



April 2018 - Monthly Mail

Dear parent/carer,

Art Trip to Paris



Sacre Coeur - Montmartre

Pupils from Years 9-11 had a fantastic Art trip to Paris at the end of last term. After the coach journey through the Eurotunnel, pupils settled down for the night in a hotel just north from the city centre. The day in Paris started with a continental breakfast to fill the pupils and staff up. We then visited the Louvre and saw some of the world's most famous paintings including the Mona Lisa, which surprised many pupils as it was much smaller than they thought it would be.

We then went to the Eiffel Tower, the most famous symbol of Paris, where pupils and staff took on the challenge of walking up to the 2nd stage – a staggering 674 steps. Everyone was so impressed with Stuart Cole, who despite having a fear of heights managed to get to this point. The final ascent to the very top was by lift.

The final stop in Paris was a visit to the Sacre Coeur, which is a basilica in Montmartre. Pupils had time to explore the area. Staff would like to publically congratulate Evie Millerchip in year 11 for her determination to engage culturally when she ate frogs' legs in Paris.



View from the Eiffel Tower



Inside the Louvre

Student reports from Paris



Going to Paris was an amazing opportunity; I enjoyed it so much, it was just jokes and laughing and smiling. Going up the Eiffel Tower was the craziest thing I have ever done in my whole life; I never thought I would be able to do it. It was just WOW! Seeing the view at the top was just unbelievable, enjoying the views with my friends, trying to look for buildings that had weird shapes, we were just having fun and enjoying ourselves. Visiting the Basilica was tiring, counting step by step to get to 250 and when I got to the top, I was like “Yes I did it!” Seeing the sun on the horizon covering the houses and buildings was wonderful. I felt so happy and proud of myself. It was a perfect time and place to meditate and reflect about our lives.

Lois Creta Yr 9 GCSE Art Student



Paris was so cool! I enjoyed everything about it. I really like art so visiting the Louvre was a great opportunity. The Eiffel Tower was beautiful and the company of my friends made the trip even better. The hotel was nice, and the food was amazing. When I lived in Italy, I studied French and I always liked it. French is not easy but is interesting and cool. The trip was an amazing opportunity and all of us enjoyed it.

Susanna Kaur yr9 GCSE Art Student.



I want to start by thanking Miss Gamble for this wonderful opportunity and letting us explore art in a new way. Never did I think I would be going to Paris and experiencing the breath-taking architecture. This trip allowed me to branch out socially, getting the courage to talk to new people; it also allowed me to receive inspiration for future art pieces. Seeing the Eiffel Tower, from different heights made me appreciate the art around me, but I really enjoyed myself. Not only did I learn a lot, it was a trip that I will remember forever, for its time spent building new relationships.

Veena Patel Yr 9 GCSE Art Student



ParentMail

The best parental engagement system in the UK

On the 16th April we launched ParentMail. This means you can top up dinner money, view your child's meal choices, pay for trips and purchase revision guides or ties/badges.

We're using +Pay on ParentMail – an online payment service which allows you to pay for school items on your smartphone, tablets or computer, or on the free parent App. We will inform you about items you need to pay through ParentMail, and you will be able to pay electronically, with money transferred directly into the school bank account – it is all very easy, safe and secure.

If you have not yet received an activation email, please contact reception to provide your email address or alternately email - enquiry@cardinalwiseman.net.

BBC SCHOOL REPORT

Students from Cardinal Wiseman took part in BBC School Report for a second year running. The school, in collaboration with the BBC, encouraged students to develop their journalistic skills and write news articles on a topic of their choice. All articles can be found on the school website. Articles include: Anthony Joshua, by Ryan Milan; Alton Castle, by Justin Bickerstaff; Revision, by Charlotte Tooze; Cornwall, by Chloe Eyles; Symphony Hall, by Ashton Barnsley; Ipeople, by Ryley Layton; Bussy Malone, by Kiosha Sukie; Swimming, by Arnold Etta; Gaming, by Sapphire Allen; Fortnite, by Musadeq Latifi; World Book day, by Samantha Ellis; Stephen Hawking, by Daisy Yates; and Black Panther, by Tyrese Bishop. Hope you enjoy the articles!



Pastoral Awards Assemblies

On Tuesday 27th and Thursday 29th April, years 7-10 celebrated their achievements from the spring term with an awards assembly. Their DEAR tutors and their Head of Year had nominated students. The rewards are all linked to the Wiseman Virtues, merits, homework, and catholic life of the school. There was also a special Head of Year awards for two students who have made an excellent effort throughout the term. Students enjoyed celebrating their successes with their year group and there was a fantastic atmosphere in all assemblies.

The Head of Year award winners were –

Year 7 – Torah Tween Dalziel and Nana Adams for their politeness and for being a fantastic role model

Year 8 – Taya Short for her consistent attitude to learning and Alessandro Njong for his excellent enthusiasm to all aspects of school

Year 9 – Brandon Feeney and Demi Poyner-Roberts for their resilience

Year 10 – Charlotte Tooze and Arnold Dube for their determination and enthusiasm.

Catholic School Swimming Gala hosted by CWCS

Our Year 7 & 8 Swimming Gala took place on the 8th March at Cardinal Wiseman School.

It was an excellent event, with an extremely high standard of competition and as always, pupils swam with great pride to be representing their schools.

We had 8 schools taking part, Cardinal Wiseman, Cardinal Newman, St Thomas Aquinas, Bishop Walsh, St Edmund Campion, St Peters, Archbishop Illesley and Bishop Challoner. We had 6 boys' teams and 8 girls' teams. There was a separate girls and boys competition and then the event culminated in very exciting relays which when combined with both boys and girls scores, decided the overall school winners.



All of the team at Cardinal Wiseman did a fantastic job of planning and hosting the event once again. Although each competition was close, congratulations go to Bishop Challoner who swept the board, winning both the girls and boys competitions and subsequently they became overall school winners. Cardinal Wiseman boys team finished 3rd overall and our overall combined score meant we finished 2nd, this is our best result in the history of the gala.

Congratulations to all pupils who took part, there was a high standard of swimming and some impressive individual and team performances. A fantastic event, enjoyed by all. Our Gala team was represented by Ethan Aspinall, Deshawn Grant, Regan Lander, Georgia Taylor, Jessica Willis, Theo Higgins, Jamie Breen, William Evans- Buttle, Chanul Widanagamage, Lauren O'Sullivan, Rianna Monteque, Emily Gains and Cheryl Nkong.

We were also fortunate to have a Paralympic official to help officiate the event. He was dressed in his Rio 2016 uniform and brought along his Paralympic torch for the pupils to see.

It was a great event and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Synod Think Tank

The Archdiocese of Birmingham, along with many other diocese across the world are seeking the opinion of young people in response to Pope Francis. The head of the Catholic Church is keen to find out what it is like to be a young person today in our society and how others around them react to many different faiths and none. For this, the bishops around the world are holding a Synod but of course, they need to seek the answers from young people under the age of 25.

The Kenelm Youth Trust visited us in school to do just that – the event entitled; Think Tank enabled a select group of young people from Cardinal Wiseman to have their say on this important step forward in the church.

Our visitors included several young adults from the USA and Canada who work with LifeTeen in their own diocese and they have come over to England specifically to help facilitate this event. Our day included a time of reflection and prayer led by two of these young adults, which allowed all of us to get the most out of this opportunity for change.



Our students, as ever, were attentive and respectful where expected but also shared their ideas clearly and intelligibly; we have thoroughly enjoyed our time together today and hope to continue this spirit of openness and courage to share throughout our time in school.



Student Report written by Kwaku, Samantha and Alexa about the STEM Challenge:

Four students in year 8 (Kwaku, Alexa, Abby and Samantha) participated in the yearly STEM competition hosted by Archbishop IIsley Catholic School. There were four separate challenges mostly needing engineering skills. The first challenge required us to make a catapult out of lollipop sticks and elastic bands; the aim was to see how far the mini marshmallow could go.

The second challenge was to use card, cello-tape and straws to make a roller coaster for a marble. The aim was to keep the marble moving on it for the longest time. For the 3rd challenge, we had to use sugar water to create layers of coloured water with different densities. Finally, the last challenge was to build a tower out of sweets and toothpicks that would be able to withstand a 100f weight. To complete this we used a hexagon shape.

From the trip, we improved our teamwork and communication skills. Although the challenges were hard, we gave it our best and pulled through in the end.

We would advise other people to take part in the future STEM competitions, as it was so much fun - even though we didn't win.

We had a great experience.

Student Chaplaincy Training day

Hosted by the Archdiocese of Birmingham



On Monday 12th March, eight members of the student chaplaincy team took part in a thought-provoking and inspiring day hosted by Sister Judith Russi at John Henry Newman Catholic College, Chemsley Wood.

Sister Judith is a renowned national speaker and author and has worked across every section of catholic education as well as volunteering and working in lesser-developed countries in a similar role.

The students were treated to insights and stories from her wide range of experience as well as given tools and resources in order to further progress the role of chaplaincy within the school.

Thanks to Sister Judith, our students are excited to implement student lead prayer times in the mornings before school starts, to better promote themselves as chaplaincy members across every year group and even have some ideas to bring chaplaincy at Cardinal Wiseman into the 21st Century with a dedicated social media page! Watch this space...



We were joined by eight other schools in our diocese. We were all able to share ideas and the students drew inspiration from each other, in particular, with joining local community to further join Cardinal Wiseman with the local churches, schools and social projects.

The students were an asset to the school; active and engaged in everything that was going on and willingly boasted of all the good that our school is achieving.



Following this training, this group of students will meet again at St. Chad's Cathedral to be commissioned and praised for their work within chaplaincy and the wider community by Archbishop Bernard Longley! What an honour!

Stay Hydrated

Reminder that pupils must bring a bottle of water to school that they can re-fill during break and lunchtime. Pupils should not have to go to reception to ask for water.

We do not allow pupils to bring energy drinks in to school.

A Book Review By Vicandria Greene – Year 7

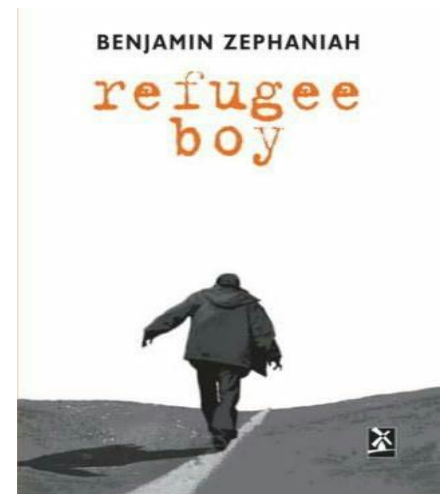
Refugee Boy – Benjamin Zephaniah

I have heard of refugees; I have seen them on TV but I have never understood what life as a refugee is like. *Refugee Boy* has given me a true insight into the struggles and challenges refugees face each day. Reading the book was like listening to the voice of many refugees from across the world. The book highlights privileges that we take for granted such as being safe, having freedom and an education. *Refugee Boy* also depicts the cultural clash that Alem experiences when living in a new country and how he has to adapt to a new way of life. I thought going to a new school was scary but living in a new country must be ***EVEN*** scarier!

Refugee Boy talks about the unfair system of the Immigration Office and their lack of understanding of what it means to be a refugee – something I had never really thought about before.

This book is such an enlightening, heart-warming tale as it written from a child's perspective, therefore making it an easy book to read and understand. *Refugee Boy* is a book of emotion, challenge and perseverance. I think it is an important book as it teaches the virtues of gratefulness, faith, compassion and kindness.

Each page, each paragraph, each word has changed my perspective of life and others. **Why not borrow the book from our library and see for yourself?**



Emily, one of our lay chaplains, travelled over to Brazil in the summer taking young people from the Birmingham diocese to continue the ongoing support work of the Christian Life Movement. As a result of the

Brother Julio's Visit to Cardinal Wiseman.

Back in May 2017, Cardinal Wiseman held a Carnival themed Charity fundraiser day to raise money for Mission Brazil. Mission Brazil is an ongoing project with the diocese of Birmingham where young people travel over to Brazil to work alongside the Christian Life Movement and the SOMAR centre. The Carnival day was an explosion of fun and a great day was had by all. It was a success raising just over £400 to support the work of Mission Brazil and the SOMAR centre.



amazing contribution from Cardinal Wiseman to the Somar Centre, Cardinal Wiseman has twinned with the Somar Education Centre in Meio De Sera.

The Somar Education Centre provides further tuition for children in Meio De Sera, helping them to reach their potential both academically and socially. It is wonderful that as Cardinal Wiseman we can support this important work.



Brother Julio Egrejas from Brazil who set up the first Mission, and has continued the work recently travelled over to England. He came to visit Cardinal Wiseman to thank the students and staff for their commitment to help the Somar Centre. Julio visited classes and presented the students with a handmade gift from the children in Brazil who use the Somar Centre. This was a memory game that encompassed both the Portuguese language and English language. The students really enjoyed playing it and were blown away by such a beautiful gift. They could not believe it was made especially for them. Julio then talked about his life, the importance of his faith and how this has had such an impact on the

work he does. The students really appreciated the time Julio gave to speak to them and the amazing work that is taking place in Brazil.

All students are excited for our upcoming Carnival day on Friday May 4th to continue the fundraising for the Somar Centre



Confirmation Club at Christ the King



On the 19th of April, two of the chaplains were invited to Christ the King primary school to take part in their confirmation club.

The students at CTK meet regularly in preparation for the sacrament of confirmation and they were keen to hear from the chaplains about their faith journey and how Christ is present in their lives. Emily and Keri both shared key aspects of their faith journey; both including their time in Lourdes and at Alton Castle and the children really took on board all that they said. They also shared their ideas of who Christ is to them and the children were challenged to do the same.

Following on from this the children have been challenged to continue to focus on who Christ is to them and to bring Him into their daily lives – being proud of showing Christ to everyone they meet.

Holy Week

Before Easter, we had time in our school community to celebrate Holy week and explore the true meaning of this landmark time in the Catholic faith together. Through this week the school Lay Chaplains went to each of the classes and led a time of prayerful reflection, this focused on moments throughout the week moving through to Easter Sunday and our Lord's glorious resurrection. We looked at events such as the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday which involved children symbolising this with washing and drying a classmates hands. Each student entered in to this with the right frame of mind and were credits to the school with their participation and knowledge of Holy Week. This session asked the students to put themselves in the role of Jesus and to think as he would think, we focused on each person and how they effected Jesus' journey though Holy week.

We finished the session in the chapel with a guided meditation focused on the Stations of the Cross; the children would walk through Jesus' last steps in life up to his death. The students showed true love and compassion as they answered questions and really understood the salvation Jesus gave us with his last breath.



Retreat to Soli House

After our Easter break a group of year 9 and 10 students took part in a retreat to Soli, the centre for youth ministry for time away from school and busy home lives. This time was an opportunity to grow closer in friendship and in their relationship to God. Over 3 days we had time in small groups to develop these relationships as well complete different activities.

Our first evening at Soli was a fantastic start as the students were settled in their new home for the first time. We began with Icebreaker games to ease in to the theme of the retreat, which was "Strong Towers". As the evening grew later, the students became more excited in an activity called "Lights, Camera, Alton." The children presented a story from the Bible in a different style such as EastEnders or RAP video. It was a proud moment to watch as the students brought them to life with such creativity and passion.



Tuesday started as we unpacked the idea of God being a Strong tower even more with prayer and guided Lectio Divina where students participated in group discussions on the true meaning of this theme. We kept this prayerful atmosphere in to the afternoon, when the students took part in three different activities, baking, making rosary beads and an outdoor scramble in the woods surrounding Soli. In each activity, our students showed how varied their talents were. We sampled the brownies later on in the day, which were a taste sensation, whereas the rosaries were a great example of faith in action through young people. These

rosary beads were then blessed by Father The during mass and given to the students as a gift to remember their time on retreat. The last activity, the scramble in the woods, was called Kerygma. The students completed challenges against the clock to get to the finishing line, each of them showed how grateful and generous they could be through brilliant teamwork. They encouraged and supported each other through the difficult tasks.



In an extremely busy day, we finished with sessions and prayer based around Jesus breaking down the walls of death by saving us through the crucifixion. This session led into our fantastic celebration of mass where the children led beautiful praise and worship which made our celebration truly beautiful. We then continued our community time with an evening of games and competition, which made very entertaining watching. Our last night finished with a campfire sing-a-long and takeaway pizza, which was the perfect end to a fruitful day together.

Our final day ended with the children affirming their newly formed friendships and we used the fantastic weather as a chance to go outside with ice creams and reminisce about the time spent with each other in the presence of God.

Food Bank



On the 23rd of March, Cardinal Wiseman students came into school in their own clothes in order to support the food bank collection. Instead of bringing in their usual one pound, everyone was asked to bring in an item of non-perishable food that would then go to others who often go without.

Our students, as we are coming to expect, completely exceeded our expectations in bringing in multiple items of food; many even brought in full bags and boxes. Some students even went further still and brought in sanitary and other toiletry products as well as underwear and baby clothes.

The collection has been sent to the St. Chad's Sanctuary in Birmingham city centre and has been gratefully received.

This was a first time event for us at Cardinal Wiseman but thanks to the overwhelming success, it is already in the diary for the coming year!

We are always proud of our students but looking over our packed chapel – full of food and other items for those who desperately need it – we cannot help but be overwhelmed by their generosity and desire to do so much good.

Aim High

On March 15th a selection of our Year 7 and 8 students travelled to Oxford University to take part in a "taster day" there. They took part in a number of activities including a maths lecture with an Oxford professor, a tour of three Oxford colleges and lunch with current undergraduate students in Keble College hall. Upon leaving, every student pledged to strive to achieve the grades required to get into a top university in their remaining time at Cardinal Wiseman. All students were, as always, a true credit to our school.



Dates for your diary		
Thur 3 rd May 4.30 – 7pm	Year 7 Parents' Evening All parent/carers are expected to attend	
Monday 7th May	Bank Holiday	
Week beginning Monday 14 th May	Year 7 and 8 Exam/Test Week	
Week beginning 28 th May	Half term	

Best wishes, Christina Stewardson

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

The main office hours are from 8am to 4pm