



Oct 2018 - Monthly Mail

Student Chaplaincy Team 2018-19



This year there was a record number of applications to the student Chaplaincy Team here at Cardinal Wiseman. This year we have a staggering 290 students who have made it onto the team. Due to this, we also now have a Student Leadership team within the Chaplaincy Team of 30 students across Yr7-10! Massive congratulations to all who made the team. The student Chaplaincy Team have already begun planning, preparing and leading liturgies for other students throughout the school. They have also been involved with and led whole school charity fundraising days for Macmillan and CAFOD. They are role models for both staff and students here at Cardinal Wiseman and as St Romero said 'Aspire not to have more but to be more'.

November Mock Examinations for Years 10 and 11

Week commencing the 5th November for two weeks.

- Make sure you know your timetable.
- Arrive in plenty of time for each exam.
- Have your equipment in your hand ready to line up.
- Do not bring electronic devices such as smart phones or smart watches in to the exam room.
- Do not bring any notes or documentation into the exam room.
- Listen carefully to and follow all instructions given, both inside and outside the exam room.

Contact us in the exams office if you have any questions or concerns.

Good luck to you all,
Mrs Smith and Mr Leadbetter

Mathematics in Paris June 2018



Back in June 2018, the Maths department and 43 Cardinal Wiseman students took Paris by storm! We spent 4 days exploring the beautiful city and creating life-long memories. It was an incredible opportunity for students to see Mathematics in the real world, in a variety of different contexts including the Eiffel Tower, Arc Di Triumph, River Seine Cruise and Disney Land Paris.

'I enjoyed Paris because we learnt a lot of life skills, which will help us in the future as we grow. It was exciting to see how different Paris was, compared to England... I do hope this trip will be available for other year groups for them to have the opportunity like me.'

We visited the Cite des Science Maths Exhibition, where students were able to discover the history of mathematics through manipulation, films and educational activities.



'We went around in small groups observing and trying new things. It was a fun way of learning.'

- Shana Westcarr- Stephenson

'The Science museum helped me look into the logic of Maths and how some theories have come about. The interactive activities helped me learn more about Maths, as I found it more interesting compared to sitting in class. It helped me think and remember.'

- Yvonne Liu



Disney Land Paris was one of the highlights of the trip for staff and students. We were fortunate enough to be there on the celebration of their 25th anniversary and witness an incredible Parade.

'The most MAGICAL part was Disney Land Paris, which would be able to put a smile on even an adult's face. It was a new captivating world in which I was easily caught. Everything was spectacular... I am sure everyone really appreciates the efforts of the teachers that guided us to a new mathematical world, many thanks.'

-Oriana Coania



October Liturgies – The Rosary

In this month of October, a month dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus, our students have been leading one another in Liturgies during the school day.



Those members of our school community that have shown interest in taking an active role in the leadership of all things ‘catholic life’ within the school spent time with the chaplains to organise, prepare and lead a liturgy based around the Rosary – a prayer dedicated to Mary. They actively planned the physicality’s of the prayer (room set up, music, use of candles etc.) as well as choosing the scriptures and reflections to coincide with the traditional prayer.

The entire class then came together, beginning in the classroom with a short introductory session to explain the prayer, its origins and the way it works before moving into the chapel to pray the rosary together. The students have been so reverent, prayerful and considerate of one another during these times and they have been encouraged, if they wish to, to return to the chapel at a break or lunchtime to continue to pray the rosary.



Parking – Safety First

We have seen an increase in the number of pupils who are dropped off and/or collected from school by someone in a car. In regards to this we ask that parents/carers do the following:

- ✓ Wherever possible, allow you child to walk or ride to school. It’s cheaper for you, more eco-friendly and healthier for your child;
- ✓ Park sensibly and legally – be respectful of our local community by not blocking residents driveways;
- ✓ Be extra careful when driving up the drive and in the church car park;
- ✓ Do not park at the junction of Old Oscott Hill and Atlantic Road and do not park next to the crossing point where the children cross Old Oscott Hill (outside the church).



Cardinal Wiseman loves cake!

MacMillan is a charity dedicated to supporting those suffering with cancer or those with loved ones suffering. They do this through providing care, conducting research and raising valuable funds.



By using hopeful, one of our Wiseman virtues, Cardinal Wiseman took part in a Macmillan cake sale on Friday 21st September to raise awareness and funds for the charity. The day to support Macmillan was requested by a member of the student chaplaincy team and was supported by all students and staff. Coloured ribbons were

available that represented different types of cancer and our students were able to choose one of these to wear on their blazer. Many continue to wear these ribbons, one of these is Rose from Yr 11 - "It was a day to remember all the special people in our lives who have been affected by cancer. It was great to raise awareness and money for such a great cause." The cake sale raised just over £250 and was a great success.



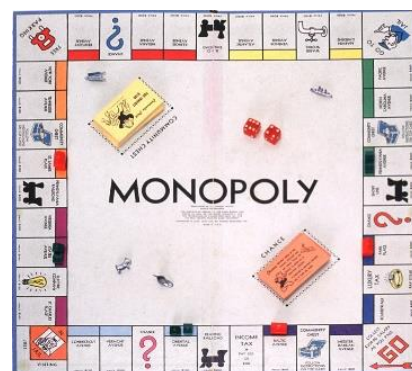
CONNECT 8



Connect 8 is a group of students who have been trained to listen to the concerns and worries from other pupils.

We are providing the opportunity for you to come and chat to us and play games. Remember 'it's okay not to be okay'!

Break time - Monday to Friday
Located in the English department in Mrs Jenks/Ms Shorts Office.



Brighten Up Day

Friday 5th October saw Cardinal Wiseman brighten up for CAFOD. Students dressed in their brightest clothes and donated £1 to help the essential work that CAFOD do with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Alongside this, they had the opportunity to buy doughnuts at break and lunch time, have their faces painted in neon paint and glitter and have their photos taken with colourful props.



CAFOD's brighten up day is an initiative set up by the charity to coincide with the annual harvest – many people across the world will struggle through lack of food and proper vegetation and so it is CAFOD's aim to help in this and hopefully soon, eradicate it as a problem.



We prepared for this day in school with a series of assemblies led by our student

chaplaincy teams in which many of our students were shocked to discover the difficulties many people face and actually, how little money can make such a big impact. We learnt that just £1.50 could provide seeds for a family to plant and grow their own crops whilst just £7 could provide much-needed mosquito nets to avoid dangerous diseases such as malaria.

In the most compassionate and generous way, our students donated money, took part in everything that we invited them to do, and ultimately raised an incredible £600 for CAFOD!



Parents' Evening

A reminder that **all parents and carers are expected to attend our parents' evening as stated in the home/school agreement** that parents sign when their child joins our school. We always advertise these events on our website as well as sending text reminders so that parents/carers have time to ensure that arrangements are made so that they can attend these important events. Over the past five years, we have seen a huge improvement in the number of parents/carers who attend these events. Five years ago, only 52% of parents/carers attend. Last year we had 95% attending. This is great; however, 5% of parents/carers still do not attend. Here is a straightforward thought in regards to this – **what message does it send to your child if you do not attend parents' evening?**

Never underestimate how important you are in the success of your child's education!

Cardinal Wiseman Big Summer Reading Competition Winners

“Did you really read 7 novels over your 6 week summer holiday?”

YES! We READI – DID!

It is always a moment of pure joy: school is out for summer! School bags are shoved in the back of a cupboard. School shoes go the same way. Ahead lie countless days of freedom, play and sunshine! Luckily, for some of our students it also means that they can put curriculum books away and escape fully into novels they truly want to read, for pleasure only; which is why Cardinal Wiseman decided to introduce the Big Summer Reading Competition, 2018. Many congratulations to Megan Hewitt and Blandine Berni, as both read seven novels over their summer holiday and won the competition! Both have been rewarded with a Waterstones Book Voucher worth £10, and as Megan reviewed each novel in specific detail, we now have some more great ideas for our library. A number of our reading-related pupils attended a trip to Peters Book Store in Birmingham on 16th October (including Megan and Blandine), to help the school review new resources for our library.



Recent research has highlighted that summer reading is not only there for fun, it is also an important time for students to improve language and reading skills, and avoid the danger of the “*summer slide*” – a decline in reading and comprehension ability - key skills needed for academic success.

Numerous studies now indicate that students who don't read or read infrequently during their long summer break see their reading abilities stagnate or decline, and of course, this effect becomes more pronounced as students get older and advance through the school system. **This is Wiseman's key reason to encourage everyone (whether student or staff member,) to read on a daily basis for just twenty minutes or more each day.**

Professor Mary Hamley, from the Bodleian Library, Oxford University, has stated: “Giving children a love of books is one of the greatest gifts and our report shows parental engagement makes a real difference to children's success. Being able to read is vital, but on its own, it isn't enough, we need to instil a love of reading in every child. The benefits of achieving this span way beyond a child's primary education, with a direct impact on their future life chances.”

Both Megan and Blandine have said their love of reading is something learned from their parents. As Blandine stated: ‘My Mum and Dad read every day and I always sit and read in the same room, at the same time. We don't even know we are all in the same room to be honest!’

Cardinal Wiseman School know that keeping students reading works, and the more they are engaged in the text, the closer they are going to read it: the closer they read it, the more they comprehend, and this process grows academic skills sub-consciously.

The best ways to keep your child away from the ‘*summer slide*’ (remember, students are out of school for 175 days each year,) deserves ideas, so please consider some of the following:

1. Encourage your children to read books they enjoy for at least 20 minutes per day. Your child will likely be more engrossed in material they choose themselves than material that is forced on them, so certainly guide them, but let them make the decision on their reading materials.
2. Provide incentives for reluctant readers. For example, if your child enjoys football, agree to take them to the local match, if they do their “daily reading.”
3. Make reading a social act, like the Berni family. Establish a time during the day when all members of the family gather and read on their own, or take turns reading the same book aloud.
4. Connect your reading to family outings. If you take your children to an aquarium, consider reading a book about fish or the ocean with them later that day. The outing can help place the reading into a broader context.

Finally, there are going to be a range of reading competitions taking place over this academic year, so why not take your children to your local library or bookstore and let them pick out a book they're going to love today. They will be better readers and academic successors tomorrow! They ReadI will!

Peters Book Shop Trip – Tuesday, 17th October, 2018

A huge thank you to the wonderful parents/carers who agreed that their children should attend our trip to **Peters Book Shop** in central Birmingham, on Tuesday, 16th October. A total of eleven, reading-related students gave over their time for a trip designed to ensure we could get key advice for a series of new books for our library. Some students are librarians, some are Reading Ambassadors, and some were winners of recent reading competitions.



Peters is the UK's leading supplier of books for schools, and with over 40,000 books in stock, we wanted to ensure that when engaging our students in library resources, we were 'overseen' by our reading-related students. We knew that their choice of reading materials would be thoroughly engaging and well chosen. Of course, school staff can choose lots of different texts, but how much better to have advice from avid student readers!

Our trip consisted of a talk by an expert librarian, focusing on which genres, authors and ideas we should consider promoting successfully. Believe me, it was a hard-working trip (some students literally didn't sit down for quite a few hours as they were so engaged), as each spent their time discussing the vast range of resources that they believed would have a successful impact for all our students.

For instance, as each student seemed to favour a different genre, we were so lucky to have new, but differing ideas put forward. **Lewis** adores a range of historical genres, whereas **Tamara** is a lover of horror stories: oh, and **Shaequen** seems to have read literally all of Walliams' big reads, so he ensured we were aware of the top five recommendations.

Our school believes all students should have access to great reads, as well as inspiring, wellbeing spaces to read them in – such as our wonderful library. As a school we are passionate about inspiring all students to read – whatever their age, and enough recent research has made clear that academic progress is linked to reading for pleasure, as is emotional and wellbeing progress.

Peters staff were delighted to have such enthusiastic students visiting, and insisted that due to their wonderful ideas and behaviour, all student attendees were rewarded with an extra set of gifts before we left.

(I think you can guess what they were!)

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY, SAFE HALLOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

With the darker nights fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour. Whilst we hope they will enjoy socialising with friends and family during the half-term break and the upcoming Halloween/Bonfire Night activities, we also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from danger, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint-approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students, and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would like to remind our students about the following:-

- **Anti-social behaviour:** Halloween can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at their door. Think about how your actions and behaviour affect others; elderly and vulnerable people may be frightened by 'trick or treat' so look out for signs in windows that people do not want callers at their door.
- **Personal Safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables such as phones out of public view whenever possible
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects, including sudden death!
 - West Midlands Fire Service recommends that you go to an organised display; it's the smart way to stay safe. You'll see a lot more fireworks and it's a lot cheaper.
Information about firework safety is available at www.saferfireworks.com
- **Weapons in public places:** carrying a knife will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them.
- **Off-road bikes:** these can only be ridden if taxed, insured and driven on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.
- **Remember the company you keep:** if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

Yours faithfully



Kenny Bell
Chief Superintendent
East Neighbourhood Policing Unit
West Midlands Police



Danny Long
Chief Superintendent
West Neighbourhood Policing Unit
West Midlands Police

Head/Principal Name
Headteacher/Principal
Cardinal Wiseman
Catholic School



Dates for your diary	
Fri 26 th Oct	Teacher Training Day
Fri 26 th Oct	Break for half term
Starting 5 th Nov	Year 11 Mock and WAVE exams begin (for two weeks)
Tue 6 th Nov	SEN Parent's Evening 15.30 - 17.00
Thur 22 nd Nov	Evaluate Education Workshops for year 9 students
Fri 23 rd Nov	Student Chaplaincy Team - National Youth Sunday Mass at Christ the King Parish
Fri 23 rd Nov	The Big Sleep Out. Charity event supporting St Basil's 7pm – 9.30am
28 th - 30 th Nov	Year 8 Retreat to the Briars leaving school at 8.30am returning Wednesday afternoon
29 th Nov	Presentation Evening for year 11 of 2017 2018



Yours sincerely,

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*