

December 2019

Cardinal Allen Catholic High School



# School Newsletter



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# SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019

As we go to print the Aquinas Centre was once again hosting the annual Christmas Half Price Scholastic Book Fair to create a reading extravaganza!

With over 200 titles for students to choose from, and with prices starting from only £1.49, there's sure to be a book for everyone to enjoy! Don't forget that every book purchased at the Book Fair benefits our school and helps us to earn FREE BOOKS for our library and classrooms.

Scholastic Book Fairs are a wonderful way to get children excited about books and reading and the perfect opportunity for your child to find a book they will love.



Merry Christmas!

## LANCASHIRE LIBRARY E-SERVICE

A reminder that if you have a valid Lancashire postcode and are a member of your local library, you can download digital eBooks and eAudiobooks using the BorrowBox app on your Tablet/Smartphone devices. You will need your library card, PIN number and an email address to get you started. All you have to do is go to your device's App Store, search for BorrowBox and install the App. You then log in with your borrower library number and pin and register to use the service. This will take you to your Book Shelf where you will be able to see your loans, reservations and loan history. You now have access to over 11,000 audio and ebooks and it's FREE! Further information can be found at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/906704/ebooks-and-eaudio-on-tablets-and-phones.pdf>

**Perfect for those holiday reads!**

## Seneca Learning

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 are using the Seneca Learning website to revise for their English Language and English Literature GCSEs. Seneca advertises itself as the 'world's first accelerated learning system for online revision and learning' and claims that pupils learn two times faster using their system. Once pupils have signed up for a free account, they can use the site for independent revision for the different Literature topics. They can monitor their own progress and track how long they have spent on their revision activities. Please note that the site needs to be used through Google Chrome or Safari.

## Talk The Talk

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATION FOR LIFE

In October, 50 Year 7 pupils took part in workshops run by a national organisation 'Talk the Talk'. The workshops, based on the topic of the transition between primary and secondary schools, focussed on enhancing pupils' speaking and listening skills and building their confidence in these areas.

Working in groups, the pupils reflected on how they have settled into Cardinal Allen, as well as discussing any challenges they face and how they might overcome these. They then had to prepare and deliver a presentation to the rest of the group in which they explained their goals for the rest of the academic year.

It was an enjoyable and productive day and it was pleasing to see the youngsters grow in confidence throughout the sessions.



## Soldier visit

Our Year 9 and Year 10 pupils are studying GCSE 'Power and Conflict' poetry this term. Many of the poets such as Wilfred Owen, Carol Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage write about war. Mrs Sumner offered us a wonderful opportunity to meet Captain Adam Diver. On 18<sup>th</sup> November, Captain Diver came in to school to talk to us about his experiences as a soldier. He showed us his uniform and even let us try a ration pack. It was a very useful and informative presentation and gave us an insight into the lives and work of soldiers. He also spoke to us about careers in the army and the many job roles, such as medics and chefs, that are available to school leavers.



## Manchester Christmas Markets

44 members of CAFCA attended the annual shopping trip around Manchester Markets. A great day was had by all in spite of the crowds.

# Remembrance Poetry Competition 2019

To commemorate Remembrance Day and work on war poetry in English lessons, students in all years entered the poetry competition. The standard of entries this year was exceptional but we are pleased to announce the winners, all from Key Stage 3. They received prizes of chocolate and merits.

**Georgina Year 9 won 3rd place**

**Adam Year 9 won 2nd place**

**Macie Year 9 won 1st place**

**A special mention should go to Evie Burnett in Year 10 who just missed out on a prize.**

**Well done to all the students who entered and we look forward to reading your entries next year!**



## Christmas Party



45 of our local senior citizens enjoyed this year's Christmas party. Following entertainment provided by our school choir and band Santa arrived and passed on hampers for them to enjoy over Christmas. A big thank you for all the groceries sent in for them. It was really pleasing to receive many positive comments about the care given by our students.

Our community group are currently working on a hobbies project. This group meets on Tuesdays 3-4pm with CAHS students and senior members of our community working on collaborative IT based projects. We are always looking for new members. If you know anyone who may benefit from a bit of IT instruction please call Mr Harding at school on 872659 for further information.

### Community Christmas tree

Our Interact Group entry for the Trinity Christmas Tree Festival this year investigates the issue of burning of the rainforests. Good Luck!



# Community News

Well done to our Eco group for the following glowing report from our recent inspection.

‘Cardinal Allen is a shining example of a green flag school and a great role model for other schools to follow. During my visit to the school I was impressed by the knowledge of the students who met with me and accompanied me on my tour. They are well informed and clearly understood the importance of making their school sustainable for future generations to come. I was particularly impressed with the overall set up of eco schools which is represented on various different bodies within the school ie the School Council, Interact and CAFCA. Cardinal Allen work tirelessly within their local community in particular with local disability groups and primary schools. Well done to the school and keep up the good work’.

We have also been informed that Cardinal Allen High School has been shortlisted for ‘Secondary School of the year’ at the first Eco Schools National Awards to be held at the Etihad stadium, Manchester. Best wishes to our Eco group!!



Two of our students, Nisha and Abigail were recently invited to Coutts Bank in London to give a presentation on the progress of our Bee Project to members of the Queen’s Commonwealth Trust including HRH the Duke of Sussex and numerous Lords, Baronesses and Ambassadors. On our arrival we discovered our pupils were the only students that had been invited. The girls rose to the challenge and gave a great account of our school and Fleetwood to the audience.



## Interact Sponsored Walk

18 members of our Interact Group recently completed a sponsored walk to raise funding for much needed interactive toys for disabled children to enjoy whilst attending a special school in Nepal. A big thank you to all their sponsors.



DofE candidates have recently been developing their navigational skills with night hikes in the Clougha Pike area of the Bowland Fells. Travelling across the boulders proved particularly exciting in the cold conditions this year.

# Jigsaw Puzzle Club



In a society swamped by technology, there are now very few hobbies that don't require an app, TV or element of digital technology to enhance them. Completing a jigsaw puzzle is a fun and entertaining pastime that is enjoyed without any kind of electronic involvement. It can completely segregate you from the digital world which, in a world dominated by tweets, trends and snapchat stories, can be essential to our mental well-being.

Known for the addictive affect they have on those who try to complete them, once you start, you simply can't stop! The varying colours, shapes and sizes of the pieces hold the attention of even the most impatient of people. Jigsaw puzzles are hard to complete and the satisfaction one feels after slotting in the final piece of a frustrating jigsaw is second to none. Completing a jigsaw requires persistence and is an important lesson for all ages. Following weeks of daily concentration from many of our committed students, we finally finished two 1000 piece Christmas jigsaw puzzles! Hours of fun were had by all so a big well done to everyone involved. Pictured are Nathan and Liam from Year 9 with the finished products. [Well done to everyone who took part!](#)

**Congratulations to Ellena Dallas who was the Secondary School winner in the Year of the Eucharist Poster competition. Here is the fabulous piece that Ellena produced to wow the judges.**

**Well done!!**



## Non-Fiction November

National Non-Fiction November is an annual celebration of all things factual, created by the Federation of Children's Book Groups.

## National Non-Fiction November 2019

Non-fiction can be a great way to boost your child's love of books, even if they are a reluctant reader. For some children, reading about the real world is far more appealing than made-up stories. As a genre it covers an enormous range of topics – anything and everything factual. A non-fiction book could be about Chemistry, Ancient Egypt, Skateboarding, LEGO and everything in-between!

The theme this year was "Transport and Travel Around the World". The Aquinas Centre ran a competition to encourage students to think about and design what a vehicle of tomorrow might look like; does it transport passengers; does it fly etc.

The winner of the competition was Adam from 7AD with his aptly named "Fire Response Trans Bot". Well done Adam!

## Careers News—BBC Bitesize Roadshow

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December we welcomed a team from the BBC Bitesize Roadshow into school and what a great experience it was! The event is based around enhancing our pupils knowledge of careers within the Creative Industry. The BBC Bitesize team turned up at 7:30am with a full kit of production equipment to turn our school hall into a studio! As well as all the equipment and staff from the BBC, we welcomed host for the day – Nick Bright BBC, Radio One Xtra presenter who took to the stage to interview the panellists. The panel was made up of three professionals who work in the creative arts industry, Chris – Events Manager , Visit Blackpool, AJ – Marketing Manager, Salford University and Cameron a self-taught guitarist and YouTuber.

We found out lots of information from the panellists about their jobs, the kind of skills and qualifications they need to do their jobs and how they got to where they are today. As well as Nick asking questions, our pupils were able to put their own questions to the panellists too.



There were videos, Youtube clips and images of their work for us all to see and inspire our pupils into thinking about what they might like to do in the future. It was different, fun and very informative—a great opportunity for our students to be part of.



One year 8 pupil said ‘ It was really good, it’s made me think about what I need to do to get the job I want when I leave school. ‘

As well as the roadshows, BBC Bitesize has a free website for pupils to use to help with all aspects of learning, revision and careers.

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize)

Please encourage your son/daughter to register for lots of practical help and advice with careers, revision and learning.

# Year 11 Mock Interviews

In preparation for leaving school and entering into the world of employment, we are inviting all our year 11 pupils to take part in a mock interview in January. Part of the process is completing an application form, which the students will do during an English lesson. We rely on a large team of volunteers to ensure the event can happen by acting as interviewers for the pupils.

Would **YOU** like to support this event and have the opportunity to give some students the interview experience?

The interviews will take place on Thursday 9th January starting at 9am. If you would like further details or would like to offer your time, please contact our Careers Advisor - [j.sumner@cardinalallen.co.uk](mailto:j.sumner@cardinalallen.co.uk)

# Drama News

We are proud to announce that one of our former pupils and Head Boy, James Charles, has won an amazing award! James, whom is currently studying at Blackpool Sixth Form, was recently nominated for 'Outstanding Contributions to Creative Arts' in the Blackpool Gazette Awards competition. James was a model pupil in all aspects of school life, but particularly so in the field of Performing Arts. A talented pianist and singer/songwriter, James won 'Cardy's Got Talent' in his final year after being pipped to the post on previous occasions. He was a member of our school theatre group, BRAVO! and achieved outstanding exam results in Performing Arts with a Level 2 Distinction\*

At Blackpool Tower Ballroom on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, we waited with baited breath as the finalists were announced by Hayley Kay, local radio DJ. Hundreds of students, families, friends and teachers filled the floor of the historic ballroom as James and his Mum stood nervously at the back with staff members and other Cardinal Allen finalists.

Would Hodgson, Millfield or Baines be the winners this year? Would it be one of the Primary schools? With the weight of two students winning the award in previous years resting on his shoulders, I'm sure our recent BRAVO! winner felt the pressure even more, as we stood, fingers crossed, in anticipation of the announcement.

**'And the winner is.....(come on Hayley, hurry up!) JAMES CHARLES!'**

Congratulations to all our wonderful finalists and especially to James who brought the Creative Arts Award back home to Cardinal Allen for the third time.

Back in school we have another achievement to be proud of. Tia Millard participated in a West End Summer School this year and enjoyed performing on the stage of the Queen's Theatre, London. This has been a fantastic opportunity for Tia and particularly poignant as one of our London residential theatre trips visited the Queen's Theatre for a backstage tour – we know it well! Tia has been a loyal member of BRAVO! for the last three years in

school and is now following the Tech Award course in Performing Arts. Congratulations Tia and well done!

BRAVO! meetings get underway on Weds 11 December 3.05-4pm so be sure to turn up in good voice if you want to prepare for our first venture this year, the Musical Evening at the Winter Gardens in February.

See Mrs Ball or Miss Ronson for further details.



# PE Highlights



## FOOTBALL

Football has dominated this half term! All of our teams have been involved in the Wyre and Fylde Football competition at Poolfoot Farm. We have a very successful year — 3 out of 5 teams have made it to the league finals at the end of December. Our girls represented Fleetwood Town FC at the EFL Girls cup. They had a great day playing against lots of different teams from the Fylde coast.



## RUGBY

The boys' Rugby teams took part in the Lancashire emerging schools tournament in Blackburn. The boys played some great Rugby but narrowly missed out on the finals. Our Year 7 girls played against Millfield last week and they are really enjoying full contact rugby with Mark from the RFU.

## NETBALL

Netball fixtures have continued this half term with lots of our girls continuing to get involved. The Year 7 Netballers played in their first tournament at Stanley Park, they played very well and continue to improve with every game.



We have the following events on the way:

- ◆ Lancashire Cross Country Championships
- ◆ Inter form competitions
- ◆ Girls and Boys fitness
- ◆ Badminton and Table Tennis club



# Christmas Reads...

Looking for something to read over the Christmas break? Here are some suggestions to keep you entertained... Happy Reading!!

**Great for Year 9s who have been studying conflict poetry:**



## When the Guns Fall Silent

**Author:**

**Publisher:** Oxford University Press

A boy's understanding of the First World War changes as he visits Flanders Fields with his grandfather and hears his stories of being a soldier in the war.

**Enjoy magical, thought provoking fairy tales? This one's for you:**



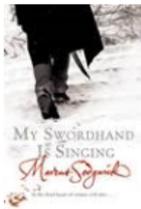
## Lost Christmas

**Author:** David Logan

**Publisher:** Quercus

Goose is lost until Anthony appears - a man who knows nothing about himself but sees and feels the secret pain of all those who shake his hand

**Like a thrilling, chilling page-turner? Try this:**



## My Swordhand is Singing

**Author:** Marcus Sedgwick

**Publisher:** Hachette

Set in the seventeenth century amid the bleakness of winter in Eastern Europe, and inspired by vampire folklore, this is a superbly crafted, dark and menacing tale.

**If you prefer short romantic tales, this one is for you:**



## My True Love Gave to Me

**Author:** Various **Editor:** Stephanie Perkins

**Publisher:** Macmillan

A collection of Christmas-themed romantic short stories, one for each of the 'twelve days', by some of the best known American YA authors.

**Try this if fantasy crime novels are more your thing:**



## Prisoner of Ice and Snow

**Author:** Ruth Lauren

**Publisher:** Bloomsbury

Valor's privileged family is brought to its knees when her sister, Sacha, is imprisoned in an ice fortress for stealing a valuable music box from the royal household. Ideal winter reading.

For more information: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/teenage-christmas-books/>

# Chaplaincy News



60 Year 11s spent the 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September on retreat at Castlerigg. The pupils were fantastic. We were joined by Fr. Michael and Fr. Peter on the Wednesday evening and Fr. Michael just couldn't express enough what a privilege it was to come up and spend the time with us. It was a very blessed week!

During the first half of the Autumn term we welcomed the team from Castlerigg in for a whole day. The Year 7 pupils took time out from their usual lessons and spent the day preparing for their Welcome Mass. The theme for this day and their Mass was "Let Your Light Shine", and all their activities were centred around scripture taken from Chapter 5 of Matthew's Gospel. The following day, Mass was celebrated by Fr. Peter in the School Hall with our Year 7 pupils, staff, and several guests.



40 Year 7 pupils enjoyed a 24 hour retreat at Castlerigg Manor in November. During the short time we were there we managed to play plenty of icebreakers, lots of team building activities, celebrate Mass and spend time in reflection. Our pupils enjoyed getting to know others in their year!



We also enjoyed attending the conference "Radiant" at Corpus Christi High School to mark the beginning of Advent.

*"I really enjoyed the calming music and talks, spending time in prayer felt really powerful."* – Elizabeth (Year 11)



After months of preparation, it was a great joy for some of our pupils from Years 7 & 8 to receive the sacrament of Confirmation by Bishop Paul at St Teresa's.

Mass is celebrated in the Chapel every Friday morning at 8.15am and is offered for a different intention each week. Our Chapel really is the heart of our school and staff and students continue to enjoy spending quiet time in there.

# Christmas Wishes

Another year comes to a close and it is time to reflect on and celebrate our successes over the last twelve months. I would like to thank all our pupils, their families and the staff for their support throughout the year. It just remains for me to wish you and your families a very Happy and Holy Christmas and all God's blessings for 2020. If you are able to get to Mass over the Christmas period the times for our local Catholic Churches are printed below. Mr Cafferkey

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2019

### St. Wulstan's

Christmas Eve  
6pm Christmas Vigil Mass  
11.30pm Carols & Midnight Mass

### St. Edmund's

Christmas Day  
9.30am Christmas Day Mass

### St. Teresa's

Christmas Eve  
6.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass  
11.40pm Carols & Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day

9am Mass  
10.30am Mass

### St. John Southworth

Christmas Day  
10am Christmas Morning Mass

### Sacred Heart

Christmas Eve  
6.30pm Children's Mass  
*All children of school age (reception upwards) are asked to come dressed as a character from the Christmas Story: Mary, Joseph, an Angel, a shepherd, a King, or an ox, donkey, or sheep to create a "living crib". All welcome!*  
11.30pm Carols & Midnight Mass

Christmas Day  
10am Christmas Morning Mass

### St. Mary's

Christmas Eve  
6pm Christmas Vigil Mass  
For Children & Families with Fr. Christmas!  
12pm Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day

9.30am Christmas Day Mass

### St. John's

Christmas Eve  
6pm Christmas Vigil Mass  
11.30pm Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day

11am Christmas Morning Mass

### St. Martin's

Christmas Day  
9.30am Christmas Morning Mass

### St. Bernadette's

Christmas Eve  
5pm Children's Mass  
*All children are asked to come dressed as a character from the Christmas Story: Mary, Joseph, an Angel, a Shepherd, a King, or an Ox, Donkey, or sheep, to create a 'living crib'. All welcome!*  
7.30pm Carols & Readings  
8pm Candlelit Sung Christmas Mass

Christmas Day  
10am Christmas Morning Mass