



# Monthly Mail - November

Dear parent/carer,



## London Trip



Thursday 22nd October - Saturday 24th October some of Cardinal Wiseman's students took part in a fantastic opportunity. We left school on Thursday and travelled to London, where our first stop was the Natural History Museum. Students looked at the different exhibitions ranging from the dinosaurs to creepy crawlies. We started our tour at the earthquakes and volcanoes section where students experienced what an earthquake would be like. In the evening we went to see Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in the theatre. All the students were fantastic ambassadors for the school and enjoyed watching the show, some were even singing along.

On Friday we had another busy day. We started with the London eye, where students got a 360 degree view of London and then experienced a 4d cinema experience. Some of the students were very brave at the London Eye and overcame their fear of heights. In the afternoon we went to the Imperial War Museum and looked around the WW1 and WW2 exhibitions. All the students showed a great maturity especially around the Holocaust exhibition.

Our final day was Saturday; we took a walking tour around London seeing some of the famous sites. We saw the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, Downing Street, Big Ben and we were lucky enough to see the changing of the guards that only happens every two days. The students were fantastic throughout the three days and watching them supporting each other and encouraging each other showed the caring nature of the group. They all got to experience our capital city and were a pleasure to take away for three days. A big thank you to Miss Edwards and Steven for their support and help on the trip. Mrs. Biddle



### Student Report by Andre McLeish

When we arrived in London we went to the Natural History Museum. We saw different types of species such as dinosaurs, fish and birds. We also got to experience an earthquake which was scary. Afterwards we went to see a show called Charlie and the Chocolate factory; at first I thought I would not enjoy it but it was fantastic. Whilst we walked to the play we saw a Magician performing on the street. He drove a unicycle whilst juggling machetes. The next day was even better we went to the Imperial War Museum which was interesting. We then got some free time to go shopping. When we go back to the hostel we had some free time where we played cards. The last day in London we got to see Buckingham Palace where the Queen lives.

# Encourage reading at home

Reading is an essential life skill. *The Telegraph* recently published an article which suggested that those “teens who choose to pick up a book for pleasure are more likely to succeed in life than those who don’t.” The pupils at Cardinal Wiseman are encouraged to read for 30 minutes every day during their DEAR – Drop Everything and Read – sessions but we would like you as parents and guardians to also encourage your child to read at home. To help you with this task there are a number of reading engagement strategies which have been placed on the school website under the ‘Reading’ section. Here you can find a number of different ideas which you can try at home to encourage your child to read and actually engage with the text. Happy reading!



The next set of STAR reading tests for Year 7 will take place the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016.  
Miss E Edwards

Dates for your diary	
Year 8 Assessments – week beginning 30 <sup>th</sup> November	
<b>Year 11 Parents' and Pupils' Workshop – 6 – 7pm</b>	
Year 9 Parents' Evening – Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	
<b>Year 11 Mock Exams – 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> December and 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
Term finishes at 12.30pm - Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	
Term starts – Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	
<i>Please see the calendar on the school website for further dates and key events.</i>	

## Catholic Partnership Performing Art Showcase

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November a group of year 9 and 10 students went to Bishop Walsh School in Sutton Coldfield with Mr Gardner and Mrs Cooney to perform at a Music, Dance and Drama event. Organised by the Birmingham Catholic Partnership, the showcase featured performances from students in 8 schools, ranging from a solo of a Beethoven Piano Sonata to a folk group. Our student band of Perry Lindo (drums), Jordan McKenzie (piano), Alessio Corbia (bass guitar) along with Mugthalanta Allet and J'Nai Clark (vocals) performed an enjoyable rendition of 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams. For their second piece, John Legend's 'All of Me' they were joined by the year 9 dancers: Chloe Abraham, Victoria Jade Beard, Kaycie le Cummins, Weronika Wojick and Zahlemah Douglas Wright. Well done to all of the students for their excellent performances.

## Year 11 Mock Exams

These vitally important mock exams will take place on the following days: 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Dec and 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Jan.

# Remembrance

On the 11th of the 11th the whole of Year 7 and Year 8 gathered for a Liturgy in the school hall to unite in an Act of Remembrance for those who have died in conflict in the service of this country. It was a moving Liturgy with readings read by students from our Chaplaincy Team. The whole of 7 Newman took part and opened the liturgy with singing, 'We will remember them'. The students were very respectful and a credit to our school. Well done to Kayla Barlow, Julia Dilinskas, Harmony -Lila Day, and Amy Jones. A special thank you to Jamie Jarvis for being an outstanding role model to our younger students.



During the month of November we remember all those in our lives who we have lost and pray for their eternal souls. If you would like us to pray for anyone in particular please come to the chapel and write the name of a loved one who has passed away.



# Health for Life

This year Cardinal Wiseman has embarked on a programme to improve the health of pupils.

Health for Life covers 4 main themes to promote children and young people leading a healthy lifestyle. So far we have designed and built a Dance Studio and we have two classes of pupils who have started growing their own food in school – see report below.

As part of the programme several short videos were made. They help to motivate and inform young people about growing, physical activity and cooking healthy meals. To view these videos please go to the following website:

<http://servicesforeducation.co.uk/index.php/Health-Education/videos.html>



Supported by

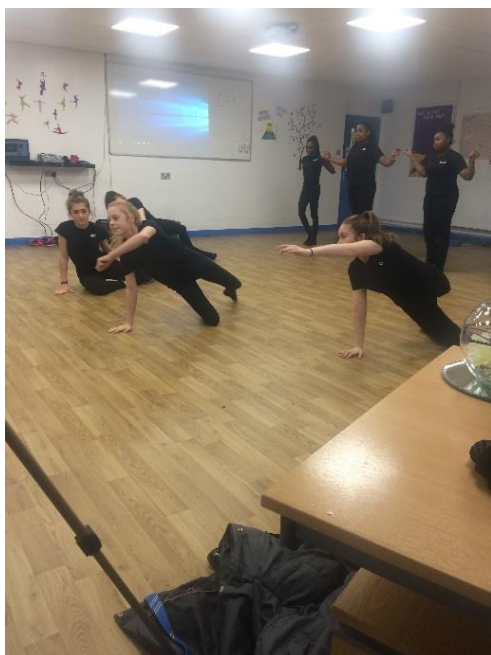


## Cardinal Wiseman grow a garden project

Some Year 7 and 8 pupils have been given the opportunity to grow a garden behind the science block. They have designed the garden and have agreed that they want to plant a variety of vegetables and fruit, ranging from onions to cucumbers and blackberries. They have been working very hard to prepare the ground and have dug out 6 beds ready to plant different fruit and vegetables. We have already started growing potatoes inside which should be ready to eat around the end of January and plant to plant fruit bushes, peas and beans this week.



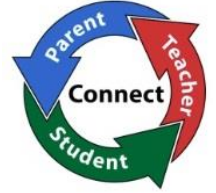
## Dance Studio



In October we completed the new Dance Studio. As part of the Health for Life programme pupils specifically stated that they wanted a space for Dance and other fitness activities at Cardinal Wiseman. The Studio itself is a bright inviting area with fitted mirrors where pupils are engaging in various activities such as Dance, Fitness, Drama and BTEC Sport. The pupils are thriving with the use of the space and have been creating some fantastic artistic pieces. Pupils are enjoying the dance options available to them and have shown real interest and concern in ensuring the studio is maintained to a high level. We have had several dance sessions and created some fun and well-choreographed pieces. The space has been developed with the help of Tom and Rob who have managed to create the expert venue for us. We also have an after school dance club with 34 students showing interest. This has been a great start to the dance studio's future and just shows how our pupils like to learn through engaging activities that link to having a healthy lifestyle.



# Parents in Partnership (PiP)



All the research clearly states that parents and carers who support their child with their education at home make a significant difference to the success of their child. That is why the parents evenings that we arrange are so important.

As stated in last month's edition of the Monthly Mail below is a summary of responses from the very well attended Year 7 Settling-In Evening which took place last month.

- ✓ 100% of parents/carers felt that the evening was helpful and informative.
- ✓ 98% of parents/carers felt better placed to support their child at home (the other 2% did not answer the question)

Here are a selection of quotes that parents wrote on their questionnaire:

*"I am so pleased that I attended as it enlightened me in all aspects of child's transition to this school."*

*"Extremely pleased with how my child has settled in & the progress she has made is brilliant. Very impressed."*

*"I thought the Summer school was a very good idea. This really helped my child to be more confident to start school. Also my child is really enjoying school, thank you!"*

**As stated in the home school contact, parents are expected to attend these events.**

**Our next parents' evening is for Year 9 on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.**

**I look forward to seeing all Year 9 parents and carers at this event.**

## Support our student to be life-long learners - Home Learning

As you know at Cardinal Wiseman we do our very best to support all of our students to become life-long learners. One way we do this is by supporting them to learn outside of school by setting them home learning tasks to complete at home (this used to be known as homework). We have now re-started a Home Learning support club which is open Monday-Friday 3:15-4:15pm in room 13, starting on Monday 1st December 2015. Students will be invited to attend this club for one week at a time if they are failing to complete several home learning tasks for several subjects. This is compulsory for the students to attend and you will receive a letter in the post on the Friday the week before to inform you of their requirement to attend. Research has shown that the more students learn at home the more they are successful in life and become life-long learners. Thank you for your support in this.

**Mr Kearns Assistant Head teacher in charge of Home Learning**

## **Wiseman Day - 3rd November 2015**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 Cardinal Wiseman had the first of this year's Enrichment Days which are known as our 'Wiseman Days'. These days cover the wider needs of our pupils – covering the kinds of things that don't easily fit in to the curriculum that we deliver in every day subjects.

This year the topics that are studied through our Wiseman days are British Values, Well-Being (including economic) Relationships, Health and Careers.

**Year 7 studied British values** and were taught about the values that we have in our society and how we are protected by British laws. They learned about democracy and how as British citizens we can influence decisions through the democratic process, whilst gaining an in depth knowledge of tolerance and discrimination. One student stated that they liked the day because it was *'good learning about one subject all*

day - it was a nice variation from an ordinary school day'. Another student said 'it was interesting to learn about topics that I don't usually study such as discrimination'.

**Year 8 studied Well-being and year 9 studied Relationships**, these lessons focused on keeping safe with in all kinds of relationships, the day allowed them to think about the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships. Both year groups were visited by a drama company called Loud Mouth who engaged the students through drama productions and workshops that allowed students to ask questions and to think more deeply about relationship issues.

Year 8 and 9 also developed their knowledge of keeping safe on-line during this day and they were informed about the facts of cyber bullying and the impact that this can have on individuals. Both year groups looked deeply into the sharing of on-line images and the laws that surround this. Year 9 had the privilege to have a police liaison officer deliver this session to them.

**Year 10 studied Careers.** They had the opportunity on enrichment day to research their choices after year 11. Students were informed about the different pathways post 16 for example 6th Forms, Colleges and Apprenticeships and were given time to ask questions and research the right pathway for them. Year 10 then researched a variety of career choices and thought about what qualifications they needed for their dream job. In the afternoon the students had a workshop on employability skills and had a speaker from the Army talk to them about the importance of extra-curricular activities and hobbies when apply for 6th Form, College or an Apprenticeship. Year 10 were very mature on the day and really took time to think about their futures and life after their GCSE exams.

# Year 11 Careers Day



Year 11 had an extremely busy and purposeful day aimed to prepare them for post 16 options. They were visited by a recruitment consultant from A F Selection who gave invaluable guidance on how to write a CV and how to prepare them for an interview.

Another speaker from a careers guidance company provided year 11 pupils with a series of character tests so that they could discover which jobs would suit them in the future. We asked the year 11 pupils what they feel they gained from the day. Here is what they said:

*"I learnt how to apply for sixth form/ College."*

*"I know how to write my CV."*

*"I learnt about different careers that I could go into."*

*"TECC careers advice was interesting and motivational."*

*"I managed to create a revision timetable."*

*"I applied for a college!"*

As you can see from the above, pupils really benefited from the day. They will now continue their applications for further education. Please assist your child with this at home and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Mrs. Meersand (Head of Year 11)

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Attendance at CW  
4/9/15 to 13/11/2015

Year 7 = 96.93%

Year 8 = 96.01%

Year 9 = 96.15%

Year 10 = 94.89%

Year 11 = 97.52% - Well done year 11!

**Whole school attendance = 96.3%**

**This is 3% better than last year!!**

282 pupils with 100% attendance

176 pupils with 95% attendance

## Year 7 Bonding Day



On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, our year 7 students travelled the short distance down the hill from Cardinal Wiseman to the Maryvale Institute for their annual bonding day. The purpose of the day is to allow the year 7s a chance to get to know each other better as a year group in order for them to become a closer unit who can rely on one another throughout their time at Cardinal Wiseman. The theme of the day was “become the best version of yourself” the idea that we are loved and celebrated for who God created us to be and we should celebrate the gifts and talents of those around us. The day was led by the school’s team of Lay Chaplains and head of year 7 Miss Kelly. From team games to workshops looking at how can we make the best choices in our life, each student was given the opportunity to express themselves in a different way and learn more about themselves and their peers. The day concluded in a celebration of mass in which each student played an active role in order to make this day a true day of community and celebration of one another. A visit from a number of seminarians from Oscott College further enhanced the experience of the day as they were on hand to aid the Chaplains and Miss. Kelly in the delivery of the programs on bonding day. One student said of bonding day, “I had a lot of fun. I got to talk to people who I don’t normally so I felt like I got the chance to make some new friends.”

By Megan Cox



# Christmas Fair



On 9th December we have a very exciting event in our community - our Christmas Fair. This will include stalls from Cardinal Wiseman, Maryvale Catholic Primary School and the local parish as well as some outside traders. This will be a chance for us to come together as a community to help us prepare for the joy of the Christmas season. It will start with a wonderful Advent Service from 3 to 4 pm in the church. The fair will take place in the community centre from 3-6pm. Please try to attend to make this a truly communal event.

There are also rumours Santa might be there too!

To make this a success we request that each year group show their support by bringing a different item that can be sold or given away as prizes in as follows:

Year 7 – cuddly toys                      Year 8 – a jar and a bag of sweets

Year 9 – bric-a-brac or unwanted gifts    Year 10 – bric-a-brac or unwanted gifts    Year 11 – chocolate bars

Please bring all items into school as soon as possible and give them to the Chaplaincy Team.

We like to thank you in advance.

Steven Fleming (Lay Chaplain)

Yours sincerely,

Christina Stewardson



## Stars of the Month



### Headteachers' Stars

Pupil name	Year/Class	Award	Reason
Connor Jeffries	10Bo	Reading Star	For improving his reading age by 49 months and for reaching his reading age target of 15! Well done!
Aimee Baillon	11S	Head of Year 11	For a consistently positive attitude to learning and always working hard across your subjects. Well done Aimee for being a star!
Chloe-Louise Hinchley	9MAG	Media Star	For obtaining an A grade in her first GCSE assignment.

Pupil name	Year/Class	Award	Reason
Ketty Idemudia	8Te	Head of Year 8	For persistently trying hard even though she finds things difficult and doing things with a smile. Per persistentemente sforzandosi anche se lei trova le cose difficili e fare le cose con un sorriso



<b>Liam Matthews</b>	10C	Maths Star	For an extremely impressive mock result. Well done Liam!
<b>Blessing Ugbeh</b>	10C	English Star	For impressive catch-up work and independent learning at all times.
<b>Hieu Nguyen</b>	11W	Science Star	An excellent mock exam result: Grade A
<b>Luke Arlington</b>	10W	RE Star	For superb effort in RE and always trying his best.
<b>Katie Bowen</b>	8BO	Geography Star	Excellent assessment on development.
<b>Cecilia Luong</b>	10TE	History Star	Excellent attitude to learning every lesson!
<b>Mariam Amjadi</b>	10C	MFL Star	Excellent work preparing speaking exam
<b>Mugthalana Allet</b>	9MAG	Child Dev. Star	Developing excellent study skills attitude!
<b>Aaliyah Edwards</b>	9MAG	Drama Star	For always working with enthusiasm and performing to the best of her ability.
<b>Charlie Bath</b>	10 GCSE	Food Star	For improved effort and working to potential in lessons.
<b>Lauren McCracken</b>	10 GCSE	Music Star	For consistently working hard in class and revising well for a test on a challenging piece of Music.
<b>Perry Lindo</b>	9 Newman	Chaplaincy Star	For consistently supporting the Catholic Life of the school through music ministry :)