



'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 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Welcome.** This Parent Forum takes place every two weeks, Mr O'Donoghue will be conducting the next one on the 10<sup>th</sup> November as I am out on a school inspection.

**Building works** are now complete, we have two additional Sixth Form classrooms and a brand-new set of PE changing rooms from Monday. Students are required to bring in their PE kit in a plain black bag (no logo) from now on. No PE kit should be worn to school.

**Year 11 Saturday study space:** School is open every Saturday between 9am and 1pm, students can stay for as long or short a period as they wish and no school uniform is required to be worn. We have had a very popular response to this with just over 40 students attending last weekend.

**We are in the middle of Black History Month** and a comprehensive programme was sent out to parents earlier this week. We have the Tree of Life group coming into school, a carnival history workshop, guest authors and a steel pan workshop. We have recently purchased a set of these steel pans for the students to learn on. Friday will be cultural dress day for staff and students and a trip already taken place to see Hamilton at the theatre, an interform competition and sixth form food celebration.

**KPMG investment bank** have also recently visited school carrying out workshops with Years 9 & 12 as well as English work shop with professors for the Sixth Form.

**An online safety workshop** for parents takes on this morning at 11.15am, there are still places available if you wish to attend.

**Sixth Form Open Evening:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October - internal students from Year 11 will be attending the event during the day (periods 5 & 6) and external students will be attending from 4pm. The level of interest in our school is growing year on year.

**HOY Parent Forum online meetings** start next week.

**Flu vaccines** are being administered next Friday 20<sup>th</sup> in school for years 7-11 by the school nurse team, please note that these are not injections they are nasal sprays.

**A reminder** that this October half term is for two weeks, we finish next Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October and return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**The school** has been nominated for the Mental Health & Well-being award by Future Ed which takes place in December. Ms John has also been nominated for Mentor of the Year as a separate award. We will let you know the outcome as soon as we hear.

**Extra-curricular activities:** All students are expected to do at least one activity.

**Open Morning tours** for secondary transfer have officially stopped however, if you are parents who have been here for several years and would like to see the school during the day, we would be more than happy to organise a tour for you.

### Parent Questions:

**Q.1: Will the school be supplying the Year 12 students with iPads or tablets?** Head: Unfortunately, we do not have the financial capacity to be able to do this. Computer rooms are always dedicated to those students doing Health & Social Care and Business subjects. Happy to look at later down the line.

**Q.2: I am having difficulty accessing a club online, the Tree of Life.** Head: Mr Rahman, Assistant Headteacher has oversight of all the extra curricular activities and he will be able to help you with this.

**Q.3: How do students get involved in BHM activities? Head: By using EVOLVE – there are different events on different days. The letter that went out to parents also contains the link to this, Mr Rahman also runs these events, please feel free to contact him.**

**Q.4: Would it be possible to have the Parent workshops online as well? We will look to repeat today's workshop if possible later in the year so that you can attend.**

**Q.5: Does EVOLVE work for the Sixth Form as well as years 7-11? Head: Yes, it does, we will arrange for you to get a link to the site.**

**Q.6: Are there work experience opportunities for students? Head: These happen at the end of Year 10 and 12. Our Careers Guidance Manager, Mr Howard works across 3 schools and he organises this as well as aspiration trips to universities etc. Last year we decided to make these trips accessible to the younger year groups and started with Year 8.**

**Q.7: Would work experience be available for younger students? Head: Employers prefer not to have students younger than year 10 for insurance purposes. But there are always various different workshops that take place in school for all year groups, schools are required to meet the Gatsby benchmark and lots of our alumni come into school and speak to our students so they can see what our ex-students have achieved.**

**Q.8: My son has chosen 3 extracurricular activities can he still sign up for more? Head: Yes of course, however there are some activities that have a waiting list because they are full i.e. the gym, coding club and chess club.**

**Parent 1: Thank you to the school and its teachers for helping my son, who has been here for 3 years now, to grow up into a lovely young man. Head: We are very pleased to hear that and we appreciate your comments.**

**Parent 2: My young person is doing very well at Cardinal Pole and is getting lots of support which is deeply appreciated. Head: Thank you, that's good to hear.**



Mr A Hall  
**HEADTEACHER**