



'Cardinal Pole Catholic School is a community of **service** guiding young people on a path to **opportunity**, **aspiration**, and **reward**, founded on Catholic values.'

HEAD OF SCHOOL ONLINE PARENT FORUM Tuesday 24th September 2024

Welcome back: Exam results over the summer improved with the A level results with A-C passes, it was very positive also with vocational offers including BTECs who did exceptionally well 100% pass rate and Distinction*s. Well done to Year 13. This year group were hit by Covid so good to see so many do so well. Wish them luck going forward.

GCSE students - English Department were exceptional 84% at 4+ and 63% for grades 5-9. Maths held up strongly above the national average and Science, across core measures did really well. Progress score not published yet looks to be an improvement on last year and are very proud of that as this year group were in year 7 during Covid and did not have a great start. The behaviour and focus in the exams were some of the best we have had. We wish them well for those who have joined us in sixth form or gone on to do different things. This positive news was shared with staff upon their return.

The big news with school leadership was that Mr Hall has gone over to Bishop Challoner Catholic School as Executive Headteacher and I have taken over as Head of School. I have served here at the school for 12 years and gladly took on the role and look to make it a success.

Open Evening was a real success, Open Mornings take place this week 9.15am-10.15am and Open Day takes place this Saturday for families to look around during the day. The Headteacher's speeches are at 10am and 11am. We have over 100 families coming through the door on Thursday evening which was up on last year and primary closures in the borough at the moment it is key to ensure that Cardinal Pole is attractive for them to attend. Families were overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

Year 11 Geography field trips take place this week, for their economic Geography coursework to Westfield on Wednesday/Thursday and Friday. They will be looking at the flow of pedestrians etc for urban Geography.

Year 11 Parents' Evening for targeted students takes place this week and a second Year 11 Parents' Evening happens later in the term. A prep timetable for the mornings is in place for English, Maths and Science and a afterschool timetable for students is in place for those who need to do extra work in option subjects as well as English and Maths. We began this intervention programme very early this year, trying to get the message of importance across long before Christmas. Now is the time for them to focus. Prom arrangements will be shared later and we want to make this a positive to aim for. Punctuality to school is key during this period as a lot goes on in the mornings.

Year 7 Bible Mass is this Friday 27th September at 1.30pm in the main hall followed by their pilgrimage to Canterbury on Monday 30th. They get to see Cardinal Pole's burial site. We have had the biggest response to parent attendance at the Bible Mass this year we have ever had. It is a very positive year group, their reading ages and where they are academically is exceptional. The Mass and the pilgrimage will be led by Mr Tisi, Acting Assistant Headteacher and will return back by 5pm. All consents need to be returned.

Black History Month begins next week. A whole month of activities are overseen by Mr Rahman, Assistant Headteacher which will be detailed in a letter to parents shortly. These activities include key speakers, quizzes, trips and events. These end in Culture Day just before October half term on Friday 25th. Thank you to Mr Rahman in advance.

Year 7-11 flu vaccinations are taking place on Friday 4th October, please provide your prior consent as flu spreads very quickly, vaccination means less disruption to lessons.

Parent Points/Questions:

Parent 1: After school clubs: A lot were not on that were run last year i.e. football, football is definitely running but I believe cooking is already full for this half term but it will be available next term to other students.

Parent 2: Evolve links sent for afterschool - none received for Year 11 & 13? Not sure what the consent requirement is for Year 13. Year 11 is predominantly for after school interventions. Will check with SRA. Monday & Tuesday is select students for English and Maths and different option subjects for every night of the week, these are done via normal registers.

Parent 1: How are students put into their Maths sets? Maths is depending upon ability. These are usually based on the AP2 assessments. Will clarify with Mr Okosun.

Parent 3: Activities for Year 7 how are these monitored? Notifications are sent out on EVOLVE, we have a new MIS system this year called Bromcom and there will be a new parent App when this is set up which should have everything on; lessons, extra curricular and sanctions. No exact timeline on this yet – aim is as soon as possible. But it is important to keep us up to date with your contact details. Parent 3: No Go 4 Schools anymore? No, this has been replaced by Bromcom.

Yours in service,



Mr A O'Donoghue
HEAD OF SCHOOL