



20 December 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

End of Autumn Term Letter

I am writing to you as another busy term draws to a conclusion here at Cardinal Wiseman. The last few weeks have seen our pupils take part in a number of activities as we reflect and prepare for the Christmas period where we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Pupils have celebrated Mass together as well as organising and performing a Christmas Carol concert for friends and family. A group of our English as an Additional Language (EAL) students also visited the Christmas Market in Birmingham as part of our broader cultural enrichment programme that aims to enhance our wider curriculum offer.

A particular highlight of this week has been the Governors' Award ceremony where we welcomed over 500 parents, carers and past pupils to join in a celebration of pupil achievements over the last year. This was a wonderful occasion where we welcomed Her Majesty's Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mrs Fleur Sexton to present the Special Awards. This year we introduced four new Principal awards to pupils who we believe embodied our four core values: Knowledge, Ambition, Respect and Resilience. It was an honour to present these awards as they are fundamental to what we represent as a school. In everything we do we aim to provide our pupils with a 'Compass For Life' which provides our students with the means to navigate their way whilst at school and later during the rest of their lives.

Communication Update

We would like to extend a very warm thank you to all of the parents who have supported the school throughout this term. It has been lovely to receive such warm feedback about our coffee mornings and how this has afforded parents the opportunity to meet with Heads of Year and teachers in a more informal way.

There have been several other events this term where we have trialled new formats of providing updates for all parents such as the Year 11 Raising Achievement & Information evening which was attended by 75% of parents. The attendance to Parents' Evenings this term has also improved which has made it much easier for teachers to discuss current progress of pupils and raise any concerns, where relevant.

At the beginning of September, we launched a new platform for setting homework called Google Classroom. This platform provides a seamless integration with the wider school network and allows pupils to access class resources at home in the same way they would at school. Several parents have welcomed the email notification system that this provides when a piece of homework is set but if you have any further queries regarding this new platform please do not hesitate to contact us at admin.cw@romeromac.com.



Curriculum Update

At the start of this academic year, we welcomed several new staff who have helped in bringing breadth to our core curriculum as well as enhancing our wider cultural enrichment programme. Music has been a key focus for development at Key Stage 3 and we have commissioned Coventry Music Services to ensure that all Key Stage 3 pupils have access to one hour of music every week. Our new music teacher is also building the curriculum so that we are able to offer music GCSE once again in our options for Key Stage 4.

Next term, we will be recruiting for a new Computer Science teacher to increase our Computing offer at Key Stage 3. Over the last few years Computing has been a strength of the school at both Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. We are particularly proud that three of our past Computing A Level students have successfully completed their IT apprenticeships and are now employed as IT Technicians within the Romero Academy group of schools!

This term staff have also begun offering a range of after school cultural enrichment programmes including a range of sports clubs, Italian club, Latin club as well as Modern Dance. As part of our 'Pupil Passport' all pupils in Key Stage 3 will be expected to take part in at least one of these clubs during their time at Cardinal Wiseman, as we believe this will help develop key life skills as well as broadening their wider educational experience. Details can be found on our website but if you would like further information please contact admin.cw@romeromac.com.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our pupils and families for the dedication they have shown towards our school. Over the past two years the school has grown in size and we have seen a dramatic increase in admissions both for Year 7 and in-year admissions. The popularity of the school is also reflected in the growth of the Sixth Form and in particular our programme for pupils who speak English as an additional language. Our pupils therefore benefit from being part of a truly multicultural educational community which is rooted in the teachings of Christ.

On behalf of the Governors and all the staff, I would like to wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully

Thomas Leverage
Executive Principal