



7th January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back from the Christmas break. I hope that you are all renewed and refreshed, starting a new term, ready to learn with full pencil cases and reading books to hand. The school continues to focus on progress and I ask for your support in the upcoming reading assessments and re-testing. We welcome three new members of staff this term – Mr Higgins, English Department, Ms Coonan, History/Geography Department and Ms Joy, Science Department, we wish them long and happy careers at Cardinal Pole.

Our Advent charity collections have proved extremely successful, with the Food Bank collecting in 781 items, the Shoe Bank collecting in 584 pairs of shoes and £1,243 being collected from the various fundraising events and donations last term. These will be distributed, to the Catholic Children's Society, Caritas, CAFOD, St Joseph's Hospice, SVP, The Passage and Mary's Meals.

Further good news comes from the New Year's Honours List with one of our former students, Esther Fajoye, being awarded an MBE for her services to children and young people as a social worker. Many congratulations to her and her family!

Brexit: During this time of change, Please see attached to this letter, details sent through from the Diocese regarding the Settlement Scheme for EU families.

Early Closure – Thursday 16th January 2020: In order to support the students with their impending reading assessments and re-testing, the school will be closing and students dismissed at **2pm on Thursday 16th January 2020.**

Uniform: As the cold weather sets in, you are reminded that your child should wear to and from school **only** the Cardinal Pole Catholic School coat. Non-uniform items of clothing brought into school **will be confiscated** and your child will receive a warning, if the item returns into school for a second time then the item will be confiscated for the remainder of the half term and will need collecting by a parent/carer. If the cost of purchasing a Cardinal Pole School coat is an issue, please contact your child's Head of Year, as the St Vincent de Paul Society have agreed, where need is established, to fund our school coats. All students must wear school shoes (plain low heel black leather shoes worn below the ankle (not suede or patent). No ankle boots/boots, including "Kicker" boots. No trainers or shoes which look like trainers. Black laces only. Please also note that only Cardinal Pole School scarves and hats are permitted and must be removed upon entry into the building. The correct school tie must be worn at all times. These can be purchased via Parentpay and collected from the school office once the payment has been made.

Some students have returned to school with new hairstyles and facial hair. Can I remind everyone that our policy on uniform (as stated on the website) requires hairstyles/colours to be natural and no extreme hairstyles or symbols cut into the hair or eyebrows and no facial hair. Please note that the school's uniform policy also states that there is to be no facial hair for students in years 7-11.

Mobile Phones: Can I remind parents that mobile phones are **not** allowed in school. They are not only a distraction to learning but also make students vulnerable to mugging on the streets and bullying via Social Media. If your child is found to be in possession of a mobile phone, this will be confiscated and collection is only permitted by an appropriate Adult on a Friday after school. To ensure their safety, all students are required to go straight home after school and not remain in the local area in school uniform. Students involved in incidents outside of school will receive sanctions.

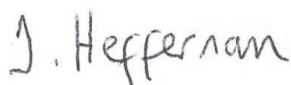
ParentPay: Please could I ask that all parents/carers ensure that their child's lunch account via ParentPay is topped up on a regular basis to ensure that your child is always able to purchase food from the canteen. It is also possible via ParentPay to set up a reminder text or email so that their account does not run out.

Half Term and Key Dates: Please note the following key dates for this half term:-

Thursday 9 th January 2020	:	Year 11 Parents' Evening – 4.30pm-7.30pm.
Thursday 16 th January 2020	:	Early Closure for students at 2pm.
Thursday 23 rd January 2020	:	Year 10 Parents' Evening – 4.30pm-7.30pm.
Thursday 6 th February 2020	:	Year 8 Options & Parents' Evening – 4.30pm-7.30pm.
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February 2020	:	Half Term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms J Heffernan
EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement on the Settlement Scheme for EU citizens

The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all EU citizens who have made their home here. As the majority are themselves Catholic this is a special pastoral concern for us.

The Church has experienced first-hand the extensive contribution that people from across Europe have made to our society. They are an integral and valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.

We also recognise the evidence that immigration from Europe has not undermined opportunities for UK citizens, but rather brought considerable economic and social benefits.

It is clear that since the 2016 referendum many people living here have faced profound uncertainty and insecurity about their future.

Although the reassurances offered by senior politicians are important, people have been given far too little information or binding commitments about their right to stay.

For some this has been worsened by the appalling rise in hate crime, which has left them feeling unwelcome or even threatened in the country that has become their home.

The Settlement Scheme

The government will soon launch a Settlement Scheme, offering EU citizens living here a legal route to remain.

While this is an important step we understand that, especially for people who have contributed to our society over many years, it may feel unjust and divisive that they are now required to apply for permission to stay.

We also expect that some people, particularly those who are already vulnerable, may face difficulties in practically accessing the scheme, leaving their immigration status at risk.



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

We strongly oppose the decision to charge people for securing the rights they already have. This is not only unprincipled but will also create a barrier for larger families or people facing financial difficulties.

The Bishops' Conference has made representations on these issues to ministers and through the Home Office working groups set up to discuss the Settlement Scheme. We will continue to do so as it is implemented.

Applying for the scheme

Notwithstanding our concerns about these principles and practicalities, it remains a fact that EU citizens must apply if they are to protect their existing rights and their place in our society.

We therefore ask Catholic parishes, schools and organisations to bring the Settlement Scheme to the attention of all who need to avail of it and to be aware of vulnerable people who may face barriers to applying or not realise that they need to apply.

In particular we encourage you to signpost people towards the official information on the Settlement Scheme:

[gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families)

And to make use of the various information resources available:

[gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit)

Finally we urge the whole Catholic community to take up Pope Francis' call to welcome, protect, promote and help to integrate everyone who has made their home here - with particular concern at present for our European brothers and sisters.

Bishop Paul McAleenan

Lead Bishop for Migration and Asylum

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales