



Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School

Part of The Romero Catholic Academy

Newsletter Issue 81 29 November 2019

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

This Sunday is the first of the Advent season, marking the beginning of the Catholic Liturgical Year. It is a season of waiting, of anticipation and of tradition. We should gather with our friends, families and loved ones and reflect on how far we have travelled in the past year, the difficulties that we have overcome and look forward to the challenges ahead.

This weekend also marks Black Friday, where the media and other companies will tell us that we need to buy 'must-have' gifts, that we must not miss out on a 'bargain', that we will not be prepared for Christmas if we do not splurge our November pay on their websites. Advent reminds us of the most important gifts in our life, our children and our family. As a school, the best gifts that we can give are love and education. We must remember at this time that the amount of money that we spend will not prepare us for Christmas, and that the scene at the end of this period of waiting - the nativity - was the gift of Jesus, not a pair of wireless earphones.

Traditionally, Christmas wreaths that go up at this time hold four candles, one to mark each week of Advent. ***We warmly invite you to join us at the Blessing of the Crib on Sunday 1 December at 4pm in Broadgate, Coventry city centre.*** Please make time this weekend to light your own candle and reflect on the journey to Christmas that you and your family will go on ... just don't feel the need to buy the 'Snowflake Cookie' scented giant candle that your emails will tell you that you need.

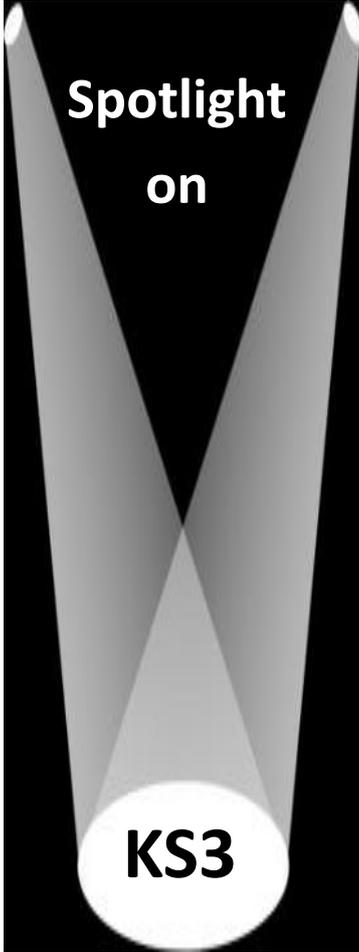
God bless.

The Leadership Team

Important Dates

Year 9 Parents' Coffee Morning 6 December 9.00am-10.00am

Year 11 Parents' Evening 12 December 5.00pm-7.00pm

A graphic of two spotlights shining down on a central white circle containing the text 'KS3'. The spotlights are represented by two grey cones meeting at a point at the top, with their beams converging on the circle below.

**Spotlight
on**

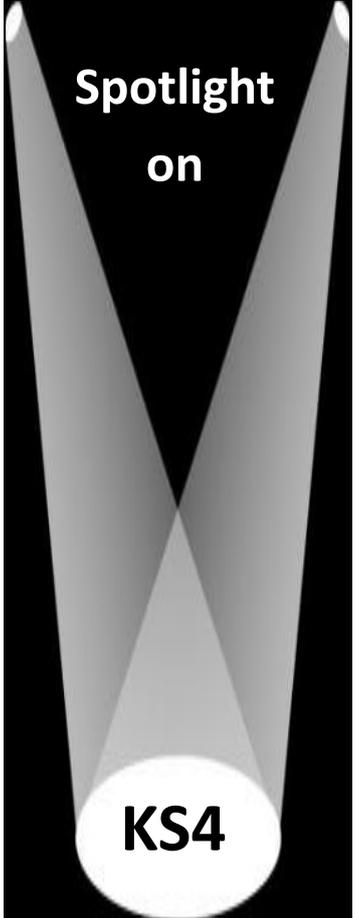
KS3

PSHE Association Policing Programme

As part of the PSHE Association Policing Programme, 88 Year 9 students were invited to meet with our School Community Police Officer, PC Cooper. They spent an hour asking questions and learning about how the police force works and had a number of myths dismissed. They really enjoyed the interaction with PC Cooper and the time helped to show a strong connection between the police and the local community.

Chris Alcott

Head of Key Stage 3

A graphic of two spotlights shining down on a central white circle containing the text 'KS4'. The spotlights are represented by two grey cones meeting at a point at the top, with their beams converging on the circle below.

**Spotlight
on**

KS4

Year 11—Mock Exams

Congratulations to all Year 11 pupils who sat their mock exams last week; the feedback from the exam invigilators was that of the highest praise. They have applauded Year 11 on their smart appearance, respectful entry and exit of the exam room and overall conduct during the exams.

We have everything crossed that pupils will receive the grades that reflect their hard work.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Year 11 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 12 December from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

Kirsti Greenway

Head of Key Stage 4



Sixth Form Update

A Level RS Conference on Religious Language at Coventry Cathedral

Thursday 28 November 2019

On Thursday 28 November a day of academic rigour and thought provoking debate inside the beautiful Coventry Cathedral was had by all of our Year 13 RS students. Thank you to Candle Conference & Dr Peter Vardy for inspiring our students to critically evaluate whether religious & ethical language is meaningful and a big well-done to our A level Philosophers for taking part and contributing to the discussions.

You should all be very proud of yourselves!

Miss Howe

Teacher of RE and A Level Philosophy



You're invited to our

Christmas

Carol Service

on

Wednesday

11 December 6-7pm



After School Activities

PE Faculty Activities

Badminton (all Years) Monday 3.30 - 4.30pm

Sports Leadership (Years 10 –13) Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30pm

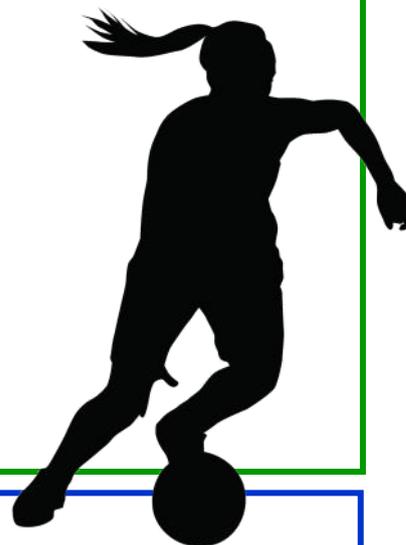
Rugby (Year 7) Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30pm

Health and Fitness Club Wednesday (KS4) 3.30 - 4.00pm

Football (Girls) Wednesday 3.30 - 4.30pm

Football (Boys) Thursday 3.30 - 4.30pm

Netball (Year 10 & 11 Girls) Thursday 3.30 - 4.30pm



Languages Faculty Activities

Polish Club (Years 7 - 9) Tuesday 3.30 - 4.00pm

Spanish Club (Years 7 - 9) Tuesday 3.30 - 4.00pm

Italian Club (all Years) Tuesday 3.30 - 4.00pm

French Homework Club (all Years) Thursday 3.30 - 4.00pm

Latin Club (all Years) Monday 3.30 - 4.20pm (in RM03 from Monday 2 December)



Maths Faculty

Maths Game Club Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30pm

English Faculty

Harry Potter Club (Years 7 - 9) Tuesday 3.30 - 4.15pm

Debating Club (Years 9 -10) Thursday 3.30 - 4.15pm

Music Department

Whole School Choir Thursday 3.30 - 4.15pm



See faculty staff for details

11 Things Parents and Carers Should Know About Loot Boxes

Parents and carers may have seen stories about "loot boxes" in the news in the last few weeks. The UK Safer Internet Centre (SIC) has written this article to lay out all of the key information about loot boxes, what they mean for young people and their online safety, and what you can do to encourage safe and responsible usage.

What loot boxes are

Loot boxes are virtual items users can purchase in games with real money. In the box, users will find a randomised selection of items that customise or alter the user's experience of the game. The user will not receive any physical objects in the offline world as a result of these boxes.

The items in a loot box could be skins (that change the appearance of their character), new weapons or tools (that improve their characters' abilities), or access to new characters (such as a player for a FIFA team).

The kinds of games which feature loot boxes

Loot boxes are common in battle royale (last man standing) and first-person shooter games, such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Overwatch, Star Wars Battlefront II, and others.

They can also be found in sports games, such as FIFA, Pro Evolution Soccer, Madden, and others.

How they compare to other in-game purchases

Loot boxes are not the only way to spend real life money in games. You may have also heard of microtransactions – these are purchases a user can make in the in-game shop to buy one specific item or service. The key difference between microtransactions and loot boxes is the absence of randomness.

In other in-game purchases, players get to choose exactly what they are buying, knowing its value and usefulness before purchasing. With loot boxes, players do not know what is within them until they are purchased and their content can vary from low value items to ones which majorly change gameplay.

Why young people like loot boxes

Loot boxes are exciting! The randomness, the possibility of winning big, and the opportunity to upgrade or alter their experience of the game all make loot boxes appealing to young people.

What it looks like when loot boxes go wrong

In the news there have been reports of children racking up thousands of pounds in purchases within games. The BBC asked readers to share their stories of their children making in-game purchases, with one spending over £3,000.

What it looks like when loot boxes go right

Loot boxes can enhance a user's experience of a game. Having new skins or weapons can make a player feel that their avatar is unique, making the game more enjoyable. They can also help a player progress in the game by giving them higher-quality items.

How to ensure your kids are using loot boxes safely and responsibly

The first step is to have a conversation. Approach it with openness and good faith – not finger-pointing and distrust. Ask your children about the games they play, if these have loot boxes and discuss whether they have bought these themselves.

Make sure your child clearly understands that:

- loot boxes cost real money, even if they are purchased with an in-game currency;
- they may be designed to encourage repeat-purchases;
- you expect them to respect any rules you set about money and responsibility.

What you should do if your child gets in trouble with loot boxes

Support and contact details for some of the major game publishers can be found below:

[Blizzard](#) – makers of Overwatch

[Activision](#) – makers of Call of Duty

[Epic Games](#) – makers of Fortnite

[EA](#) – makers of Star Wars Battlefront II, Apex Legends, and FIFA

[Konami](#) – makers of Pro Evolution Soccer

[Nintendo](#) – makers of Animal Crossing

[Ubisoft](#) – makers of Assassin's Creed

What the research says

Research by the [Gambling Commission](#) revealed that 31 per cent of young people aged 11-16 had opened loot boxes in a computer game or in an app. Research published by the [Royal Society](#) states that "it may be the case that loot box spending in adolescents causes problem gambling".

A [replication study](#) found similar results, stating: "These results suggest either that loot boxes act as a gateway to problem gambling, or that individuals with gambling problems are drawn to spend more on loot boxes."

However, research is limited, as loot boxes are a relatively new phenomenon.

What policy says

In September 2019, in the UK, Members of Parliament called for loot boxes to be regulated under gambling law and ban their sale to children.

In April 2018, the Belgium Gaming Commission ruled that loot boxes are "[in violation of gambling legislation](#)" but, at the time of writing, loot boxes are not regulated or considered a form of gambling in the UK.

Where you can go for more information

- Check out [South West Grid for Learning's compilation of gaming resources for parents and carers](#) if you want to have a better understanding of gaming in general.
- You may want to write up a [Family Agreement](#) about online safety.
- If you are especially concerned about your child's behaviour and how it might link to gambling, contact The [National Gambling Helpline](#), operated by GamCare.
- BBC Own It has [a great resource on loot boxes](#) that speaks clearly and effectively to young people.

This article was originally written by the UK Safer Internet Centre and is reproduced here with permission. To read the article in its original location, visit [saferinternet.org.uk](#).

Find out more information about the work of the [UK Safer Internet Centre \(SIC\)](#) generally, including its awareness raising, helpline, hotline and youth participation services on the Better Internet for Kids (BIK) portal, or find similar information for [Safer Internet Centres throughout Europe](#).

Safeguarding cont.

Winning form groups for attendance this week are:

Year 7 7B

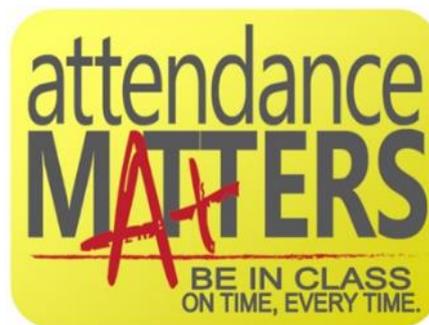
Year 8 8B

Year 9 9D

Year 10 10D and 10H

Year 11 11B

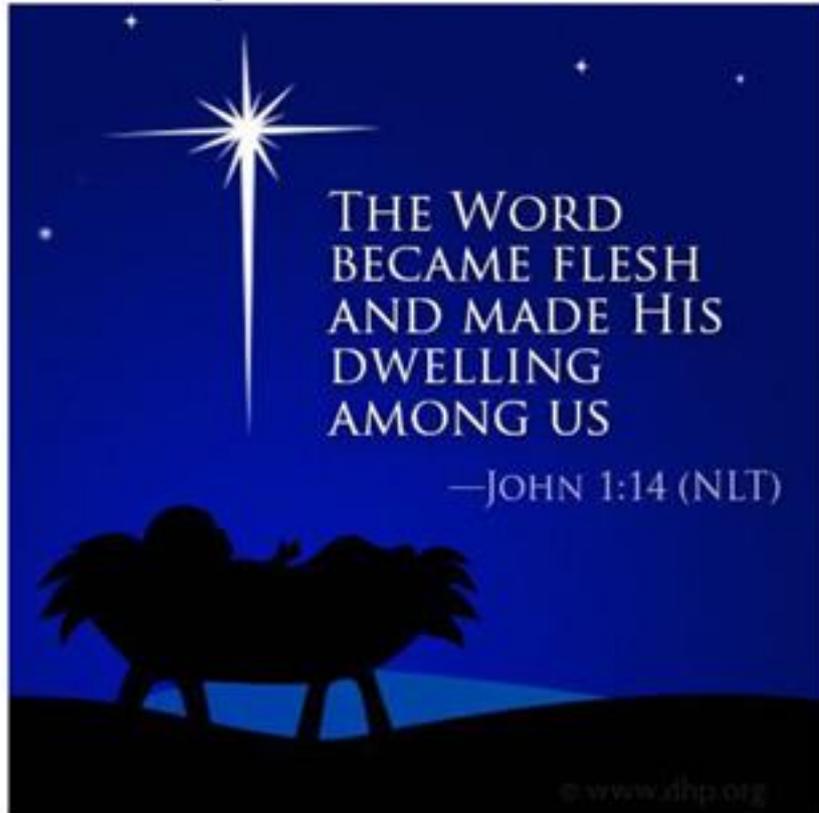
Remember—Absence = Lost opportunity!



The team is always available to support parents and pupils with their attendance. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns..

Mrs Shannon
Attendance and Safeguarding Officer

Coventry Christmas Crib Dedication and Carol Service



Join us for

The Blessing of The Crib

**Led by Coventry Catholic Parishes
and Schools**

All are welcome!

Sunday 1st December 4pm



**Cardinal Wiseman
Catholic School**

Part of The Romero Catholic Academy

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