



# Cardinal Pole Catholic School

Cardinal Pole Catholic School Parents Newsletter

December 2014

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

In reception you will find our Crib. It is there as a symbol to the school, as our Carol Service at St Dominic's is to the community, that Advent is here and we are waiting! Fr Julian Large, Provost at the London Oratory, wrote on Sunday *'The Crib excludes no one. The open stable is an invitation. It reminds us that the new born King of kings came to Bethlehem to establish His rule not by force but rather by winning a place in the hearts of His subjects. He comes in fragile human flesh as an innocent child to impress on us that, unless we become like little children ourselves, we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. .... What if our parish were to be a byword for the Corporal Works of Mercy – for visiting prisoners and the lonely and for extending the embrace of care and friendship to those who have nothing and no one? That would be a sign to the world that the Word Made Flesh is not only alive in the Tabernacle, but also very much alive and active in our hearts. He invites us to minister to Him in His poor and in those who suffer through the isolation of feeling unneeded and unwanted.'* That is what children at the school, with your support, have taken to heart during this Advent. They have been as generous as ever with contributions to the Hackney Food Bank and this will be distributed this week. This week we also begin our fund raising for our other charities for the homeless and refugees and I will update you on the outcome. This fund raising will be supplemented by our Carol singing at Tesco's - a good way of not only raising funds but also, re-enforcing our presence in the community. The school celebrates the season formally at the Carol Service at St Dominic from 6pm - 7pm, Tuesday 16th December 2014. Behind all this has been a lot of hard work, co-operation and generosity, living examples of our faith.

There is much to celebrate as we come to the close of the year. Our new Year 7 and staff have settled in well into the community. Attendance at Parents Evening was exceptional. Our focus on literacy is paying off and I ask that you bear in mind the gift of a book when considering Christmas presents! The school continues to build on outstanding links with industry, including UBS and Barclay's as well as higher education institutions, and this can be seen in the reports in the newsletter. The children have benefited from a range of trips and visits. We are also delighted with the admissions application figures received this week, with over 500 applications for the third successive year. Taken in the round, with our Hackney Building Award, our name check at the House of Commons for work on post 16 progression and our positive OFSTED feedback on Alternative Provision, there is much to celebrate as we come to the end of the year. I thank you for your support in this work and wish you the promise and love of Christmas.

**Ms J Heffernan, Headteacher**



## Securing Excellence

We have recently received the governments evaluation of the progress the school has made academically. It places us in the top 12% of schools in the country. This represents exceptional progress, building on a three year trend for our value added. It should be noted that every department evaluated as part of this 'Best 8' measure was graded as achieving progress that is significantly above the national average. That includes English, Maths, Science, Humanities, Languages and science.

It should be noted that the maths department progress is now ranked in the top 6% in the country, with languages in the top 2% nationally. This adds to our success post 16 having been graded 'outstanding' for the fourth successive year.

# Armistice Day

As a school we recognised Armistice Day by laying a wreath.



I am a member of police staff and also a special constable on Hackney Borough. Today whilst observing my 2 minutes silence with a work colleague in Reading Lane, our attention was drawn to a group of pupils in uniform one of which was wearing his Air Cadet uniform standing in front of the War memorial in front of Hackney Town Hall with wreath in hand also observing their 2 minutes silence.

It is with great pride that I write this email to tell you how impressed and emotional myself and my colleague were to see youngsters doing something that means so much to so many people especially myself as I have recently found that I lost a distant family member in the First World War only a few

weeks after the war started.

Youngster get a lot of bad press these days for doing things that they shouldn't but this would I hope change a lot of peoples view Your pupils certainly did you and your school credit today

With Kindest Regards

Tracy Simkins





# PE Department

The PE department continues to offer a wide range of curricular and extracurricular activities and has secured many successes this year, including the Year 11 London Football Cup. Opportunities to participate run before school, at lunch time and after school in our extensive facilities. Please check the website of a full list of activities. We are delighted to extend these opportunities to our new staff gym facilities. You can help your child to enjoy sport and to stay fit by encouraging them to participate in sport and supporting the school on our 'Healthy Eating' Campaign. That means starting the day well with breakfast, or joining us here at our free breakfast club, as well as eating well at lunchtime, avoiding fast food shops on the way home.





INTER FORM ATHLETICS WINNERS



PLAYING FOOTBALL SINCE 3 YEARS OLD!

PLAYS FOR TOTTENHAM

FAVOURITE FOOD: FRUIT

TEAM MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL FUTSAL CHAMPIONS

ASPIRATIONS: TO PLAY FOR ARSENAL!!!! AND ENGLAND

BEST ACHIEVEMENT: PLAYING FOR TOTTENHAM SENIOR LADIES TEAM

# CHENAY HUSSEY YEAR 10



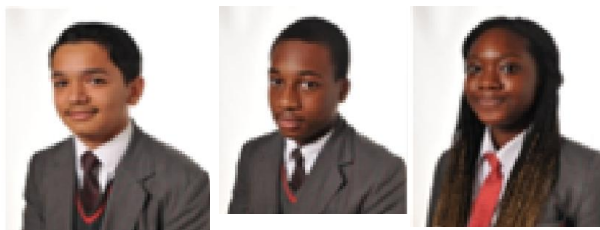
# Gifted and Talented

## Y10 UCL Horizons Program

In October, five of our year 10 students were accepted onto the UCL Horizons program. The program runs between November and July and involves students attending lecture style sessions at UCL on Saturday mornings, with students learning such topics as "The Amazing Brain", "Shakespeare Live", and "Medical Ethics and First Aid". The five lucky students are Aldrim Mehmetaj, Mahmud Abiola, Mercy Afolabi, Onder Kililic and Selina Forde. We look forward to hearing how they enjoyed their experience at the end of the year.



Selina Forde – "I enjoy the discussions and group work that take place in class"



Mahmud Abiola – "I like that we are learning modules that are different from the regular content studied at school"



## Chemistry Day – Imperial College

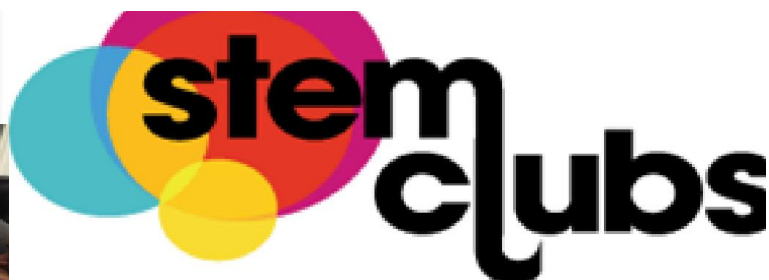
A group of Year 10 students attended Chemistry Day at Imperial College. The students got some hands on chemistry experience, carrying out interesting activities such as gold plating coins, and even a scientific Treasure Hunt around the campus. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.



**Imperial College  
London**

Miss Leeuwner

The STEM Club is currently running on Wednesday afternoons and so far this term the Year 7 and 8 students that attend have carried out some very exciting activities. Such activities include; making slime, bouncy balls, understanding how methane bubbles work and even making photographic film. On the 26th of November the students were visited by a STEM ambassador, Mr David Sockett, who gave a talk on engineering which the students thoroughly enjoyed.



### **Why Join?**

STEM Club is a place whereby students can get involved in practical experiments, investigation, discussion and reflection. Most importantly have fun.

It is a medium used to resolve the deficiency of STEM skills by motivating and building confidence in young people who struggle with STEM subjects. More so provide an extra channel for young people who are highly able and already show interest in furthering their learning.

STEM Club aim to enlighten young people that a career within STEM is beneficial and lucrative, to enable this outcome, it requires ambitious, hardworking and resilient students.

The STEM Club is meets Wednesdays from 3:30 – 4:30pm and is open to students in Years 7 to 9. Interested students should go to F2.21 on Wednesday afternoon or talk to Ms. Balogun and Ms. Jeyakumar for more information

### **RCOG Christmas Lecture - 6th Form**

On 4th December 2014 the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) held their 36th Annual Christmas Lecture for Young People. 9 of our Year 12 & Year 13 Biology students attended, and had the pleasure of hearing a motivational lecture from Dr Sophia Webster who last year piloted a small aeroplane from the UK to South Africa via 25 African countries to promote safer pregnancy and childbirth for women in sub-Saharan Africa. The lecture was followed by a networking session with healthcare professionals and students had the opportunity to ask them questions about their chosen profession. The students who attended this fantastic event were Jennifer Opoku, Damola Samuel, Esther Pabi, Dericka Taylor Wesley, Aicha Kisombe, Marfred Asante, all of Year 12, and Patryk Flissikowski, Audrie Mbala and Louise Hua of Year 13.

Miss Agathangelou



### **UCL Medical School Target Medicine Mentoring Scheme**

The School of Medicine at UCL run a mentoring program for A Level students who wish to pursue a career in medicine. Two of our Year 12 students (Emmanuel Falola and Tomi Adaramola) have been accepted onto the course and will spend the next year attending sessions and receiving help from mentors in preparation for applying to Medicine based University courses next year.

This is a huge honour considering the course is always over-subscribed and our students clearly showed that they have the academic ability and motivation to do very well. We wish them all the best.

"I applied to Target medicine as I see the medical field as a future profession. It will allow me to gain information about my chosen field and seek the qualifications needed. I see this profession as putting smiles on people faces-helping those that really need our help. It's just fantastic" Emmanuel.



## Imperial champions new outreach programme to boost equality in Medicine

Pathways to medicine consists of a programme of initiatives that run throughout Year 11 and Sixth Form to help students make strong and informed applications to study medicine at university. Activities include informative talks by admissions tutors and medical students, e-mentoring with current imperial medics, a summer-school at the College and personal statement advice. All students on Pathways to Medicine will also be guaranteed access to work experience in a healthcare setting. Pathways to Medicine was launched with a hands-on event at Imperial, where this year's cohort of school pupils and their parents were invited to listen to a series of introductory talks from the College's Faculty of Medicine and the Sutton Trust, as well as try their hand at interactive medical experiments. This year the following students were successful in their

Imperial College  
London



applications Aylin Olkun, Chikadibia Onuba and Mohamuud Abdirahman

*"I am grateful to have entered this inspiring programme and hopefully, by the end of it I will have gained entry to a top university course. I thank everyone at the school for supporting me." Aylin*

*"The pathways to medicine programme organised by Imperial has profited me in numerous ways, including fuelling my desire of being a doctor. The work experience organised helped me to relate students to a medical environment, working with professionals in the field aided by understanding on how we best treat illnesses." Chika*

*"Upon being told about the Imperial Medicine Programme, I tried my hardest to be part of it. Being on the programme has given me confidence and motivation into studying medicine at university. I would like to specialise in stem cell research." Mohamuud*

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

This half-term the Year Councils and Whole School Council have been busily working away on discussing a range of issues including school dinners, break-time activities and school rules. The Sixth Form Council representatives, led by Javani Brown and Princess Ashilokun, have been training each year group on how to run effective meetings and how to make a case for changes to improve the school. On the 8th of



December the Whole School Council presented to the Senior Leadership Team their ideas, which are now being carefully considered so that we can implement some of the students suggestions in the New Year. Keep an eye on our noticeboard and soon to be launched FROG School Council page to keep up to date on the work of the Councils. Well done to all the representatives for their hard work so far- politicians of the future in the making!

## School Events

**Carol Service - Tuesday 16th December 2014 - 6pm**

**Non-Uniform Day - Thursday 18th December 2014**

**School ends at Noon on Friday 19th December 2014**

**Students return to School on Monday 5th January 2015 at 8.35am**

**Please remember that only black school coats are permitted**

**Wishing you a Happy and Holy Christmas.**



# Drama

## **Shakespeare School's Festival - Hamlet**

Year 9 students took part in a hugely successful performance of Hamlet at the Pleasance Theatre in Islington on Wednesday 15th October. The performance was part of the Shakespeare School's Festival and Cardinal Pole performed alongside three other schools. The opportunity allowed students to work in a professional environment and collaborate with producers and technicians at the theatre. The attitude and effort of all students involved in the run up to the performance and on the day itself was highly commendable. As well as being hardworking and focussed, the group were lots of fun and there was a fantastic sense of team spirit. The performance itself was exciting and exhilarating: combining creative characterisation with stylised ensemble sequences. Amoyah Morris in 9C was phenomenal in her role as Hamlet- convincingly portraying the increasing angst that the young Prince feels as he tries to revenge his Father's death. There will be an opportunity to watch this performance again at the Drama Showcase.

## **Year 13 Practical exam**

Since September, Year 13 students have been working towards their final performance of their Drama and Theatre Studies course. The students have devised a piece which explores issues of police corruption and spying inspired by recent news events that revealed that officers had begun relationships with people they were spying on in order to infiltrate organisations and gain access to information. On Wednesday 3rd December Who's Mark was performed to an audience of family and friends. The energetic and highly ensemble piece focussed on the story of Mark Jenner, a police officer who was tasked with infiltrating the Colin Roach Centre in Hackney during the 1990s. Mark Jenner became known as Mark Cassidy and developed a six year relationship with a woman called Alison who was a member of the centre. When he left her, leaving just a letter, Alison began to unveil the truth about Mark. The piece aimed to scrutinise the practice of the police force and question the morals of asking police officers to spy on members of society in such a way. Devising a play is a lot of hard work and the students should be commended for their dedication to this performance.

## **Drama Showcase - 11th December 2014 - All are welcome**

On Thursday 11th December from 5.30pm, Year 9 and 10 students will be showcasing their work in Drama. Year 9 Students will be reprising the performance of Hamlet and year 10 students will be performing three pieces they have been rehearsing for their mock exam. The GCSE course culminates in Year 11 with a final performance worth 40% of their GCSE. This performance will allow the Year 10s the experience of performing to an audience. The performances are:

10B/Dr1- We Lost Elijah

The showcase will be a fundraiser for and we hope that many family and friends are able to attend.







## The Season of Advent

The season of advent is very significant to the Catholic faith and Christianity. In Advent we focus on “**waiting**” (**Staying awake**) for the ‘appearance’ of Jesus at Christmas and his ‘Second Coming’ at the end of time. Unfortunately, the general public is so much in a hurry and cannot wait at all, despite the fact that we wait for a bus or train even when we cannot see it coming. The spiritual preparations for Christ’s coming have been skipped and the ceremonial aspect is so much enthroned.

At Christmas, the angels who announced the birth of Christ called it “GOOD NEWS”. The shepherds and all who got the GOOD NEWS were called people of “GOOD WILL”. Therefore advent is a season of GOOD DEEDS nurtured by GOOD WILL in preparation for the GOOD NEWS who is Jesus Christ. Therefore, in our school, we are not in a hurry; we are waiting and preparing. To achieve this, so much has been put into the season of Advent in preparation for Christmas.

Each week of Advent, signified by the candles in the advent wreath gives us an opportunity to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, His second coming and reach out to God’s greatest creature (*Human beings*). To live this out more fully, our school community decided to link the themes with our daily tasks.

**Week 1 - Hope:** The Hackney Food Bank. Through the help and efforts of both Parents, students and staff, we all have given hope to those who have no hope of feeding or keeping warm during winter.

**Week 2 - Peace:** As a school community and a community of faith, our focus is on reviewing our relationship with God and others. This will focus on a search for inner peace through a thorough self-examination of conscience. The Class fund raising for charity will be the outward sign of our self-examination of conscience.

**Week 3 - Joy:** This is the week of celebrations. Our assemblies focus on certificates and students are rewarded for the good work. The class fund-raising continues and we are joyful, knowing that we are fulfilling our roles in helping those who need our help. But Above all, our focus is on the joy of those who will receive the funds. The ‘Christmas Carol Service’, the ‘Carolling at Tesco’ and the ‘end of term Liturgy’ sparks joy in our hearts

**Week 4 - Love.** Though this is during the Holiday, yet it is expected that the acts of Hope, peace and Joy must be expressed in LOVE. The Year 7 students have been given the Advent calendar that will lead them up to Christmas. The end of term liturgy must remind our students that Christmas is very close by and that Jesus Christ is the reason for the season who must be celebrated in LOVE.

