



## February 2018 - Monthly Mail

Dear parent/carer,

### WINNERS - Catholic Partnership Public Speaking Competition



On 7th February Jada Fraser in Year 10 competed against twelve teams from seven different schools in the Catholic Partnership public speaking competition. She was in role as Darth Vader persuading the audience of 80+ that she was the greatest villain of all time. Kaylen Smith and Hasaya Grizzle ably helped her to compose her speech.

Despite very strong competition, Jada blew the competition out of the water and got remarkable comments from the judges. She came first out of thirteen teams from seven different schools across the Birmingham Diocese.

We are incredibly proud of these students and know the oracy skills they have built will support greatly in the future. We now hope to bring home the Year 9 trophy in March!

### Top Rating for Food Hygiene at CW

It is pleasing to report that we have received, once again, a top food hygiene rating. The inspection took place on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018. Well done to all of our catering staff for ensuring that we have maintained the highest possible rating.





# Arts in the City – Year 7

Year 7 pupils were treated to a day about Arts in Birmingham on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. After walking through the iconic Mailbox, they had time to draw the city either from the canal side or from the top of The Cube. Pupils were wowed by the views from the top of this modern building that dominates the Birmingham skyline.

Pupils then walked along the canals to the ICC (International Convention Centre) where they attended a concert by the world-class City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO). The concert was created to educate pupils in KS3 about how music has changed over the last 500 years.

The final part of the trip was a visit to the Birmingham Art Gallery and Museum where pupils had the opportunity to explore the fabulous exhibits, learn about Birmingham through the ages and see magnificent artwork in the galleries.



## Online Safety



Many parents and carers find it difficult to keep up with advances in technology, especially when it comes to social media. Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb was Online Safety Day. In regards to this, we have uploaded numerous guides to inform and help parents and carers with online safety, online gaming and social media sites such as Snapchat and Instagram.

Do not hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Team at CW if you have any concerns about your child.

[dsl@cardinalwiseman.net](mailto:dsl@cardinalwiseman.net)



# Attendance Matters

A very important message for all parents

Dear parent/carer,

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School are working in partnership with parents to improve school attendance. **We would like to congratulate the many parents who make sure their children attend school regularly.**

It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their children receive appropriate education. Failing to send your child to school regularly without good reason is a criminal offence.

Absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class. Are you aware that children who do not attend regularly:

- do not achieve well in exams
- find it difficult to maintain friendships
- are more likely to become involved in crime
- miss out on opportunities in further education and the world of work?

Absence can only be authorised by the Head Teacher, within the boundaries set by the Education (Pupil Registrations) (England) Regulations 2006.

***You may be aware that Head Teachers may not authorise leave during term time except where the circumstances are exceptional. If your child takes leave that has not been authorised by the Head Teacher, it will result in the absence being recorded as unauthorised and legal action may be taken.***

Please remember that parental illness, going shopping, visiting family, truancy, not wanting to go to school, alleged bullying (speak to school immediately to resolve the issue) are not acceptable reasons to be absent. All of these will be recorded as unauthorised absence, including if your child arrives at school after the close of registration.

Family emergencies need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Being at school, friendship with peers and support from staff can provide children with stability. The routine of school offers a safe and familiar background during times of uncertainty.

**Legal action that may be taken include:**

- **Issuing penalty notices:** Each parent receives a penalty notice for each child who has unauthorised absence. The penalty is £60 or £120 depending on how soon payment is made. Therefore, if there are two parents and two children the total penalties could be up to £480. Failure to pay may result in prosecution.
- **Taking parents to court for unauthorised absence:** Education Act 1996 Section 444(1) - court can fine each parent up to £1000 per child, order payment of prosecution costs and/or impose a Parenting Order.
- **Taking parents to court for persistent unauthorised absence:** Education Act 1996 Section 444(1A) - court can fine each parent up to £2,500 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Parenting Order and/or sentence you to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months.

**Being taken to court could result in you having a criminal record.**

How does your child compare?

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

**Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.**

If your child's level of absence is of serious concern, you will receive another letter advising you about improving attendance. After this, any further unauthorised absence may result in the School and the Local Authority taking legal action.

**Again, we would like to thank those parents who make sure their child is attending school regularly and are therefore benefiting fully from their educational opportunity.**

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C B Stewardson  
Head Teacher

### **ATTENDANCE 2017/18**

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE from Sept 17: 96.21%

PERSISTENT ABSENCE: 8.61% (BELOW 90%)

### **ATTENDANCE BY YEAR GROUP**

7	8	9	10	11
95.42%	95.52%	96.68%	96.42%	97.38%

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

**Leave in term time is not permitted; unfortunately, this has seen one family being issued a fine for taking a holiday during school time this term.**

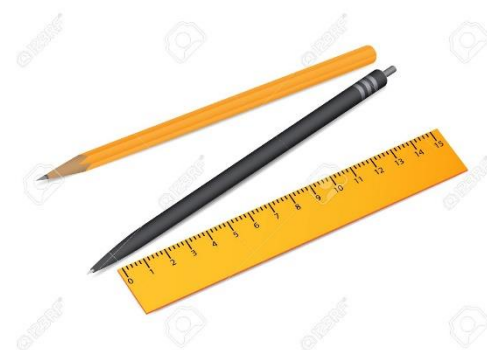
**Please note: Children must be in school by 08:45 last bell is at 08:50 late after this will see your child in detention that day.**

ATTEND TODAY.....ACHIEVE TOMMORROW

# Attentive and discerning – Being prepared

Each pupil is expected to bring essential equipment to school every day. This includes:

- A pen (blue or black) – a spare would also be useful
- A pencil
- A ruler
- Home learning **planner** (Years 7 & 8) or **journal** (Years 9, 10 and 11)
- A refillable water bottle (this is particularly important during the summer months)
- A suitable bag to keep it all in!



Tutors and Heads of Year will check this and award merits accordingly. We may apply a consequence and/or contact you if your child does not arrive at school prepared to learn.

Many pupils choose to bring additional items (eraser, pencil sharpener, a pair of compasses, glue-stick, calculator, scissors, high-lighters) this is to be encouraged and really shows that your child is thinking carefully about their learning. We ask that parents and carers check their child's equipment regularly. They should never bring things to school which could cause harm (see examples below).



**Sharp ended scissors** – could cause injury



**Multi-tool**  
Has a number of sharp blades

**Swiss army knife**

Could be classed as a weapon



**Correction fluid thinner**

Fire risk



**Energy and sports drinks**

Are not allowed at school





# Year 11 Parents' Evening Questionnaire January 2018 – Parent Responses



No	Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1	My child is happy at this school	39%	53%	4%	2%	2%
2	My child feels safe at this school	51%	47%	2%		
3	My child makes good progress at this school	37%	63%			
4	My child is well looked after at this school	47%	51%	2%		
5	My child is taught well at this school	38%	60%			2%
6	My child receives appropriate homework for their age	49%	47%	2%		2%
7	This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	51%	45%	2%		2%
8	This school deals effectively with bullying	42%	46%			12%
9	This school is well led and managed	37%	57%	2%		4%
10	This school responds well to any concerns I raise	39%	59%	2%		
11	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	45%	51%	4%		

No.	Question	Yes	No
12	Would you recommend this school to another parent?	<b>98%</b>	<b>2%</b>

If you would like to comment on any of your answers, please write below and clearly indicate which question you are referring to.

I love this school, but transport is an issue as I have applied for a bus pass, was turned down, appealed & was turned down again. Is there a solution please?

As a parent I'm sincerely grateful for the care & support to my child, even beyond Year 11. It's a reflection on all the subject teachers.

If I have contacted the school I have always had a positive outcome. Polite, considerate staff. Many thanks.

I am very happy with the school and the way the school helps & supports my child. He enjoys attending school.

Dates for your diary	
Week beginning Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half term
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 10 visit to the Synagogue
Thur 1 <sup>st</sup> March	World Book Day
Week beginning 5th March	Years 7 and 9 Exam/Test Week
Thur 8th March 4.30 – 7pm	Year 9 Parents' Evening All parents/carers are expected to attend



At the time of putting this edition of the Monthly, over 50 pupils from Years 7-10 are rehearsing for our school production of Buggy Malone. Good luck to you all with the performances – break a leg!

Best wishes, 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*