



## March 2018 - Monthly Mail

Dear parent/carers,



# Marvellous Musical



On Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th February, 45 talented students took to the stage to perform Paul Williams' Buggy Malone. A story set in 1920's New York, the students had to create an energetic, fun-loving, comical and splurge filled stage! Since September, they have been working extremely hard on their performance skills having to rehearse choreography, learn songs, stage scenes, develop their characters and work together as a cast to create a wonderful show! However, it wasn't only the students on stage that contributed to the show, as all the set, marketing and technical elements were also created by the students themselves. Throughout the process, we have had many opportunities to develop as a cast, such as getting to work with a professional actor and an American voice coach to help the students further develop their accent. As a school we are extremely proud of everybody who took part, as they have demonstrated some fantastic virtues such as being intentional and prophetic by having to give up a lot of their own time to rehearse and prepare for the performances and being faith-filled that their hard work will pay off - which it did with a sell-out show! We hope that this is the beginning of something new for the school and even more talented students get involved next year! Miss Valletta



Here is a selection of quotes from pupils who were in the cast:

“Bugsy Malone has been an exceptional experience for me as a performer. It has helped me grow in confidence and skill. It has been an excellent experience that I am immensely proud of being part of and that I’ll never forget.”

Vicandria Green aka Fizzy

“Being in Bugsy Malone has helped me get over my stage fright and improve my self-confidence”.

Sapphire Allen aka Louis /Set Design

“At first I didn’t want to do the show because I didn’t get a lead part but then we started rehearsals & I realised they gave me my part for a reason and that without people to play the smaller parts there would be no show”. Ryley Layton aka Radio Reporter /Seymoore Scoop

“Bugsy Malone has lifted my confidence and has made me realise how hard putting on a show really is. I would like to thank all the teachers that have helped us prepare for this. I have a real feel of love for all the cast”. Abby Hollender aka Doodle/Shady

“Bugsy has given me the opportunity to explore my talents and work with people with the same interests”.

Tayla Judge aka Tallulah

“Bugsy Malone has enabled me to strengthen in becoming a character and given me a better experience of theatre life and what happens behind the scenes”.

Dominic Clark aka Dandy Dan

“The show means a lot to me as it allows me to expand the techniques I learn in BTEC Drama and I can see my full potential within performing arts as a whole”.

Leanna Graham aka Captain Smolsky

Below are some of the key messages and morals from the musical:

*“You’re gonna be remembered for the things that you say and do”*

*“I won’t take no for an answer. I was born to be a dancer”.*

*“You don’t have to sit around complaining ‘bout the way your life has wound up.*

*Think of all the time you waste and times a precious thing to let roll by.”*

*“We could’ve been anything that we wanted to be”*

*“It’s been decided, we’re weaker divided. Let friendship double up our powers”.*

Further photos from the show can be found on the school website. Go to [www.cardinalwiseman.net](http://www.cardinalwiseman.net) – gallery.



# Cardinal Wiseman Students visit Birmingham Children's Hospital

On a cold and grey Thursday morning on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 a group of Year 9-10 pupils paid a visit to **James Brindley School** based at **Birmingham Children's Hospital**, and it fair to say that the students made me feel immensely proud to be their teacher and part of the Cardinal Wiseman community.

We met a group of primary aged children who were based at the hospital, either because they were receiving treatment there or their sibling was. **World Book Day** gave us the opportunity to celebrate reading and so we sat and read with the children there. Neve, Derrick, Tayla, Katie G, Katie C and Hannah were a genuine credit to our school – they were kind, compassionate and very mature when speaking to the younger children.

The whole experience proved to be a very sobering one, and made us all appreciate how precious life really is. We need to seize the opportunities life throws at us and try to fulfil our true potential in all things – being the best version of ourselves in school, at home and in the wider community.

*Reading allows us to broaden our horizons and unlocks many opportunities - remember to read for at least 20 minutes every day at home.*

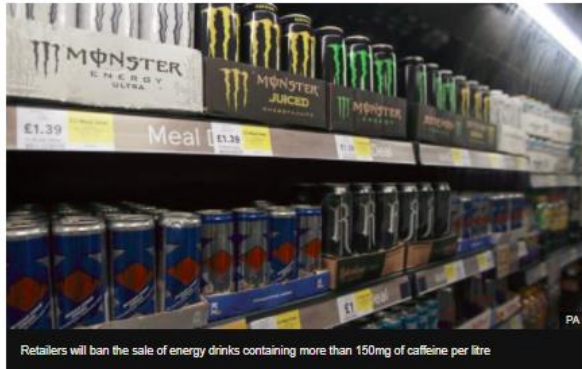
Mrs Buckle – Assistant Headteacher (Literacy)



## Energy drinks: UK supermarkets ban sales to under-16s

3 hours ago 237

f t e Share



Retailers will ban the sale of energy drinks containing more than 150mg of caffeine per litre

Sales of energy drinks to children under 16 have been banned in most major UK supermarkets, amid concerns about high levels of sugar and caffeine.

# ENERGY DRINKS

We banned energy drinks in school some time back for a range of different health reasons.

On 5<sup>th</sup> March, the following news article made it to the front page of the BBC new website.

At Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, we will confiscate energy drinks, as they are not suitable.

Water is the best drink and we advise parents and carers to ensure that their child has a water bottle with them every day, which they can re-fill at school.

## Year 9 Academic Awards Assembly

Our Academic Awards Assemblies allows students to celebrate their success in all subjects across the curriculum. Year 9 has made a fantastic start to their GCSEs and they celebrated their first Academic Awards Assembly on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. It was lovely to see students being proud of their achievements and listening to comments made from their subject teachers. When students were awarded a certificate they get an entry into a prize draw, the winners of the prize draw were Katie Glasgow, Keavy Murdock and Libby White-Ward. Well done year 9, keep up the hard work.

English – Ashin Giri and Libby White-Ward  
 Maths - Mikolaj Gralak and Abbi-Louise Harper  
 Science - James Seager and Hannah Melaney  
 RE – Pramish Sapkota and Lauren Conlon  
 History – Dylan Lewis and Jade Henry  
 Geography – Maciej Grzybowski and Natalia Lepiochin  
 Spanish - Karl Lakha-Roydes and Keavy Murdock  
 Pe / Dance – Luke Moore and Ellie O'Regan  
 Business / Computing – Odane Dixon and Katie Glasgow  
 Drama - Jermaine Murrain and Rhianna Gordon  
 Art – Ashin Giri and Veena Patel  
 Art – Mun Yew and Chanel Pyket  
 Music – Ethan Bailey and Katie Coady  
 EAL - Bartosz Pietrowksi and Maria Aka

Outstanding attitude to learning - James Seager and Naomi Aiwekhoe  
 Head teachers Award for outstanding progress - Pradeep Bishwakarma and Katie Matthews

# World Book Day Readers at Maryvale

On World Book Day, four of our Key Stage 3 students showed generosity and eloquence in reading for reception children at Maryvale. Halton Besong, Kimberleigh Stanford, Ethan Aspinall, and Andre Iyangbe were all active ambassadors for the school, as they braved blizzard conditions to walk down the hill and join in the fun. The reception class were very excited to see them, and responded very well to the reading.

All four Cardinal students were very compassionate to the little ones, and read superbly for them. Ethan showed maturity, Andre got through several books, Kimberleigh put a lot of expression in, and Halton injected his usual comedy. It was great to see these students giving something back, and engaging with the World Book Day vibe in such an intentional manner. Thank you and well done!



## CAR BOOT SALE

My name is John Holsey, I am the new site manager, and I am looking for ways to raise funds to buy equipment for the school. One idea I have is to run a car boot sale at the school every Saturday from April through the summer.

If you are interested in hiring a pitch then please contact me on the following number: 07522395857. Please also ask if any family or friends would be interested.

I look forwards to hearing from you.

Regards  
J Holsey - Site Manager



Pura Cultura Legno will be participating in a Young Enterprise Trade Fair on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March in Touchwood Shopping Centre in Solihull and will be representing both Pura Cultura Legno and Cardinal Wiseman as a whole. They will also be in another trade fair on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April in the Bullring in Birmingham to further support both Cardinal Wiseman and their business, Pura Cultura Legno. With 7 members representing the company at the trade fairs, it would be great to see staff, parents/carers and students from the school visiting the stall at the trade fair to show support and recognition of their efforts. They will be selling a variety of handmade wood products including miniature furniture, wine racks, quotations blocks and magazine racks. If you cannot make it to the trade fairs, but are interested in purchasing a product, speak to Hasaya Maye Grizzle or Yvonne Liu in Year 10, or Mrs Jennings in Room 10.  
*Crystal McGibbon - Production Director - Pura Cultura Legno*



*Wine Rackerzzz*

**Easter Fair**  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
**3.30 – 5.00pm**  
**Main reception**  
**Staff and parents**



*Sweetaholics*



*Bowls of Delight*

**Easter Sale: Last day of  
term**  
**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Break time**  
**Students and staff**



*Quotation Blocks*



*Comfort Teddies*

**Birmingham Bullring  
Trade Fair**  
**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April**  
**By St. Martin's Church**  
**outside the Bullring**  
**(near Nando's in the City Centre)**  
**Come and support us!!!**



*Furnie*



Wine Racks £15.00		Quotation Blocks £4.00 Personalisation £2.00		Bench £10.00	
Chairs £6.00		Magazine Rack £6.00		Large Table £10.00	
Small Table £8.00					



Easter Presents - Available from Room 10



## Year 10 Academic Awards Assembly

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, Year 10 celebrated their second Academic Awards Assembly. The assembly was to reward students who had made excellent progress within different subject areas.

Throughout the assembly, the students heard why staff had nominated them, which always makes the students smile. Students received a certificate and an entry into the end of assembly raffle. There was a fantastic buzz within the assembly especially when it came to the raffle draw. Diana John, Nitesh Saini and Krystian Zych were the three names pulled out and they won a bag of goodies. Well done to everyone who was nominated.

English – Krystian Zych and Rashana Francis

Maths – Sistus Anoshie and Alicia Fagan

Science - Marcel Poznanski and Chloe Forrest

RE – Jack Purcell and Neve Bassant

History – Farah Toure and Emily Starling

Geography – Dominic Clark and Tatum Jarrett

Spanish - Devontay Maragh and Lauren McGuinness

Pe / Dance – Callum Moore and Diana John

Business / Computing – Sistus Anoshie and Yvonne Lui

Drama - Andre McLeish and Brayanna Simpson

Food Technology – Nitesh Saini and Abby Conlon

3d Design – Akhil Shaine and Emily Elson

Art – Krystian Zych and Sophia Moulard

EAL Eduard Stand and Prapti Rozario

Outstanding attitude to learning - Christopher Anderson and Destiny Iyamu-Omoragbon

Head teachers Award for outstanding progress - Tatum Jarrett and Krystian Zych

# Spring Spelling Bee Competition

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2018



Congratulations to all pupils who took part in our half-term Spring Spelling Bee Competition, and well done to our winner, Vicandria Greene and runners-up, Jullianne Peralta and Jordan Assoua. Admittedly, each half-termly Spelling Bee becomes more challenging and this time we moved between Round 1 words, such as: 'Blissful' and 'Awesome' to Round 3 words, such as: 'Supersede' and 'Minuscule,' hard work but also great fun, as those who participated know.

At Cardinal Wiseman we know our pupils learn much of their advanced vocabulary from reading, and Spelling Bees are a great way to bring to mind some of the most difficult advanced vocabulary terms. This, of course, is a major bonus, as pupils entering the competition know that benefits outweigh everything, providing a much-needed educational experience, whilst ensuring everyone has great fun.

Our half-termly Spelling Bee allows all competitors to compete in a perfect environment with spectators who are supportive, and very professional. It proves that brain activity and excitement are just as stimulating as, say, freestyle skiing, biathlon or even snowboarding! (Winter Olympics 2018 most popular sports of course.)

The determination of our competitors and their form spectators was matched, and in many ways, all won, as both develop a range of comprehension skills, including an ability to handle pressure, enhance memory, and boost confidence levels, all of which are highly beneficial during secondary education.

Funny moment from competition:

'Can you spell AMBIVALENT?'

'MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.'



# Alton Castle Residential Retreat

In January of this year, a group of 25 y7 students spent three days in the awe-inspiring countryside of Alton, Staffordshire that is dominated by a Pugin-built Castle at the top of the valley. The castle, built in the 1840's, became the base for our students for an action packed few days of outdoor activities, Holy Mass, prayer and times of exploration of the grounds.

Our first evening in Alton saw our students led through a tour of the grounds and the accompanying church, times of formation and team building and even a visit to



the tuck shop. We also heard from one of the incredible team members in Alton who told us about her faith journey and how Christ has become so important to her – something which the students engaged with thoroughly and sparked questions and insights into their own faith. Everything that the students took part in at Alton Castle was cemented in prayer. We started our time in Alton in prayer and praise and the students took part in a time of adoration and praise in the church as a way to finish the day together in community with Cardinal Wiseman, the team and staff at Alton Castle and St. Edmund's school, with whom we shared this retreat.



Day two allowed our students to take part in numerous activities such as mountain biking, trekking, rock climbing and a survival skills course which saw them utilizing lost skills and learning new ones but most importantly building bonds of friendship and trust with their peers in order to achieve their goal. Our students thrived and although many faced challenges, they all did themselves proud with the immense amount of perseverance and courage shown. The activities, of course, had Christ at the centre and so within each activity we were lead in a time of meditation and reflection by way of including Christ in our everyday lives. One reflection that stood out to our young people was based on a section of St. Paul's letter to Timothy, which reads: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race and I have kept the faith". The students understood the perseverance necessary for Paul to change his ways and follow Jesus and went on to discuss the challenges they face and the ways in which they can be overcome.



Day 2 ended with the pinnacle of our retreat; a celebration of Mass in the Church, in which the students were heavily involved. Many of our students read, brought forward the offertory gifts, and served at the altar but all of our students were also involved in the music and communal prayers, which culminated in an incredible celebration of Mass. This celebration then continued



across the bridge to the, some might say, world famous Alton Castle Disco at which our students summoned what little energy they had left to dance the night away. We ended our second day with a night prayer before heading off for a well-deserved sleep.

Day three saw one more activity before packing up the coach and heading home – but not before a time of thanks and final praise with our new friends from St. Edmund's and the team and staff at Alton Castle.

When you ask the students what they enjoyed the most at Alton Castle, their first thought will probably be about the very muddy puddle they fell in or the time they were upside down on the climbing wall. However, the biggest impact undoubtedly came from the raw moments of quiet in prayer where they saw each other not just as friends, but brothers and sisters in Christ.

# Reconciliation Week

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018



In scripture, Jesus tells us to do three things in preparation for Easter: to fast, to give alms and to pray. During our Lenten journey together at Cardinal Wiseman, we have brought these three things to the forefront of our lives in school. We regularly give alms; most notably, we have raised over £500 for Fr Hudson's Care with our pancake party day last month and many students have taken up the personal challenge of fasting from something they really like during these 40 days.

With our focus then on prayer, our school hall was transformed into a reverent and thought provoking space of prayer with numerous different activities, readings and challenges. Each

prayer station offered a different focus based on our Wiseman Virtues. One station, for example, had a particular focus on being grateful and generous: the students first had the choice of an array of sweets and chocolates to hold on to and were faced with some facts about how others around the world live



much less fortunate lives. Many students could not believe that so many people around the world did not have the ability to read which has resulted in a push and a gratefulness for the education we have here in school. Their final challenge here was to pass on their chocolate to someone else without them noticing - being grateful with what we have but even more generous with what we can do with it.

Every student across y7 to 710 had the opportunity to take part in this and many even took up a second opportunity in this time - to speak to one of our incredible diocesan priests.

We were blessed to welcome five of our priests to offer the sacrament of reconciliation and confession and many students of a different faith or no faith at all also took the opportunity to talk with the priests in a very relaxed and safe space. Not a single student regretted their decision to take part in these activities and many have asked for more opportunity to see the priests in school more regularly.



We are very proud of how our students took up this time of prayer and how they are already thinking of ways to further prepare for Christ's coming in Easter. As they continue to pray for our school community and further, please continue to pray for them.



# Retreat Day

At Cardinal Wiseman, our faith is at the forefront of everything we do and so with this came our retreat day at the end of January. The aim of our retreat day is to give students the time to really interact with their faith, whatever it may be, in a way that would best serve them in their modern, 21<sup>st</sup> century lives.



The students spent the day in their DEAR groups, led by their teachers, working their way through custom made sessions – all of the students looked at the Catholic Social teachings with a particular focus on Social Justice and Equality; something our school strives towards in every aspect of our learning and recreation.

All of our students also took part in a campaign championed originally for the international Holocaust Remembrance day, in which people wrote down the most powerful thing that had ever been said to them. In doing this, people recognised not only the impact of physical infliction and pain, but also how the words we use with one another can make or break us. With this in mind, we asked our students to write down the most powerful thing that had ever been said to them and it was put together as a video for the entire school to see. We saw this as an important exercise, not only in line with our teaching on equality and love across all faiths and none, but to allow the students to be a little vulnerable and brave in order to draw our community here at school a closer. Our school-wide campaign is entitled #wordsmatter and if you visit us in school, you will see speech bubbles everywhere, building one another up.



Our year 9 students were also visited by John Battle, an ex-MP from Leeds who empowered and encouraged our students to take control of their lives. John was very inspirational in speaking of his experience and allowed our students to feel a sense of empowerment to make a difference in their communities. One exercise involved searching through newspapers in order to find real social injustice but the students quickly realized that these papers were so heavily dominated by media and celebrities these injustices were hidden.

Following this retreat day, many of our students have been excited to continue with our #wordsmatter campaign and many are keen to keep momentum with many of the ideas that John Battle, ex MP implemented. Our students, as always, were enthusiastic and involved in everything that was offered to them on this retreat day and we feel they may have come away from it a little angry with the world - an anger as a result of injustice and a really passion to change the communities in which they live.



# Synod – Oscott College

## Student Report by Abby Conlon, Year 10

On the 1st of March, myself and other pupils from the school visited Oscott College, a place for men training to be priests. On arrival the view was breath taking, I felt the beauty of the chapel and all the bright lights seeping on the stain glass windows reflected on how grateful we all were to have been asked by the Pope to give him a detailed understanding of how people our age see the church and its teachings. The day started with



a brief talk through of the day where we were introduced to people like Father Tim Menezes, a founder of the event who opened our eyes to the opportunity, which we were all a part of. There was also Jimmy



Mitchell, an awesome piano player with a great American accent. After being grouped with our leader, Vicki, we answered questions such as what we thought about stereotypes and how we react to global news. When the group found out about all the answers being translated and sent to the Pope, we could not believe it, most of us had the same view, why would the Pope want to

hear anything from a few kids from Birmingham? Moreover, as we left we all had the same thought but a different question, why wouldn't he?

At the end of the group discussion, we went back to the chapel where we listened to Jimmy talk about how even though someone he loved deeply passed, their presence was still there pushing Jimmy to pursue becoming an active speaker. He spoke to each of us as if we were one; all young people joined that day with faith. Jimmy also told us the story of how he got lost on the mountains while hiking, but due to the naturally immaculate scenery, he felt all the worry shift. Realising God put him there to see his creation, and in the end God will help him



find his way home, this gave me goosebumps as we are teenagers going through times in which we feel the most lost, so we should just look around for a while, take in the surroundings and let God show you the way back. The trip in my opinion was brilliant and it gave us the chance to ask questions we would not normally think to ask and we all got to grow and learn with each other, something I didn't know was going to happen.

# Long Live World Book Day!



World Book Day was upon Cardinal Wiseman School (along with thousands of schools, across hundreds of countries) on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, meaning most pupils and staff were banned and replaced by a virtual army of Gruffalos, Grinches, Harry Potter characters and 101 Dalmations!


At Cardinal Wiseman, our book-lovers are as imaginative as ever when it comes to the all-important costume, and we salute parents and guardians who made it through the preparation of the World Book Day costume event, delivering their children to school looking, frankly, brilliant!

Of course, World Book Day is not just about dressing up, and a variety of different school events also took place. Mrs Buckle accompanied pupils from Years 9 and 10 on a visit to Birmingham Children's Hospital, where they spent their morning reading with vulnerable, young patients, who were able to travel across the stars, sail the seas, laugh aloud to escape the real world and venture into the beautiful world of literature. All our pupils were described as *'kind, compassionate and very mature.'*

Mr Allen took Year 7 pupils to Maryvale Primary School to engage primary pupils in World Book Day paired reading activities. Again, very successful, allowing all pupils to engage in the joy of reading, whilst our English Department dedicated a full key stage 3 lesson to the World Book Day Quiz, with a national competition also set for homework.

The generosity of many staff members meant that all Year 7 and 8 pupils were given a gift book for free, along with all receiving a free National Book Token, ensuring entertainment is a little cheaper. In today's digital age, many forget that books *are* entertainment, and at Cardinal Wiseman School, we want to ensure our pupils are entertained whilst in school, along with requiring all readers to use their imagination. For all our pupils this is a phenomenal thing.



Dates for your diary		
Thur 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Break for Easter. School finishes at 12.30pm	
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday	
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Sunday	
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Terms starts	
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 3.30 – 6.30pm	Year 8 Parents' Evening / Options Evening All parents/carers are expected to attend	

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*