



# Monthly Mail – February 2017

Dear parent/carer,



## Confirmation Mass

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017, the year 6 Confirmation pupils from Christ the King, Maryvale and St. Margaret Mary joined us at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School for a celebration of the Holy Mass. With the help of our student chaplaincy team, and Cardinal Wiseman staff, the day was filled with the Holy Spirit. It was a delight to witness the three primary schools coming together. The focus throughout the Mass was on the Holy Spirit and songs like 'Consuming Fire' reflected this theme.

The three primary schools all had their own input during the mass, Maryvale performed a drama based on the Pentecost story. St. Margaret Mary created artwork which was placed in front of the altar, this artwork was based on the flame of faith we all have and saying "yes" to God's call. Christ the King beautifully introduced the mass, read the readings, along with writing and read the bidding prayers.

Thank you to everyone who took part in such a wonderful day.

30 students from Y7-9 are preparing to take part in BBC School Report on the 16th March. On this day our school website will be linked up with the BBC and our students' articles will be available for the whole world to see. Students have started researching and preparing their stories. There are extra-curricular sessions after school where students will develop article writing skills, interviewing techniques and media skills by making videos.



***Do you run a club or group and need a place to hire or train? We have our Sports Hall, Dance Studio, fields, classrooms and a Hall with tiered seating (200 seating capacity) available to hire evenings, weekends and school holidays. We offer competitive rates and parking. Please contact Tom on 07843 160128 (between 6am and 2pm) for more information.***

# Alton Castle Residential Retreat

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 30 pupils and 3 staff took part in a residential retreat at Alton Castle in Staffordshire. The centre offers the children the opportunity of taking part in some really exciting outdoor activities with a large on focus on their spirituality.



Our theme for the retreat was 'Who Am I?', and each fun activity gave the children a chance to reflect on the theme. The children took time to consider what they had achieved so far in their lives and reflected positively on where their life journey was going to take them.

The friendly staff led the children in night time activities after dinner which ranged from fun team games to meditations. Over the next two days, the children had the opportunity to take part in three activities each including mountain biking, trekking, survival, adventure course and archery. Each night, the children took part in night prayer; rooms were set to be peaceful and calm, with candles burning and quiet music playing. All the children were involved and eager to take part praying for their own families, friends and concerns.

To end the trip, we all took part in a beautiful Mass which we had learnt new hymns for. The Mass was the culmination of a wonderful few days where everyone involved had been touched, in some way, by the events which took place at the castle. Our trip was a real success, and we are now putting our improved team work skills to use in school.



| Dates for your diary   |  |
|--|--|
| Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb – non-uniform day to raise money for our own defibrillator. |  |
| WB 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Half term  |  |
| WB 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Year 10 Exam Week  |  |
| Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> March – Whole School Mass – Ash Wednesday                        |  |
| Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup> March – World Book Day  |  |



# Would you let your child eat 15 sugar cubes?

## What about 10 sugar cubes?

As part of our continuing commitment to developing the whole person we aim to be a **healthy school**. We have noticed that a number of children bring energy drinks (such as Lucozade) or other fizzy drinks (such as Coca cola) to school. They are frequently reminded that this is not healthy. In fact, one 500ml bottle of Lucozade can contain the equivalent of 15 sugar cubes! A standard 500ml bottle of Coca cola can contain the equivalent of 10 sugar cubes!



### We have added energy drinks, so called 'sports' drinks and fizzy drinks to the list of items banned at school.

Children should not bring them to school. If children are seen with such drinks they may be confiscated until the end of the school day. The children will still be able to purchase a range of drinks in the school canteen. We will work with the canteen staff to ensure that the drinks on offer are healthy. We would also like you to join us in encouraging the children to bring a water bottle to school.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Dr Beavan (Assistant Headteacher)

Dear community member,

We are contacting you with regards to a recent change in the law surrounding controlled drugs, which we are seeking to raise awareness of among communities within the West Midlands.

The government has now changed the classification of synthetic cannabinoids, making them illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Such substances are very commonly available and are known to many as Spice or Mamba and are incorrectly assumed to be a 'legal high'. They generally mimic the effects of cannabis.

The change in the law means that it is now illegal to possess these substances, meaning anyone who is found to have it in their possession is likely to face arrest.

We are very aware of the addictive nature of these substances and the serious harm they can do. Therefore, we are keen to make people aware that by buying or obtaining such drugs they are now committing a criminal offence. We will, initially, seek to find help and support to those who need it, as we are mindful that many people may unwittingly be breaking the law because they simply don't know that what they are using is now a controlled, illegal substance.

With this in mind we are asking for your help in passing this information on as far and wide as you possibly can so we can arm people with knowledge. We are duty bound to intervene and seize these drugs and prosecute those knowingly flouting the law. However, we also want the community to be as informed about this as possible and that is why we need your help in raising awareness of this change in legislation.

Those involved in the production and supply of these drugs should not expect the same level of support – such offences will be dealt with robustly as we seek to shut down manufacture and supply chains across the region.

For the facts on drugs and new psychoactive substances visit the [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com) website.

Please share this message with any of your contacts and, as ever, thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Paul T Chester - Police & School Partnership Manager



£1 donation

# World Book Day

To celebrate World book Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, throughout day the library will be selling cakes and we look forward to seeing you all dressed as your favourite book character!

Prize for the best costume!



## ATTENDANCE 2017

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 95.69%  
PERSISTENT ABSENCE: 7.87% (BELOW 90%)

## ATTENDANCE BY YEAR GROUP.

YEAR 7: 95.81%, persistent absence 7.56%  
YEAR 8: 95.78%, persistent absence 9.32%  
YEAR 9: 95.70%, persistent absence 6.83%  
YEAR 10: 95.24%, persistent absence 9.27%  
YEAR 11: 95.90%, persistent absence 6.31%

Well done to year 11!

In order for us to continue to maintain a good attendance this has unfortunately meant that one of our parents has been given a penalty notice of £609 this term.

**NOTE: Last days of terms/ non-school uniform days are ALL COMPULSORY school days where all children MUST attend.**

**Please note: Pupils must be in school by 8:45am If they arrive after 8.50pm your child will be in detention that day.**

*ATTEND TODAY.....ACHIEVE TOMMORROW*

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.*