



# Monthly Mail – September 2016

Dear parent/carer,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year. I hope that you have had a good summer holiday.

## OFSTED

Dear parents, as you know we had an OFSTED inspection last week. We will issue that report when it is published in early October and we are not allowed to discuss the outcomes until the report is published. I want to let you know that I am very proud of everyone here at Cardinal Wiseman – staff and pupils alike and I am looking forward to sharing that report with you.

## Well done! Fantastic Exam Results – Summer 2016



Top achievers: Connor, Mary and Thomas

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College has achieved its biggest improvement in exam results in the history of the school.



Outstanding progress: Amy and Jeffrey

Our headline figure for A\*-C in GCSE English and Maths has increased by 23% to an impressive 54% this year. This is down to the talented team of staff who work with complete dedication and commitment to ensure the best results possible for our pupils. I congratulate all of our leavers who responded so well to their teachers to achieve these fantastic results and the parents and carers who supported them.

The three pupils with the highest grades are as follows:

Thomas LAFFERTY	11(11) - 8 A*s, 2 As and 1 B
Connor GREANEY	11(11) - 6 A*s, 4 As and 1 B
Mary DOSUMU	11(11) – 2 A*s, 6 As, 2 Bs and 1C

Both Thomas and Connor are going to Bishop Walsh Catholic School to study A levels and Mary is pursuing A Levels in Science subjects.

Jeffrey ASAJU achieved 11 A\*-C grades with 7 of these grades being A\*-A. This is particularly impressive considering that Jeffrey was newly arrived in the UK and joined the school in November 2014.

Amy BRINDLEY achieved seven A\*-As, three Bs and one C grade.

Ashik SHEK achieved five A\*-As, five Bs and one C grade.

All of us here at Cardinal Wiseman would like to wish our leavers all the best in the future.



We have also been highly successful with our Year 10 students who took their Biology GCSE early and achieved 93% A\*-C and 7% A\*-A. Half of the year group also took RE and gained 95% A\*-C and 21% achieved an A\*-A grade.

All students in Year 9 took either a GCSE or BTEC qualification two years early and 71% gained a C grade or above. Well done to all!

## **Welcome to Wiseman**

I would like to welcome all of the new Year 7 pupils and their parents and carers to our wonderful school community.

I also would like to introduce the new staff who have made a fantastic start to this academic year:

Mr Hodgkiss and Mr Singh join our maths department. Mr Hodgkiss has responsibility for KS4 and Mr Singh has a responsibility for SEND and Most Able. Miss Richards joins science and Miss Tierney joins the chaplaincy team.

I am sure you will introduce yourselves to them and make them welcome when you see them.

## **Parental Partnership**

I would like take this opportunity to emphasise how important it is that parents and carers work in partnership with the school to ensure that your child is as successful as they can possibly be. In order to do that we need you to read this letter carefully and take note of the key messages and dates.

## Monthly Mail

The Monthly Mail is very useful as it will contain the most-up-to-date information regarding the school such as informing you about up and coming events as well as informing you about events that have recently taken place. We also celebrate the successes within the school and reward our pupils with the Star of the Month. Don't forget to ask your child for this letter. The Monthly Mail will also be posted in the latest news section on the homepage of our school website.

### Request for an update of details

For the school to run effectively, communications in both directions between home and school is vital, therefore it is vital that we have your updated details. If you were receiving texts etc. last year and your details are the same then you do not need to do anything as we still have them in our system. However, if any of your details have changed, it is essential that you contact the school office (see the header of this newsletter for the school number and email address.

### Parental Contact with the School

#### **Head of Year**

If you have an issue regarding your child, please contact your child's Head of Year. This could be to do with issues such as bullying, academic progress, etc.

Year	Head of Year	Email address
Year 7	Mrs Cooney	<a href="mailto:cooney@cardinalwiseman.net">cooney@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Year 8	Miss Kelly	<a href="mailto:skelly@cardinalwiseman.net">skelly@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Year 9	Miss Monk	<a href="mailto:lmonk@cardinalwiseman.net">lmonk@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Year 10	Mrs Morgan	<a href="mailto:mmorgan@cardinalwiseman.net">mmorgan@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Year 11	Mrs Meersand	<a href="mailto:smeersand@cardinalwiseman.net">smeersand@cardinalwiseman.net</a>

Below is a list of other members of staff who you may wish to contact:

Behaviour	Dr Beavan (Assistant Headteacher)	<a href="mailto:lbeavan@cardinalwiseman.net">lbeavan@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Teaching and Learning Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11)	Miss Edwards-Stoker (Senior Assistant Headteacher)	<a href="mailto:cedwards@cardinalwiseman.net">cedwards@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Teaching and Learning Key Stage 3 (Years 7-8)	Mrs Riley (Senior Assistant Headteacher)	<a href="mailto:criley@cardinalwiseman.net">criley@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Pastoral concern regarding the welfare of your child	Mr Swanwick (Deputy Head)	<a href="mailto:rswanwick@cardinalwiseman.net">rswanwick@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
SEND	Mr Allen (SENCO)	<a href="mailto:jallen@cardinalwiseman.net">jallen@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Most Able (Gifted and Talented)	Mrs Buckle (Assistant Head)	<a href="mailto:ebuckle@cardinalwiseman.net">ebuckle@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Homework / Attendance	Mr Kearns (Assistant Head)	<a href="mailto:akearns@cardinalwiseman.net">akearns@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Transition	Mr Beckett (Assistant Head)	<a href="mailto:abeckett@cardinalwiseman.net">abeckett@cardinalwiseman.net</a>

If you feel that you have not had a satisfactory answer or response to your concern then contact the Head teacher:  
[cstewardson@cardinalwiseman.net](mailto:cstewardson@cardinalwiseman.net)

#### **Drop-In Sessions**

Every morning from 8:50 until 9:45am we have an open parental drop-in where you can tell a member of staff about your concerns or ask questions of any kind and they will pass on your query to the appropriate member of staff who will contact you as soon as possible.

#### **Safeguarding Team**

Safeguarding is about promoting the welfare of, and the protection from harm of, all children aged 0 -18 years old.

All of the staff at Cardinal Wiseman are trained to deal with concerns in regards to the welfare of the children we serve. However, we have a specialist team of staff who are trained to deal with highly sensitive safeguarding issues. They are known as Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). These members of staff are as follows:

Deputy Head (Lead DSL)	Mr Swanwick	<a href="mailto:rswanwick@cardinalwiseman.net">rswanwick@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Head teacher	Mrs Stewardson	<a href="mailto:cstewardson@cardinalwiseman.net">cstewardson@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Assistant Head	Dr Beavan	<a href="mailto:lbeavan@cardinalwiseman.net">lbeavan@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Pastoral manager	Ms Short	<a href="mailto:eshort@cardinalwiseman.net">eshort@cardinalwiseman.net</a>
Family support worker	Mrs Jenks	<a href="mailto:djenks@cardinalwiseman.net">djenks@cardinalwiseman.net</a>

## **Timings of the school day**

### **Key Stage 3 - Years 7 and 8**

<b>8:45</b>	Warning bell
<b>8:50</b>	Period 1 (am registration)
<b>9:40</b>	Period 2
<b>10.30</b>	Period 3 DEAR / TUTOR / Angelus – whole school prayer
<b>11:00</b>	Break
<b>11:15</b>	Period 4
<b>12:05</b>	Period 5
<b>12:55</b>	Lunch for Years 7 & 8
<b>1:30</b>	Period 6
<b>2:20</b>	Period 7
<b>3:10</b>	End of school day / Enrichment Activities

Please ensure that your child arrives to school by 8.45. The first 10 minutes of a lesson are often the key to understanding of the whole lesson. Therefore, excellent punctuality is really important.

## **Important Dates 2016 – 2017**

Please note that the full school calendar can be found on the school website by going to [www.cardinalwiseman.net](http://www.cardinalwiseman.net) – School Info – School Calendar. Below are some of the key dates throughout the year. Please note that the dates can be amended – parents/carers will be informed about any changes through the Monthly Mail and/or via a text message/email.

### **School Year 2016 - 2017**

#### **Autumn Term 2016**

Term Starts: Monday 5 September 2016

Half Term: Monday 24 October 2016 – Friday 28 October 2016

Term Ends: Friday 16 December 2016

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#### **Spring Term 2017**

Term Starts: Tuesday 3 January 2017

Half Term: Monday 20 February 2017 – Friday 24 February 2017

Term Ends: Friday 7 April 2017

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#### **Summer Term 2017**

Term Starts: Monday 24 April 2017

Half Term: Monday 29 May 2017 – Friday 2 June 2017

Term Ends: Tuesday 25 July 2017

## **Teacher Training Days**

- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

*We will inform you of additional teacher days when they have been arranged*

## Pupils Assessments and Parents' Evenings

*(Please note that dates may be changed. You will be notified of any changes.)*

Parents and carers are expected to attend Parents' Evenings as clearly stated in the Home School Contract. Following an exam week staff will mark the assessment/test and input the data which will then be shared with parents/carers.

Year 7	
Week beginning 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Base line assessments
<b>Thur 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 5.30-7pm</b>	<b>Settling-In Evening</b>
Week beginning 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 7 Exam Week
Week beginning 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 7 Exam Week
<b>25<sup>th</sup> May 4.30 – 7pm</b>	<b>Year 7 Parents' Evening</b>

Year 8	
Week beginning 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Year 8 Exam Week
Week beginning 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Year 8 Exam Week
Week beginning 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 Exam Week
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 4.30 – 7pm</b>	<b>Year 8 Parents' Evening</b>

Year 9	
Week beginning 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 9 Exam Week
<b>Thur 5<sup>th</sup> January 4.30 – 7pm</b>	<b>Year 9 Parents' Evening</b>
Week beginning 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 9 Exam Week
Week beginning 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 9 Exam Week

Year 10	
Week beginning 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 10 Exam Week
Week beginning 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 10 Exam Week
Week beginning 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 10 Exam Week
<b>13<sup>th</sup> July 4.30 - 7pm</b>	<b>Year 10 Parents' Evening</b>

Year 11	
<b>Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 5.30-6.30pm</b>	<b>Year 11 Careers Information Evening</b>
Week beginning 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 11 Exam Week
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> December – all day	Year 11 Mock Interview Day
Week beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Year 11 Mock Exam Week
<b>19<sup>st</sup> January 4.30 – 7pm</b>	<b>Year 11 Parents' Evening</b>
Week beginning 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11 Mock Exam Week

## Home Learning

### Support our students to be life-long learners

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 re-started the Home Learning support club which is open Monday-Friday 3:15-4:00pm in room 13, starting on Monday 12th September 2016. 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)

## Years 7 and 8

This is being amended and will be issued separately.

## Year 9

Students will be set approximately 40 minutes' home learning per subject per week.

The nature of home learning tasks will vary from one subject to another, however it is usually set for students:

- ✓ Summary of Learning - to revise and consolidate work that has been covered in class – this must be done in the back of their books.
- ✓ to rehearse/practise in preparation for a performance e.g. Music or Drama performance
- ✓ to develop a piece of work e.g. Art

Pupils will be set home learning on the following days.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
RE	Maths	English	Opt 3 Drama, Business, PE, 3D design, Art & Dance	Science
Opt 2 Computing, Sport, Hospitality and Catering & Spanish	Opt 1 History Geography			

## Years 10 and 11

### Learning Journals

Pupils will be given a Learning Journal. This specially created workbook has been designed for pupils to write their home learning in one place and will be a valuable revision resource in preparation for their exams.

Pupils are expected to spend approximately 45 minutes per week, per subject summarising their learning from their recent lessons.

### Additional home learning

Additional home learning - teachers may set additional home learning tasks where necessary such as developing performance skills in Dance, Music and Drama etc.

### Year 10

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
English	Science	Maths	Opt 1 Spanish, Geography & History	RE
	Opt 4 Music, Drama, Computing, PE Hospitality and Catering & Art		Opt 3 Geography, History, Sport & Art	

### Year 11

Year 11 will be set weekly home learning tasks on their day of their revision.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Science	Opt 4 Art, Business, Drama, Geography, Media Studies & RE	Opt 1 Spanish, Art, RE, Hospitality and Catering & Drama	English	Maths
		Opt 2		Opt 3

		Hospitality and Catering, Geography, History, 3D Design & RE		Computing, Geography, History, Music, PE, Sport & RE
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### **How Can Parents/Carers Help Their Child?**

- ✓ Encourage your child to do their homework/revise – use rewards as an incentive.
- ✓ Wherever possible, give your child a quiet space to work/concentrate
- ✓ Be interested in what they are doing – ask questions “Can I help you with that?”, “Explain to me what photosynthesis is” etc. Test them on key vocabulary.
- ✓ Little and often is the key to success – this is called ‘chunking’. Most students cannot revise effectively for more than 40 minutes in one session.
- ✓ Let them have breaks of at least 10 or 15 minutes between each session. Don’t let a 15-minute break last all evening!
- ✓ Help your child to make homework/revision a habit...the more they do it, the more they’ll get used to doing it and the less of a chore it will become!
- ✓ Make it part of their daily routine. Create a revision timetable/planner with your child.
- ✓ Don’t revise or do all of your homework the same evening. Variety is the spice of life!
- ✓ Start today!

### **School Meals**



Following on from the excellent work that was led by the school council last year, we have moved to a new provider for school meals. Pupils and staff have been wowed by the make-over that the dining room has had over the summer holidays. It has been named ‘Cardinal Café’ by the pupils.

The company that is now running the school catering is called ‘Aspens’. The difference in the quality of the food is remarkably better and much healthier. One pupil commented that “it looks like I’ve just walked in Costa Coffee.”

For more information about the food in school, please go to the link on the school website – About Us – Catering/Food or go direct to: [www.aspens-services.co.uk/schools/cardinal-wiseman/](http://www.aspens-services.co.uk/schools/cardinal-wiseman/)

### **Music Lessons**

Learning a musical instrument is something that is hugely rewarding and is proven to have many benefits to a child's educational development. For the small contribution of £10 per term (unless your child is in receipt of free school meals) we offer instrumental lessons on brass, drum kit, guitar, steel pan, vocal and woodwind instruments. Students who have these lessons are entered for music medals and graded examinations where possible and several students have progressed on to play in area bands performing at prestige venues such as the Adrian Boult Hall and Symphony Hall. If you would like more information please ask your child to speak to Mr Beckett for a trial lesson or you can email: [abeckett@cardinalwiseman.net](mailto:abeckett@cardinalwiseman.net)

## **Wiseman Awards Ceremony July 2016**

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, we held our first ever major Awards Ceremony for pupils in Years 7-10. The event took place in the Holte Suite at Aston Vila Football Club in the evening. As you can see from the photos, pupils, parents and staff all dressed up the wonderful occasion.



The evening was hosted by Mr Beckett and Mr Swanwick and included a range of lively dance and music performances from students and finished with Dominic McPherson DJing the disco. Many thanks to all students who were involved. In particular, I would like to thank the School Council for their ideas with this new event and coming up with the final list of awards. Also, a big thanks goes to Señorita Lampérez and the students who worked so hard to decorate the room with their hand made decorations.

The main purpose of the evening was to recognise the fantastic achievements that pupils in the school thoroughly deserve. Over 100 awards were given out in total for a range of different things including Subject Awards, Wiseman Virtue Awards, Most Improved Reading Age, Homework Awards, Academic Excellence and Catholic Life of the School Awards. The final awards given to the pupils who made the most progress throughout the year. I'm sure you'll agree that this is truly outstanding award to receive.



Aisha Darboe – Year 7



Courtney Steele – Year 8



Priya McLean-Brade – Year 10



# Outstanding Progress Awards 2016



Jordan Williams – Year 7




Breakthrough Akanbi – Year 9



Shane Slattery – Year 10

Well done to all of our Award winners. I hope that the success of this event will be an incentive for all of our students to aim to achieve their very best during this academic year as we plan to hold another event in July 2017

<b>Dates for your diary</b>	
Week beginning 17 <sup>th</sup> October – <b>Year 11 Exam Week</b>	
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 5.30 – 7pm <b>Year 7 Settling-In Evening for parents</b>	

Yours sincerely,

Christina Stewardson

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

*Previous editions of the Monthly Mail can be found on the school website.*

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