



Cardinal Pole Catholic School

Cardinal Pole Catholic School Parents Newsletter

February 2015

website: www.cardinalpole.co.uk

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parent/Carer,

As ever this has been a busy term, working hard to ensure that all students achieve their very best, celebrating our Sixth Form results and university offers, our sporting achievements and our awards for success in a range of activities. Our Pilgrimage for Year 9 provided students with the opportunity to reflect on the horrors of the Holocaust, and to remember that without everyone taking responsibility for social justice we all remain vulnerable. This theme is continued in the focus of our reflections as we prepare for Lent and in our Lenten charities. We were delighted to welcome Phoebe Jackson from Caritas to Cardinal Pole. Caritas Westminster has been set up to enable everyone in the Catholic community to give practical support to those in need. We were also delighted to host the Deanery meeting and to meet the local Priests from our local parishes. The meeting was a great opportunity to welcome Bishop Nicholas Hudson and Meg Hillier MP to the school to speak on the topic of social justice. Meg has been a champion on a range of social issues in her South Hackney constituency and is a frequent visitor to the school, supporting our work on access to Higher Education.

It is with great pride I can share with you the school has its very own Poetry Anthology, 'A Complicated Answer'. My thanks to our Poet in Residence, Raymond Antrobus for his work on this and to Anne Gallagher, Head of English. It is a privilege to read the contributions from students.

Students continue to work hard in preparation for their A Level and GCSE pre-public exams. Identified children are studying for their mock attainment test in Year 9. Revision classes take place during the half term break and we are grateful to you for your support in encouraging students to attend.

Finally, there is a reminder in the newsletter about uniform. I ask that uniform is checked and replaced over the break and that your child returns fully equipped.

Enjoy the break.

Ms Heffernan - Headteacher



Bishop Nicholas Hudson

Biography

Bishop Nicholas Hudson was ordained Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Westminster on 4 June 2014. He is Titular Bishop of St Germans.

Bishop Nicholas has responsibility for the pastoral care of Central and East London, consisting of the Deaneries of Camden, Hackney, Islington, Marylebone, Tower Hamlets and Westminster. He also has oversight of the Agency for Evangelisation.

Following studies at the Venerable English College, Rome, where he obtained a Licence in Fundamental Theology, Bishop Nicholas was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Southwark in 1986 by Archbishop Michael Bowen in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Wimbledon. He served as assistant priest in St Thomas of Canterbury in Canterbury for his first appointment.

Following further studies at the Catholic University of Leuven in Religious Education and Catechesis, he was appointed Director of the Southwark Christian Education Centre in 1992.

In 2000 he was appointed Vice-Rector and in 2004 Rector of the Venerable English College, Rome, where he served until 2013.

Immediately prior to his ordination as Bishop, he was parish priest of Sacred Heart in Wimbledon, the parish where he was baptised and later ordained.

Born Hammersmith, 14 February 1959, fourth son of Richard and Marie-Charlotte (née Valdelièvre) Hudson

1966-72	Wimbledon College Preparatory School
1972-77	Wimbledon College
1978-81	Jesus College, Cambridge - Bachelor of Arts
1981-87	Venerable English College, Rome - Licence in Fundamental Theology
1987-91	Assistant Priest in the Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Canterbury
1991-92	Catholic University of Leuven - Studies in Religious Education and Catechesis
1992-2000	Director of the Southwark Christian Education Centre
2000-04	Vice-Rector of the Venerable English College, Rome
2004-13	Rector of the Venerable English College, Rome
2014	Parish Priest of the Parish of the Sacred Heart, Wimbledon

Ms Heffernan - Headteacher



DEAR - Drop everything and Read

From the 12th to the 16th of January pupils and staff across the school dropped everything and read during morning registration and for the first twenty minutes of period one. The experience was very positive, with pupils and staff commencing on how much they were enjoying the opportunity to read extensively everyday, and how calm the beginning to every day felt around the building. Many conversations were heard about reading for pleasure in the corridors and the library experienced an unprecedented rise in book loans! As part of our whole-school focus on improving literacy, we require the pupils to have their own reading books as part of their daily equipment and ask that they are also reading at home as much as possible. Reading regularly for pleasure has been shown to improve pupil achievement in every subject. We will be continuing to 'Drop Everything and Read' during morning registration and for at least one lesson a week for the rest of the school year. Please support this initiative further at home by reading regularly with your child, discussing books and checking their reading logs if they are doing the Accelerated Reading

Programme (Year 7 and 8Q). The school has a wide range of books on loan, you can also encourage them to use the local library and if you wish to buy books, there are many discounted retailers online such as thebookpeople.co.uk.

Here are some comments from pupils surveyed about DEAR:

'I hardly use to read but now I am reading more (in school and outside)'

'Because we had to read for 20 minutes it forced me to read and get into the story'

'Reading two books simultaneously: "Divergent" in school and "War and Peace" at home.'

'Sometimes at home I really get easily distracted so when i am at school I don't really get that much distraction.'

'Now I am more interested in books then I was before.'

Ms A Hartley and Ms K Hayward.



Debate Club News

On Thursday 22nd January, pupils from the school Debate Club took part in their first competition. All of them were year 7's and they did extremely well, attaining high speaker points and debating with confidence and skill against teams of year 9's and 10's from other schools. This is what one of the debaters wrote about the experience:

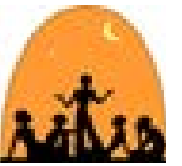
"Yesterday me and people from Cardinal Pole went to Petchey Academy to debate against other schools. We were split into groups of A and B. Unfortunately B lost but A won the debate. As we had a break everyone became nervous, excited and anxious because the next subject was unknown. Therefore we

didn't have a plan for what was next. When we finally got the subject, which was "Parents should have full access to their children's Social Media", everyone started planning everything before we even knew who was our next opponent. Although we fought hard and well in our second debates both A and B lost. We all thought we should have won but either way we shook hands and clapped each other. This was a great experience for everyone, even if we lost. We learnt new strategies such as point of information."

Ms Hartley and Mr Evans.



National Story Telling Week



January 31st - February 7th

Boxers, our community police officers, a MOBO-award winning singer, poets and pupils spent a very enjoyable week telling stories for National Storytelling Week. Stories were told during form-time and lunchtime, with special guests arriving throughout the week to entertain pupils with their life experiences and tall tales.

This was another initiative designed to engage pupils with their literacy. Pupils who were reluctant to speak to an audience at the start of the week, grew in confidence as the week went on and there was a very positive atmosphere of valuing others' talk during the storytelling sessions. Pupils were also able to listen to a range of positive role-models such as PC Hakim and colleagues, Lurine Cato (MOBO- award winner) and Mark Prince (IBF winning boxing champion).

Listening to stories being read aloud or told has been shown to be highly beneficial for young people, even well beyond childhood. It is especially useful for individuals who are 'word-poor' to hear new vocabulary in context. The other benefits of listening to stories include the reinforcement of teachers and adults as reading role-models, and ensuring that our young people see reading as a pleasurable activity. Perhaps you could try this at home.

Thanks particularly to Courtney Brown for his organisation of this event.

Ms Hartley



Poetry Anthology

Cardinal Pole Catholic School Anthology.

It was wonderful to have secured the publication of an Anthology of poetry by our students. It is an inspiring book called 'A Complicated Answer' and I do hope to make excerpts available to you and the book for purchase. My thanks to Raymond Antrobus, our poet in residence, for his work with the students - it would not have been possible without him. I include below the review by Michael Rosen an English children's novelist and poet, the author of 140 books. He was the fifth British Children's Laureate from June 2007 to June 2009. A fantastic accolade to the children.

Ms Gallagher - Head of English

Michael Rosen Review.

I love this book. It tastes and feels of real lives, with all the passion, fears and joys of real people. I love its truth and its imaginings. These are the voices I love reading, not the weird, twisted tales served up on TV reducing young people to clichés. In this book I can hear the thoughts and inner music people who care, who hope, who dream. I hear the voices of people who have lived hard times and good times and who found a way to tell us what it's really like.

Every person who has written something for this book can feel proud and strong. You have taken words and phrases and fashioned them to say what you want to say, say what you need to say, in ways that we can all understand and feel.

I hope that your friends and relatives, anyone you care about, gets to read this book. I think that when they do, they won't think of you, the students of Cardinal Pole and all young people in quite the same way again. They will have in their heads a new angle, a new view of you.

I also hope that anyone reading this will think to themselves, Hey! I could have a go at writing like that, I could have a go at talking on to a page, telling things as they really are, opening up my heart and mind...it doesn't have to be long or grand, it can be just a picture, a view, a single thought...or, it could be a thought, a moment of rage, an insight into what's going on.

This book will spin in the world, like a stick in a candy floss machine, gathering good times as it spins. I am so glad to have read it.

PE Department

It has been great to see so many pupils involved again in the extra curriculum programme at Cardinal Pole. The return of the sports hall after the flood damage means that we can offer a range of clubs free of charge to all pupils and which will continue to improve health, fitness and well being. To make real progress physically in PE it is essential that pupils try to exercise each day for at least one hour. Please invite your son/daughter to look at the extra curriculum sports timetable and identify an activity each day they can be involved in.

A number of pupils continue to represent the school in a range of sports competitions and must continue to attend training and work hard to produce their best performances. Performing at a high standard is never easy and requires lots of practice and determination to succeed. We must always remember that failure is part of the learning process and that high level sportsmen/women learn valuable lessons from failure which contributes to them improving in the future.

The following quote from probably the world's greatest ever basketball player is worth recognition.

'I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.'

Michael Jordan.

Mr Purcell - Head of PE



PE STAR OF THE WEEK WALL

YOU HAVE TO SHOW
EXTRA SPECIAL EFFORT
TO GET ON HERE



CAN I MAKE IT AT FOOTBALL?

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A DREAM AND FOR A LOT OF BOYS IT'S TO PLAY PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL AND ACHIEVE THE REWARDS AND FAME THAT COME WITH IT. THE PURPOSE OF THIS PAGE IS TO MAKE YOU THINK AND BE REALISTIC ABOUT YOUR CHANCES. HAVE THE DREAM AND WORK FOR IT BUT HAVE A PLAN B. THERE IS NO BETTER PLAN B THAN AN EDUCATION SO GET THOSE GRADES AND BE READY IN CASE YOU DON'T ACHIEVE THAT DREAM!

98 PERCENT OF
FOOTBALL SCHOLARS
ARE RELEASED AT 18!

96 PERCENT OF THOSE
THAT SIGN
PROFESSIONAL
CONTRACTS AFTER A
SCHOLARSHIP HAVE
BEEN RELEASED OR
DROP OUT OF THE GAME
BY THE AGE OF 25!

OF THE 9 YEAR OLDS AT
ACADEMIES ONLY 1
PERCENT WILL BE
STILL THERE AT 14!

ADVICE:
TAKE PART IN A RANGE
OF SPORTS AS THIS
WILL GIVE YOU THE
PHYSICAL LITERACY
REQUIRED TO BE GOOD
AT THE ONE YOU WANT
TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN.
THERE IS NO
SUBSTITUTE FOR HARD
WORK, IF YOU BELIEVE
YOU ARE GIFTED AND DO
NOT NEED TO WORK
HARD YOU WILL NEVER
MAKE IT!
WORK HARD AT SCHOOL
SO THAT YOU HAVE A
CHANCE FOR ANOTHER
CAREER CHOICE.



THE FACTS ABOUT FIZZY DRINKS

WOULD YOU DRINK A GLASS OF SUGAR? MAYBE YOU ARE THROUGH FIZZY/SOFT DRINKS!

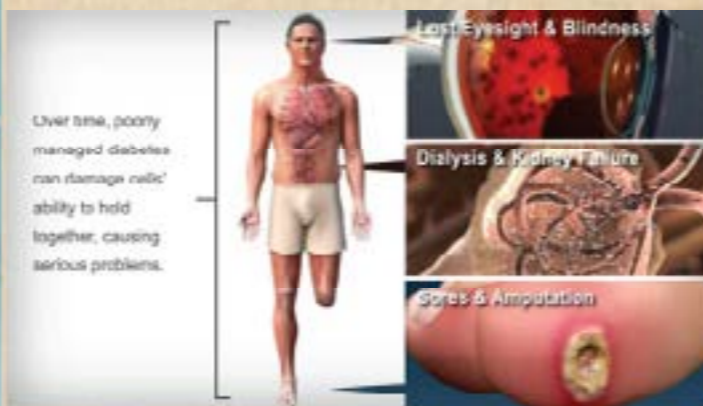


FIZZY DRINKS CONTAIN AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF SUGAR. WE NEVER REALLY THINK ABOUT IT, BUT LONG TERM LARGE CONSUMPTION CAN CONTRIBUTE TO TH RISK OF DEVELOPING DIABETES!!!

Diabetes develops when glucose can't enter the body's cells to be used as fuel. This happens because either...



...or the key (insulin) is unable to unlock the door properly and/or



I SEE LOTS OF PUPILS DRINKING THESE DRINKS ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL. LOOK AT ALL THE SUGAR! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYONE PUT THAT IN A CUP OF TEA? YOU WOULD THINK THEY WERE CRAZY!

Parent Drop-In

Feedback from Parent drop-in session.

- Parents are in support of the new proposed parents evening format and believe this will be easier for parents to manage with family and work commitments.
- Acknowledge that school is working hard to improve the behaviour for learning.
- Like receiving the weekly achievement point and behaviour letter.
- Have seen a rise in the variety and frequency of rewards this academic year.

Action Points:

- Would like students to have community service as a regular punishment for poor behaviour.
- More opportunities for families to meet each other through informal events.
- To improve the registration process of parents evening.

Uniform Reminder

Coats:

Only Cardinal Pole outdoor coats are to be worn. Students arriving to school wearing any other coat or non-uniform outer wear will have it confiscated.

Bags:

Plain black bags or rucksacks only, large enough to accommodate textbooks and exercise books. Drawstring PE Bags are available from the PE Department. Bags with large or colourful logos are not part of our school uniform. The school has plain black bags available to buy from the School Office for £8.

Jewellery:

One small pair of gold or silver earrings is permitted, and a wristwatch. All other items will be confiscated and will only be returned to a Parent or Carer at the end of each half term.

Hairstyles and makeup:

Extreme or fashion hairstyles are not permitted. These include brightly coloured weaves or hair extensions for girls and Mohicans styles or shaved patterns in the hair or eyebrows for boys. This is not an exhaustive list and it is for the school to advise on extreme or fashion hairstyles. Make-up, including nail varnish and nail extensions, is not permitted. Long hair should be tied back.

Sixth Form Students:

Our sixth form students are role models for our younger children and we therefore have high expectations of these students' dress and appearance. The general rule is that Sixth form students wear black and white business-like attire (NO trainers or canvas shoes, jeans, leggings, tight or revealing clothing, hoodies or extreme hairstyles).

We very much appreciate your co-operation in ensuring that all our students at Cardinal Pole arrive suitably dressed and ready to concentrate on their core business-study and learning! If you are experiencing any difficulties in obtaining an article of uniform, or wish to discuss a financial issue, please contact your child's Pastoral Support Manager (PSM) or Head of Learning (HOL) at the school.

Ms Laws - Deputy Headteacher

Attendance and Punctuality

All pupils are expected to attend school regularly and punctually

Punctuality.

- Pupils are expected to arrive at school for 8.30am to ensure they are ready in their form class for the start of the school day at 8.35am.
- Pupils arriving late for school will be required to sign the late book under the direction of Miss Brewin, Attendance Officer. A late detention will be given at lunchtime for lateness and pupils must follow the late detention procedures.
- Notes or reasons for lateness can be explained at the late detention where appropriate action will be taken. It is the school's decision as to whether or not a detention is warranted.
- If a student receives two or more lates in the same week they will have a Saturday detention from the hours of 8.45am to 10.45am. Behaviour points are recorded for lateness, failure to attend the late detention will result in a two hour Headteacher detention.

Appointments.

- Appointments for doctor, hospital and dentist, etc. should be made during the school holidays or weekends.
- However, should an appointment only be available during school time, pupils will be allowed to leave the school premises on showing proof of an appointment to the relevant Head of Year and/or Attendance Officer. No pupil will be allowed to leave the school premises without such an appointment card.

Absences.

- If pupils are not in school there must have a justifiable reason and parents should telephone the Attendance Officer before 08.35 am on each day of absence on 020 8985 5150 x2104
- All absences must be explained by a letter from the parent or carer. If the absence is for 1 or 2 days the note should be brought in by the pupil on their return. For longer absences the note should be posted to the school. Telephone calls explaining absences should always be followed by a letter.

Term Time Holidays.

- Under regulation 8 of The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 1995, there is a discretionary power for leave to be granted for the purpose of an annual family holiday during term time.
- The Headteacher will consider carefully any applications for term time holidays made at least four weeks in advance. Only in exceptional circumstances will leave of absence be granted and as a general rule permission will not be given for holidays in term time.
- Please do not make travel arrangements before discussing the matter with the school.

Attendance Officer Miss Brewin.

- The school has an appointed Attendance Officer who monitors attendance and punctuality and raises any concerns with Heads of Learning and The Learning Trust's Education Welfare Office. The Attendance Officer can recommend legal action should it be deemed necessary.
- The school has an automated service which calls parents whose child is absent on a daily basis, unless the parent has called in to report that absence.



Keep in contact

If you have recently changed your mobile number, home telephone number or postal address, please inform the school office as soon as possible. You can do this by calling us on 020 8985 5150 or in person between the hours of 8am - 4pm each day (during term time only).

School Chaplaincy and Liturgical Life



World Holocaust Memorial!

Keeping the memory alive.

“The memory of this enormous tragedy that so severely struck mainly Jewish people should represent for all a constant warning so that the horrors of the past are not repeated, so that every form of hatred and racism is overcome, and so that the respect and dignity of the human person is promoted.”

(Pope Benedict XVI in 27th Jan 2013).

The 26th - 30th January was tagged the week of the Holocaust Memorial. The school Chaplaincy in conjunction with the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in our school focused the thoughts and minds of the Year 9 students in particular and the entire school in general on the evils of the 2nd World War - **The Holocaust**. Whilst the whole school had assemblies on the Holocaust, the Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit the Imperial War Museum at Lambeth North. The Year 9 students were able to have a look at different parts of the museum namely;

i. The 1st and 2nd World War Galleries

ii. The Family in Wartime

iii. The Secrets of War

The assemblies also delved into other evils of war in the world, especially in the troubled spots of the world where human rights are being denied. A special attention was paid to Hackney, noting us as a melting pot of different cultures.

Finally, the importance of Family, Peace and equality of individuals as God's Children, sharing in His image and likeness should spur us all and value each other, so that the horrors of the Holocaust or anything that resembles it, will never repeat itself.

The Season of Lent



“Make your hearts firm!” (James 5:8)

As individuals too, we are tempted by indifference. Flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. What can we do to avoid being caught up in this spiral of distress and powerlessness?

(Pope Francis - Lenten Message 2015)

The season of lent begins during the half-term break (18th February). Kindly be reminded of the importance of the beginning of Lent, “Ash Wednesday” and the need for all to visit the nearest Catholic parish to us, in order to receive the imposition of ashes on our foreheads as a sign of our repentance. The importance of **Fasting** (giving up a meal for the sake of Christ and the poor), **Prayers** and **Almsgiving** (Charity to the less privileged), should not be overlooked. Also going to the sacrament of reconciliation and getting closer to God is paramount at this time and always.

In Cardinal Pole School, the Pope’s Message is taken with all seriousness. This cannot be ignored either because our School’s ethos based on the Gospel values is closely linked to the Pope’s Lenten message. Therefore, as a community of faith based in a school environment we are embarking on the following;

- Stations of the Cross for all form Groups in the school chapel.
- The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (**2nd - 13th March 2015**). Priests from the deanery will visit the school and Students will have the opportunity to approach God in this wonderful sacrament. This is anchored by the RE department.
- The school chaplaincy with the Science department is working together on the theme of “ **Science and faith promoting life**”.
- Charity works with the Catholic Children’s Society and St Bakhita Bag Pack will be embarked on, of which money is raised to assist a lot of Children in London and to support Children in Sudan battling with poverty and education respectively.
- Attending the Mass of the Good Shepherd at Westminster Cathedral on the 18th March 2015.

As a Catholic community, during this season of lent, we do not want to sit back and be indifferent. With God’s help, we want to *“Make our hearts and the hearts of our neighbours firm.”* (cf. James 5:8).

Fr Benedict - School Chaplain

FrogPlay is here!



During some recent assemblies your child would have been shown how to access FrogPlay and revise a subject of their choice from a bank of 150,000 questions developed by teachers covering GCSE, KS3 and mapped to the 2014 curriculum.


What is it?

A site dedicated to encourage your child to work independently with the option of playing games to keep them engaged.

Why use it?

Studies show that students who use e-learning resources and do independent homework could make an extra 4 - 5 months’ worth of progress compared to those who do not*.

How to access it?

- Visit the www.cardinalpole.co.uk
- Click on the  icon.
- Your child will then need use their normal school login details.

Username

Password

Multi-platform device access:

FrogPlay has been optimised for iOS and Android, so your child can access FrogPlay via a tablet or a phone as well as a PC or MAC.



The FrogLearn app:

Available from the App Store, scan the QR code for the direct link:



Mr J Spence

School Council

The Year Councils and Whole School Council continue to work on helping to make positive changes in the school. The Whole School Council present their ideas to the Senior Leadership Team on a termly basis. So far this year they have helped make the following changes:

1. Improving the school dining experience. Feedback has been taken on board - a new break time menu is arriving soon with more variety and lower priced options.
2. More exciting break time activities - Games club now runs on a Thursday for Year 7's and film screenings are shown in cold weather.
3. School Rules - Students have helped us move to a one way system on the stairs. We have moved 'to a keep on the left' rule to allow easier movement around the building.

In the coming term the council are looking at the school's impact on the environment and increasing student awareness of social and political issues.

Mr J Allison - Assistant headteacher



6th Form News

Future progression for Year 13

University applications have now been completed for Year 13 students and the offers are coming in from a number of excellent universities.

70% of the applications that have been made to Russell Group Universities have received offers, with many others still waiting to hear back.

We are pleased to announce that offers have been made to Princess Ashilokun to read English Language and Literature at the University of Oxford and to Rikesh Dahya to read Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge.

Students have been pleased to gain offers in courses in Nursing, Law, Pharmacy and Chemistry, all at top universities. Several students are also pursuing alternative pathways; some are applying to school leavers programmes with firms such as Ernst & Young and others to apprenticeships with organisations such as TfL and The Challenge.

We wish them every success in their upcoming A level examinations and final coursework submissions that will help secure their futures.

Sixth form progress and applications for 2015

You will already be aware that the school has performed exceptionally well Post 16, securing 'ALPS' outstanding for three years in a row - the only school in Hackney to do so and one of the few nationally, the school has been graded by ALPS as in the top 2% of schools nationally - a wonderful accolade.

Applications to the sixth form are now closed - we were overwhelmed by the number of applications including over fifty from external candidates and will be interviewing shortly.

Ms J Allison - Assistant Headteacher