



‘Cardinal Pole Catholic School is a community of *service* guiding young people on a path to *opportunity*, *aspiration*, and *reward*, founded on Catholic values.’

HEADTEACHERS ONLINE PARENT FORUM

Friday 16th June 2023

Mr Hall explains purpose of meeting for those new to the forum– Meeting takes place fortnightly and is about wider range of events and policies taking place in school – not individual student questions. These are to be directed to the HOY and PSM or you can wait to the end of the meeting and we can take your query and pass on to the year team.

Opportunity for questions and comments - please use raise the hand option or comments in the chat field if no microphone access.

Year 11 or 13 –For the vast majority of these students, their public exams conclude today. They have done extraordinarily well and we couldn't have asked for more of an effort.

Many schools send students home on study leave during exams but we don't. We have run Drop Down Days.

They have received their leavers hoodies. We look forward to welcoming them back on 30th June for leavers party. Year 11 at start of July for prom.

75th Anniversary of HMT Windrush – letter to follow with details of events. Huge programme in place. Focus in PSHE so young people are aware of its historical significance. Poetry competition (which parents are also welcome to enter) and guest speakers. School Council will be working with local artist on a Windrush Mural.

Multiple trips including to The London Docklands Windrush Museum. Special menu on Thursday taking place in canteen. Trying to get patties for the pod – please let us know if you have a contact.

Steel drum workshop and Soca Dance classes.

Regular attendees to this meeting will know reading is a huge focus for us and all students will have access to a book and guided reading. Over a million words read in year 7 via accelerated reading programme.

Next Friday 23rd June – School will have TES Awards ceremony. We have been nominated for Secondary School of the Year award. Major of Hackney will be in attendance as well as Director of Education and Chair of Governors. We are exceptionally proud to have been nominated.

Working with year 5 - 18 key feeder schools have been visiting. This is in keeping with our mission to ensure they know what Cardinal Pole has to offer.

Two sports days coming up. Last year we had to cancel as we had an exceptionally warm day – 35 degrees. We hold sports day at Mabley Green where there is no shade so it would not have been safe. There will be a traditional sports day and also Cardinal Pole Olympics. 6th July for Olympics for Year 7 -10 students. However, this may be a day of Strike Action. If this occurs, it will take place on Friday 7th July. We will notify parents as soon as we are aware.

Very fortunate at Cardinal Pole we have not had to move to full closure during strike days. Several schools have had to go to full closure. We intend to keep this in place unless there are not enough staff to run school safely.

Education should be holistic and we believe this at Cardinal Pole so Drama is also of importance for our young people that study this at GCSE and A Level.

New school gym - Students should be able to access in next two weeks. Will be used as part of PE curriculum. Students in sixth form to have access outside of their PE lessons. It is a commercial graded quality gym.

Parents are welcome to visit by booking an appointment via emailing enquiries@cardinalpole.co.uk

Teacher recruitment crisis and 10,000 vacancies nationally, lots of students attending a school without a qualified teacher in September. We can tell you we are fully staffed and we have had the lowest movement of staff leavers. Lots of consistency in the school and the staff young people know will, in the main, be the same for September.

Questions

- 1) Warm in classrooms, not all windows open for ventilation. Some students are dozing off due to feeling lethargic and not allowed to fill water bottles.

Answer: No shortage of water and students are encouraged to fill their bottles. Students are not obliged to wear blazers around school during the hot weather. Huge proportion of students wear jumpers and we encourage them not to wear these during summer months. If it is declared official heatwave we will review wearing ties but those wearing jumpers, not wearing a tie makes little difference. Windows are on automatic system when there is a fire alarm the windows close. Windows are open but students cannot see them because of panelling system. Young people want air con in every room but this isn't something schools in UK have, but we will monitor.

- 2) After school clubs – can they change mid-year?

Answer: Students can change if they wish, it might be what they are changing to is full but any queries to go to Mr Rahman or stay on at the end of this meeting and we will take your details.

- 3) Year 11 – some are finishing exams today. My son said they are not meant to be coming back to school until end of June. Are we going to get letters?

Also, a huge thank you to you and your staff, especially year 11 teachers as not all schools do drop down sessions but I can see the difference in my sons learning. Very grateful for support past few weeks.

Answer: yes, I will pass on and thank you for your support also. Huge amount of effort from staff but we should rightly give our young people the best effort right until the final minute.

A letter will go out but they are not back until 30th June unless otherwise communicated. Excitement was yesterday giving out the hoodies.

- 4) Extra-curricular – we used to get an email at beginning of each term on this and availability. Don't remember seeing one.

Answer: Mr Rahman will look into this for you. Clubs do start to tail off towards the end of the year as the reward trips begin but big push is September through to Easter. We have 81% of all students that attend at least one but mostly 2, each week. There should be something for everyone and we have things like coding clubs with a waiting list. Year 7-10 next year looking at 25 hours compulsory of extracurricular for all students.