

Instrumental Lessons

We offer:

- Flute/Clarinet/Saxophone
- Trumpet/Trombone/Tuba
- Violin/Viola/Cello
- Classical/Acoustic/Electric & Bass Guitars
- Voice, Piano, Drum Kit

What you get:

- Loan of an instrument (Brass/Strings/Woodwind instruments only)
- 10 x 30 minute lessons each term

Mr Ian Brookman, Head of Music



Our Young Entrepreneurs make a big impression

As aspiring young entrepreneurs, Gar Kin, Deji and Benoit were invited to speak at the annual Enabling Enterprise Celebration Event on Wednesday 13th November 2013 to talk about their work on an Innovative IT programme they did during ICT lessons last year.

At the event, which was hosted by the Forward Internet Group at their offices near Kings Cross, the students engaged an audience of over 50 people impressing them with their idea for a shopping price comparison app.



Remembering Remembrance Sunday



We are the Champions...

On Friday the 18th of November, selected pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 attended the annual Hackney Sports Championships held at Clissold Leisure Centre.

They were involved in a variety of activities including athletics, sailing, archery, boccia, swimming, judo, wheel chair basketball and goal ball. They had the opportunity to try these sports, some of which they had never played before and Cardinal Pole combined with Stormont House won the competition overall, receiving medals and a trophy for their achievements. It was a fantastic event where all pupils worked together as a team and had a go at their chosen sport.

It was particularly great to see Joel Pabi involved in the wheel chair basketball which he really enjoyed and a big thank you to Dorran Clarke and Miss Pontifex for accompanying the group.

Mr Purcell, Head of PE



Armycadets Khy-An Gordeon (13), Darlington Nwosu (15), Tomiwa Olajo (13), Gianni Jenkins (13), Arron Hogan (13), J'Vorge Kelly (17) and Bismark Anarfi (13).



Schools Spoken Word Poets in Parliament

Parliament Week, 15-21 November, is a programme of events and activities that inspire, engage and connect people with parliamentary democracy. This year it focused on 'Women in Democracy' and fifteen of our talented young writers, led by our Poet-in Residence Raymond Antrobus and accompanied by English teachers Megan Chamberlain and Anne Gallagher, attended a workshop on Saturday 23rd November.

Our pupils joined other schools on the Spoken Word Programme for a day of writing workshop. All of our students then wrote and performed their own poems to rapturous applause.

Ms Gallagher, Head of English Dept.



Poetry Corner...

Some Striking lines from The Bullying Poems:

'Bullying is a faithless religion' Adan, Y10

'Bullying is like Twitter; a lot of people follow' Rochanna, Y7

'...living in your emotional blender' Sade, Y7

'...like I was dirt trying to soul-search' Barrington, Y11

'..to wash down my insecurity with a glass full of crazy' Javanni, Y12

KEYS By Michael Mchunu, 10A

You gave me keys to the world
And you gave me time
My arrogance shunned those keys
Bestowed on me by your love.
Not enough to shatter the bonds
The unbreakable chain you had on me
I'd burst your bubble of joy and hope
Yet you hold your head high in gratitude.

I remember you getting dressed for church
in your suit and tie; sophisticated always.
You'd polish your shoes to a glass shiny layer
You always put on them
You did not fail to notice the exact opposite in mine.
They scattered across the floor like miniscule broken bits of glass
You told me to keep order and do everything fully
And not half.....or there's no point.
Only recently has your wisdom sunk in
The claws executing every syllable
Every phrase. All the significance
All the knowledge pumping in my veins
Alighting the dark caves of my stubborn emotions.

I remember I performed in a concert
You dropped the world to see
You strolled in, a smile stitched on
It disturbed the normal contours of your face
Two large craters on your cheeks
Those dimples of your enlarged
Expanding, inhaling the atmosphere as you located me.
You were the first one to stand and applaud
The overwhelming sight of a standing ovation
Your smile was then traced back and stitched in by angels on my face.

You let me know I lifted you
For a change I put you on top
I gave you the world
In those minutes I shone light upon you
I gave light, dispelling darkness, doubt, disappointment.
I made you proud in exchange for
Realising all my mistakes.

The chains you had on me made me realise
how you'd forgiven
All the headaches I had given you
I was honoured.
I was blessed
I was smiled upon by Heaven to have you as a dad.

HEAPS of Success

The Higher Education Access Programme for Schools (HEAPS) is a fantastic mentoring programme that matches Year 12 students with a university graduate for two years. Each student mentor helps them choose appropriate universities, aids them in their application process and is on hand to answer their queries.

The programme also includes the unique University of Cambridge Easter School, revision workshops, open days, and other university visits - a recent one being to UCL.

Each school can nominate a maximum of 8 students per year and in 2013 Cardinal Pole Catholic School Sixth Form was awarded 6 places! The highest number offered to us for several years, we are very proud of this success and it proves how well regarded the sixth form has become.

The 6 successful students are;

- Daniella Ieronimou
- Ebony Smillie
- Hasret Altioglu
- Janet Siwoku
- Princess Ashilokun
- Sigourney Obeng-Boateng

Sixth Form News

Gilbert Radulescu, form 13D, gives you a snapshot of what the Sixth Form students have been up to this term.

HSMP (Hackney Schools Mentoring Programme) – Marquarie Bank: This programme gave me the opportunity to have a mentor who gave me some valuable advice on university and on the financial sectors. At the closing of the programme I was presented with an award and had the opportunity of meeting many people with similar interests to me.

Barclays Early Careers Presentation: I learnt about the Barclays Early Careers programme aimed at school leavers. I got to know more about what a career in a bank like Barclays would involve.

KPMG Careers insight day: I had the chance to travel to the KPMG UK headquarters in Canary Wharf and learn about their school leaver schemes. It was an insight into working in a world leading financial services firm and I got the chance to network with many graduates and senior level staff at the firm. A month later I was invited back with a group of other Cardinal Pole students to attend a workshop on CV writing and interview techniques.



Gilbert (right) with his HSMP mentor Timo

Best of Luck

As Christmas approaches, the UCAS application process for Year 13 students is in full swing and offers are already pouring in from the best universities in the country. The amount and quality of the offers is a testament to the hard work and perseverance of our students and staff this term.

We want to wish all of our students the best of luck with their university interviews, including those that have already been to Cambridge University, and to others who have their interviews and assessments in early 2014.

It is never too soon to start looking at universities and thinking about your options for the future. We strongly recommend Year 11 students already begin looking at the UCAS website which is a good place to start (www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works) and where you can find all the information you need to help you make decisions about A-Level choices.

A common question at this time is 'How do I know which universities are good?'. A great source of information including overall league tables and by subject breakdown is the Guardian University Guide which can be found at www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide.

Award Winning Essay



Sixth Form Student Reni Ogun-Coker knows how worthwhile it can be to take real thought and effort with your essays. Here she explains why in her own words:

I had to write an essay on the question 'should the UK maintain its overseas aid programme in times of austerity?' in the style of a newspaper article. Mr Allison (my business and Economics Teacher) picked my essay as the winning one and, as a result, I won £100 and was presented with this money at the aforementioned awards evening.

It has enabled me to understand how some of the money collected through tax by the government is spent. It also helped me to find out what happens to the budget for the aid programme when the economy is in a recession. Writing this essay helped me to find out some information that is very relevant to my Business & Economics AS course.

Reni Ogun-Coker, 12A
The Worshipful Company of International Bankers Essay
Competition – Awards Evening

Year 7 Book Club

After thoroughly enjoying their Bookbuzz titles, two pupil librarians, Layla and Erica, decided to form a book club. The girls plan to use the club to discuss the Bookbuzz books, plus other titles they have read, sharing their favourite parts. The book club runs at Monday Lunch is open to any year 7 pupil who wishes to attend.



Delving into the Past

The History department has run several trips this term. Year 12 headed to the National Archives at Kew to expand their knowledge on the Civil Rights Movement in the US by looking at the original documents produced at the time. Everyone got a lot from the trip and excitement was particularly high when the archive staff brought out a very special 'mystery' document worth more than \$8 million! When Kelvin carefully drew back the cardboard, both staff and students alike were amazed to see an original copy of the 'Declaration of the Rights of Man' from the independence of America in 1778!

Year 8 students had the opportunity to visit the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich to research the reasons why the Spanish Armada failed to take over England in 1588. Students particularly enjoyed the 'object handling' session where they got to touch and handle replica items that would have been on board the ships, then make a presentation on the iPads about what they had found out. Thank you to all of the staff that helped with this trip and of course to the students who brought their enthusiasm on the day.

Ms Messenger, History Dept.



Pupil Librarians

In October pupils were invited to apply to become Pupil Librarians. Following an interview process and a successful four week trial period a number of pupils were awarded the role.

Pupil librarians play a vital role in the day to day running of the library. Successful applicants join Ms Hayward and the library team working in the library and monitoring the library computer rooms regularly at breaks and lunchtimes on a weekly rota basis. They are encouraged to take part in a number of activities such as choosing library stock, creating displays, organising Author visits, book clubs and events and as well as advising other pupils wishing to borrow books. They receive ongoing training as part of their role and are recognised with certificates and a small gift.

This role truly is an excellent opportunity for them to gain important workplace skills and helps to provide positive role models for other pupils and gives them a voice in school.

Our wonderful new Library Team includes Pupil Librarian – Tayeb Grace 9C, Library Assistants – Aisha Adewale 7D, Tamara Bramble Osborne 7A, Erica Lima Aragao 7A, Layla Karadag 7N, Caelan Fortune 7A, Africa Linton 8D, Karolina Pabisek 8D, Mary Adekoya 9R, Abigail Lashley 9N, Eniola Abdaba 9N, Montana Maxwell Russell 9N and Library Monitors – Michal Barwinski 10L, Konrad Peskowicz 9C, Marko Boateng 9A.

Ms Hayward, Librarian



Year 7 Readathon

This term Year 7 pupils have been taking part in Readathon - a reading incentive to raise money for seriously ill children.

The pupils chose a set amount of titles they wished to read within a certain time frame then asked friends and family to sponsor them. So far we have raised £165.00 and we expect this figure to increase from the continuing sponsor commitment collections.

Please support your child in raising money and encouraging reading for pleasure. Readathon supports the charities below.



Cardinal Pole produces 'Another Star'...

On Thursday 8th November our Year 10 GCSE group and Drum Ensemble performed at the annual Hackney Gala. Held at the Hackney Empire our students did us proud. The Drum Ensemble performed in collaboration with Kingsmead Primary School drummer and dancers and put on a vibrant and exciting display of virtuosic drummer and dancing. The drummers had only limited rehearsal and travelled to Kingsmead School to work with primary students every Tuesday. The Year 10 GCSE group performed 'Another Star' by Stevie Wonder, this was the first time that the group had performed together and despite a few nerves during the rehearsal they put on a first class show at the evening performance. Every member of the GCSE group was involved in playing or singing in the song, for some this was the first time they had ever performed in public. We were also delighted to receive the Mayor of Hackneys Award for Instrumental Development which was presented to Mr Brookman at the Gala.

Details of other winners on the night included:
Pupil Award (Musical Achievement in Instrumental Learning),
Secondary: Aanu Sodipe – Violin (Mossbourne Community Academy), and Sophy Leys Johnston – Clarinet (Clapton Girls' Academy)

Pupil Award (Musical Achievement in Instrumental Learning),
Primary: Christina Tran – Piano (De Beauvoir)

Instrument Fund for Ensemble Development:
Cardinal Pole Catholic School and Betty Layward Primary School

Special Acknowledgement for Improvement in the overall curriculum music offer: Clapton Girls' Academy

Excellence in Music Education Practice: Mossbourne Community Academy and Queensbridge Primary



Congratulations to the all involved in the performance including our Year 10 GCSE Group: Beulah Amponsa, Motunrayo Arojoye, Omolara Balogun, Omari Chaplin, Shania Donaldson, Mojama Fallah, Gabrielle Gardner, Bisola Giwabalogun, Deanna James, Kwaku Kyeremeh, Theophilus McWilliams, Taishuna Noble, Hope Osifo, Mae Slade, Keann Taylor-Lisbie and Jaenae Thompson.
Mr Brookman, Head of Music Dept.

Another showstopping performance, literally!

It has been a busy term so far for the drama department, starting off with auditions for the Shakespeare Schools Festival production of Antony and Cleopatra, which was performed at the Shaw Theatre, in the West End, in October, and will be performed again at the school as part of the Christmas festivities.

This ensemble production involved a cast of 20, who created, purely by movement, a range of locations including Ancient Rome, Egypt, Athens, a sphinx and a sea battle.

The performance at the Shaw Theatre was not without incident, including a fire alarm in the theatre just as the show was about to start! This meant that all the schools involved had to be evacuated onto the main road in full costume, until the fire brigade gave the all clear to return.

The Cardinal Pole cast, of course, took it all in their stride and performed brilliantly.



Much Ado about...Drama

Other exciting Drama news: at the time of writing, the Year 13 A Level Drama and Theatre Studies group are preparing for the final performances of their devised drama, David and Goliath. This is a piece of Verbatim Theatre, which uses the actual words from real events to tell a story. This is the story of the 'McLibel Trial', in which two ordinary people from Finsbury Park took on the might of the McDonalds Corporation, in the longest trial in British history.

In the New Year, we will be auditioning for participants for the Barbican Box festival, which we have taken part in since its launch two years ago. This is a festival of devised drama, in which the group will spend a few months creating a play from scratch, to be performed at the Barbican Centre in the City. The devising process is supported by world-famous theatre company Theatre de Complicité who have prepared a box of ideas and artefacts to help us.

Mr Fonseca, Assistant Headteacher

November's Star Reader



Caelan Fortune, 7A

This year pupils from Year 7 & 8 are taking part in the Accelerated Reader Programme which ensures that pupils are reading at the correct reading level. This programme requires pupils to read a book and then take a short quiz. The results of which are then recorded so progress can be monitored.

Over the month of November, Caelan Fortune from form 7A, read an impressive 13 books earning him 44.8 points and the title of Star Reader for the month of November. Congratulations Caelan.

Remembering Nelson Mandela

Students and staff were delighted to have the opportunity to attend the service to remember Nelson Mandela at Westminster Hall on Thursday 12th December.

Our thanks to Meg Hillier, MP, for the invitation. It was a wonderful opportunity.

Parent Reminder

In Case of Emergency (ICE) Contact Number - It is important that we have your current up to date contact details in the event of an emergency.

Can you please inform the school office if you have changed your mobile or home telephone number.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

School Uniform

As the cold weather continues, students should return to school, after the Christmas Break, in the correct school uniform

As a reminder only school coats, hats and scarfs should be worn to, from and in school. Any earrings should be plain gold or silver studs and that for girls tights or socks may be plain black or grey, socks knee high only.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mr Plummer on his recent marriage to Sarah. We wish them both many years of happiness.

Congratulations also to Naomi Osei-Mensah's baby on the arrival of her baby daughter, Bleu-Ava. Both mother and baby are doing well.



Nativity scene from main reception at Cardinal Pole

CHRISTMAS TERM 2013

September

Mon 2nd INSET Day
 Tues 3rd Y7 Welcome Day & Y12 Registration Day
 Weds 4th All Year Group Return (staggered starts)
 Weds 11th School Photographs
 Thurs 12th Y11 Parents Curriculum Evening
 Mon 16th-Fri 20th Open Morning (9.15-10.30)
 Thurs 19th Twilight (3.45-6.45pm)
 Mon 23rd Open Evening (4.30-7.30pm)
 School Finishes at 1pm
 Tues 24th Y8 HPV1 Immunisation
 Thurs 26th Y11 Parents Evening (4.30- 7.30pm)
 Fri 27th Y6 Taster Day - Parents Visit

October

Weds 2nd Parents Meeting - Sixth Form Aspirations Evening (6.30-7.30pm)
 Thurs 10th Y7 Welcome Evening (6-8pm)
 Y7 Parents Curriculum Evening
 Y7 Distribution of Bibles
 Mon 14th Additional Learning Day
 Thurs 24th Twilight (2.45-4.45pm)

HALF TERM (Mon 28th Oct - Fri 1st Nov)

November

Mon 4th Start of Term
 Thus 7th Y8 Parents Curriculum Evening (6-7pm)
 Mon 11th Y7 & Y12/13 Certificate Assembly
 Tues 12th Y8 Certificate Assembly
 Weds 13th Y9 Certificate
 Thurs 14th Y9 Parents Curriculum Evening (6 - 7pm)
 Y10 Certificate Assembly
 Fri 15th Y11 Certificate Assembly
 Thurs 21st Y12 & Y13 Parents Evening (4.30-7.30pm)
 Tues 26th Additional Learning Day

December

Sun 1st Advent Begins
 Mon 16th Music and Drama Gala (6.00-7.30pm)
 Weds 18th Christmas Carol Service (6.00-7.00pm)
 Thurs 19th Last Day of Term (school finishes at 1pm)

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS (Mon 23rd Dec – Fri 1st Jan)

EASTER TERM 2014

January

Mon 6th Start of Term
 Weds 15th Additional Learning Day
 Thurs 23rd Y10 Parents Evening
 Tues 21st Y8 Certificate Assembly
 Wed 22nd Y9 Certificate Assembly
 Thus 23rd Y10 Certificate Assembly
 Fri 24th Y11 Certificate Assembly
 Mon 27th Y7 Certificate Assembly
 Thurs 30th Y12 & Y13 Parents Evening (4.30-7.30pm)

February

Thurs 6th Y8 Parents Evening(4.30-7.30pm)
 Thurs 13th Twilight (4.45-6.45pm)
 Fri 14th Attendance Reward Breakfast
 Thurs 27th Y9 Parents Evening (4.30-7.30pm)

March

Tues 4th Shrove Tuesday
 Weds 5th Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)
 Y9 Options Parents Meeting
 Thurs 6th World Book Day
 Thurs 13th Additional Learning Day
 Fri 14th-Sun 23rd National Science and Engineering Week
 Weds 19th Year 12 Parents Evening with Form Tutors (5.30-7.30pm)
 Fri 21st World Poetry Day
 Mon 31st Y7 Certificate Assembly
 Y12 & Y13 Certificate Assembly

April

Tues 1st Y8 Certificate Assembly
 Y12 & Y13 Parents Evening with Form Tutors (4.30-7.30pm)
 Weds 2nd Y9 Certificate Assembly
 Thurs 3rd Y10 Certificate Assembly
 Fri 4th Y11 Certificate Assembly
 Weds 9th Attendance Reward Breakfast
 Fri 11th INSET Day

HALF TERM (Mon 14th Apr-Fri 25th Apr)

SIXTH FORM REVISION (Tues 22nd Apr-Fri 25th Apr)

SUMMER TERM 2014

April

Mon 28th Start of Term

May

Fri 2nd Additional Learning Day
 Mon 5th May Bank Holiday
 Fri 23rd Attendance Reward Breakfast
 Mon 26th Spring Bank Holiday

HALF TERM (Mon 27th May-Fri 30th May)

June

Mon 2nd Start of Term
 Mon 16th-Thu 19th Y5 Taster Days
 Fri 20th Y11 Book Return Day
 Y11 Mass & Transition Day
 Mon 23rd INSET Day and Twilight
 Tues 24th Y12 to begin Y13 – Enrichment
 Thurs 26th New Intake Evening (6-7pm)

July

Weds 2nd Sports Day
 Thurs 3rd Y6 Induction Day
 Tues 8th School Show (6.00-7.30pm)
 Fri 11th Attendance Reward Breakfast
 Mon 14th Y7 Achievement Assembly
 Mon 14th-Fri 18th Y10 Work Experience
 Tues 15th Y8 Achievement Assembly
 Weds 16th Y9 Achievement Assembly
 Thurs 17th Y10 Achievement Assembly
 Fri 18th End of Term Liturgies
 School finishes for students at 12 noon
 Last Day of School Year

Further dates for the diary: August

Thurs 14th A-Level Results Day
 Thurs 21st GCSE Results Day