



The Friday Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)

Reading is one of the most important skills children will ever learn. It is a vital skill that children need to be able to excel at school and achieve personal growth.

As your child may have told you, all pupils at Cardinal Wiseman now are expected to read for 30 minutes every day – through our Drop Everything and Read programme (DEAR).

Before the Christmas holidays all pupils were tested during their English lessons to find out their reading age and from this, pupils have selected an appropriate book for them to read daily. This reading practice will allow all pupils to perfect their reading skills.

Once your child has finished reading their book they will need to take a quiz to show their understanding of what they have read. By answering these quizzes pupils can earn points which will lead to rewards throughout the year.

As a parent or carer you have an important role to play in monitoring and encouraging the reading your child does. I encourage you to get your child to read at home on a regular basis. Later in the term you will receive details of how you can access the information about your child's progress.

If you have any questions about the Accelerated Reading Program, please do not hesitate to contact the librarian or your child's homeroom teacher.

Year 7 Trip to Symphony Hall and Library of Birmingham

On **Monday 27th January 2014**, we have arranged for the whole of year 7 to attend a concert at Symphony Hall in the International Convention Centre, Birmingham and visit the new Library of Birmingham.

The concert has been specially put together for students in Key Stage 3 so that they have a greater understanding of the orchestra and have the opportunity to listen to great orchestral music from Beethoven to the music from the Harry Potter films performed by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO). This will be followed by a visit to the magnificent new Library of Birmingham. Students will be given a short guided tour of the library.

Pupils in year 7 have been given a letter about this trip. It is essential that parents of year 7 students fill in the consent form and the medical form. Failure to do so will result in your child staying in school. Forms need to be returned to reception by **Tuesday 21st January** at the latest.

Alton Castle – Years 7 and 8

Alton Castle is a residential Catholic youth retreat centre run by the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Schools from the Diocese can take children to enlighten them both spiritually and morally. Each activity includes an element of reflection and discussion and prayer, and it is through these activities that each child is challenged and encouraged to find hidden strength, learn new skills, and experience achievement as part of a team and as an individual.



Over the past few years we have taken children from Year 7 and 8. For some of our children this was their first time sleeping away from home, and they were encouraged to become more independent for themselves, for example, making their own beds, tidying up after themselves, working and thinking of others.

We left school after lunch and arrived in time to sort out bedrooms, got put into groups and have dinner. There was an activity on the first night called the night line walk in the dark and we had a chance to meet children from the other schools that were on the same retreat.

The children had a choice of lots of different activities, including survival, rock climbing, off-road biking, trekking, adventure course and a night line walk.


Following these activities, we had dinner, got showered and got dressed up for Mass and the disco.

Our pupils were great ambassadors to the school and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience of the retreat. Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement in all we do,

Have a good weekend,

Yours sincerely

Christina Stewardson

Dates for your diary	
Monday 27th January - Year 7 trip to Symphony Hall and Library of Birmingham	
Week beginning 27th January – Year 10 Exam Week	



STAR OF THE WEEK!

Dominique Artwell (11F)

for completing a large amount of extended learning.

Nominated by Mr Badmoss



STARS OF THE WEEK!

All years



Student	Class	Staff	Reason
Sinead Brennan	11S	Mr Crawford	Very hard work in English! Well done!
Jack Whitehurst	8Y		Consistent hard work in English
Kelroy Meade Kevin Igbinomwanhia	7a3 PE	Mr Matthews	For depth understanding of key terminology and applying this within independent task well. Keep up the fantastic work and continue to push yourselves further.
Brandon Ward Simon Harper	11	Mr Matthews	For superb attitude during Physical Education lessons! Keep up the positive work!
Carrie Gallagher		Mrs Jenks	For improved attendance.
Panashe Goremusandu	9	Dr Beavan	For an excellent start to the GCSE course. Good to have you on board!
Richard Uwagboe	8F	Mr Toms	For much improved behaviour and effort in Spanish. We are really proud.
Thomas McDonald and Courtney Harris	8F		For always trying hard and working well in Spanish.
Ariann Rose Hubertas Varanauskas Chris Mokanda	7Y		For excellent progress and behaviour in Spanish.
Chloe Darby Woyengipreye Tuaweri Decklan Prosser Joshua Clougher Kayleigh Blair	7S		For showing brilliant focus during Spanish lessons and always trying their best.
Ryan Whatley Lina Koubli Amy Bennett	7C		For passing two book quizzes already since the start of this term!
Felicia Greenfield Kayleigh Bird	11F	Mr Badmoss	Working hard in lessons.
Lee Smith Amy Horne	8W 8S	Mr Beckett	For developing great control & coordination skills whilst learning how to drum.
Nial Culley	8Y	Mr Flynn	For his excellent effort so far in reading.
Thomas McDonald Courtney Harris	8F		For excellent effort in History.
Esosa Ilevba	7Y	Miss Johnes	For working really hard in Maths lessons this week and producing some excellent work.