



Dec 2018 - Monthly Mail

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to express our thanks to Mrs Christina Stewardson (who leaves her position as Headteacher at the end of term) for her unstinting work for Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School. Under her leadership the school received a 'Good' rating from Ofsted for the first time in its history. It was always the needs of the pupils, the desire to ensure that they experienced the best possible education, that lay at the centre of her work. It is for this that she will be remembered and we wish her well for the future.

I am pleased to inform you that Mr Rob Swanwick (currently Deputy Headteacher) has been appointed as her successor. He will take up the role of Headteacher in January. I am sure you will welcome him to this role, confident that he will continue to strive, together with staff, governors and yourselves, for the education and well-being of your children.

Dr. Penny Manford (Chair of Governors)
pp. The Governing Body

Alton Castle 10th-12th December '18

On Monday 10th of December, 56 of our y7 students travelled to the Staffordshire countryside to visit Alton Castle. The castle is a 19th century, neo-gothic building overlooking the Churnet Valley in Alton and plays host to thousands of young people every year both residentially and on day retreat.

From the moment our students arrived, they were entertained and kept busy by the team of youth volunteers that met them from the



coach. They found their bedrooms in the castle, had a welcome meeting with the staff and sat down for their first meal as one community. That evening, Y7 had a tour around the grounds, learnt all about St. John's church and convent, played some games and explored their theme of 'Who am I' with testimonies from the team as well as input from the resident priest.

Our students were exploring the idea of belonging to our faith and that the person that they are today is exactly the person they have been called to be despite societal pressures, particularly from social media. This theme was then weaved through their activities on the following days.



Students took part in bike rides, treks through the valley, a survival skills session, archery and rock climbing and overcame every challenge and task that was put before them. They truly pushed themselves and were a real credit to our school in their perseverance and willingness to engage in everything that was asked of them. They returned home on Wednesday very tired and muddy but so full of joy and a sense of accomplishment, so do ask our Y7's how their retreat at Alton Castle went.

Pastoral Awards Assemblies

On Friday 14th December, we held our termly Pastoral Awards Assemblies, where Heads Of Year and DEAR tutors had the opportunity to celebrate with their year group and praise them for all their hard work and commitment this term. Throughout the assembly, we had awards for attendance, homework and merits plus many more. Students were also awarded certificates for their contribution to the Catholic Life of the School and how they have fulfilled our Wiseman Virtues.

Each Head of Year planned an excellent assembly where there was a fantastic buzz and excitement. Year 7 played lots of games, Year 8 watched videos of exciting events they had taken part in this year, Year 9 had an 'I'm a Celebrity' theme, Year 10 had a special visit from Santa and his elves and Year 11 has confetti balloons and a prize for the whole year group. It was such a pleasure watching the faces of the students who had been awarded certificates and how proud they were of their achievements. During the assembly, it was lovely to see how each year group celebrated the success of their peers and how excited they were for each award given out.



The following students in each year group won the special Head of Year Award for efforts this term:

Year 7 – Troy Chidziwa and Paulina Wojcik

Year 8 – Jamelia Stewart and Cody Thomas

Year 9 – Trefena Willis and Zar Maruf Mohammed

Year 10 – Mun Yew and McKenzie Bibb

Year 11 – Dominic Clark and Emily Elson

The following students in each year group won the award for their contribution to the Catholic Life of the School:

Year 7 – Troy Chidziwa and Lilli Mae Coley

Year 8 – Blandine Bernie and Jay Exall

Year 9 – Angel Rose Dobbs and Kwaku Oteng- Adusei

Year 10 – Kevin Kada Hettige and Susan Thompson

Year 11 – Alicia Fagan and Dominic Clarke



In the Autumn term, we set up a donation station for St Chad's Sanctuary in Birmingham. The first donations will be delivered to St Chad's on Wednesday 19 December. Thank you to all who have donated items of clothing, toys, shoes and food. These donations will be gratefully received by St Chad's and distributed to refugees who have arrived in the country with virtually nothing.

The St Chad's Donation Station is an ongoing activity, thus whenever you are having a clear out, please bring donations to reception and they will be passed on.

Thank you for your **generosity**,
Mrs Jennings

St Chad's Donation Station



Choir Preparation For Christmas Mass

Over the last couple of weeks, around 150 students from year 7 to year 10 have been rehearsing for our Christmas Mass on the last day of term. They have been working hard ready to WOW us all in Mass with their wonderful singing.

They have been **faith-filled** in their efforts and Ms Gannon, Keri and Mrs Smith are very **grateful** for their efforts and focus.

Our Christmas songs include some traditional favourites: "O Little Town of Bethlehem", "The First Noel" and "Silent Night", the beautiful "Adore" and some modern upbeat hymns including "For a King", "His Name Shall Be" and the rousing "A Christmas Medley".

Christmas Mass is certain to be a wonderful end to the term and will set us all in good stead for a very happy Christmas.

Exciting news for the New Year!

FREE BREAKFAST CLUB



Coming up in the New Year, we will be starting a breakfast club. This has been fully funded by the government in conjunction with Magic Breakfast. This will see ALL our pupils being able to access a FREE toasted bagel with a choice of spreads each morning between 08.00am - 0830am. We are very excited to have this provision in place and hope ALL our children will benefit from this. We hope to have this up and running by 14th January 2019

Miss Commander



Carol Singing to Raise Money

We have recently been working alongside our local Asda and Michaela Hawthorne in a bid to raise money for the Library. As in a previous newsletter, we raised money, bag packing to enable us to buy new books for the Library. Since this we won the first prize of £500, through Asda's Green Coin scheme. Thank you to all that dropped the coins into the boxes in store. We are hoping be entered into the same scheme at our Perry Barr Asda branch, again in a bid to raise money for our English Department. We were also lucky enough to be able to take some of our pupils carol singing. We raised a fabulous £201.42 for just 1 hour of singing. Well done to the teachers involved and the pupils for sharing their talents. We would also like to thank Michaela for helping us fundraise for our school.

Miss Commander



CONNECT 8



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

This will provide pupils a time to relax, have fun and an opportunity to talk and make new friends.

Remember 'it's okay not to be okay'!

Break time - Monday to Friday

Located in the English department in the office of Mrs Jenks/Ms Short.

Awards Evening Year 11 (2017-18)



On Thursday 29th November, we welcomed back the year 11 class of 2017-2018, to award them their certificates for their achievements in their GCSEs and outstanding contributions to school life. Throughout the evening there were various awards given out from subject awards, outstanding contribution to the catholic life of the school, sports and music awards. There was also special awards handed out for academic excellence and outstanding progress. During the evening, we had a thoughtful reflection of their time at Cardinal Wiseman from Aaliyah Edwards and Suraj Kandel our past Head girl and boy and wonderful performances from our current and past students. It was a pleasure to see everyone and celebrate their hard work and dedication throughout their time at Cardinal Wiseman.

Academic Excellence Awards in Year 11

Suraj Kandel, Mugthalana Allet, Connie Luong & Nicole Cullen

Outstanding Progress Awards in Year 11

Hubertas Varanauskas, Rebeca Karaliunaite, Abul Chowdhury & Ariann Rose

Wiseman Virtues Awards

Intentional and prophetic - Kerry Bowen

Attentive and Discerning - Amy Bennett

Grateful and Generous - Elouise Somerton

Learned and Wise - Lirian Dano

Fortnite: Advice from School Nursing Team

Many of you may be aware of the risks and concerns around children playing the online game Fortnite, which has a 12 rating but is played by much younger children. We have been made aware of an emerging trend, where people are playing strip Fortnite using webcams. The rule is that when you achieve a "kill" you have to strip off, potentially adding an additional risk from children being exposed to and/or sharing indecent images whilst playing the game.

Please could you share this information with parents and colleagues and remind them that any inappropriate/unlawful contact with children online needs to be reported.

Cardinal Wiseman Christmas Spelling Bee Competition!



Our extremely popular Spelling Bee Competition takes place every half-term, to ensure students can join in as participants or spectators. All form groups are invited to participate, so spelling prowess can be 'dramatised' (in some cases!), and our spectators – including teachers - can learn new vocabulary, and all engage in a literacy project that combines learning with fun. The start of Christmas celebrations meant linked vocabulary such as: 'mistletoe', 'diocese' 'poinsettia'. These may seem rather straightforward, but try spelling them in front of an excited audience – not easy.

Our school is dedicated to helping all students develop academically, and the half-termly competition works to ensure students do not merely involve themselves in spelling tests in classrooms. Preparing for the competition is a comprehensive learning process that allows students to learn the definition, pronunciation and roots of the words, which is important when gaining competency over vocabulary, and helping excel at reading and writing. To understand more words allows everyone to become literate and enjoy reading an extensive range of materials.

Along with all these literacy positives, our Spelling Bee further allows participants to compete in a supportive environment. The brain activity and excitement that goes with the competition is just as stimulating as a physical competition, which means we can pump up the adrenaline of our participants and spectators, creating a great form of fun and new friendships.

Well done to our winner, Naomi Aiwekhoe Oghomwen and our runner up, Rihanna Davis.

Have a wonderful Yuletide!

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) Education

We have started a new PSHE curriculum with our students this year. The PSHE curriculum is taught once a week during tutor time or as an individual lesson. Here is a summary of the topics taught this term:

Year 7	Transition & respecting equality	British Values
Year 8	Sexting - privacy and sharing personal information	Peer pressure: including smoking, alcohol and drugs and online gambling
Year 9	Knife crime and carrying offensive weapons	Bullying and Abuse Peer on peer abuse
Year 10	Gangs and County Lines	Mental and emotional well-being

Overall, pupils have been very positive about PSHE lessons. In a recent pupil voice exercise:

100% of pupils either strongly agreed or agreed that

'PSHE lessons provide me with the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to manage my life now and in the future' and that they enjoy PSHE lessons

97.6% of pupil either strongly agreed or agreed that
'I have learnt a lot in my PSHE lessons'.

As you can see from the sensitive nature of some of the topics covered in class, it is really
pleasing to see that **100%** of pupils either strongly agreed or agreed that
'I feel that PSHE lessons provide a safe space for me to voice my opinions and ask questions'.

Next term the pupils will cover the following topics:

Year 7	Careers Personal Safety: fire safety, road safety, first aid, safety at home, safety in school	Bullying and Abuse
Year 8	Careers	Mental and emotional well-being
Year 9	How to develop and maintain a variety of healthy relationships within a range of social/cultural contexts including Prevent	Media Influence 2 - social media and e-safety
Year 10	Legal and illegal substances - drugs, smoking, alcohol	British Values

Mr Beckett (Assistant Headteacher)

The Briars 28th – 30th November '18

20 of our Y8 students travelled to Derbyshire to stay at The Briars residential centre to take part in their programme based around being the best version of ourselves. Drawing inspiration from the Avengers, we looked at how we could use the gifts and powers that we already have to make the world a better place. We also looked at covering ourselves in the armour of God; using kind words and actions as well as being compassionate in the way we use social media to one another.



The students took part in activities around the site that involved exploration and problem solving as part of a team – they also took part in lots of small group time that allowed members of our school community to meet and learn about other people; students they may have never considered their friends before their time on retreat. We also took part in a mass that had every aspect prepared by the students and in doing this, they were a true, enthusiastic and inspirational witness to our shared faith. The students, as always, were a real credit to

our school in the way they engaged and were enthusiastic in everything that was asked of them. The team at The Briars were so complementary of our students and particularly their manners and compassion for one another. They have come back to school refreshed, inspired and ready to take on the final weeks of term.

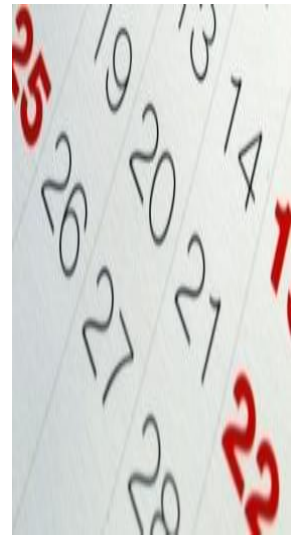


A Letter written by one of our students:

Dear Briars Team:

Hello, It's Halton, I'm writing to you, to thank you for such an unforgettable trip. I wish I could go back to the Briars but as you may know my education comes first. I'm an awesome superhero of Kingstanding. You guys at the Briars are just such amazing and inspirational people. The experience just wowed me; you've inspired me so much that I would like to be a youth worker at The Briars in 6 years. Thank you, take good care of yourselves and remember me 😊
Yours sincerely, Halton

Dates for your diary	
17 th – 21 st Dec	Advent Reconciliation Week. Reflection, reconciliation and prayer stations will take place in the hall and the chapel
Fri 21 st Dec	End of term. School closes at 12.30pm.
Mon 7 th Jan	Term starts – all pupils in school
Thur 10 th Jan	Year 10 Parents' Evening – all parents/carers of Year 10 students are expected to attend.
Week beginning 14 th Jan	Year 7 Assessment Week
Monday 28 th January	Year 7 Parents' Evening – all parents/carers of Year 10 students are expected to attend.
Week beginning 4 th Feb	Year 8 Assessment Week



*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*

**From all the staff at Cardinal Wiseman
Catholic School**



Have a happy and Holy Christmas!