



12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

## WELCOME BACK!

I do hope that you enjoyed the Summer break and that your child has returned to school ready for the busy new school year and I warmly welcome those of you who are new parents/carers to the Cardinal Pole community.

### Staff Changes

You will have by now received a letter from our Chair of Governors, Justin Madubuko, to inform you that I have been invited by the Chair of Governors at Bishop Challoner, Father David Evans and the CEO of the Lux Mundi Catholic Academy Trust, Jane Heffernan, to work with Bishop Challoner in Tower Hamlets as Executive Headteacher, as an interim arrangement. I will remain at Cardinal Pole Catholic School in the position of Executive Headteacher being ably supported by my outstanding Senior Leadership Team and exceptional staff. Mr O'Donoghue, Deputy Headteacher will take on the day to day leading of the school as Head of School. I remain committed to the wonderful school community that is Cardinal Pole.

Other new staff changes this year include Mr Power (Head of PE), Mr Hewett (Head of History), Ms Perez (Business & Economics teacher), Mr Weber (Drama & English teacher), Mr Dorley-Brown (Geography teacher), Ms Smyth (English teacher), Ms McManus (English teacher), Ms Kennedy (Apprentice teacher), Ms Dedji (Science teacher), Mr Da'Cunha (Social Science teacher), Mr Ali (Teaching Assistant) and Mr Smythe (Teaching Assistant) – we wish them a long and happy career with us.

### Exam Results

I am also thrilled to announce another fantastic set of A-level results. These results are a testament to the exceptional efforts of our students, the unwavering support of their families, and the dedication of our talented teaching staff.

The results were strong across the board, with over three-quarters of students achieving at least a grade C in their A-levels. The Sociology Department was particularly impressive, with 91% of students achieving A\*-C grades. The History Department also stood out, with 91% A\*-C and 55% A\*-B grades. Our BTEC subjects performed exceptionally well, with 100% of students attaining at least MMM and 44% achieving D\*-D grades!

A-Level highlights from individual students include Alegresse with A, A, A; Kesha with A\*, A, B; Esther with A, A, B and Chidera with A, A, B. Standout CTEC performances came from Tobi with D\*, D\*, D\*; Anna with D, D\*, D\* and Grace with D, D, D\*.

With these fantastic results, students are excited to be pursuing a variety of apprenticeships and university places, including LSE, UCL, UAL, Warwick University, the University of Birmingham, Queen Mary University, and many more.

Likewise, with our GCSE's Cardinal Pole has achieved another outstanding set of results. Results were strong across the piece, yet some individual subject areas shone. The English Department secured 84% 4+ grades, with 63% getting grades 5-9. The Art and Design Department also achieved 94% and 80% 4+ grades, in Fine Art and 3D Design respectively. Stand out results from other subject areas include: Chemistry and Sociology with 75% 4+, Maths with 73% 4+, RE with 71% 4+ and Music with 70% 4+.



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Highlights from individual students include: Viktoriia with four 9's, one 8 and three 6's, Eva with two 9's, five 8's, one 7 and one 6, Karina with two 9's, five 8's, one 7 and one 5 and Maressia with two 9's, four 8's, one 7, one 6 and one 5.

#### School Day/Term Dates

As we start the new year, can I remind students and parents/carers of our new school day (see below). I ask parents to remind their children that all Cardinal Pole students should leave site at the end of the day and make their way **straight home** after school and are respectful to those in our local community. I should also remind parents/carers that our October half term is for two weeks, weeks commencing 28<sup>th</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>TIMINGS</b>
Prep	8.35am-9am
Period 1	9am-9.50am
Period 2	9.50am-10.40am
<b>Break</b>	<b>10.40am-11.05am</b>
Period 3	11.05am-11.55am
Period 4	11.55am-12.45pm
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12.45am-1.20pm</b>
Period 5	1.20pm-2.10pm
Period 6	2.10pm-3pm

#### Parent Forum

Please note that in Mr O'Donoghue's new role as Head of School, he will be holding what was our Online Headteacher's Parent Forum conducted via Microsoft Teams. This will now take place every other Tuesday at 1.30pm (the first to take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September), a link to this meeting will be sent out to all parents via email. I do hope you will join Mr O'Donoghue to hear about the events and activities taking place at Cardinal Pole. It is also an opportunity for you to provide feedback and raise questions on whole school policy and practice.

#### Open Evening/Early Close & Late Start

Whilst writing, I should inform parents/carers that the school will be closing early at 1.15pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September in preparation for our Open Evening. Students will be offered lunch at 12.45pm and will leave site thereafter. The parents/carers of the students who are assisting with our Open Evening and required to stay behind will be written to separately.

Following Open Evening, students will be starting school late with registration at 9.40am on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September with lessons beginning period 2.

I wish you and your child every success this year at Cardinal Pole and I look forward meeting with you at our up and coming events/Parents' Evenings.

Yours in service,



Mr A Hall  
**EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER**