

CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



“For God so loved the world that he gave his begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2

HEADTEACHERS MESSAGE

December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope all your families are well at this time and looking forward to Christmas. We have a packed newsletter with information and articles that have happened at our school this term.

It was with great sadness that our Chair of Governors, Theresa Boland, passed away on Friday 21st November, we recognise her great contribution to our school and the ongoing legacy she has left as she championed those less fortunate.

The new school building is moving at a progressive rate and is currently on track for the handover for September 1st 2026. There is still lots to do as we plan the logistics of packing and moving 16 blocks into the new school.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the consultation on our school name. The new name will be Saint John Henry Newman Catholic School, and I hope to share with you in the New Year details of any changes to the uniform.

We are very proud of our students, particularly the ongoing work the student council commits to, ensuring all voices are heard. Our Anti-bullying ambassadors have been visiting our primary schools, and we were delighted to host the prestigious Diane Award training on site.

The students have a strong desire to contribute to their future and have shown their passion to sustainable projects. We have letter picking in the community, projects with Warwickshire Wildlife, to name but a few.

As we approach Christmas we wish all our families a safe, peaceful and joyous New Year.

Ms E O'Connor
Headteacher



CARDINAL NEWMAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



International Cross
of Nails Schools



REMEMBERING THERESA BOLAND

Theresa was our Chair of Governors for over 10 years and served our Governing body for longer. She lived locally and her three children attended the school, she became involved in supporting the life of the school, she was dedicated and driven and made a significant impact.

She was a champion of the students from disadvantaged backgrounds and worked tirelessly on ensuring the school did all it could to overcome any barriers they might face.

In her role as Chair of Governors, Theresa would interview potential Head Boys and Head Girls and attended all our Student Council meetings. She was totally dedicated to the life of the school and a fantastic support for our community.

One of her last wishes was to set up a fund for Myton Hospice and disadvantaged students who attended CNCS.

If you would like to donate please do so by using one of the following links:



Crowdfunding For Good FromJustGiving

Her funeral took place on 12th December and the funeral Cortège drove past the school and was marked by students with a Guard of Honour.

We are grateful for her service and keep her family in our prayers.



CARDINAL NEWMAN TERM DATES

Spring Term Begins - Monday 5th January 2026

Half Term - 14th Feb to 22nd Feb



Easter Holidays - 28th March to 12th April



Summer Term Begins - 13th April 2026

Half Term - 23rd May - 31st May



Teacher training day - 3rd July

Summer Holidays Begin - 17th July 2026





Year 7 – Miss Mohan

Message from Miss Mohan

What an amazing start to the year for our Year 7 students! From day one, they've shown enthusiasm, kindness, and a real willingness to get involved.

I'm so proud of how quickly they've settled into life at Cardinal Newman and embraced every opportunity.

This term has been full of highlights. Our transition programme helped students build friendships and confidence, and the Bushcraft trip gave them the chance to learn new skills and work together outdoors.

The Poet with Punch event was a huge success, with Matt Windle even creating a rap that included students' names – a moment they'll never forget!

We've also seen fantastic contributions to Pupil Voice, student leadership and our Eco Team has worked hard with the WWT Wilder Wildlife project to make our school more sustainable.

Year 7 have shown what it means to be part of our community: supporting each other, trying new things, and aiming high. I couldn't be prouder of their achievements so far.

As we head into the Christmas break, I want to thank every student and family for making this term so special.

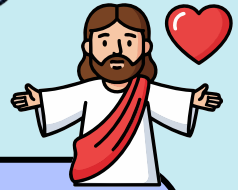
Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year – I can't wait to see what 2026 brings for Year 7!



Year 7 – Miss Mohan



Transition



Our Year 7 students enjoyed a fantastic start to life at Cardinal Newman! They spent time in their tutor groups getting to know each other and their teachers, building friendships and confidence.

As part of the transition programme, students learned essential ICT skills and explored the school through a fun challenge-based tour – including the memorable “Find Jesus!” activity.

Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive, with many saying it was a brilliant way to settle in and feel part of the CNCS community.



Bushcraft

In October, Year 7 headed out for an amazing Bushcraft trip that gave them the chance to learn new skills and enjoy the great outdoors.

Students worked in teams to build shelters, light fires safely, and cook over open flames. It wasn't just about survival skills – it was about working together, solving problems, and having fun. The trip was full of laughter and challenges, and many students said it was one of the highlights of the term.

It was a brilliant way to build confidence and friendships while experiencing nature up close.



Year 7 – Miss Mohan

Poet with a Punch!



We were thrilled to host the inspiring Poet with Punch workshop this term. Year 7 students explored creative writing and performance poetry, discovering the power of words to express ideas and emotions. The energy and creativity in the room were incredible! Matt Windle, known as the Boxing Poet, even created a rap that included many of the students' names, which was a real highlight and had everyone engaged and cheering.



ECO Team

Mr Davies is working with a group of Year 7 students and our Eco Team on the WWT Wilder Wildlife Trust initiative. Together, they explore ways to make our school grounds more wildlife-friendly, cleaner for our school community and learning about biodiversity. These projects help make our school more sustainable and give students a hands-on role in protecting the environment. We are so proud of our Year 7's that are getting involved with our extra-curricular activities!

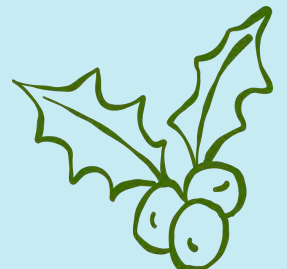




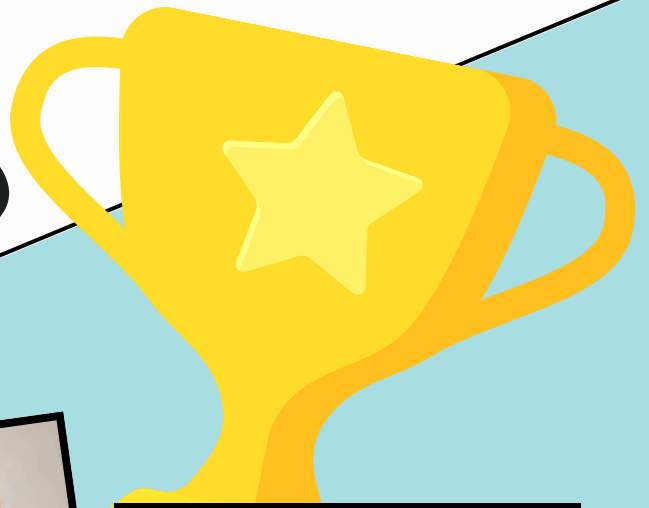
Year 7 – Miss Mohan



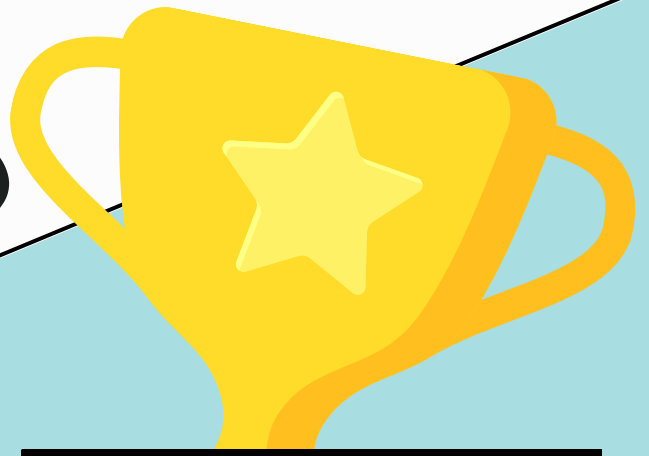
Year 7 Christmas Dinner!



YEAR 7 REWARDS



YEAR 7 REWARDS





Year 8 – Ms Oakman



As we wrap up the longest term of the school year, we are incredibly proud of our Year 8 students for their outstanding behaviour and positive attitude throughout. The term has been full of achievements and memorable moments.

We celebrated the end of term with a Rewards Assembly, where many students were recognised for their hard work and commitment.

In addition, the year group came together for a special service and enjoyed a festive Rewards Afternoon, packed with Christmas quizzes and fun activities.

Our students have also shone beyond the classroom, with fantastic wins for both the Netball team and the Football teams boys and girls alike. Alongside these successes, our pastoral programme has been jam packed, including PSHE sessions, Talking Points, Reading activities, and Advent reflections.

We finish off our final celebration of the year with our Strive to 95% attendance reward.

Well done, Year 8! We wish you a restful break and a very Merry Christmas.



Year 8 – Ms Oakman



There were 163 pupils who over the past term have completed all home learning and had no HL points.

You were allocated a number for the chance of achieving a £20 Teen voucher in a raffle.

And the winner was...

Chantelle Ohene

Head of Year Award



Logan Wong

Evie Pickersgill

Megan Boyce



ASPIRE Champion

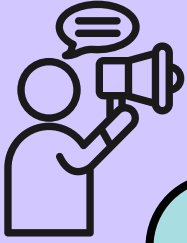
Silver

Benicia

Godspower Owhorelu



Year 8 – Ms Oakman



Student Voice

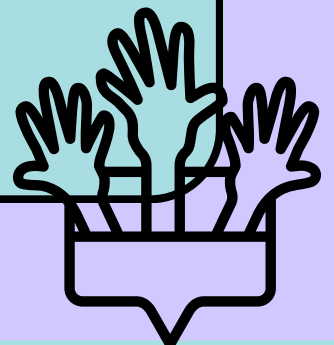
This term, there have been many exciting things going on within Year 8. For starters, we have had many assemblies rewarding us for outstanding behaviour, many ASPIRE points and more!

We also had quite a few sporting fixtures where people in our year could represent our school. We were also allowed to volunteer to help out at open evening earlier this year where we could help out with a subject we really enjoy. Rewards have been very popular within year 8 so far with the rewards pod being very busy. We have had revision packs in stock to prepare us for our assessments, and to get us all into the Christmas spirit, there have been some festive sweet treats in stock for people to enjoy. Everyone is looking forward to the Big rewards assembly and some of us are lucky enough to be invited to the strive for 95% party!

During tutor time, we have been improving our pastoral time sessions trying to get students involved and participating with them. These sessions have touched on online safety, the dangers of vaping, road safety and bullying and much more. In the meetings we have had, we have discussed the site's team and the canteen food. You asked us to bring up the curry and we did. We were able to do something about it and get changed for you. We also asked for them to bring back radnor fizz and that is exactly what they did.

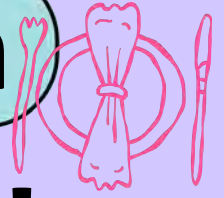
Over all, we have had such a great first term of this academic year and are very ready for the spring term.

Joe H and Megan B
Year 8 Head Boy and Head Girl





Year 8 – Ms Oakman



Year 8 Christmas Dinner!



YEAR 8 REWARDS



Computer	Euan	Myatt	SABK
Science			
Computer			
Sciences	Erin	Edson	BNVY

Dylan	Manika	Arshad	SABK
Proctor	Olivia		SABK
Amara	Carlton		BNVY
Isabella	Jacky		BNVY
James	Lucy		SABK
	Erin		BNVY

YEAR 8 REWARDS



Believe
and
Achieve



Year 9 – Mr Poole



It has been a great term for our Year 9 students and I am so proud of you all. I want to share how grateful I am to parents for your continued support, and hard work in promoting high attendance and positive behaviour.

It has been amazing to see our Year 9 students embrace this season of Advent and I am bowled over by the generosity of our students and community.

I hope you all have a wonderful blessed Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!





Year 9 – Mr Poole



Celebrating Success

Autumn Term Top Scholar Scorers

Name	Tutor Group	ASPIRE Points
Leilah Fayisa-Mthwazi	9CHN	40
Isla Coleman	9HSH	39
Leila Clarke	9OLT	33
Noah Dickinson	9NSD	30
Harleen Kaur	9HSH	30
Kylo Kuppusami	9HSH	30
Shihon Ananthan	9APP	29
Yann Agbodja	9ANS	25
James Cowley	9APP	25
Carissa Donker	9APP	24

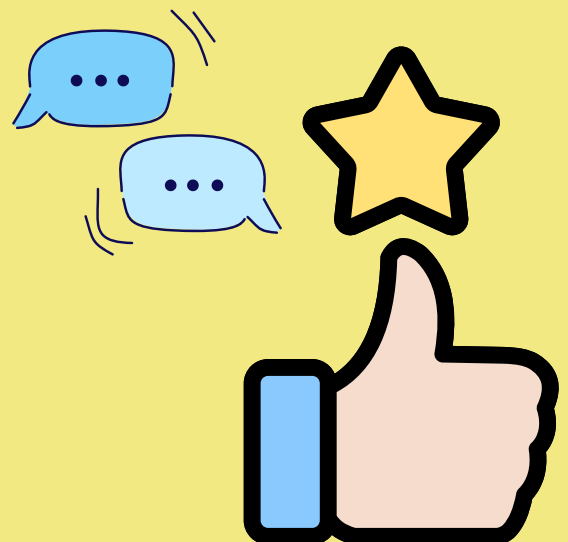


Autumn Term Top ASPIRE Scorers

Name	Tutor Group	ASPIRE Points
Nia Springer	9OLT	556
Sean Dawson	9OLT	556
Leila Clarke	9OLT	543
Kylo Kuppusami	9HSH	513
Scarlett Funnell	9NSD	507
Lloyd Afrakoma	9OLT	500
Mufaro Maharagwe	9RAB	497
Leah Atkins	9OLT	495
Isla Coleman	9HSH	488
Jacob Rothwell	9CHN	486

Autumn Term Top Respectful Response Scorers

Name	Tutor Group	ASPIRE Points
Aiden Sharma	9RAB	73
Roman Bostock	9HSH	64
Lily Thompson	9NSD	63
Daniel Przyblyski	9APP	63
Logan Brown	9OLT	59
Ellie-May Clifford Tranter	9CHN	58
Sienna Biggers	9CHN	54
Ella Waterhouse	9RAB	45
Zyon Alcock	9ANS	44
Wiktor Pogodzinski	9OLT	43





Year 9 – Mr Poole



Year 9 Christmas Dinner



YEAR 9 REWARDS



YEAR 9 REWARDS



Year 10 – Mr McLintock

A warm and final welcome to students of Year 10, for 2025. We are now approaching the end of the year and we hope everyone is excited and looking forward to the Christmas holidays



Term 1 was full of exciting and important moments. Lots of our students have enjoyed many successes and we are so proud of you all!



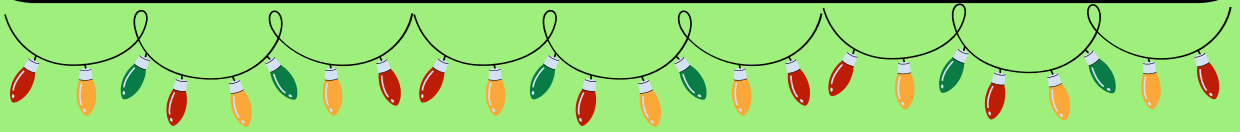
Now that we're approaching the end of this year, it's time to really start preparing for January and the first GCSE in English Language.

The assessments at the end of this year have been so important and remember, there's plenty of support available for you now and next year.

Be sure to stay on top of your classwork and ask your teachers for help if you're unsure about anything. A huge well done to you all for beginning your Options courses and performing so well in them.



Year 10 – Mr McLintock



Don't forget!

While schoolwork is important, balance is key! It's just as important to take time for yourself, whether it's enjoying some downtime, hanging out with friends, or getting involved in extracurricular activities.



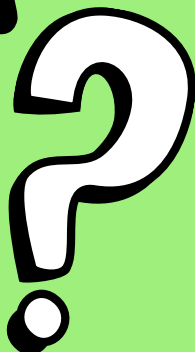
Top Tips for Success

To keep things on track for next year, here are a few tips:

Organise Your Time: A good study routine will keep you stress-free! Plan ahead and make sure you're balancing study, homework, and downtime.

Stay Active: Exercise isn't just for sports. Take a walk, go for a run, or even try a new activity to keep your mind fresh.

Ask Questions: If you don't understand something, don't be afraid to ask! Teachers are there to help, and no question is too small.



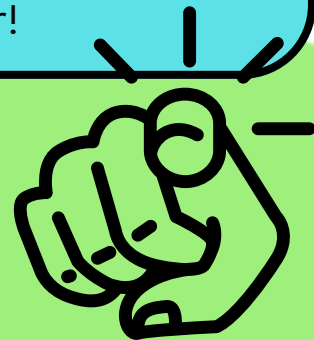
Year 10 – Mr McLintock

Celebrating You!

We've seen so many of you getting involved in extracurriculars – from the music and drama groups to sports teams and volunteering. Whether you're a budding artist, athlete, or scientist, we want to celebrate all the talents you bring to Year 10. Keep up the amazing work, and if you haven't joined something yet, it's never too late!

Your Voice Matters

This year, we want to hear from you! If you have any ideas for events, activities, or anything you'd like to see in the newsletter, let us know. Your feedback helps us make the next two terms of the school year even better!



YEAR 10 REWARDS



Year 11 – Mrs Eggison

Prom Committee

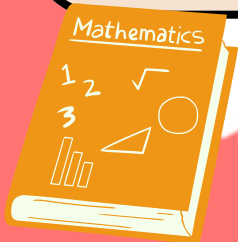
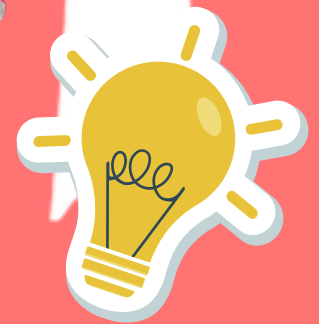
Prom committee have met for the first time and well on their way planning a fabulous event. they have discussed theme ideas, entertainment, posters to promote, fun games to do on the night and starting to create fundraising ideas. This month we have candy canes for sale and some great raffle prizes up for grabs. Look out for more charity events to come.

Remember even if students are not on the committee it does not mean they don't want your ideas! Speak to Jack Webb-Finn or Head of Year who will be able to support.

Prom
Night



Time to
CELEBRATE



Period 6

Period 6 kicked off at the beginning of the year and we have been seeing some fantastic attendance. Year 11 need to keep this up as attendance is linked to attainment. They are also able to enter the period 6 reward cards for some great prizes. We have already had students win a prom ticket, early lunches, revision packs. Pizza party and restaurant vouchers are coming soon and we still have 4 more prom tickets up for grabs.

We have also been taking part in maths intervention where the maths department have been providing key support for students to help them achieve greatness in their maths results.

Year 11 – Mrs Eggison



Mock Exams

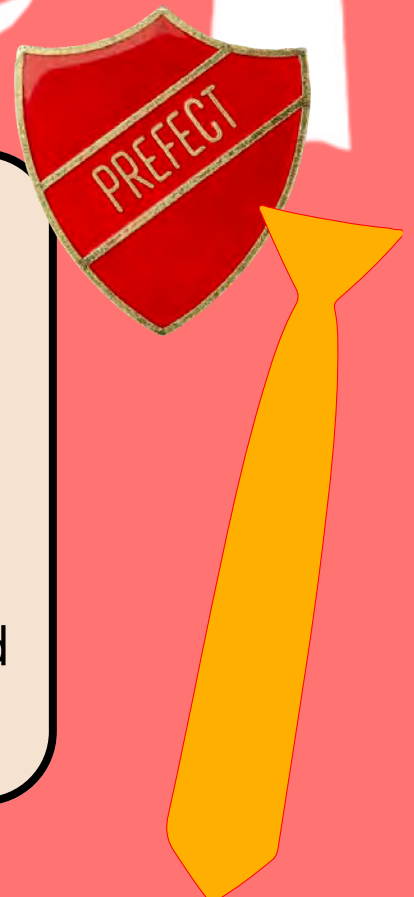
Year 11 completed their first full round of mocks with excellent results setting the tone for some promising summer results.

Year 11 need to stay focussed and remember to keep the end goal in mind.

Year 11 collected their mock results from the canteen and it was great to see so many happy faces.

Prefects

Prefects started their duty positions and are meeting regularly with other leadership across the school to ensure Year 11's ideas about how to improve school life are being shared. Year 11 can always reach out to Ruby Wainwright and Nathan Winkler (Head boy and girl).



Year 11 – Mrs Eggison

Harriet and Neve have been awarded the Bronze - St. Pope John Paul II award by Bishop Timothy for service to their parish, Christ the King and their social action within school.

Congratulations!





Year 11 – Mrs Eggison Christmas Dinner!



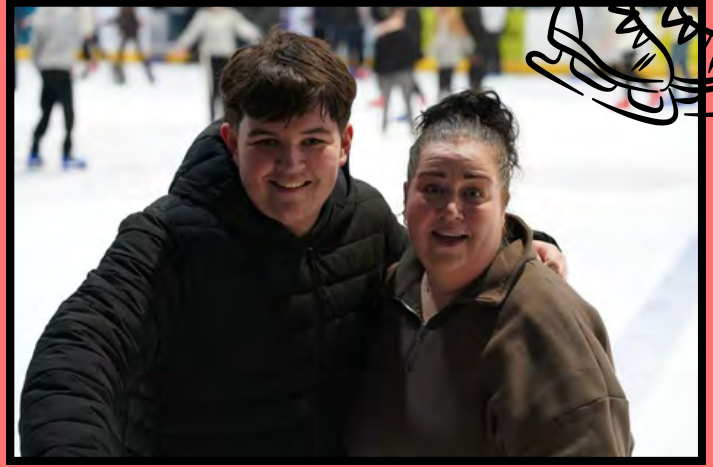
Year 11 – Mrs Eggison

Christmas Rewards Trip

Year 11 had a brilliant day at Planet Ice, enjoying ice skating and a trip to the cinema. This was a well-deserved treat to celebrate their hard work, excellent attendance at Period 6 sessions, and their fantastic attitude towards the mock exams. Lots of fun was had on the ice, even the staff had a great time too!



Year 11 – Mrs Eggison



Year 11 – Mrs Eggison

Mrs Eggison Stars of the Term

Melodie Courtier
and
Pawel Petrosyan



They have changed their attitude to school and are having a positive impact in their attainment

Tutor Group of the Term

11JGD

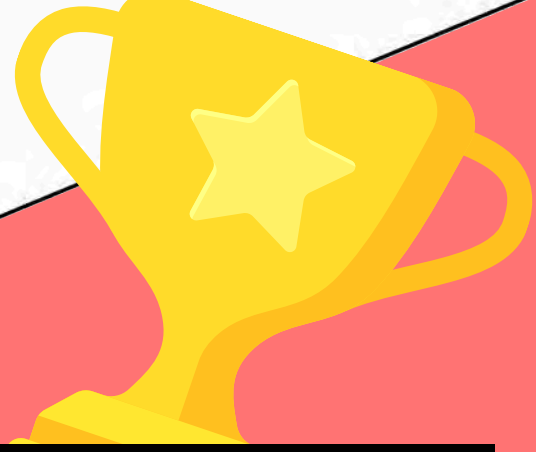
for their amazing effort collecting
advent calendars for our
Christmas charity event.



YEAR 11 REWARDS



YEAR 11 REWARDS





Post 16 – Miss Burn



Message from Miss Burn

Welcome to our latest Post-16 update. As we enter a busy and critical phase of the academic year, I want to commend our students for the high levels of maturity and commitment they continue to show.

In Year 13, the focus is squarely on academic preparation, with intensive support running alongside the demanding UCAS application process.

For Year 12, the emphasis is on developing independence and leadership skills, demonstrated through their involvement in key initiatives like the Mentoring Programme, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and the DMU Law Society.

We are committed to providing a broad and challenging education that prepares our young people not just for exams, but for life post sixth form.

Please take the time to celebrate the fantastic achievements detailed below and encourage your son or daughter to engage fully with all the opportunities available.

We are immensely proud of the hard work, leadership, and success demonstrated by our Post-16 students this term. Thank you to all staff and parents for your continued support. Wishing you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas holiday, and a happy and successful New Year!



Message from our Head Boy & Head Girl

Welcome to this term's Post-16 update! We are excited to share all the fantastic work our Year 12 and Year 13 students have been involved in this term.

From leading key initiatives to tackling academic challenges, our students are demonstrating leadership, commitment, and excellent progress.

We encourage everyone to read about the diverse achievements and opportunities below, and to take advantage of the support and programmes available.

Post 16 – Miss Burn

Leadership, Training, and Wellbeing Y12 Mentoring

Year 12 students have undergone specialised Mentoring Training from Mrs Isherwood and Miss Burn. They now act as mentors for younger students in Key Stage 3, offering guidance on topics ranging from study skills to navigating school life. This initiative provides invaluable leadership experience for our Sixth Formers whilst supporting the lower school. Students meet with their mentee every Thursday tutor time.



Y12 Level 3 Environmental Leaders programme

A dedicated group of Year 12 students has successfully completed their training to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. This crucial role involves promoting a positive and inclusive school environment. We are proud to announce their efforts are being put forward for the prestigious Diana Award, which recognises young people who are creating positive change. They will be designing and implementing awareness campaigns throughout the year.



Building leadership skills to act positively for our natural world



Y12 Prevent Training

All Year 12 students have participated in essential Prevent Training from Mr Wells. This session raised awareness about the risks of radicalisation and extremism and emphasised the importance of protecting vulnerable individuals and promoting fundamental British values.

Post 16 – Miss Burn

Leadership, Training, and Wellbeing Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and The Diana Award (Y12)

A dedicated group of Year 12 students has successfully completed their training to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. This crucial role involves promoting a positive and inclusive school environment. We are proud to announce their efforts are being put forward for the prestigious Diana Award, which recognises young people who are creating positive change. They will be designing and implementing awareness campaigns throughout the year.

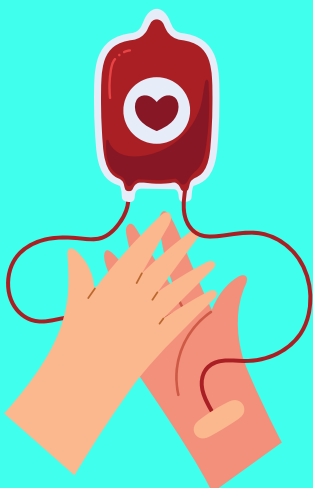


Post 16 – Miss Burn

Leadership, Training, and Wellbeing

ASSET Charity Initiative: Blood and Organ Donation

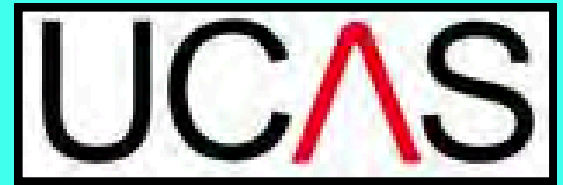
Our post-16 students learnt about a past student Gemma who sadly lost her life to Leukaemia. ASSET, a charity dedicated to raising awareness about blood and organ donation delivered a presentation to students about the importance of saving lives through donation and how they can register to be a donor.



Post 16 – Miss Burn

UCAS and Personal Statements (Y13)

The focus for Year 13 has recently been on finalising UCAS applications. Students have benefited from meetings with their tutors on crafting compelling Personal Statements, and one-to-one support from Miss Burn and Mrs Pears to finalise their personal statement and UCAS application.



The deadline for early entry courses (Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Science, and Oxbridge) has passed, and all other applications are being processed ahead of the main deadline. Well done to the students who have submitted their application and have already received offers from their chosen universities!

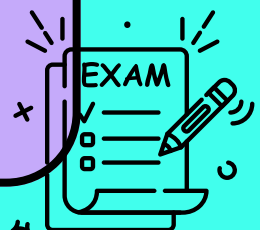


Y13 Mock Examinations and Upcoming Assessments



Year 13 students successfully completed their first round of Mock Examinations in October. These exams provided crucial practice in exam technique and allowed students to identify knowledge gaps, which have since been addressed through targeted intervention.

Students are now preparing for Baseline Tests scheduled for the first week back in January. These tests will gauge retention over the holiday period. Following this, the next set of major Mock Exams will take place the week before the February half term. Students must utilise their independent study time and revision resources effectively to ensure they are fully prepared for these critical assessments.



Post 16 – Miss Burn

Y13 Intervention Support

Targeted Intervention support sessions are running across selected subjects for Year 13 students. These small-group tutor and period 6 sessions are designed to address specific areas of weakness identified through coursework and mock performance, ensuring every student is fully prepared for their final exams.



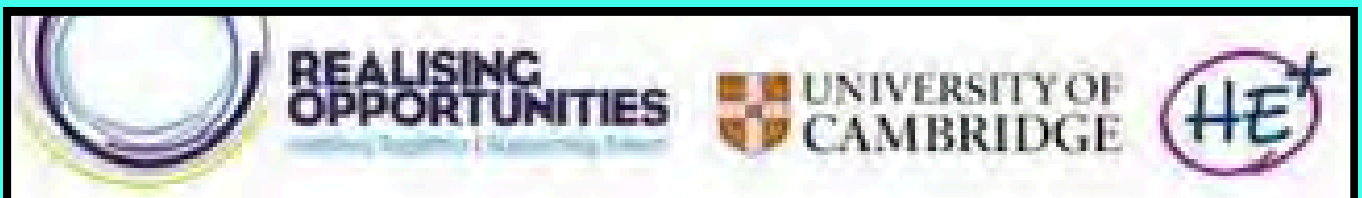
Y12 Law Society with De Montfort University

Our aspiring lawyers in Year 12 have established a Law Society and are benefiting from an exciting partnership with De Montfort University (DMU). The programme includes guest lectures, moot court practice, and a visit to the DMU Law School, providing a fantastic insight into legal studies and careers.



Y12 Higher Education Pathway Programmes

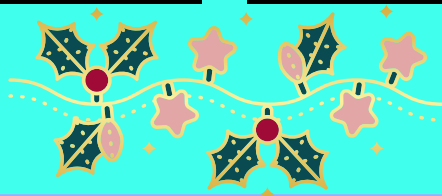
Year 12 students are actively engaging with various external Pathway Programmes focused on preparing for higher education. These programmes, run in collaboration with universities including Cambridge, Birmingham, Bath and Nottingham university, and provide students with shadowing, practical workshops, and academic extension opportunities tailored to their future career aspirations.



Post 16 – Miss Burn



Christmas Dinner!



Post 16 – Miss Burn

Achievements Outside of School Celebrating Our Talents (Y12 & Y13)

We are incredibly proud of the diverse talents demonstrated by our students outside of the classroom! A number of our Post-16 students have recently achieved notable success...

Senan K selected to play for the county in Gaelic Football



Lily Murphy and Emily Gibson
– Dance

Kiera Nee
Road to relay

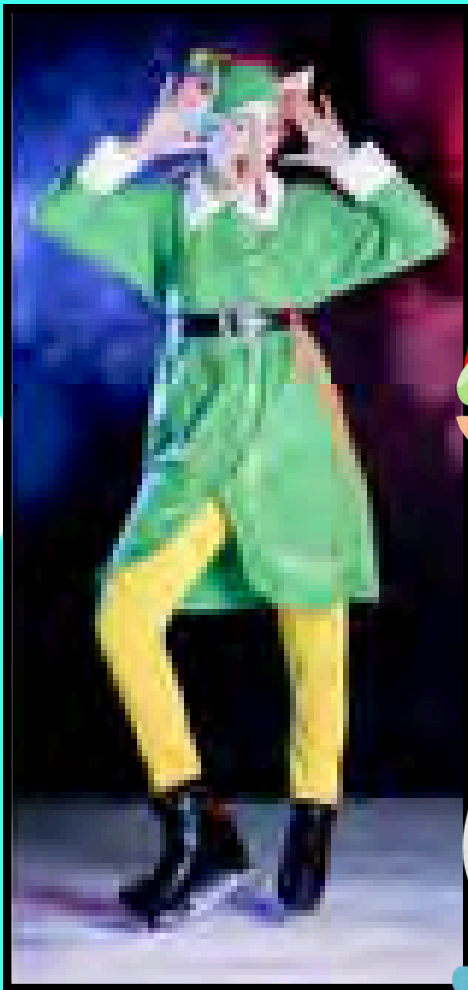
Maya Sheehan –
Dance

Cameron –
Rugby

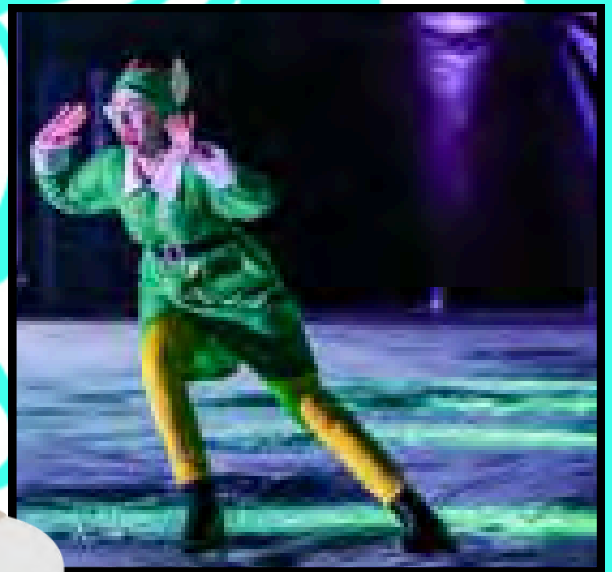
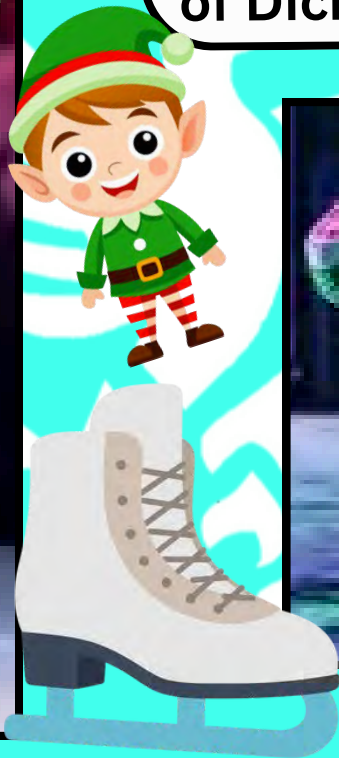


Post 16 – Miss Burn

Achievements Outside of School Celebrating Our Talents (Y12 & Y13)

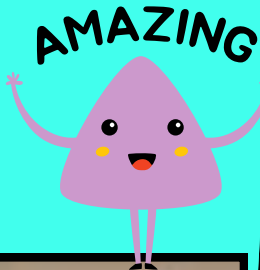


Faye Taylor
For her outstanding performance as Chief Elf in the recent production of Dick Whittington on Ice!

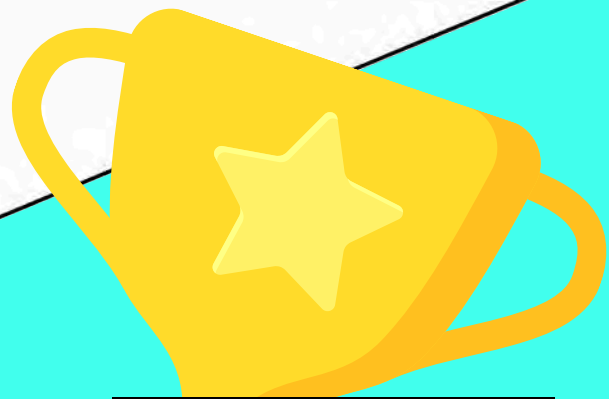


Please continue to share any external achievements with your tutor so we can celebrate your success!

POST 16 REWARDS



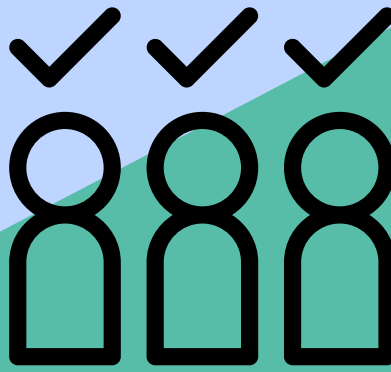
POST 16 REWARDS



POST 16 REWARDS



ATTENDANCE WINS



October half term celebrated those on 100% attendance. Pupils joined their year group for a spooky movie and snack! As a school we value to commitment and hard work that comes from both parents/guardians and pupils to maintain 100% attendance at school. Congratulations to those that took part.



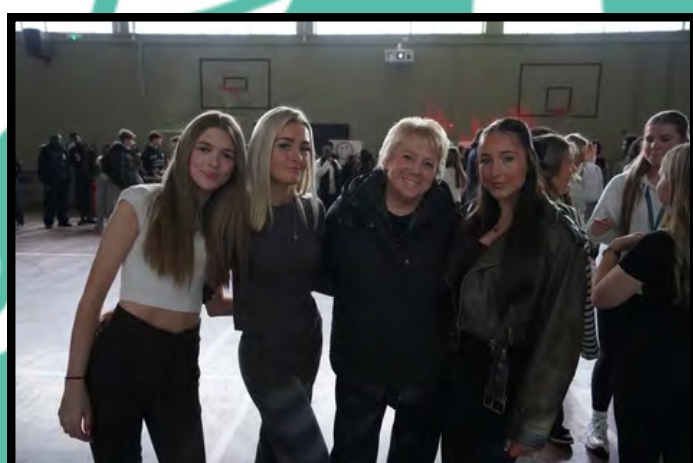
Don't give up!!! Those who have 100% after Christmas for Spring 1 - January 5th to February 6th will be invited to a Valentines breakfast.



Strive to 95 Party



As a Christmas treat, those students who achieved 95% attendance or higher were able to attend CNCS Strive to 95 Christmas party.



Strive to 95 Party






REWARDS POD



Last half term we launched our Rewards Pod with pupils. An amazing 209350 points have been spent on our pod since reopening!

New to our pod this year have been access to GCSE revision guides and 'get ready for revision packs' in preparation for upcoming mock exams and autumn assessments. It's been fantastic to see so many pupils taking charge of their learning and showing real excitement about getting prepared and doing their best in upcoming exams.

Pupils have also had the opportunity to donate ASPIRE points to our charity initiatives of the term as an act of Kindness. These pupils have been our secret Saints and have truly embodied the school's values by giving selflessly to help others in our wider community giving 18,200 ASPIRES.



REWARDS POD

Check out the Rewards Pod
Your Effort. Your Aspire Points. Your Reward.

Celebrate your hard work with prizes you'll love.
Make a difference by donating to charity or eco projects.

Choose rewards that support your learning, your passions, and your future.
Rewards available to change Termly based on your demand.



Log into class charts to cash in your ASPIRE points
- what will YOU choose?



"The ASPIRE system makes learning fun. It pushes us to be our best selves as we can then earn rewards from it at the pod."

"I feel proud when I earn ASPIRE points, they show my hard work is noticed and celebrated."

"Being part of a school where effort, respect and integrity are rewarded makes me want to do my best every day."

Anti-Bullying Week

This term, we have been incredibly proud of the positive steps our school community has taken to tackle bullying and promote kindness and respect.

Pupils have worked hard to support one another, reinforced by our involvement with the Diana Award, which empowers young people to stand up to bullying and become ambassadors for positive change.

Where we are now an accredited school, and are the local primary school which we invited to join us. During Anti-Bullying Week, we held a range of activities and discussions that encouraged everyone to speak up, show empathy, and understand the importance of treating others with respect.

We are especially proud of our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, who visited a local primary school to support younger pupils and share important messages about kindness and respect.

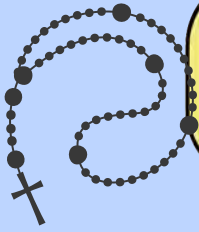
These initiatives have helped strengthen our shared values and remind us all that bullying is not tolerated at our school. We remain committed to creating a safe, supportive environment where every child feels valued and able to thrive.

Our anonymous email address is:
speakup@hccmac.co.uk



Anti-Bullying Week





Catholic Life



Saint John Henry Newman Day

To celebrate the feast of St. John Henry Newman, we had a variety of festivities.

Selected chaplaincy Team members joined us in visiting Birmingham Newman University to learn about the purpose and real-life applications of chaplaincy.

We then celebrated the Feast day in school with a breakfast feast for all and activities to learn about the great Saint we are named after.

Also on the Feast day, we brought 25 students to Birmingham Oratory, the church where Saint John Henry Newman was based. We got to celebrate the feast day mass together and then experience a tour of the church and museum.



We started this half term off strongly, celebrating the news of Saint John Henry Newman becoming not only a Doctor of the Church but also being named Patron saint of Catholic Education.

To really celebrate this, we started our Leading Lights program. An opportunity for young people to learn and teach about Saint John Henry Newman. To get this started, we were visited by Fr. Peter Conley, who taught our students about Saint John Henry Newman through objects that he owned.





Catholic Life



Charity Work

We started our charitable work with an amazing school effort. With our Advent collection asking for Advent calendars to give to children who might not get one. Our school Community have risen to the challenge and donated an amazing 668 Advent calendars!



Chaplaincy Club

On top of all this, our regular chaplaincy provision continues with the chapel open for various activities, break and lunchtime each day and even a Chaplaincy Club happening after school on Thursdays.





Catholic Life

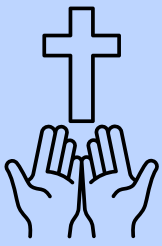


Remembrance Service

On 11th November, we came together as a school community to remember not only those lost in battle but to also remember members of our school community that have passed away.

We were joined by the families of those students that we dedicated our service to and we are incredibly proud of our whole school community for their reverence and respect during our service and silence.





Catholic Life



Advent

As we begin our second week of Advent we also celebrate today the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We had Adoration and the rosary in the Chapel and following the success of Year 7 'Finding Jesus' back in September, today the rest of the school were challenged to find and then keep Mary as they continue their journey through Advent.

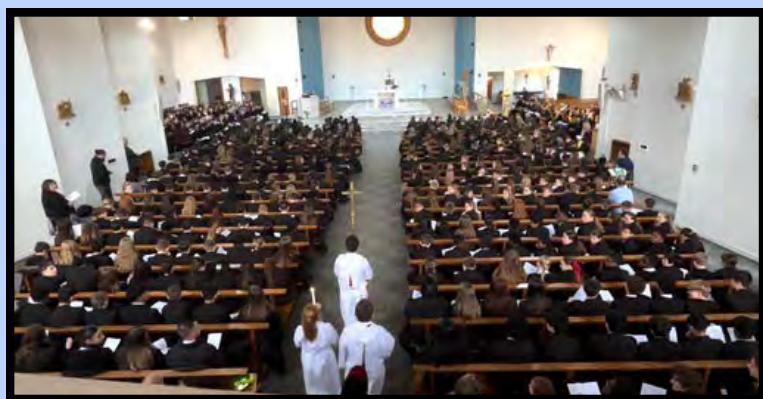


Catholic Life

Christmas Mass & Prayer Services

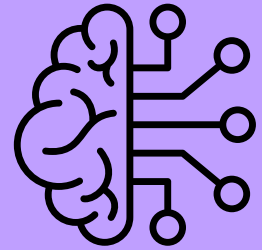
On 11th December, students walked down to Holy Family church to attend our Christmas Mass.

Those year groups that could not attend mass due to other school commitments were able to attend a prayer service with our lay chaplain, Alfie and reflect on this season of Advent.





PSHE



Before the Oct half-term, we held our first PSHE drop-down session of the academic year.

Students across Year 7 to 13 enjoyed sessions delivered by external speakers/performers around the theme of Health and Wellbeing covering topics such as keeping yourself safe online, developing good friendships/relationships, transition from primary to secondary school, peer pressure and the consequences of using AI.

PSHE Overview - Spring Term:

Please see below the topics that each year group will be covering in their PSHE tutor time slots during the Spring term. Further information regarding our PSHE curriculum can be found on the school website using this link - [Cardinal Newman Catholic School - PSHE](#)



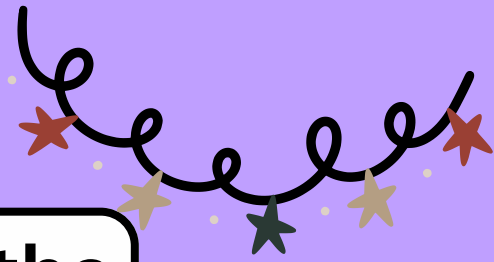
SAFE CHOICE



Theme	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Post-16
Living in the Wider World	Developing skills and aspirations	Community and careers	Setting goals	Financial decision making	Next steps - careers destinations	Readiness for Work
RSHE	Understanding Who I Am	Appreciating differences & others feelings	Intimate relationships	Respectful relationships	Intimate relationships	Diversity and Inclusion



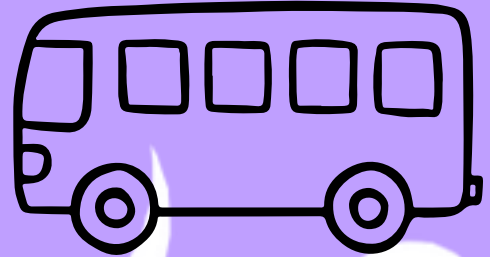
PSHE



Keeping safe over the Christmas holidays

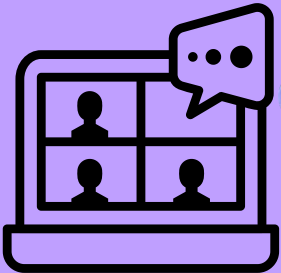
Out and about:

1. Stay alert, and keep music/earphones turned off, so you can hear what's going on around you.
2. Stick to busy, well-lit roads, and avoid short cuts through alleyways.
3. When travelling by bus, try to use bus stops on busy roads.
4. Keep mobile phones and other valuables out of sight.
5. Always let your parents/carers know where you are going, where you will be and what time you will be home.
6. Look before you cross the road! Do not cross the road distracted.



Online:

1. Assess your privacy settings on your social networking sites so that only friends can see your personal information.
2. Have regular breaks and do not spend the whole holidays online.
3. Do not post anything online that is unkind or inappropriate. If you are worried about anything, talk to your trusted adults at home.

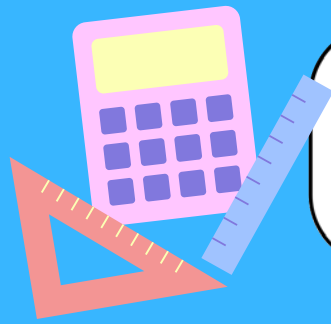


Useful numbers for over the holidays:

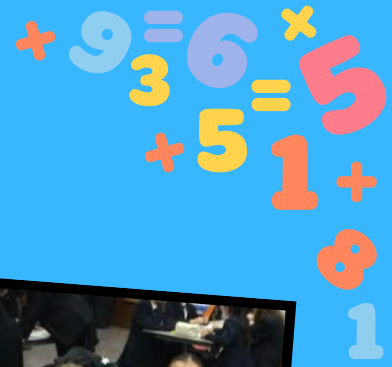
1. 999 for emergencies, 101 for non-emergency
2. 0800 138 7777 'Money Helper' for any concerns surrounding debt
3. 116 123 Samaritans (jo@samaritans.org)
4. 85258 (text SHOUT) for 24/7 text support regarding mental health
5. 0300 303 3157 CAMHS Crisis Line

shout
85258
here for you 24/7

SAMARITANS



MATHS



Year 7 Maths Challenge

There were 3–4 challenges: a relay maths challenge, one big maths problem, and a series of questions. In the relay, when we finished one question the Year 9 gave us another one to finish, and we kept on going until the time was up.

In the big maths problem we just did a very hard sorting maths problem, and the other task was just a series of questions. The last one was decoding clues to find out a code.

Then we left and came back to school. It was really fun. I would recommend it to anyone that likes maths.

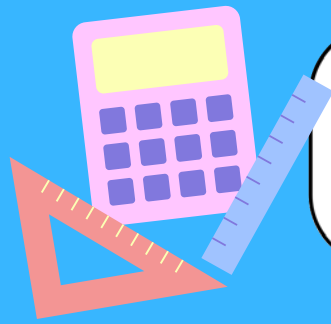
William Hearne - Year 7



KS4 Maths Challenge

In November we hosted schools from across the Birmingham Diocese in our annual KS4 Maths Challenge. 16 teams of talented mathematicians from across the diocese worked together to solve complex logical problems and answer fiendishly difficult maths questions presented by Mr Rojek. We are proud of our year 10 representatives who finished third overall. A fantastic achievement, in the face of such fierce competition!





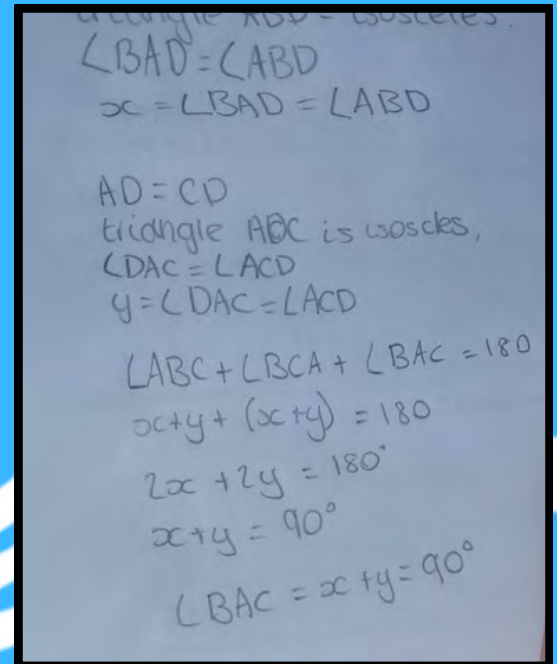
MATHS



CNCS Termly Maths Challenge

We have a winner for our previous maths challenge (Kiera Ward,) she will be awarded a £20 gift voucher.

We will post the new challenge directly to all students' class charts. We will also swap the printed one in the display cabinet.



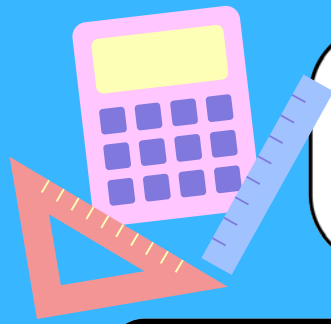
Next terms Challenge

One hundred and twenty students take an exam which is marked out of 100, with no fractional marks.

No three students are awarded the same mark.

What is the smallest possible number of pairs of students who could be awarded the same mark?





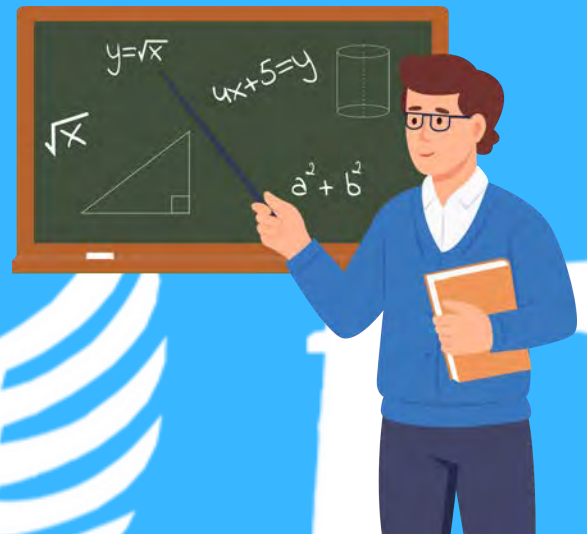
MATHS



What do students at CNCS love about maths?

“Maths has always been a subject of which I’ve enjoyed tremendously through my time in school, but maths recently has become more important to me. The teachers are a big factor in this, helping me further my education and development. The way we learn things helps to support me and make me confident in subject I, whilst I enjoyed, felt I was lacking in.”

Tilly - Year 8



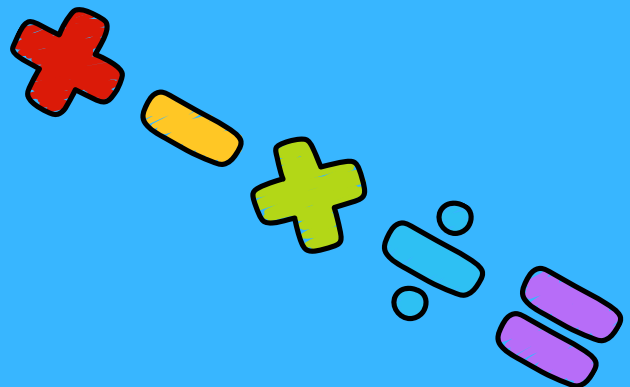
“The maths teachers are great as they make up questions and include the students in their groups. I’ve been sat in a really good place in the class which helps me stay focussed and concentrate better. I believe that I have been doing so much better this year, and maths is now my favourite subject.”

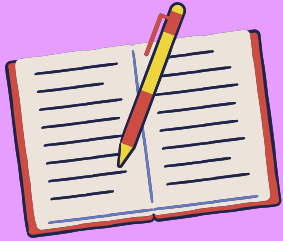
Hope - Year 8



“I have enjoyed learning about rounding and estimation because I found it really easy and simple. I also enjoy the question that my teacher makes up as they’re funny and helpful. He constantly encourages us which makes us want to come to maths lessons as it makes me feel supported.”

Michael - Year 8





ENGLISH



KS3

Warwick Transformations Creative Writing Club



Warwick Transformations Creative Writing Club started back in Term 1.2 with our highest numbers yet! There are 50 students across year 7, 8, 9 and 10 taking part. We are looking forward to sharing any work that students create in the coming weeks.

English Subject Award

The winners of the English Subject Award for the Autumn term are:

Jackson Stringer,
Kyan Dunne,
Emmy Butler,
Elodie Townsend,
Vanya Chikopa,
Daniel Nyakamera,
Evie Pickersgill,
Karolina Poreda,
Harry Leathwood,
Jacob Rothwell,
Scarlett Funnell,
Anne Robert.



Well done for all of your hard work and dedication this term!



Young Writers Competition

Young Writers Competition: Stranger Sagas. Many students have already entered this competition already! If anyone else is interested in taking part, they can find the information here:

<https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/secondary-11-18/stranger?view=ind>





ENGLISH

Year 9 trip to see Dick Whittington on Ice!



KS5 English

Over the past term, KS5 English students have been developing their analytical and creative skills necessary for success at A Level.

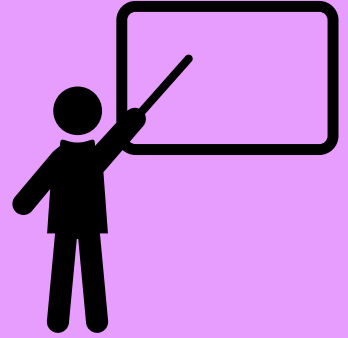
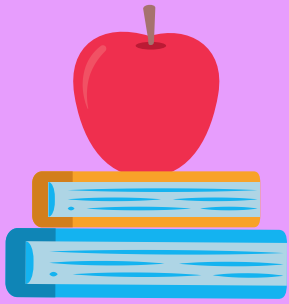
Y12 English students have been immersing themselves in a range of texts, whether studying Carter's *The Bloody Chamber*, Wilde's *Dorian Gray*, Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* or a plethora of anthology texts, there has been strong engagement by the students as they explore how writers have crafted their texts.

Moreover, Y13 English students have been working towards the completion of their NEAs, as well as reviewing all their prior learning and deepening their understanding.

Seminar-style lessons have encouraged collaborative discussion, with students debating interpretations, comparing critical ideas, and strengthening their ability to form sophisticated, evaluative arguments.

Additionally, Y13 students have been enriched through watching lectures on relevant texts and critical ideas, as well as building on their exam skills in anticipation of the in-class assessments, in January.

ENGLISH



Miss Beetlestone's first term at CNCS!

This term has been such a positive start to my ECT journey at Cardinal Newman.

Having completed my training here last year, stepping back into the school has felt familiar and really comfortable.

Everyone—from students to colleagues—has been welcoming and supportive, which has made settling in so much easier.

The ECT sessions at Newman have been brilliant for sharing ideas, reflecting on my teaching, and picking up practical tips to try in the classroom.

I am grateful for the encouragement and guidance from my mentor and colleagues, who are always willing to offer advice, answer questions, and celebrate the small wins with me.

It has been so much fun working with students from Year 7 to A-Level, exploring a wide range of topics—from voices and storytelling in Year 7 to the societal issues in Noughts & Crosses.

I've loved having the chance to be creative, designing lessons that inspire students and spark their curiosity about English. Seeing students engaged, asking questions, and sharing their ideas has been incredibly rewarding and reminds me why I love teaching.

Each week I feel more confident, more at ease in my role, and excited to keep learning and contributing to our amazing school community.



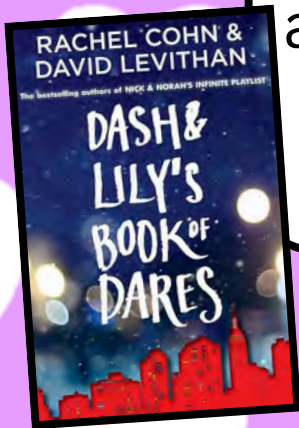
teach
Love
INSPIRE

ENGLISH

CHRISTMAS READING RECOMENDATIONS

Dash & Lilly's Book of Dares by David Levithan and Rachel Cohn

A book about teenage adventure set at Christmas time in New York City. It is also a series on Netflix!



'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens



ENGLISH

KS4:

GCSE summer exam dates:

- Monday 11th May - English Literature Component 1
- Tuesday 19th May - English Literature Component 2
- Thursday 21st May - English Language Component 1
- Friday 5th June - English Language Component 2



Post 16

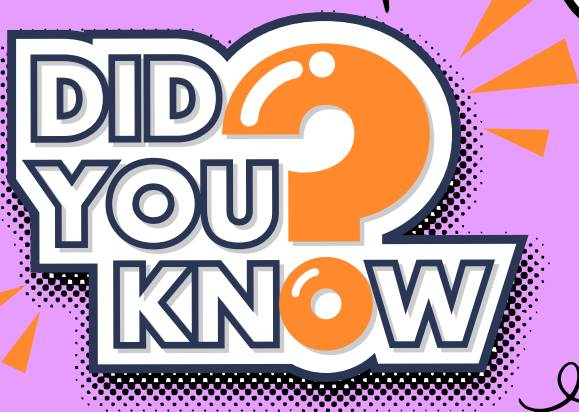
2026 Catenian Association Public Speaking Competition is taking place on Thursday 26 March at 7pm at Birmingham Newman University.

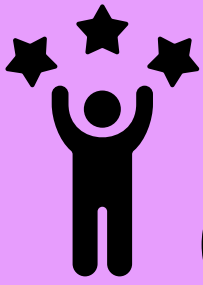
We are looking for two candidates to represent our school. This is an amazing opportunity to develop your public speaking skills, as well as add to your resume! If interested, please let your English teacher know or come see Ms Panait in LF15.

Our internal selection process will take place on Wednesday 17th December - we are looking forward to listening to your speech!

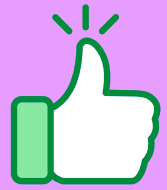
The most commonly misused word in the English language is "ironic." Irony is often confused with sarcasm, coincidence, or paradox.

Those who read fiction have a larger vocabulary than those who do not. Fiction usually contains a wider range of vocabulary than nonfiction does.





ENGLISH



Celebrating Success

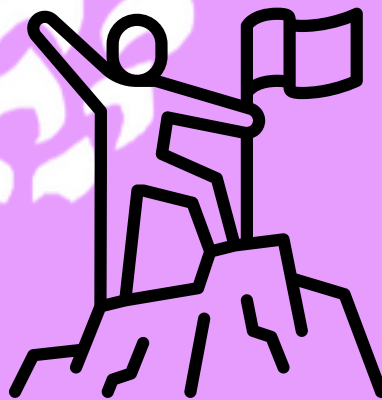
**Congratulations to the
English Awards End
of Term winners:**

Year 10

**Archie Pearman
Cavan Ahearn
Lisha Adu-Boahene
Niyah Bennett**

Year 11

**Luke Dube
Daniel O'Conner
Cynthia Vrskova
Smith Amy**



SUCCESS



MEDIA STUDIES

EXTRA CURRICULAR / CAREERS



Meet Eric



Whether you're looking to build your skills, gain experience, or grow your confidence in Media Studies, just open the app each day to discover fresh new opportunities curated for you. It's free!



The Telegraph Media Literacy Programme (Post 16 only)
Online interactive sessions with a range of journalists from various departments including News, Sport, Beauty, Music, Podcasts and Social Media. Each week, you will get the chance to practise core journalism skills including headline writing, preparing interview questions and drafting a feature piece.

TELEGRAPH MEDIA LITERACY
Media Literacy Programme



ScreenSkills

They provide career advice, free online courses, work experience programmes, and training funded by major screen industry companies. Their goal is to help people get the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to enter creative media jobs.



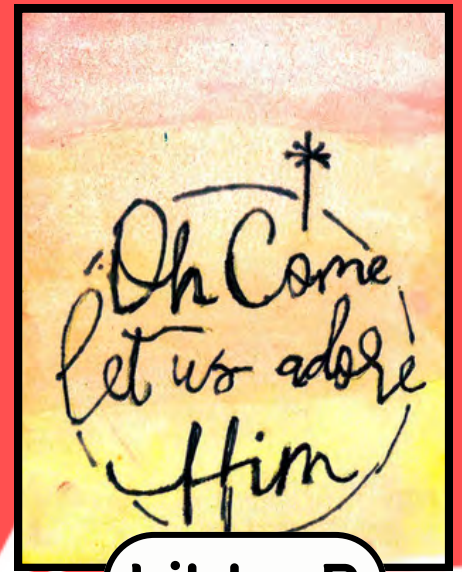
Year 7 Christmas Card Competition



Dominic C A



Mariia D



Libby B



Jaden I



Jakub P



Jaden M



Aakshaya D

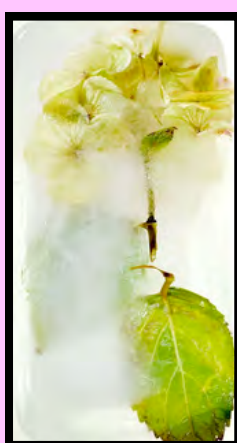
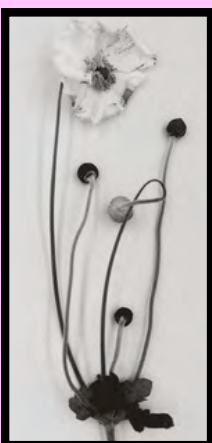
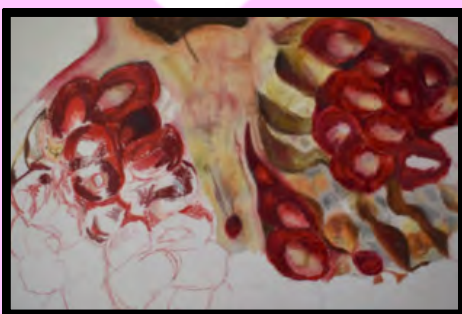


ART



A-level: Year 12 Art and Photography students have been exploring the themes based on **DETAIL** and **OBJECT** this term.

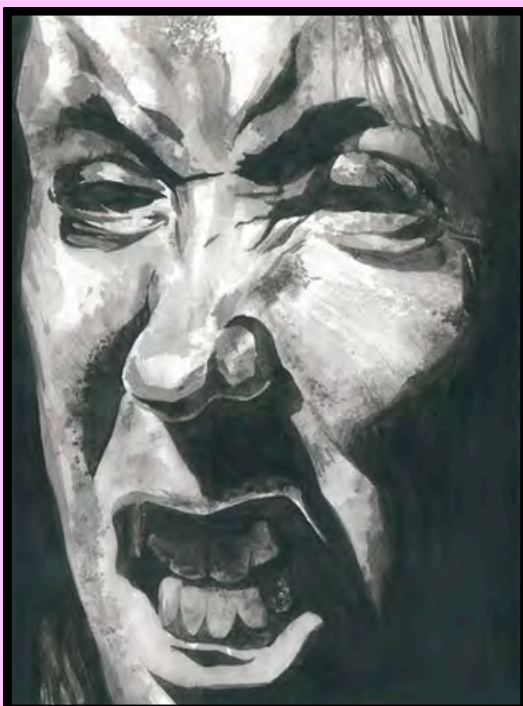
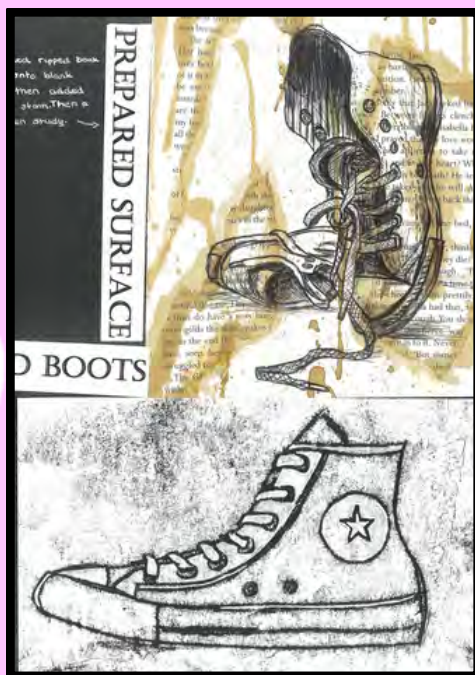
Photographers have been learning how to use lighting equipment, DSLR camera and the Macro lens. Artists have been exploring a range of pencil, pen, acrylic and oil paints.





ART

GCSE students have been working on themes based around COLOUR, CITY and DRAWING SKILLS.

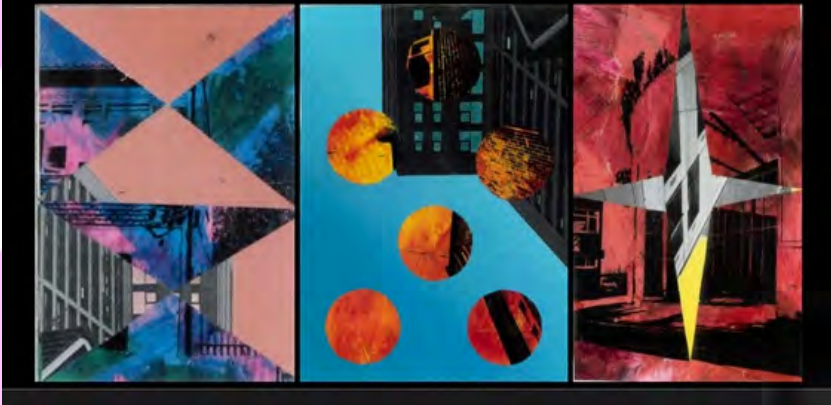




ART



PHYSICAL MANIPULATIONS





ART



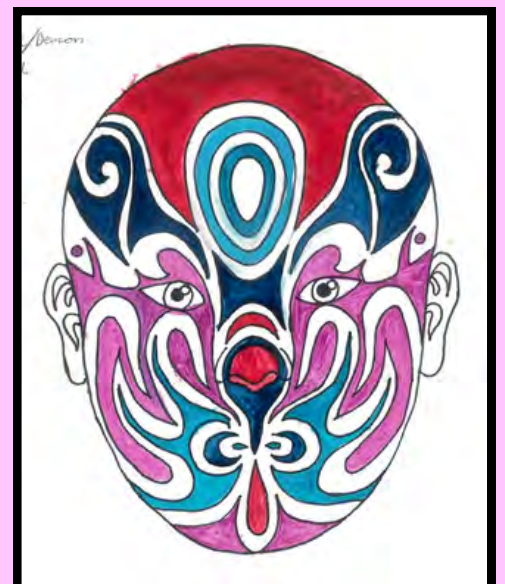
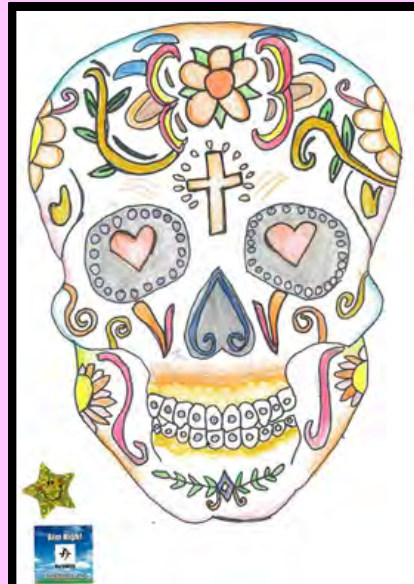
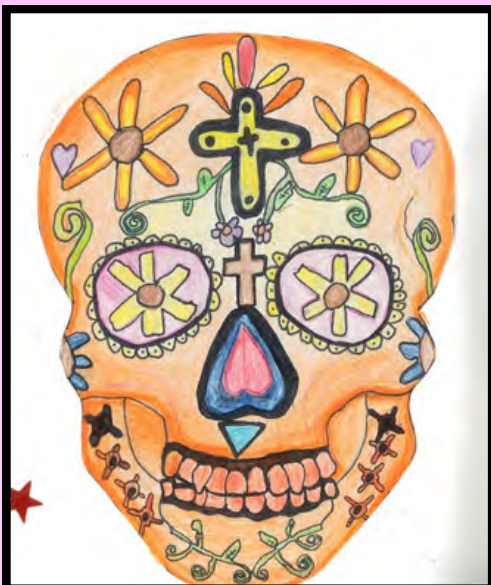
Year 9: Junk Food
Work has been based on artists who focus on Junk Food subject matter and explore paint and drawing mediums.



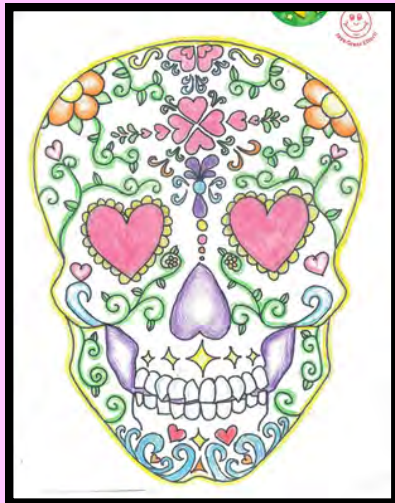
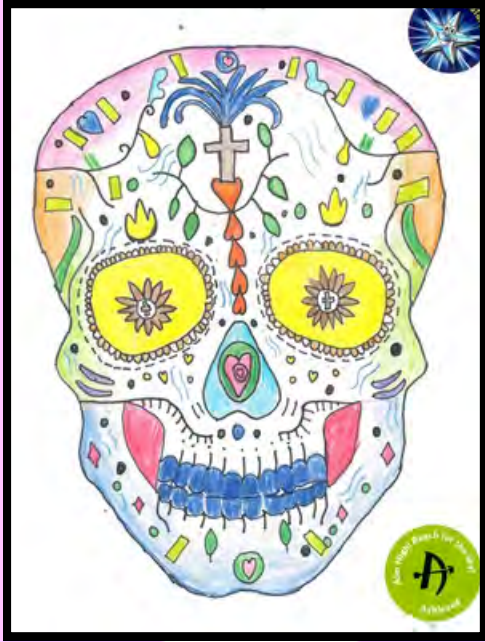
ART



Year 8 - World Culture
Year 8 have been exploring pen, colour pencil and painting. The students have explored imagery and masks from Mexican Day of the Dead, African Wooden Masks and Chinese Opera Masks.

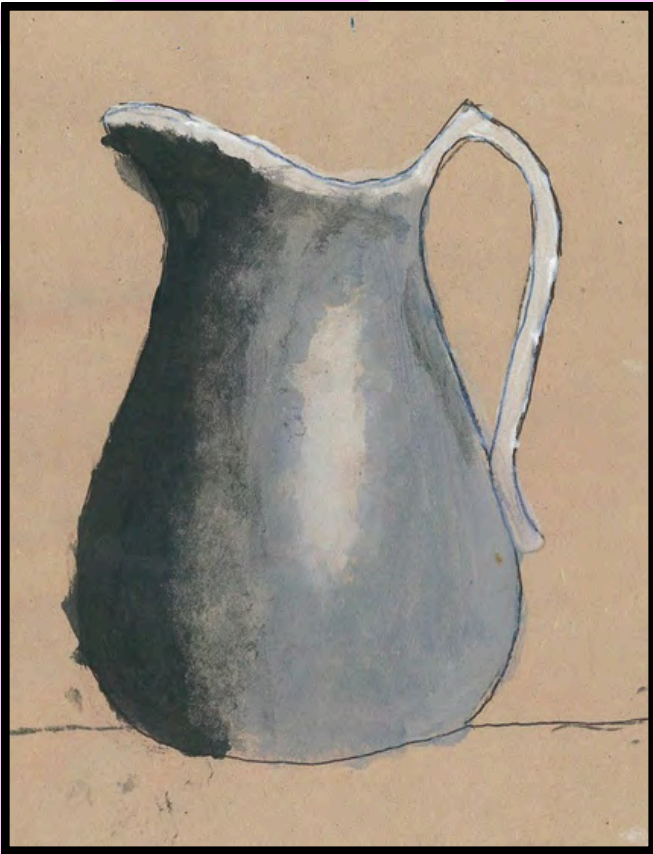
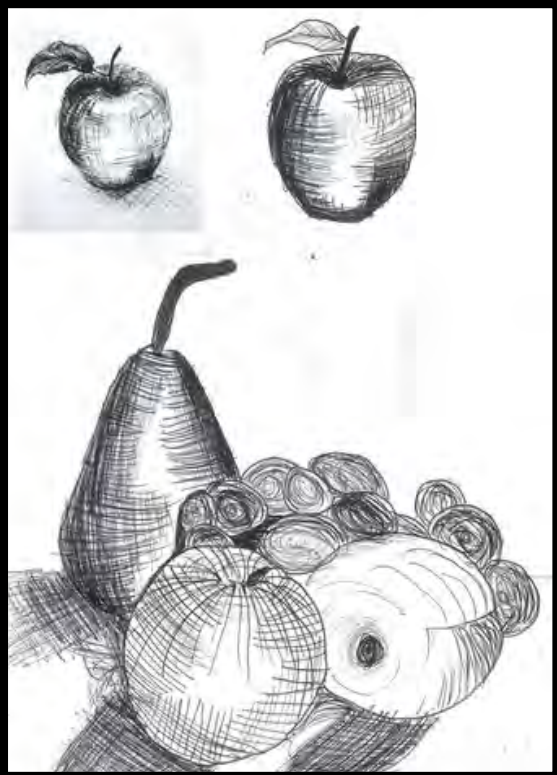


ART



ART

Year 7 - Drawing Skills
Students have been exploring a range of drawing skills using both pencil and pen to create studies of symmetrical objects and natural forms.





ART



Peace Banner
Students were set a competition to design a new Peace Banner for our Peace Orchard. The designs were excellent, and this year's winner was – Emma Kelly.



PEACE





LIBRARY

I ♥ BOOKS

Catch Me Reading

This term the library launched its new reading incentive which has been rolled out to our new Year 7 students. When a member of staff sees a student reading for pleasure, in other words reading out of class, they will hand that student a 'Catch Me Reading' slip.

The student can then hand this into the library for the chance of winning a £20 voucher at the end of the term. In the future the library hopes to roll this out to the rest of the school.

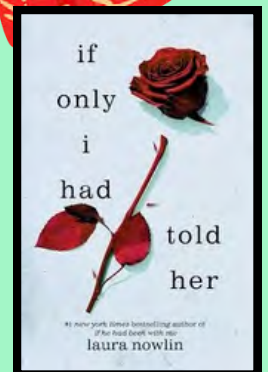


MY FAVOURITE BOOK - CNCS STUDENT

If I Had Told Her - Laura Nowlin

If I Had Told Her is one of the most gut wrenching, beautiful, sad stories I've read. It's a sequel to *'If He Had Been With Me'* but this time it comes from three different perspectives including young Finny who dies and we are aware of this from the start of both books. What makes this book my favourite is the way it portrays grief and longing, the absence of someone in your life affecting the way you see your own, how everything becomes quieter. This book made me appreciate life a lot more, especially as I can emotionally relate to this book because all the characters are around my age. Love is shown beautifully where everything was full of "if only" moments he could never fulfil. This will forever be my favourite book of comfort (no matter how much it makes me cry) because it shows the truth of grief, something a lot of people can relate to.

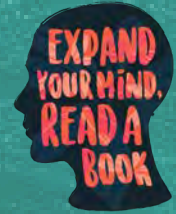
Jenna - Year 10



Book Facts!

Reading can reduce stress by up to 68%, according to a study by the University of Sussex.

RECOMMENDED READING AUTUMN TERM



Year 7 - *The First Year* - Matt Goodfellow


Year 8 - *Wolf King* - Curtin Jobling

Year 9 - *All the Things That Could Go Wrong* - Stewart Foster


Year 10 - *When the World Tips Over* - Jandy Nelson

Year 11 - *Songlight* - Moira Buffini


Post 16 - *This Song Is About Us* - Sara Barnard




Nate is about to start secondary school. After a challenging final year at Primary, things seem to have settled for him and he is ready for a fun-filled summer before a fresh start in September. However, a new school brings new challenges- and some old.




Discover the epic fantasy adventure series as Drew Ferran learns he's the last of a long line of Werewolves - and rightful ruler of a land governed by Werelords. When the air is clear, Drew Ferran can pick up the scent of a predator.




When their mums arrange for Alex and Dan to spend time together over winter break, it seems like a recipe for certain disaster...until it isn't. Once forced together, these two sworn enemies discover that there is much more to each other than they ever knew.



The story follows the Fall siblings—Dizzy, Miles, and Wynton—as they grapple with the disappearance of their father, long-held family curses, and their own personal struggles.



Elsa Crane and Rye Tern, secret Torches, are preparing to run away together, but when Rye is betrayed and captured, Elsa lets out such a flood of grief that it captures the attention of two Torches miles away in the capital city: Kaira Kasey, a frail and lonely girl with a powerful songlight gift, and Sister Swan, a politician with an agenda of her own.



Told over three summer festivals, this stunning novel from bestselling prizewinner Sara Barnard charts the emotional turmoil of young love and early fame. The Kerbs are a four-piece pop rock band on the verge of breaking big the moment that frontman, Drew, turns 18 at the end of the summer.

A world of reading awaits you. Have you tried the CNCS SORA Reading App yet?

Getting started with **Sora**



With SORA, you can get free ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, graphic novels and more. Follow the instructions to get started.

1

Install the SORA app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store or go to soraapp.com.

2

In SORA, find our school, Cardinal Newman Catholic School, then sign in with your school login.

3

Browse the **EXPLORE** tab and borrow a book. Your book will open so you can start reading right away.

4

Close the book and go to your **SHELF** to see all your books.

From there you can:

Tap **OPEN BOOK** to read your book.

Tap **OPTIONS** to renew or return your book or to get your notes and highlights plus more.





Competition Winners



Well done and congratulations goes to our Star Readers from Autumn Term 1.1 – Delina W (Y7), Emmanuel S (Y8), Rebecca N (Y9), Lidiia D (Y10) and Samuel A (Y11).

All of these students demonstrated extraordinary perseverance and commitment to their reading. We are incredibly proud of all of them!

Congratulations to 7PWN!

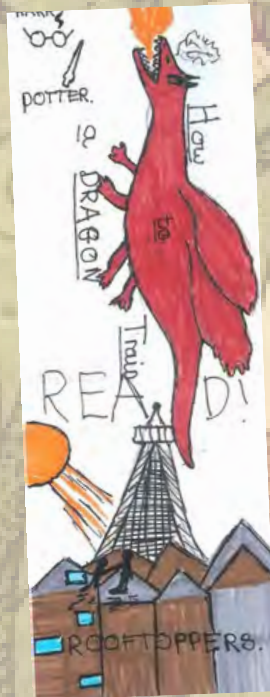
This tutor group had the highest number of book loans this half term - well done!

Congratulations to the Autumn

Half Term's winner Ollie B (Y8) who had his winning ticket pulled out by Mrs Good and received a library goodie bag in recognition of his continued reading - well done!



YEAR 7 BOOKMARK COMPETITION



WINNERS:
KATIE C 7RCY,
KELSEY C 7RDS
AND
OSIAN A 7RDS



RUNNERS UP:
KENDALL C 7AMW,
CATHERINE M 7PRN,
JOSEPH O 7SON
AND
NICHOLAS S 7PWN



THE LIBRARY HOSTED THE ANNUAL YEAR 7 BOOKMARK COMPETITION THIS HALF TERM. DURING THEIR LIBRARY LESSONS STUDENTS WERE ASKED TO DESIGN A BOOKMARK WHICH COULD BE ABOUT ANYTHING THEY WANTED AS LONG AS IT WAS BRIGHT AND COLOURFUL. THE LIBRARY IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THE WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP - CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE TO ALL OF YOU. AMAZING CREATIONS!



CAREERS



Events taken place this academic year so far....

Provider & Careers Fair – November 2025

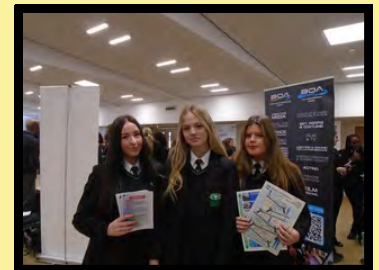
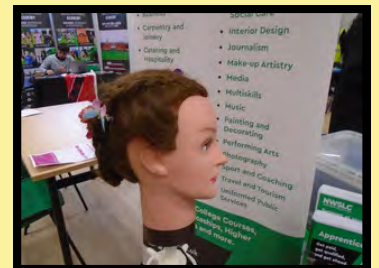
We were excited to welcome local providers into school during the last week of November for Year 11 to meet. Among them we had The MTC, Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber Training, MGTS and many more.

This enabled our Year 11 to ask about courses; seek advice and gather literature and merchandise. It was a really fun morning and there was lots of interaction. Coventry College brought in a hairdressing dolls head for the students to practice on.....lots of braiding taking place!

It was a wonderful to see one of our alumni - Adrien Jean – who took time out of his busy day as a Degree Apprentice with Jaguar Landrover to meet our students. He brought along 2 colleagues also who were Apprentices. Not only did this benefit Year 11, our Sixth Form students were invited in and I saw many conversations taking place at their stand and many others.

We had a number of universities join us, including Coventry University and De Montford and this again gave insight. The Sixth form will have their own official UCAS trip -however this was a good taster to talk to university representatives. We had 24 providers in total, and we really appreciate their time and continued support.

All in all a great morning and very useful. The students enjoyed it and found it's a great motivator to focus in and think seriously about their next steps.



unifrog

CAREERS

Amazing
Apprenticeships



School leaver and College festival – NEC Birmingham. November 2025

We had a great day out in early November when we went to the National School and College Leavers Festival.

This is a fantastic event and always has a lot going on! From music to cars to cooking to racing car simulators – it has it all!

Various companies including the BBC, Army, BOA, Kier, JCB and Tui. There was careers talks, games, activities – was a great day open to 100's of students.

The students took themselves round and were able to talk to companies and organisations that they will be potentially looking to join Post 16/ Post 18.

A valuable insight into the world of work – we are so lucky to have this virtually on our doorstep. We can't for wait next year to do it all again!



unifrog

CAREERS

Amazing
Apprenticeships

Unifrog

Unifrog is our careers platform within school. It's such a useful resource, from looking at Careers pathways and detailed job descriptions to finding college courses; Apprenticeships and Universities.

It even helps you if you don't know what to do career wise – take a look at the Personality quiz – complete that and it will determine the jobs that suit your personality type.

If you have already taken the quiz a year or so ago, you can take it again as your thoughts may have changed.

Miss Brennan has just refreshed Year 9 on Unifrog and the quiz. It will be so useful to have an idea of a future pathway, as this will help you choose your option subjects.



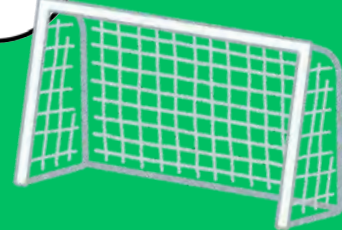
How to access Unifrog?

Go onto the Cardinal Newman Catholic School website > quick links > Unifrog. Or google www.unifrog.org

Sign in with school email address and password previously chosen. If you have forgotten the password, select 'forgot password' and Unifrog will send an email to reset.

Unifrog is in hundreds of schools across the country. Its a fantastic resource. Please use it - the more you look the more you will find! What type of 'Frog' are you? Sign in and find out!

FOOTBALL



YEAR 8 BOYS FOOTBALL

CNCS Versus P.K

Year 8 Boys beat local rivals P. Kennedy 6-5, in a thrilling game at P.K on Thursday 2nd October.

We surged into a 3-0 lead after 10 minutes of the game, but eased off a little too much to allow P.K back into the game.

Some debut performance by Judgenice Joseph, Mikey Parker, Kyle Whitehead.

Great victory in the end.



Year 8 boys team beat Nicholas Chamberlain School 7 - 6 in a thrilling game at Newman on 22nd October.

The game really was end to end, with the lead shared by both teams throughout the match. Goal of the game goes to Harry Thompson, with a 30-yard well struck shot giving the Goalkeeper no chance to get anywhere near it. Harry also Captained the team.

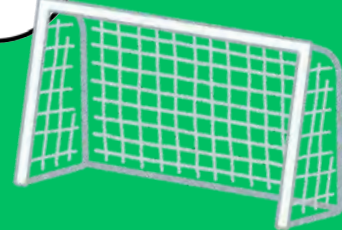
Man of the match was James Currie, whose surging runs down the right gave us width and gave space inside for the strikers.

This tournament is open to all secondary schools in the west Midlands, so is quite prestigious.

We were runners up in the Final last year. So, we are hoping to go one better this year. Well done to all who played, next round is against Earl's High School - Halesowen & Stourbridge.



FOOTBALL



U13 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Tuesday 14th October we played Alderidge school at home in the West Midlands cup.

We are delighted to be through to the next round winning 6-0. We struggled in the first half to get our play together but after half time we were able to shine. Darcey T scored 3, Holly, Darcie O and Lacey also all scored. Player of the match went to Darcey T who worked hard throughout the game.

Well done girls.

Written by Darcey and Lacey



YEAR 11 BOYS FOOTBALL

Year 11 played a nail biting game against Bishop Milner winning 6-5. Man of the match went to Chase who stepped in goal.



RUGBY

YEAR 8

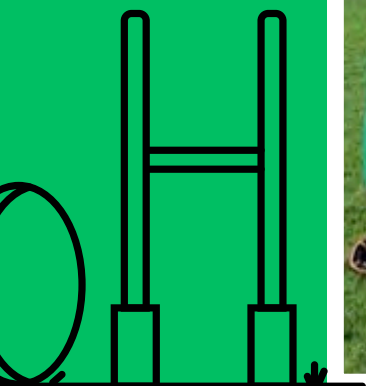
Year 8 Coventry Schools Rugby tournament

Year 8 boys won 2, drew 2 in the annual October Finham Park Rugby tournament.

Narrowly losing to P.K in the first game dropped the boys moral, but they picked up later in the tournament, with wins over Kenilworth school and hosts Finham Park.

Louis Salt scored some excellent breakaway tries and Quinn Finnegan made lots of powerful runs, carrying the ball up field.

Well done to all boys who played.



CROSS COUNTRY

Well done to all that took part in the Coventry Cross country event. Everyone ran superbly!

Huge congratulations to Sirak and Grace who won the inter cross country race. To the inter boys who won the team event and the junior boys who came a close 2nd. Sirak is also through to the English Schools team after representing the West Midlands!



CROSS COUNTRY



Grace Deavey and Matilda Taplin successfully competed in the West Midlands county schools cross country team that won the Dave Sunderland Cup in November.

This is a prestigious event in the xc calendar that teams from Cheshire, Surrey, Shropshire, Cumbria, Staffordshire, Hereford & Worcester and Warwickshire compete in.

Their efforts are a credit to the school, city and county.



NETBALL



YEAR 7

The year 7s played their first game of Netball against Bishop Ullathorne. The girls worked well together but these friendlies will help ensure team cohesiveness. The team came on leaps and bounds during the game. In the fourth quarter they did not concede a goal. Final score was 3-0 to Bishop Ullathorne.



YEAR 8

Year 8 played a double match against Bishop Ullathorne and Caludon Castle. A fantastic night of Netball for the year 8 girls. All girls played fantastically well. Their encouragement of each other allowed them to work as a team effectively. The final matches results are a credit to their attitudes. Winning 7-1 against Bishop Ullathorne and 11-2 against at Caludon Castle.



YEAR 9

The Year 9 Netball time shone again at their tournament coming 3rd in the City. This is a massive achievement and staff members from other schools also commented on well the girls played. We have our focus next year and I have no doubt the girls will beat their rivals.

CNCS

Work in the Community

To help students grow as global citizens, we partner with local organisations to create opportunities for them to give back to the community.

This year, we're collaborating with Ashfield House Residential Home, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Creative Kindness and Coundon Park Rangers at the Peace Orchard, while also organising local litter-picking initiatives to help keep our streets clean.

Our Year 7/8/9 Eco group are keen to contribute towards sustainability and improving the local environment, through work at the Peace Orchard and around the local area.

We have also partnered with Livin' streets, which is an organisation who work with schools to see how the area around the school can be improved to support road safety measures.

In October our Head Boys and Girls from each year carried out a survey of the local area. We are very proud of the achievements of all of our students who have contributed so far this year to being active global citizens.



CNCS

Work in the Community



CNCS

Highlights!



Medjugorje

Over the half term, Mrs Isherwood and Mrs Ward jetted off with 14 Year 11 students on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje!

The students had a wonderful time, filled with prayer, adoration, day trips to local villages, climbing apparition hill and cross mountain. And unforgettable experience for all!



CNCS

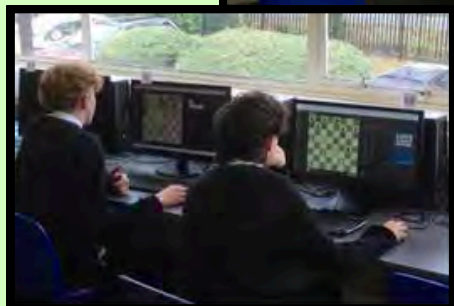
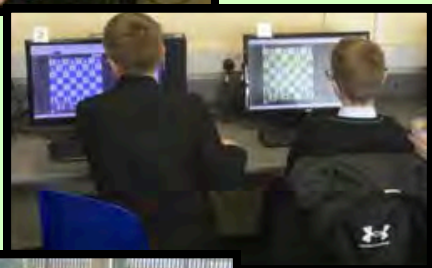
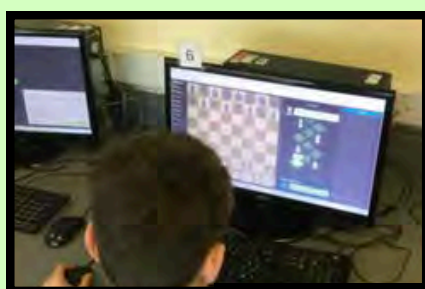
Highlights!



Inter Tutor Chess Competition!

The first Inter-Tutor competition, which was the speed Chess Competition ran throughout the first half term, bringing tutor groups head-to-head in a league-based format. Held in LM12 and played online through Chess.com, the competition gave students the chance to represent their tutor groups while sharpening their strategic skills.

For one lunchtime each week, each tutor group played against the others in a round-robin format. Points were awarded not only for wins and draws, but also for participation, ensuring every tutor group was rewarded for taking part and encouraging maximum involvement. Matches were hosted on Chess.com, ensuring fair play and smooth online games.



After weeks of lunchtime play, the competition crowned winners across year groups:



- **Year 7 Champion: 7RCY**
- **Year 8 Champion: 8PGA**
- **Year 9 Champion: 9ANS**

Following the success of the competition, Chess Club will now be running every Tuesday lunchtime in the LM12. This is a fantastic opportunity for students of all abilities to practice, learn new strategies, and enjoy the game in a friendly environment. They even may get chosen to play in one of the school chess teams.

The second inter tutor competition, during this half term has been dodgeball, results for this will be coming out soon.

CNCS

Highlights!

Isabelle Boshell Award (IBA)

THE WINNERS:

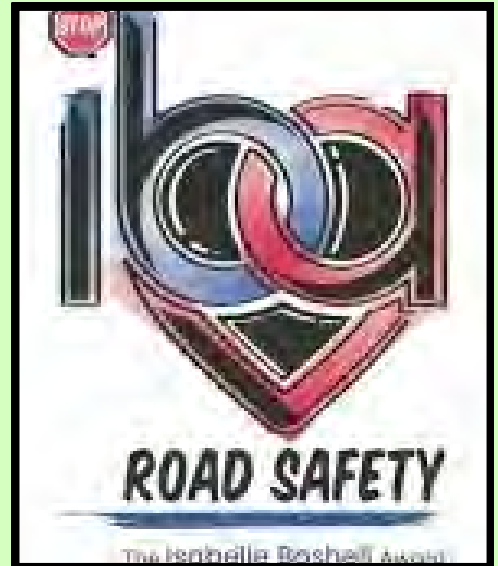
3rd place: Madison M - £15 gift voucher



2nd place: Michelle J - £25 gift voucher



1st place: Kacper O - £50 gift voucher, trophy and his poster will be made into a banner to be displayed outside of school.



Twenty entries were shortlisted and then displayed for the event, with three prizes up for grabs.

Finalists:

- Naeve K - 7PWN
- William H - 7ELF
- Georgina D - 7RCY
- Julia R - 7RCY
- Madison M - 7ELF
- Erin D-C - 7PRN
- Maia-Rose C- 7RCY
- Rose O - 7AMW
- Ivy P - 7ELF
- George S - 7RCY
- Oksana S- 7RDS
- Olivia S - 7SON
- Joseph O - 7SON
- Emilia P - 7CML
- Kacper O - 7AMW
- Lulya D - 7SON
- Michelle J - 7CML
- Victoria W- 7PWN
- Sara T - 7ABE
- Julia D- 7CML

CNCS

Highlights!

Isabelle Boshell Award (IBA)

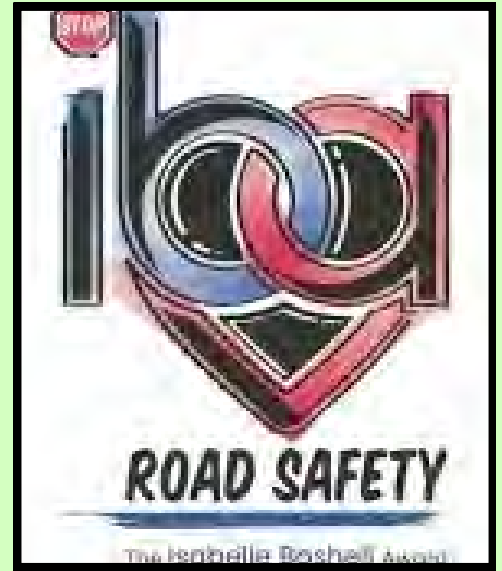
Road safety: As part of National Road safety week (wc 10th November), students also took part in a dedicated PSHE session.

This looks at the importance of road safety and gives students strategies to consider when travelling to and from school and in the local area. Students also took part in a Talking Point on the topic 'Should schools be responsible for ensuring students have safe walking routes to and from school?'

Students debated the topic area and developed their oracy skills by holding a debate on the topic area. Students then exercised democracy by voting on whether they agreed or disagreed with this statement.

The final part of our road safety campaign was that all Year 7 students were issued with a reflector to put onto their school bags.

This will support them if walking or travelling home in the dark to make them more visible to road users.



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE



What parents need to know about vaping

Vaping has become increasingly common among teenagers, and many parents are understandably concerned. E-cigarettes were originally designed to help adults quit smoking but they are not safe for children or young people.

The rise in brightly packaged, sweet-flavoured disposable vapes has made them particularly appealing to young people, despite the health risks.

Research shows that more teenagers are experimenting with vapes each year, often without realising how addictive and harmful they can be.

Why vapes are dangerous for children

Although often marketed as 'safer than smoking', vapes still carry serious risks:

nicotine addiction – many vapes contain high levels of nicotine, which can cause dependency and affect brain development in young people

harmful chemicals – new research shows vapes can contain toxic substances such as formaldehyde, acrolein and metals like lead. These can damage the lungs and cardiovascular system

respiratory effects – vaping can irritate airways, trigger asthma and cause long-term lung problems

unregulated products – some disposable vapes, especially those bought online or from informal sellers, may exceed legal nicotine limits or contain banned substances. More recently, tests have even found some vapes laced with illegal drugs such as Spice, making them extremely dangerous.

Why young people are drawn to vapes

Bright packaging and sweet flavours – flavours such as bubblegum, mango and cotton candy make vapes seem harmless and child-friendly, masking the fact that they often contain addictive nicotine.

Peer pressure and social media trends – vaping is frequently shown on TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram, making it appear fun, fashionable, or a way to fit in with friends.

Belief that 'everyone is doing it' – many young people think vaping is common and safe, not realising the health risks or that many of their peers actually choose not to vape.

Secondary | October 2025

In this issue:

- Vapes
- Child Criminal Exploitation

Supporting your child to avoid the risks of vaping



The law on vaping

- It is illegal to sell vapes or e-cigarettes to anyone under 18.
- It is also illegal for adults to buy vapes on behalf of under-18s.
- Schools treat vaping on site in the same way as smoking – it is strictly prohibited.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

What parents need to know about Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) happens when children and young people are manipulated, coerced or forced into committing crimes for someone else's benefit. It can affect boys and girls from all backgrounds and often begins without a child realising they are being exploited. Understanding how CCE works is key to protecting children and knowing when to step in.

What is Child Criminal Exploitation?

CCE is when adults, gangs or organised networks exploit children to take part in criminal activities. This can include:

- **County Lines drug dealing** – transporting or selling drugs between areas
- **carrying weapons** – being pressured to hold or use knives or other weapons
- **theft, burglary or shoplifting** – committing crimes on behalf of others
- **online exploitation** – being recruited or directed through apps, social media or gaming platforms.

The role of the online world

Criminals don't always approach children in person – many now use the internet to make contact. Social media, messaging apps and gaming chats are common recruitment tools. Exploiters may:

- start with friendly conversations to build trust
- use games or group chats to identify and target vulnerable young people
- offer money, free items or a sense of belonging online
- move conversations to private messaging, where they apply pressure or give instructions.

Because online communication is hidden, parents may not see what's happening until the child is already involved.

Criminals often exploit children, targeting those who seem vulnerable. They may:

- offer gifts, money, food or clothes
- create a sense of owing a debt in exchange for the gifts. The debt is paid by undertaking criminal activities
- provide friendship or a sense of belonging
- use threats of violence.

Watch for signs of exploitation in your child, such as:

- unexplained money or new possessions
- secretive behaviour about online interactions
- sudden changes in friendships, including unfamiliar adults
- signs of anxiety or reluctance to explain actions.





SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE
Secondary | September 2025

Back to school – building positive routines for a strong start

As the new school year gets underway, many families find it helpful to re-establish routines around sleep, screen time, curfews and home life. While the summer holidays are a chance to relax, the return to structure can be a welcome reset – not just for learning, but for your child’s overall wellbeing and safety.

Why routines matter for well-being

Routines offer young people a sense of stability, predictability and control, all of which are important for good mental health, particularly during the teenage years. Adolescence is a time of rapid change, emotionally and physically. Having regular daily habits can help reduce anxiety, improve focus and create a stronger sense of security.

When children know what to expect – such as when they’ll eat, sleep, study and unwind – it can help reduce stress and overwhelm. Consistent routines also support better sleep, which is closely linked to emotional regulation, mood and the ability to cope with challenges.

In uncertain or emotionally demanding times, even small routines – like packing a bag the night before, eating breakfast together or turning devices off at the same time each night – can act as ‘anchors’ that promote calm and emotional resilience.

Sleep, screens and curfews

Teenagers need 8–10 hours of sleep to focus and manage emotions. If bedtimes have slipped over the summer, gradually return to earlier routines. Encourage screen-free time before bed and keep devices out of bedrooms to avoid disrupted sleep. Re-establishing curfews and clear expectations can also support safety and balance as school starts.

In this issue:

- Building positive routines
- Deepfakes

TIPS FOR SETTING ROUTINES THAT STICK

INVOLVE YOUR CHILD
Teenagers are more likely to follow routines they’ve helped create. Ask for their input on what works.

START SMALL
Focus on a few key routines (e.g., bedtime, screen time, homework) and build from there.

USE VISUAL REMINDERS
A weekly planner or checklist on the fridge can help make routines visible and easier to follow.

BE CONSISTENT, BUT FLEXIBLE
Life happens, so allow for changes – but try to return to the routine as soon as possible.

PRAISE PROGRESS
Acknowledge your child’s efforts. Positive reinforcement goes a long way.

@The_Enlightened_Parent

Routines aren’t about strict rules – they create a supportive structure that helps young people thrive. Clear boundaries and healthy habits help children feel prepared, confident and emotionally supported.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Understanding deepfakes – what parents and carers need to know

As technology continues to evolve, new online risks are emerging; and one of the most concerning is the rise of deepfakes. While the term may sound technical, it's something all parents and carers need to be aware of. Deepfakes can be used to deceive, manipulate and harm, and young people are increasingly being exposed to them, whether they realise it or not.

What are deepfakes?

Deepfakes are videos, images or audio recordings that have been digitally altered – often using artificial intelligence (AI) – to make it look like someone has said or done something they never actually did. This can include realistic-looking videos where a person's face is swapped onto someone else's body or voice recordings that sound identical to a real person.

While some deepfakes are created for fun or entertainment (e.g, putting a celebrity's face in a movie scene), others are made with harmful intent – to spread misinformation, harass individuals or cause reputational damage.

How can deepfakes affect young people?

Online bullying and harassment: there have been cases where deepfakes are used to humiliate or threaten young people – for example, by placing their face onto inappropriate or explicit content and sharing it without their consent.

Manipulation and misinformation: deepfakes can be convincing and may be used to spread false stories, fake messages from public figures or even impersonate friends or family members online.

Emotional and mental health impact: Being targeted by or exposed to deepfakes can cause embarrassment, anxiety and long-lasting emotional harm. Even witnessing a deepfake involving others can be distressing and erode trust online.

How can parents and carers support their child?

The infographic consists of five vertical panels, each with a colored icon at the top and a white box containing text. The panels are: 1. Open the conversation (red icon), 2. Teach critical thinking (yellow icon), 3. Check privacy settings (green icon), 4. Know what to do if something happens (blue icon), and 5. Reassure and support (purple icon).

- Open the conversation**
Discuss deepfakes with your child calmly and without judgment. Ask if they've encountered them online and reassure them they can always talk to you if they feel uncomfortable.
- Teach critical thinking**
Encourage your child to critically assess online content. Help them build digital literacy skills by identifying signs of fake and manipulated content.
- Check privacy settings**
Review your child's social media privacy settings to ensure accounts are private and they understand not to share personal photos or videos with unknown individuals.
- Know what to do if something happens**
If your child is targeted by a deepfake, take it seriously. Save evidence, report it to the platform and, if the content is explicit or threatening, report to the Police.
- Reassure and support**
The emotional impact of being involved in or exposed to a deepfake can be significant. Be ready to listen, validate their feelings and access professional support if needed.

While deepfakes are a serious concern, knowledge and communication are powerful tools. By staying informed, creating an open home environment and helping children build critical thinking skills, we can help them stay safer in a changing digital world.