



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

Cardinal Pole Catholic School

Cardinal Pole Catholic School Parents Newsletter

May 2014

website: www.cardinalpole.co.uk

Headteachers Message

Members of Parliament Praise

Catholic Education

Dear Parent/Carer,

I read with interest the debate in Parliament on the value of Catholic Education. At the school we continue to work hard to serve our community. Please take the time to read some of the very positive comments.

Exam fever is upon us. All of our Year 11-13 students are working exceptionally hard. I am sure you will join us in keeping them in our thoughts and prayers.

Our retreats remain at the forefront of our activities this term. Without your support and the efforts of staff, they would not be possible and I am grateful for this. Equally, our wonderful trips and visits, both in the UK and overseas, are to be congratulated.

Please see enclosed our reports on trips and visits. I am very much looking forward to joining the Sixth form on our pilgrimage to Rome at the end of June. Please also see the article by Mrs McBride on her visit to Rome.

I wish you all a restful half term.

Ms J. Heffernan
Headteacher



In a debate in Parliament on Wednesday 30 April, Members from all political parties and both front benches voiced their support for Catholic education.

The debate on 'Catholic Schools (Admissions)' was led by Damian Hinds, MP for East Hampshire, and focused around the contribution that Catholic schools make to the education sector as well as the role of faith-based admissions to meet parental demand.

In the debate, Damian Hinds MP said: "Catholic schools are a key part of the education landscape in this country, and have been for a long time. They are diverse - more diverse, in fact, than the average - and that diversity includes already having a substantial proportion of non-Catholic children. They also have something special about them, and that specialness comes at least partly as a direct result of their religious nature."

David Laws, Minister for Schools, said: "*Catholic schools in particular generally outperform other types of state school. Last year, at primary level, 81% of pupils in Catholic schools achieved level 4 and above in reading, writing and maths at key stage 2, compared with 75% of pupils at all state schools. At secondary level, 67% of students secured five good GCSEs, including English and maths, in contrast to 61% of students at all state schools in 2013.*"

Greg Pope, Deputy Director of the Catholic Education Service said: "*We welcome these comments in Parliament.*" The success of Catholic education is founded upon the hard work of staff and pupils and it is right that MPs should praise their ongoing achievements. We continue to work hard to secure a high achievement for all at Cardinal Pole and are grateful for your support.

Welcome

We welcome Justin Madubuko to the Governing Body as a Foundation Governor. He is especially welcome as a past pupil! We still hope to recruit a parent governor. If you are interested, please email Stacey Wright at StaceyWright@cardinalpole.co.uk

J Heffernan - Headteacher

The Canonisation



Ms McBride and family with Pope John Paul II

On April 27th, the Catholic Church celebrated the canonisation of two Popes; John XXIII and John Paul II. It is wonderful that the Church has recognised the saintliness of both these holy men. The ceremony took place in the Vatican, in St Peter's Square; it is estimated that a million people attended this event – and I was one of them! My brother holds an important position in the Vatican and lives in an apartment within the Apostolic Palace. I was able to stay with him during this event and have a good vantage point for the ceremonies – so it was an opportunity not to be missed. Pope John XXIII reigned for less than five years, from 1958 until 1963. He was meek and gentle, enterprising and courageous, simple and active; he visited the imprisoned and the sick, he welcomed those of every nation and faith. Most of all, he is remembered for summoning the Second Vatican Council, which brought about a renewal of Catholic doctrine and practice in a modern perspective. In his homily during the canonisation Mass, Pope Francis noted that John XXIII was particularly open and obedient to the working of the Holy Spirit.

As I am Polish, the election of Karol Wojtyła as Pope John Paul II in 1978 was one of the most dramatic moments of my life. Suddenly, the eyes of the world were turned on my country. His leadership gave Polish people the courage to demand freedom of religion, and to demand other human rights; this strength led directly to the fall of Communism. John Paul II was a poet, a theologian, a philosopher, a great sportsman; he particularly appealed to young people as he was a man of great integrity, a man who believed what he said and acted out his beliefs; Pope Francis described him as "the Pope of the Family". He travelled widely, bringing the papacy to the world, attracting enormous crowds and addressing huge and enthusiastic audiences. He was probably seen by more people than anyone before in history - I was lucky enough to meet him personally on several occasions. His last years, when he visibly struggled with failing health, gave witness to the dignity and sanctity of human life. John Paul's pontificate was one of the longest in history, lasting until his death in 2005

The evening before the canonization ceremony, enormous crowds slept in the streets surrounding the Vatican, so as to be able to get into St Peter's Square as soon as possible, when it opened in the small hours of the morning. The crowds then filled the square and the road leading from it, as far as the eye could see. Giant television screens were set up in many other open spaces in Rome, and were surrounded by huge crowds as well. The ceremony finally began at 10 am, with the singing of the Litany of the Saints in Latin, while the Archbishops and Cardinals processed in. There were so many of them that the Litany had to be sung through three times! The process of canonization was completed very shortly afterwards, with Pope Francis pronouncing "We declare and define Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II to be saints and we enroll them among the saints, decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the whole church."

The Mass which followed was an expression of joy and thanksgiving for the lives of the two Popes. It reflected the universality of the Church – the Scripture Readings and Prayers of the Faithful were in a range of languages; the crowds surrounding us seemed to come from every corner of the globe. Despite the joy and excitement surrounding us, the atmosphere remained reverent. During the Consecration, and at other appropriate moments, the crowds were SILENT – and silence from such an enormous crowd had a power of its own. 700 priests were escorted through the crowds, trying to reach as many people as possible to distribute Holy Communion. I found it wonderful to be part of this event, to be able to express my faith in God by singing, in unison with nearly a million people, "Credo in unum Deum..."





Sports Round-Up



Sporting success continues to contribute to the lives of our students.

Year 11 students have won a place in the London Final, a real accolade!

Year 7 pupil Nataniel Morris, who competes as a Judo player, is pictured kneeling at the front on the left for a London Youth Games photoshoot at the London Aquatics Centre, Olympic Park. He was chosen among some of the most promising young sports people in Hackney. He is joined by GB weightlifter Zoe Smith and Olympic silver medallist at Judo Gemma Gibbons.



Well done to the students and thank you to the staff.

Mr Purcell, Head of PE

Pupils from Cardinal Pole achieved 13 medals at the London Youth Games feeder event on Saturday 3rd May 2014 whilst representing Hackney Judo club. As always, a big thanks must go to Calvin Walker Hall for the excellent work he has done with these and many other pupils at Cardinal Pole.

Golds: Nataniel, Geoffrey, Charlie, Aisha

Silver: Jordan Stuart, Kiera, Jasmin, Aaron.

Bronze: Maria, Martyna, Jordan Caicedo, Arthur, Africa

Hackney judo club Total medal results:
Gold 13, Silver 5, Bronze 11

Year 9 French Trip

We had a very successful trip to Le Touquet where our Year 9 students spent four days in France. We travelled by coach and boat where our students were impeccably behaved. Our first day was spent by settling in and getting to know the area.

Day two consisted of a visit to the Parc Astérix theme park where our students had a lovely time enjoying the rides and playing various games. Our third day was spent in two parts, in the morning we visited a chocolate factory called Chocolats Beussent, where we were given a demonstration on how high quality chocolates were made and then given the opportunity to eat some!

In the afternoon pupils were able to visit the pretty seaside town of Le Touquet where some went into town or the beach, others went to a water park called Aqualud or showed off their mini golf skills; especially Lakeeva Mendes in 9R! A future pro- golfer perhaps? Watch this space!

Naturally, we all made the most of our opportunity to practise our french. On our return we visited a shopping centre in Calais called Cité Europe where we all did some final shopping.

I would like to thank Mr Remi, Mrs Gunning, Ms Senior and Mr Bielicki for ensuring that our students were safe and were able to have an extremely enjoyable time. They were a credit to their families and the school.

Mr Spence, Languages



Year 11 BTEC Work Experience

The Nursery

"A great asset. It's a shame she's not here longer."



The Kitchen

"No problem at all. Everything we asked, he picked up and did."



Dates for your diary...



EASTER TERM 2014

May

Fri 23rd Attendance Reward Breakfast
Mon 26th - Fri 30th Spring Bank Holiday - HALF TERM

SUMMER TERM 2014

June

Mon 2nd Start of Term
Fri 13th Y11 Last Exam
Mon 16th Y11 Book Return Day
Y11 Mass & Transition Day
Mon 16th - Thu 19th Y5 Taster Days
Fri 20th Y13 Book Return Day
Y13 Mass & Transition Day
Mon 23rd **School Closed** - INSET Day and Twilight
Tues 24th Y12 to begin Y13 – Enrichment
Thurs 26th New Intake Evening (6.00-7.00pm)

July

Weds 2nd Sports Day
Thurs 3rd Y6 Induction Day
Mon 7th **School Closed** - Tour de France ride through Hackney
Tues 8th School Show (6.00-7.30pm)
Fri 11th Attendance Reward Breakfast
Mon 14th - Fri 18th Y10 and Y12 Work Experience
Mon 14th Y7 Achievement Assembly
Tues 15th Y8 Achievement Assembly
Weds 16th Y9 Achievement Assembly
Thurs 17th Y10 Achievement Assembly
Fri 18th End of Term Liturgies
Last Day of School Year - School finishes for students at 12noon

August

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

September

Tues 2nd **School Closed** - INSET Day
Weds 3rd Children return to school