



‘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 10th November 2023

Mr O’Donoghue took this Parent Forum on behalf of Mr Hall.

Welcome Back after our first two-week half term. Good feedback was provided from parents on this, the extension to the October half term was welcomed.

Reminder that individual questions about your child should be raised with the relevant year team and should not be discussed at this Forum.

Very calm week this week in terms of behaviour and there has been a focused re-entry. Very positive.

Year 11 Parents’ Evening last night, which was very well attended – good conversations took place. This is the term when most of their work is done, their mock examinations are in January and we are focused on ensuring that we get all the content completed by Christmas. This will be a significant benefit to Year 11. I was Head of Year 11 both here and at my previous school in Tottenham so I am experienced in this year group’s needs.

Interventions and Saturday school for Year 11 will run from January onwards but currently there is a non-compulsory supervised Saturday study class from 9am-1pm which is to give these students a quiet place to study.

There will be a two-minute silence taking place today for Remembrance at 11am, if the weather allows us to do this. Assemblies have been run on this all week subject and the students have responded in a very dignified way.

Anti-bullying week begins on Monday which includes Odd Socks Day for Year 7 and the Year 11 Student Leadership Team will be holding an Anti-Bullying Stall. We ensure that all students know who to report issues to and there is focused work on ensuring that this doesn’t happen in the first place. A recent student survey showed that any issues are dealt with effectively by the school.

Social Media: There have been lots of posts on Black History Month and future posts on Anti-bullying week – this is a good way to showcase all our school events. Please make sure you keep an eye on our Instagram page.

There is an external agency coming in to do a Year 7 Road Safety Workshop next week. Our school is located at a very busy junction in Hackney and although staff do man the crossings before and after school it is very busy and students need to take care when crossing without adult supervision. Rail safety have also approached us and they will be carrying out workshops later on this year. Parents agreed that these workshops were an excellent idea.

Our Poet In Residence has been working with our students to put together our Poem Anthology, the book launch takes place next week. Our students have written wonderful poems. Literacy work very important with our young students.

The main academic focus for this half term is the API examinations which takes place in four weeks’ time for years 7-10 and 12. Year 13 will continue in lessons as normal and Year 11 will have a specific programme which will include Maths, Science, History and PSHE work. API week begins week commencing 11th December when the school timetable will be suspended during this time. There will be lots of work going on preparing students on revision skills. Exam timetables will go out in a couple of weeks and then you can review and support them with this revision. There are two assessment points in the school year, one at Christmas and

one at the end of the summer. We also include sessions on exam stress and anxiety in this programme of support.

Parents agreed that help with revision was very important as their children were not aware of what this was. Mr O'Donoghue informed parents that this support will be carried out in the weeks leading up to the exams, but is a skill that is learnt over time and will be repeated with every year group.

Year 13 Parents' Evening takes place on Thursday 23rd November, letters should have already been received. Please attend.

No Head of Year Parent Forums this half term due to poor attendance.

Parent Questions:

Q.1: Dad of Year 7 student: Has all year groups been involved in the anthology? Only year groups 8-13 as this book was compiled prior to the students in Year 7 joining us. They will have an opportunity at the end of this year to participate in the next edition. Our spoken word competitions that take place at the end of every year are amazing and very moving. Definitely worth attending.

Q.2: Two Mums of Year 7 students: Can the children continue to come to school in PE Kits as the new kit is lovely. We are aware that this is allowed by some schools but this was only because of the lack of the PE changing rooms and now the school has spent considerable money enlarging and improving these facilities we have returned to previous rules. During this time, there was also a lack in consistency by students on when and what to wear, so there is a need to standardise this. However, this request will be fed back to Mr Hall.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A O'Donoghue', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr A O'Donoghue
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER