



# Monthly Mail – December 2016

Dear parent/carer,

'Generous' is one of the Wiseman Virtues and it is great to see in this edition of the Monthly Mail, especially at this time of year, how pupils and staff have been generous with sharing their God given talents, giving their time to serve local senior citizens, giving up their beds for a night or two and fundraising for a range of different people who need support.



## Christmas VIP Party

On Tuesday 6th December, pupils of Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College, put on a spectacular Christmas party for their local senior citizens. The party was held at the Maryvale Community Project; the pupils of Cardinal Wiseman decorated the hall, prepared the food, sang Christmas songs, and were on hand to serve the senior citizens.

The afternoon was full of fun and smiles.

There were over 60 senior citizens who attended. The afternoon consisted of bingo, Christmas Carols and we ended with a raffle. As a Catholic school we believe that it is important to remember the elderly and by organising this event it is a small token of the school's appreciation and support for the elderly people of the local community.



# Winter Warmer Fundraising Day

This advent we were happy to bring back our well received Winter Warmer day. Our Winter Warmer event allowed us to raise funds for the VIP party we host each year as a school for our local community. To help us raise money for the party we allowed each pupil to come into school in Christmas themed clothing. It was inspiring to see the active role the pupils took in the Winter Warmer day, and the effort that went into their outfits, from reindeers to Christmas puddings, we had it all. We also allowed the pupils to buy Santa hats, tinsel, reindeer ears, and get their nails done, this ensured the day had a fun and festive feeling throughout. The day allowed us to raise £510 for our VIP party, which was well received by our local community.



# Defib Day

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, we had non-uniform day to raise funds to be able to buy our own defibrillator. **Defibrillation** is a procedure used to treat life threatening conditions that affect the rhythm of the heart. Numerous members of staff have been trained to use a defibrillator. All students attended an engaging and informative presentation led by Stuart Clowes from Safe Aid. Students learnt about the importance of having a defibrillator on the school site and some students had a go at using the device. Many thanks to Stuart for giving up his time to share his expertise free of charge.



## Year of Mercy continued...

Every week we hear from different people who visit our school say fantastic things about our pupils. That's not a surprise as we all know how our pupils show the Wiseman Virtues day in day out. However, at the end of the most recent retreat day we received the following comments from different people.

*"Two days in Cardinal Wiseman is really not enough. It's certainly plenty of time to meet the young people studying there. They are full of energy and enthusiasm, especially when it comes to the Grill the Priest section of Day 1 of my visit. To be fair they are open and honest when the tables are turned we have the chance to look at some of the bigger questions in life that they are dealing with. There's also a sense of hospitality that goes beyond the norm, evidenced by students coming up to me during the lunch break to find out who I am and if I'm enjoying my visit in their school."*

*During our retreat day we looked at the call of mercy espoused by Pope Francis. They engage in a way that is both sincere and open hearted. It not seen as an abstract concept that is aspired to somewhere else, but a lived reality that is celebrated in school. We looked at how we lived, how we shared our world, and what we could do to make even the smallest difference. We spoke about how they were called to be missionaries of God's love and mercy where they are now. They have an optimism and a belief that they are going to have an impact on their world for the better. It's amazing to be part of it, if only for a short while. Two days in Cardinal Wiseman is really not enough." - Fr Alan*

*"Joining Cardinal Wiseman School for a retreat day was an inspirational experience! The students clearly had a great relationship with the chaplaincy team and a great desire to be engaged in issues of social action that they felt passionate about, especially the homeless, refugees and bullying. The Mass and the music was really beautiful and a fantastic celebration of faith by all involved and this clearly reflects the investment the school has made into catholic life." - Maria Bracken*

*"From the moment I stepped in to the Church at Maryvale I knew it was going to be a good day, the huge choir, rehearsing with such passion set the tone for the day. The mass was extremely prayerful and very well prepared. The pupils and staff participated with great dignity and reverence. The technology malfunction in my first session would normally have led to panic, but the young people were fantastic and we had a lively and interesting discussion. I was thoroughly impressed with the attitude, behaviour and maturity in each of the classes I visited and their welcome and participation was fantastic. I was also delighted with the way in which the teachers engaged with the pupils, praising them and making them feel good about themselves. Thank you, everyone, for a great day!" - Sister Gillian*

One word springs to mind – wonderful!

## Drama Academy's Christmas performance



On Wednesday 7th December a group of talented students took to the stage to perform for their parents 'Bah Humbug!' an original play they had written and devised themselves. It told the tale of what made the villains of Christmas hate it so much and then how they grew to love it once again. The students were very professional and had lots of fun! Parents who attended enjoyed themselves and I certainly loved seeing each and everyone of them develop as budding actors and actresses. Well done to all who were involved!

Miss Valletta



## Student report - Careers Fair – Year 10

On the 30<sup>th</sup> November, Year 10 students were lucky enough to have the opportunity to meet staff from local colleges and schools to talk about the different options we have when we leave Cardinal Wiseman. We were very grateful for them giving up their time for us and we would like to say thank you to them for doing this. It was very useful for us to have a better understanding about our options in the next chapter of our lives.

During the day, we also had time with our tutors to look at different careers.

Thank you to Mrs Biddle and Mrs Meersand for arranging this day for us.

Catherine Lillie (10 Newman)



### Dates for your diary

Thur 15<sup>th</sup> December – Wiseman Day – school finishes at 12.30pm

Fri 16<sup>th</sup> December – End of the Term Mass – school finishes at 12.30pm

Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Teacher Training Day

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> January – School open to all pupils

Thur 5<sup>th</sup> January – Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7pm – all parents/carers are expected to attend.

Thur 19<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 Parent's Evening 4.30 – 7pm – all parents/carers are expected to attend.



# Helping the Homeless

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December staff members from Cardinal Wiseman joined the Redemptorist Young Adult Prayer group to distribute donations to the homeless on the streets of Birmingham City Centre.



We reached approximately 50 homeless people in Birmingham, giving out clothes, blankets and food. It highlighted the real issue of homelessness in the city and the need for communities to come together and support the most vulnerable in society. Here at Cardinal Wiseman we will continue to support the work of St Basil's and be a presence in the city.



## Rhianna – going the extra mile!

### St Basils

St Basils Retweeted Cardinal Wiseman  
Absolutely tremendous effort!!! Well done Rihanna, you're an absolute star! :)

Rhianna Gordon in year 8 took part in the Big Birmingham sleep out as well as taking part in the sleep out at school.  
Well done!



I hope that you have a happy and holy Christmas,

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.*