



The Friday Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

At this stage in the year, the Department for Education publishes its performance tables for all schools. You may remember that about a year ago a Birmingham newspaper created its own league tables and places us very near to the bottom of that list even though it was based on old data.

The way that the Department for Education creates its tables is based solely on the progress that pupils in the school make. They look at all of the pupils in that year group in the country and based on each child's point of entry (their Key Stage 2 SATs results) they group schools into a group of 55 whose pupils have the same levels of achievement.

I am delighted to say that we have improved in our 'family' of schools and are placed 23rd out of the 55 schools with the same intake. Half way up isn't where we want to end our journey but it's not bad progress at all in one year! I think it's important that you also know that only 3 other Catholic schools in Birmingham or Walsall are doing better than us in these tables and 2 of those are on the other side of town.

There was more excellent news just before Easter when we had another visit from inspectors. They were with us for 2 whole days and here are some of the comments from their report:

Achievement of pupils at the school

The recently updated School Data Dashboard (to 2013) shows a clearly improving picture in both English and mathematics attainment over the last three years (2011 – 2013). This put the school in the middle 20% of similar and all schools nationally. Although science attainment dropped slightly in 2013 the school remained in the top 40% of similar and all schools nationally. These good outcomes in science were attained by a large proportion (92%) of a small number of entries (21%).

Individual subject leaders, including the English and mathematics leaders are confident that the improvements in teaching, since the last inspection, will result in more students making better progress and attaining better outcome than in the past. The PE department, for example, are confidently predicting that all students will attain an A*- C this year (July 2014), a huge improvement on 47% last year and the Art department are also predicting improvements in A*- C from 62% to 81%, both subjects above 2013 national averages.

Quality of teaching in the school

Since the inspection in March 2013, where the overall quality of teaching was judged to require improvement, there have been rapid and sustained improvements. Some of these improvements have been achieved by enhancing the knowledge, skills and understanding of existing teachers at the school but some improvements have come about through the recruitment of new teaching staff.

The Physical education department, for example, is now staffed by four new teachers including a new subject leader. Examination results (% A*-C) for this department, amongst others, were significantly low in 2013. The teaching across this department is now enabling students to make good or better progress.

Behaviour and safety of pupils at the school

Students' attitudes to behaviour are good. They are consistently positive about their learning and this is, combined with improved teaching, is having a good impact on the progress they are now making in lessons.

The safeguarding of students is of paramount importance to the school. The structured pastoral support system ensures that students always have an adult to turn to. The school is compliant in all aspects of safeguarding including the single central register and there is a safeguarding governor to champion this area.

All aspects of this area are intrinsically linked to the school's promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development which is exemplary.

Quality of leadership in and management of the school

Good, high-quality leadership and management have been instrumental in making the required improvements across the school. More teaching is now leading to rapid improvements in student progress as a result of targeted professional development and some strategic appointments. Expectations are high and clearly communicated through a range of meetings and are subsequently well documented. The Headteacher's vision is clearly detailed in the improvement planning.

The sustainability and potential for continued improvement of the internal model is clearly identified by the Headteacher, who knows her staff well. Circumstances have necessitated a high degree of internal staff reorganisation. This has been done strategically and always with the best interests of the students in mind. The insightful reallocation of leaders has led to even greater leadership capacity and immediate improvements in student attainment and progress.

As Head teacher you expect me to show leadership and direction. Improving the quality of teaching has been a massive priority for me because good and outstanding teaching leads to good and outstanding results for your children.

As the inspection team pointed out we have improved because we have developed many of our teachers and we have recruited some excellent new teachers. That has led to great change in the school and change is always unsettling – it's more comfortable to stick with what and who we know. But Cardinal Wiseman was rated 'Satisfactory' for 3 previous inspections. The new OFSTED removed the rating of satisfactory saying that any school that wasn't good needed to improve and in 2013 we were rated 'Requires Improvement'. I didn't think satisfactory was good enough and I do think we needed to improve - that meant something HAD to change.

Well we have changed and now we have to build on this success. Our next steps are being planned right now and in the next half term I will be sharing those plans with you and inviting you to help shape them further.

I know from the pupils that they want more clubs and activities after school. This year because of the staff changes in PE we have had a break in many of the clubs but I am delighted to say that under the excellent leadership of Mr Powers and Mrs Morgan they are starting up again. Mr Matthews has just launched a sports ambassadors' scheme and the following pupils were selected to represent the school from the many who applied –

Year 7: Kaycie le Cummings, Matthew Flemming, Jamal Gittins

Year 8: Kane Murphy, Cara Bellingham, Lauren Taylor

Year 9: Jack Steele, Bereket Mario, Daisy Aigbe, Dorcas Sarpong

Year 10: Bethany Mallet, Clint Cornes, Cameron Smith

Well done to all of them!

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thank you to all of the parents and carers of pupils in year 9 who attended Parents' Evening last night. A full analysis and responses to the questionnaires that you filled in will be published in the Friday letter when we return after half term.

Parents of Year 11

Your child will have an important letter with them about revision sessions after half-term and study leave. Please ensure you ask to see it and that they are fully aware of the sessions they must attend.

Good Shepherd Mass

On Wednesday myself and seven other students went to St Chad's Cathedral for the Good Shepherd Mass in aid of Fr Hudson's Society. Different schools had been raising money for the charity from all over Birmingham and they all came to celebrate mass together. We were all inspired to give to charity. Jordan Booker 8S




Taize Fundraising Car Wash:



Four other students and myself took part in a fundraising car wash. The students were Matthew Fleming, Casey Prosser, Stanley Fraser, Jordan Booker and myself. We washed the teacher's cars all day to raise money to help the year 11's get to Taize in the summer for a pilgrimage. I had a fun day with my friends and to top it off we had a mini water fight at the end of the day before settling back into school with a nice hot drink.



Regan McKenna 8W

Dates for your diary	
Week beginning 2 nd June – Year 7 Test and Moderation Week	
Week beginning 16 th June – Year 8 Test and Moderation Week	
Thursday 10 th June 4.30 to 7.00pm – Year 7 Parents' Evening	

Have a wonderful half term,

Yours sincerely

Christina Stewardson

		<h2>STAR OF THE WEEK!</h2> <p>Gaspar Kochanski (7Y) Nominated for good teamwork and excellent enthusiasm for his learning in the Learning Support Centre. Nominated by Mrs. Jinks</p>	
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Student	Class	Staff	Reason
All of 7W	7W	Mr Beckett	For working with so much enthusiasm in Music. The level of performance which included playing, singing and dancing was great to see.
Kieran Moorehouse	10S1	Miss Garside	For scoring 92% on his homework this week - well done Kieran!
Aaliyah Edwards	7W	Miss Easthope	For a fantastic piece of writing in English. Keep up the good work!
Connor Goddard-Smith	9C	Mr Crawford	An excellent GCSE standard exam response to poetry.
All GCSE History students	11	Miss E Edwards	For the dedication they have shown to their studies, attending before school and Saturday revision sessions.
Lee Bond	8W	Miss Easthope	For always applying himself fully to every task that is set.
Gaspar Kochanski	7Y	Mrs. Jinks	Good teamwork and excellent enthusiasm for his learning in the Learning Support Centre.
Nial Culley Henok Tesfay-Gaym	8Y	Mr Crawford	Excellent effort in English!
All of 11Y	11Y	Miss Hennessy	For being an absolute pleasure to teach at all times over the past 2 years!
Hayley Arkley Amy Horne Morgan Wiggins Dominic McPherson Yonatan Tirunch	8S	Mr Flynn	For excellent effort and persistence during a difficult task in Maths.

Charlie Bath			
Nicole Cullen Callum Comley Matthew Fleming Amilcar Khalil Kerry Bowen Lewis Pettitt Suraj Kandel	7C	Mr Flynn	For good work and effort during Maths this half term.
All of 10S2 English!	10	Miss C Edwards	For outstanding work in preparation for Literature Controlled Assessment.
Weronika Wojcik Shanay Teale Oliwia Bednarek Chloe Abraham Perry Lindo Chloe Darby Janun Alley	7	Mrs Smith	Working really well as a team to produce beautiful work for the chapel on the theme of Belonging
Lucy Burbridge Paige Barton Lauren Dugard Abigail Hancox Liam Matthews Steven Deathridge Ryan Hayward Jason Cullen	8	Mrs Smith	Working hard to produce a beautiful panel for the chapel about the fruits of the Spirit
Courtney Hadley Ethan Smith	7S 8C	Miss Kelly	For completely turning around their attitude in English - well done and keep it up!
Bradley Moraghan	7S	Miss Kelly	For five consecutively fantastic English lessons - well done, Bradley!
Lucy Burbridge	8C	Miss Kelly	For conquering her fears and reading impeccably to the whole class in English on two occasions.
Liam Delaney	9W	Miss Kelly	For producing a fantastic piece of homework.
All of 10C	10C	Miss Kelly	For always having a consistently positive attitude and a drive to succeed.
Clark Tsaty	8C	Mr Gardner	For an excellent musical composition for the box clever animated film clip.
All of the choir	7, 8 & 9	Mr Gardner	For performing at the year 11 Leavers Mass
Aaron Harris	9F	Mrs Poxon	Fantastic Effort in Maths

