



# Monthly Mail

Dear parent/carer,

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, students from Cardinal Wiseman celebrated together a whole school mass as a sign of celebration and jubilation at the prospect of the coming of Christ at Christmas. With an eighty strong choir, it was a joyous and faith-filled occasion with many students taking an active role in the mass. It was an excellent way to celebrate the end of a fantastic term and the start of a well needed, festive holiday period. Staff, students and seminarians from Oscott College came together as a close school community to worship and to share in the Mass as a symbol of the excitement and joy at the close of advent and the approach of Christmas.

## End of Term Mass



**Use of Mobile phones – a reminder. Pupils are allowed to bring their phones to school but must not have them switched on in lessons. They must not make videos or take pictures of other pupils or of staff. If they feel unwell and want to contact home they must ask the school office to do that on their behalf. Thank you for your support in ensuring that our pupils learn how to use their phones in a mature and acceptable manner.**

## Showtime 2016

Due to numerous other major events taking place in school on Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Feb we have decided to move the Showtime performances to Wed 9<sup>th</sup> and Thur 10<sup>th</sup> March.

### School closure in the event inclement weather

In the event of the school having to be closed due to heavy snow/ice, parents will be notified as early as possible using the ticker on the website (the ticker is the white band on the homepage of the website with messages that scroll around). When possible the school will use the automated Truancy Call system to send a message to parents to notify about any school closure. The school will continue to use these mediums of fast communication if it becomes necessary this winter. It can be quite difficult to get through to the local radio stations in the absence of a city wide decision but please check this source of information if you have difficulty accessing the internet or a text.

In order for the school to send a text, we must have your current mobile number. Please ensure that you notify the office of any new mobile telephone numbers so that we can update our records. If you haven't received a text on other occasions this year but have a mobile phone, please contact the school with your mobile number so that it can be added to our database therefore ensuring fast communication when it becomes necessary in the future.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## Educate Against Hate

A new on-line resource for parents, teachers and school leaders has been created regarding extremism. Please take the time to look at the following website in regards to this.

<http://educateagainsthate.com/parents>

**Messages of ~~hate~~ can take many forms. ~~Extremist~~ groups use them to recruit young people. Here you will find information to help you understand the issues and protect your child.**

### Protecting your children

#### Parents

We all want our children to live in a safe and loving environment so that they can grow up to become happy, confident adults. You will already know that your children can be vulnerable to risks both inside and outside the home, and will have taken steps to protect them so they can grow, learn and develop to their fullest potential.

Protecting your children from radicalisation and extremism is similar to protecting them from the other harms you may be more familiar with, such as drugs, gangs and sexual exploitation.

# Wiseman Day - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015

On the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Cardinal Wiseman hosted the second Wiseman Day of the academic year. Each year group had its own themed day and studied topical issues through the PSHE and SMSC curriculum. The studies that each year group explore through these collapsed timetable days are British Values, Well-Being (including economic) Relationships, Health and Careers.

**Year 7 studied Health** and were taught about the importance of leading healthy and active lifestyles. They discussed what it means to be 'healthy' and the benefits of having good physical, mental, and social well-being can have on lifestyle. Year 7 explored the long and short term effects of exercise and evaluated calorie intake vs calorie expenditure. They even had a go at making their very own smoothie, but they had to work hard for it! They selected a smoothie recipe and prepared the fruit. They added this to a blender which was attached to a smoothie bike and got pedalling! Hayley Teoh commented *'It was a really fun day and was helpful to know what was good to eat and what was not. The best part of the day was having a go on the smoothie bike'*.



**Year 8 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 commented *'It made me realise how lucky we are in our country to have laws that keep us safe, and I thought about what it would be like if we didn't have laws and there would defiantly be more crime'*.

**Year 9 studied Well-being (including Economic Well-being)** these lessons focused on how to stay safe in society - physically, emotionally and financially. They learned about what serious and organised crime means and how easily people can become involved in such criminality. They explored a case study of a young person who became involved in serious and organised crime, and the impact that this had on his life as well as learning about the laws surrounding this issue.

They were also visited by St Johns ambulance who taught them basic lifesaving skills, they were taught about CRP and the procedures for dealing with unconscious casualties. They also had the opportunity to practice these vital lifesaving skills on Annie dolls.

Year 9 also had the opportunity to learn how to manage their finances. We were lucky to have Barclays Bank come in and deliver sessions to the students on money management. They learnt about the differences between credit and debit and the consequences of debt and were able to see how budgeting helps to ensure that they do not end up in debt. In the second session the students discussed different scenarios and developed a budget for a variety of careers and lifestyles.

Anopaishe Johwa commented *'I enjoyed understanding the differences between debit and credit cards as it can keep you out of financial difficulties. It was also good to know about the different types of crime without judging the individuals involved, as some of criminal activities were forced by gangs.'*

**Year 10 studied Relationships** and had a day full of guest speakers addressing a range of sensitive issues. They were visited by a drama company called *Loud Mouth* who engaged the students through a drama production called *'Working for Marcus'*. This drama production creatively tackles the issues of grooming and child exploitation and abuse by organised groups or gangs. The workshop that followed this allowed students to ask questions and to think more deeply about the outcomes that arose.

Year 10 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. They were privileged to have Sam O'Dell who is a Police Liaison Officer to deliver this session to them.

Year 10 were also visited by a company called *'Breaking the Silence'* who engaged students in discussions based around domestic violence, forced marriages and human trafficking. They had several real life case studies of people who had faced these experiences and had a giant jigsaw puzzle to complete along the way! Lauren McCracken commented that *'this has made me really think carefully about how to keep safe on social media sites. The drama showed me that sometimes people are who they say they are, and this was very hard hitting'*

**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 explored gender issues** and maturely looked at what the roles of men and women are in society. They discussed the laws surrounding relationship issues and the way that women's rights have changed over history. They looked at famous women who have made an impact on society such as Emeline Pankhurst, Florence Nightingale and Eleanor Roosevelt.

We were joined by a fantastic range of guest speakers: Ann and Irene, business and restaurant owners in Birmingham, spoke to Year 11 about how they grew their business and how they overcame issues. Genelle Aldred, ITV Central presenter, delivered an empowering speech about her journey to success and gave pupils five top tips on how to make the most of your potential. Chloe Roberts said *"She was very inspirational because she managed to give people different perspectives on living a positive life. My top tip was when she told us to 'let go' of negative thoughts so that you can move on and make good decisions."*

Finally, Amelia Viney from The Advocacy Academy spoke about feminism, gender inequality, prejudice and privilege. Connor Greaney said *"she revealed what feminism actually is. It was eye opening because we have never discussed anything like this in school as it is such a sensitive topic. We found a way forward - we must think twice about what we say and how it can affect people. It was inspirational for females and males as it encouraged all people to get involved in tackling gender inequality."*

Thank you for a wonderful day year 11.



## Joint Advent Service with Christ the King and Maryvale

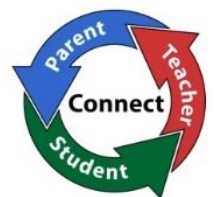


Christmas is the perfect time to get together as a community, to celebrate, to praise and to welcome Christ into our lives. Students at Cardinal Wiseman, Christ the King primary school and Maryvale primary school seized this opportunity by coming together to celebrate with advent liturgies at Maryvale Church, Kingstanding. First, Maryvale primary and Cardinal Wiseman came together to re-tell the Christmas story through readings and carols, it was the perfect way to put all who attended in the Christmas mood and give them bundles of festive joy and cheer. Next was the turn of Christ the King and Cardinal Wiseman who through thought provoking reflections and carols helped us to understand the true meaning of Christmas as well as sending us out with the message to go and spread the joy of the feast of Christmas with others who we meet. The liturgies were a hit and staff, students, parents and parishioners all were able to come together to celebrate the Christmas period. One member of staff said "It truly made me festive. It was wonderful to work together in partnership with Maryvale and Christ the King and all the schools involved brought such talent and enthusiasm to the celebrations. I am looking forward to next year's celebrations!"

Megan Cox



## Parents in Partnership (PiP)



It was great to see that that 75% of parents of Year 9 pupils attended Parents' Evening on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. All the research and evidence clearly states that parents who support and assist their child with their education make a huge difference to the grades that their child achieves. That is why some staff at Cardinal Wiseman went the extra mile and held an additional parents evening on 8<sup>th</sup> December for those parents who could not attend on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I would like to thank all parents for taking the time to make a difference to your child's education and to the staff who provided the extra evening.

Here is a summary of Year 9 responses from the parental questionnaires:

- ✓ 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)
- ✓ 100% of parents/carers stated that their child is happy at school, they are taught well and they make good progress

Many thanks to all of the parents and carers who completed the Parent View online questionnaire. The winner of the £20 gift voucher was the mother of Jamal Gittens in Year 9. Congratulations!

### Dates for your diary

Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – **Teacher Training Day**

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Feb – **Year 10 Macbeth Performance**

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Feb – **Ash Wednesday Services**

WB 15<sup>th</sup> Feb - **Half term**

WB 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb – **Year 9 Assessment Week**

*Please see the calendar on the school website for further dates and key events.*



Yours sincerely,

Christina Stewardson

*It is essential that parents/carers keep the school informed about any changes to your contact details.*

*Previous editions of Monthly Mail can be found on the school website in the News and Events tab.*

*The main office hours are from 8am to 4.30pm.*



## Stars of the Month



### Headteachers' Stars

Pupil name	Year/Class	Award	Reason
Shannon Ensor	11C	<b>Wiseman Virtues</b>	Defending a younger pupil who was being trolled online in an articulate and compelling way.
Petra Farbarova Corey Arnold	10	<b>Head of Year 10</b>	For improved attitude to learning, both have matured and shown great positivity to their education, keep it up both :)
Mina Vanu	11C	<b>Science Star</b>	Mina has made a phenomenal improvement in her recent GCSE Chemistry mock exam. Well Done, Mina!

Pupil name	Year/Class	Award	Reason
Britney Buchanan	8Ne	<b>Reading Star</b>	For gaining 90%+ on 5 consecutive reading quizzes, taken over the space of 4 days! Brilliant achievement, well done!
Elaine Luong	11	<b>Head of Year 11</b>	For a significant improvement shown in her mock results due to her hard work and determination! Well done :)
Connie Luong	9	<b>Head of Year 9</b>	For always having a positive attitude to learning and regularly achieving merits for working to the best of your ability. Well done!!
Ruzena Farbarova	8	<b>Head of Year 8</b>	For a good attitude and hard work resulting in lots of merits!
Jordan Williams Hannah Melaney	7	<b>Head of Year 7</b>	For consistently showing an amazing attitude to learning.
Connor Campbell Elliott	11W	<b>Maths Star</b>	Continued effort and perseverance in Mathematics and a considerable improvement in the latest assessment.
Jake Duffy	11F	<b>English Star</b>	Excellent progress in language and literature. A renewed positive attitude and determination.
Kyle Tucker	7be	<b>Geography Star</b>	Kyle completed extra research on the topic we are studying in class.
Robin Aka-Onyeukwu	Year 11	<b>History Star</b>	For making excellent progress since his October mock through hard work and persistence.
Mary Dosumu	Year 11	<b>Business Star</b>	Strong work in lesson and a good result in the Business mock exams.
Robin Aka-Onyeukwu	Year 11	<b>Computing Star</b>	Consistent effort in Computing lessons supported by a strong mock exam result.
Laytonya Armstrong	Year 11	<b>Child Dev. Star</b>	Laytonya is an outstanding pupil. She is very determined and willing to learn. She has great prospects.
Abigail Whyke	9 MAG	<b>Drama Star</b>	Showing commitment and hard work to her studies. An exemplary student.
Amy Horne	Year 10	<b>Art Star</b>	Dedication to Fine Art GCSE and development of her artistic skills
Jake Duffy	Year 11	<b>RM Star</b>	Outstanding progress and motivation to be successful
Hayley Teoh	Year 7	<b>Music Star</b>	For her excellent piano playing in music and being willing to share her talents with her class.
Sophia Mulard-Stephenson	Year 8	<b>PE/Sport Star</b>	Sophia always has perfect PE kit, she works hard in all lesson demonstrating a positive attitude in PE. Well done!
Ariann Rose	9 Mag	<b>Dance Star</b>	Always has perfect kit, never fails to try at every task and completes all work and homework to her best! Keep up the great work Ariann!
Ellis O'Neill	8 Dance	<b>Challenge Curriculum Star</b>	Has shown great passion and enthusiasm in learning all cultures of dance, and has impressed me with her skills in the Charleston!
Kelandra Carty	7 Bernadette	<b>Chaplaincy Star</b>	Outstanding behaviour during the Mass prep session and in Mass itself. For showing great enthusiasm in all areas, becoming an extremely positive role model for her peers.