



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

HEAD OF SCHOOL ONLINE PARENT FORUM

Tuesday 11th March 2025 - 1.30pm

We are approaching the half way point in the term where the focus is Year 11 & 13 exams. Year 11, 13 and some selected Year 12 students have recently completed their mock exams, the data from which has been submitted recently and will enable us to draw up the appropriate interventions. Year 11 had a Mock Results day on Friday where they collected these in envelopes just like the real day. This encourages student to make a final push before the real exams. Year 13 will have their data submitted on Tuesday. Year 11 have 27 school days until their exams begin, due to Easter falling late this year, it means that the exams have been more spread out and begin on Thursday 8th May.

Punctuality to intervention sessions and a commitment to attending the Saturday sessions is absolutely vital in this process. Speaking and listening MFL exams commence on 2nd and 3rd April and Art practical on 22nd/23rd April and 3D design on the same days, with Food practical taking place on the 25th April. There is no time to lose.

Year 11 & 13 parents will receive a report from the school shortly based on their child's mock results. The students will also be supported further by Easter and half term revision sessions. The Intervention timetable re-starts this week with period 7 on a Tuesday, Weds and Thursday being given over for English, Maths and Science sessions. This Saturday there are Health & Fitness, Geography and Music sessions.

Primary school workshops have continued this half term. It is important that we maintain relationships with our local schools, it is imperative at this time continue to attract as many new students as possible. We welcomed, Daubeney, St Scholastica's and Southwold this week. Thanks to those teachers who put these workshops on during their free time.

Year 8 Parents' Evening takes place this Thursday 13th March, letters went out two weeks ago. Please ensure you attend. If you cannot, please contact us and we can arrange for information to be given to you. A Year 8 student Mass is taking place on the same day.

Ash Wednesday liturgies took place last week which went very well, it was a very positive week.

Year 11 Parents, there are guidance meetings taking place next week on Wednesday and Thursday, students will be meeting with SLT and the Sixth Form team to discuss their Sixth Form options. These applications are now on a centralised software system called Applica.

Year 13 Drama A Level Exam performance takes place on Friday 21st March and the department are also currently rehearsing for the whole school production of Matilda which takes place during the last week of term.

Year 9 vaccinations take place on Tuesday 25th March, please complete the relevant approval forms for this.

Next Parent Forum will take place on Tuesday 25th March.

Thank you for your support.

Parent Points/Questions:

Parent 1: If my Year 11 has no exam paper are they still expected to be in school or remain at home? AOD: The school operates a drop-down timetable from 9th May and students will be invited in to these revision sessions. This often covers the exam that takes place the next day etc, there tends to be some early finishes but most students are required to be on site most of the day. A letter will be sent out with details. The final exam will take place approx. 17th June.

Parent 2: Thanks to the school for making efforts to ensure the students go home straight away after school. However, if clubs are cancelled, please can you let parents know as soon as possible. Thanks to Mr Power for being present to let her son know that this was cancelled. AOD: You should receive an email notification if this is cancelled via EVOLVE will forward this information on. Sometimes we do not know the club has been cancelled, if a member of staff has gone home ill or the external provider has been delayed.

Parent 2: Noticed - students hanging around after school, can the staff extend their outside duties to Well Street near Tesco? Parents 2: Parents - please ensure that your children are at home. AOD: We do have staff outside and we do extend the patrols to Well Street when I have issues that have been raised. We also extend this to Mare Street. Instructions to all Cardinal Pole students are given that it is expected that they go straight home and then change if they wish to go out again. This is the same for most schools in the borough but we do need parental support on this.

Parent 3: Money was taken from my Year 8 daughter's blazer during PE and nothing has been addressed. AOD: The PE Department has been spoken to and a new regime has been put in place, where no student is allowed to leave a lesson to go back into the changing room. These changing rooms are monitored at all times by staff. There is no CCTV which covers this entrance but if we find evidence of theft we do the issue the appropriate sanction and there is an option with parents to take the matter to the Police. We also work with the young person and our Safer School's Officer. Sorry we haven't identified anyone in your child's particular case.

Parent 4: Your uniform provider has run out of the size 38-40 blazers and it has been like this for the last six months. They say that they are unsure of when there will be a replacement. AOD: We were aware that some sizes were currently unavailable but did not realise that it has been going on for most of the academic year. We appreciate that this is a compulsory uniform item and will address directly with them.

Yours in service,



Mr A O'Donoghue
HEAD OF SCHOOL