



Monthly Mail - March

Dear parent/carer,



Alton Castle Retreat

From Wednesday 20th January 2016 to Friday 22nd January 2016, Year 7 and 8 students from Cardinal Wiseman attended a residential retreat at Alton Castle. Students were able to participate in activities such as mountain biking, rock climbing, trekking, archery and survival as well as taking time to explore the theme “Who am I?” Students attended mass, took part in meditations, morning prayer, evening prayer and adoration. The trip was a fantastic opportunity which allowed students to draw closer to God and to each other whilst getting to know themselves better too. The trip was rounded off with each student getting the chance to enter St. John’s parish church in Alton through the door of mercy allowing them to more fully enter into the year of mercy and sending them out on their mission as disciples into the world to share what they had learnt on retreat with others. The students fully entered into the experience of retreat with one saying, “It was great. I got to spend time with my friends and the activities were fun. The team were so friendly and I really liked the Mass. I would love to go again.”

Megan Cox – Lay Chaplain



Year 11 London Trip



After working strenuously in their mock exams, students in year 11 were rewarded with the fantastic opportunity to go to London. We visited the National Science Museum where we were able to explore our scientific interests. In addition to this, we went on a tour around London to visit various landmarks such as Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and the London Eye. The highlight of the day for me was when a pigeon decided to land and sit on my shoulder and then jump on top of my head! However, I'm sure the highlight for the majority of the year group was the free time that we were offered. Pupils were able to spend some quality time together and buy their own meals and souvenirs. The trip to London was a well-deserved reward for year 11 and I am certain, along with myself, that everybody thoroughly enjoyed the day out.

Student Report by Chloe Roberts

The Year 11 trip to London was extremely eye opening and interesting. During the day spent at London we visited the Science Museum which enabled us to learn more about a subject that we study at school, we also had a tour of specific landmarks within London for example; Buckingham Palace which extended our knowledge of the whereabouts of important places in the country we live in. Pupils were able to see how busy, historic and vibrant the capital city is and some are inspired to go back to even live there. It was lovely to have the opportunity to visit somewhere so interesting and educational with our friends and teachers. Overall, the Year 11 trip to London was a great experience that will not be forgotten.



Connor Greaney meeting London pigeons

The Launch of Most Able starts with a Bang!

Wednesday 27th January launched the start of a new Most-Able support system, as Cardinal Wiseman hosted its first ever **Most-Able Pupil and Parent Information evening**. The evening highlighted the opportunities that are currently available to our Most-Able students and introduced them to classroom provisions and strategies that have recently been implemented. External representatives from Aston University and Oxford University were also present to help inspire students to aim higher whilst giving students and parents alike, a better

understanding of what higher education offers and what they will need to achieve in order to continue their academic success in the future. *If you were unable to attend, the presentations have been uploaded to the Most Able section of our school website.*

The evening was very successful and very well-attended with over 60 of our Most-Able and Highest Attaining pupils attending with their parents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents and students who attended the Evening and helped to start the new network for supporting the Most-Able students at Cardinal Wiseman. Over 97% of attendees now feel confident that they know what it means to be 'Most-Able' and feel better placed to support their child.'

At Cardinal Wiseman, it is our goal to embrace and nurture our Most-Able and Highest Attaining pupils to encourage their success; we have expanded our curriculum to offer exciting opportunities both inside and outside the classroom and we are confident that with your on-going support our students will have great success.

Miss Easthope – Most-Able Co-ordinator

Macbeth Performance



Having studied William Shakespeare's Macbeth last term, year 9 students were treated to a performance of key scenes by a visiting Shakespeare company.

Actors brought Shakespeare's play alive and showed students traditional and contemporary variations on how scenes could be performed.

The performance was very interactive and students enjoyed having an involvement in the performance. Students provided the actors with ideas on how they should perform scenes and how the characters should act.

Actors also explained to students why they were performing the scene in particular ways which helped students to understand Shakespeare's intentions.

Year 7 Maths Challenge

The top 8 mathematicians in Year 7 took part in the Catholic Partnership Maths Challenge at St. Edmund Campion on 24th Feb. They competed in a series of fast and furious mathematical challenges in two teams of four against 8 other schools. Even though they did not win the event our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the challenging experience. Well done to the students for representing CW so well and thank you to Mrs Barnes and Miss Easthope for providing them with this great opportunity.



Julianne Peralta, Demi-Leigh Day, Shelby Moore, Hannah Melaney, Hayley Teoh, Katie Coady, Evan Byrne & Derrick Oyouwi.

Contemplation and Sacrifice

We all know that lent is a time of contemplation and sacrifice. Therefore, shrove Tuesday is the perfect time to have one last blow-out before the 40 days of Lent begin. At Cardinal Wiseman school, both staff and students seized this opportunity and celebrated shrove Tuesday in style whilst also raising money for the Father Hudson's society. At both break and lunch times, pancakes were cooked and sold to students, carnival face paints were available and there was a true party atmosphere in the school. Students know the importance of Lent and that it is a solemn time and therefore made the most of the celebration of the day before Lent began. Students said "The pancakes were great and everyone felt really happy. It was a good way to celebrate before lent starts." A total of £603.71 was raised for the Father Hudson's society over the course of the day and this money will be presented to the charity at a special mass on the 24th May 2016. This day is most definitely something which staff and students alike would like to celebrate again as part of the build up to Ash Wednesday and lent.



Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday 10th February 2016 students from years 7-10 at Cardinal Wiseman school all attended a very important mass marking the beginning of the Lenten season. Both staff and students came together in order to celebrate a whole school mass at Our lady of the assumption Church in Kingstanding. It was a reflective and powerful service and the sense of community was strong, as all came together to worship and remember the importance of lent. After the Mass, students proudly continued to wear their ash crosses as an outward sign to the world of their faith in Christ who died to forgive their sins.

The mass began with a short reflective offertory led by Abigail Whyke where student presented symbols of prayer, almsgiving and fasting at the altar in order to represent the main themes which we concentrate on during Lent.



The students willingness to participate in mass was evident with students taking responsibility for reading, serving, participating in the offertory and being part of the 60 strong student choir led by lay chaplain, Chloe and Assistant Head Mr. Vince which provided powerful and prayerful music for the Mass and feature a beautiful solo hymn at communion by Amy Brindley – year 11. The mass was hugely successful and one member of staff said "It was really prayerful. I liked that we all came together and that we are confident to show our faith on the outside through the ashes on our heads. As a community we are strong and faith-filled and I believe that this mass was a true, outward sign of our faithfulness. It was an excellent start to the Lenten season."

Debate Mate UDL

Round 1



On Wednesday 3rd February, 13 students from Cardinal Wiseman had the amazing opportunity to compete in the Urban Debate League Round 1 competition, in association with the Debate Mate enrichment. Our attendees included 7 Year 7 students; Katie Coady, Susan Thompson, Miguel Fernando Da Rocha, Odane Dixon, Sunny Kateregga, Niall Thompson and Kelton Guest, 5 Year 8 students; Britney Buchanan, Amy Jones, Yami Ajuti, Marcel Poznanski and Nicholas Smith as well as the one and only Matthew Fleming in Year 9.

Upon arrival, the students assigned themselves into two different teams before debating against 5 other schools from within the West Midlands region. The teams each participated in two live debates based on the motions, 'This house believes that advertising of substances which are bad for you should be banned' and 'This house believes that students should have the opportunity to create their own curriculum in school.' The teams had no prior knowledge of the motions and therefore had to work as a team to create convincing points to argue in their assigned roles of proposition or opposition.

All of the students who competed did Cardinal Wiseman, their team mates and themselves proud- the University Students who grade the debates, congratulated our young team on the confidence they displayed and the sophisticated manner in which they presented their persuasive arguments. From an English specialist perspective, it was an honour to watch the debates take place and to witness firsthand the progression that the students have made over the first term of participating in the Debate Mate enrichment; speaking confidently in front of a public audience is an incredibly nerve-racking experience however our students, in particular the Year 7 students presented themselves as active, eloquent and learned individuals.


"When I saw how many other teams we were up against I was really nervous especially because they were older but when we started planning our ideas, I just became excited and I really wanted to win. The first competition was so much fun and I think I learnt a lot from it." **Amy Jones, 8Newman**

"Debate Mate was amazing. We came up with some amazing ideas and I was so surprised that we all managed to speak for 3 minutes. I thought our points of information were the best and I'm looking forward to winning the next competition." **Miguel Fernando Da Rocha, 7Bernadette**

Despite facing much older students (mainly Year 10's from Kingsbury school and Sports College who had a lot more experience in public debates,) our students achieved enough points to progress through to round 2 which will be taking place on Friday 11th March 2016 at Holy Trinity Media Arts College. If the students secure themselves enough points to advance through to the final rounds, the students will be going to London to compete in the House of Lords, so please wish them the very best of luck!

Remember, it is never too late to sign-up for enrichment; if you are interested in debating whether at a competitive or friendly level, please speak to Miss Easthope about the Debate Mate enrichment and the many unique opportunities it presents.

Miss Easthope – Cardinal Wiseman's Debate Mate Representative

Dates for your diary	
Year 8 Parents' Evening – Thur 17 th March – 4.30-7pm	
Options Evening for Year 8 – Wed 23 rd March – 6-7pm	
Thur 24 th March – Term finishes at 12.30pm	
Monday 11 th April – Teacher Training Day	
Year 9 Assessment Week – Week beginning Tue 12 th April	
Year 8 and 9 HPV Vaccinations – Tue 12 th and Wed 13 th April	
Year 7 Star Reading Tests – week beginning 18 th April	
<i>Please see the calendar on the school website for further dates and key events.</i>	

I hope that you all have a happy and holy Easter break.

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.



Headteacher's Stars

Pupil name	Year/Class	Award	Reason
Lamar Thompson	7Ne	Reading Star	For improving his reading age by 3 years and 1 month! He now has a reading age of 15.4!
Millie Grigg	11C	Head of Year 11	For her fantastic work ethic across all her subjects - well done Millie. You are a star!
Alfonso May	9NE	Head of Year 9	For receiving the highest number of Merits in year 9 during the month of February. 28 Merits as a wonderful achievement! Well done!

Pupil name	Year/Class	Award	Reason
Uthman Rogers	10S	Head of Year 10	For being an outstanding member of year 10 - a role model to all. Keep it up!
Shelby Lowe	8BE	Head of Year 8	For having a consistently good attitude to learning.
Sean Gonnely	7Be	Head of Year 7	A heart-warming act of kindness towards a member of staff
Sinead Wickett	11S	Maths Star	Resilience and commitment to success in Mathematics.
Kerry Bowen	9W1	Science Star	Consistently completes all class and homework to the highest standard with 100% effort.
Marko Knezo	9opt	Geography Star	Excellent effort on year 9 assessment
Bereket Mario	Yr 11	Business Star	Participation in lessons and contribution of answers in discussions.
Jacob Buckley	7Bo	Computing Star	Outstanding home learning project on Wearable Technology.
Thomas Lafferty	Yr 11	Drama Star	For his commitment and his excellent effort both in and

			outside his Drama lessons.
Ellis Truman	Yr 11	Art Star	Demonstrates a real love of learning in every art lesson
Ashiq Sheq	Yr 11	RM Star	Excellent carpentry skills shown in wood work
Mun Yew	Yr 10	Food Star	Demonstrating great independence and resilience.
Grace O'Hanlon	Yr 11	Music Star	For her excellent result in her recent BTEC Music Examination