Cardinal Allen Catholic High School

Living to make Christ known

School Newsletter

December 2024

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MFL Trip Last Post Ceremony

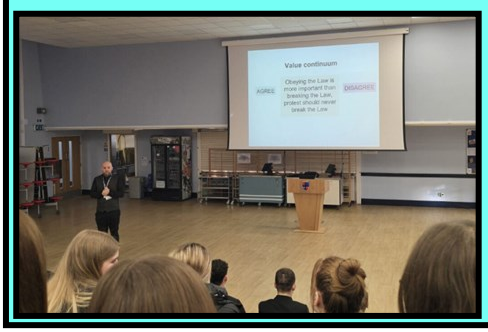
Brooke, Nathan and Miss Stazka had the honour of laying a wreath in tribute to those from Fleetwood who had Fallen during The Great War. The Last Post, the traditional final salute to the fallen, is played by the buglers of the Last Post Association in honour of the memory of the soldiers of the former British Empire and its allies, who died in the Ypres Salient during the First World War (1914-1918). It is the intention of the Last Post Association to maintain this daily act of homage in perpetuity. Every evening at exactly 8 o'clock, the police halts the traffic passing under the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in the Belgian city of Ieper to allow the buglers to play their simple but moving tribute. The pupils carried out their duty with grace and maturity, such a fantastic honour for them and were a true credit to the Cardinal Allen community. We are extremely proud of them.

Year 7 Writing Competition

Year 7 pupils were invited to take part in a creative writing competition by writing a Christmas-themed story for primary school children. The competition was fierce, with a range of festive characters and plots being submitted. The best entries were sent to St Bernadette's primary school where they were judged by children in Year 3. Winners: 1st place Karla J, 2nd place Jessica G, 3d place Rosalind Jones, well done!

Visit from Blackpool Sixth

Our Year 10 Geographers and Historians welcomed back Sociology and Criminology Tutor, Alex Burgess, from Blackpool Sixth Form at the start of December. During this session, Alex spoke about the topical area of State Crime and the Sociological approaches to crime. Pupils were encouraged to think about how both historical and modern events have been dealt with; from the Suffragette movement to the 'Just Stop Oil' campaign. They discussed various political scenarios where they were asked to contemplate the rights and wrongs and consider how they feel they should have been dealt with. Another brilliant session provided for by our returning guest, it was great to see our Humanities pupils engaging in such complex ideas and debates which can be carried on through their studies.



Art

Year 7s and 8s had a wonderful Christmas Art workshop creating wooden Christmas tree decorations! They produced some lovely designs as you can see! Well done to all involved.

Cardy's Got Talent!

A huge well done to the pupils who performed in Cardi's Got Talent Christmas edition 2024. It was an amazing show - no wonder we sold out! A special well done to our winners.
Bronze—Year 7 Ella - she performed a wonderful dance solo.
Silver—Year 10 Emily & Amelie - the girls performed a piece from the show Chicago.
Gold—Year 10 Ellie - a talented singer who performed an Ella Henderson song.
Thanks to our judges: Mr Winstanley, Mrs. Garside and a special guest Mrs Taylor, compere: Mr Cadwallader, staff helpers: Mr Horvath and Mrs Moran, co-ordinators: Mrs Smith, Mrs. Mitchell and Miss Roberts.

Sparx Reader

All pupils in Years 7-9 are now using Sparx Reader for their English homework. It is important that young people practise careful, silent reading for a sustained amount of time, without distraction. Sparx Reader reassures us as teachers and parents that focused reading is taking place, and that readers of all abilities feel successful and motivated. Students can choose from an appropriate range of ebooks at their reading level. As they read, they will answer questions to check if they are reading carefully and understanding what they have read. Careful readers earn points, meaning they can prove they have been focusing and ultimately climb the league table! Pupils need to achieve a minimum of 300 Sparx Reader Points (SRP) to complete their weekly homework.

Questions you may have about Sparx Reader.

How do pupils log in?
Students log in through the Cardinal Allen launchpad and clicking on the Sparx Reader icon. They use their Microsoft account (school email) to log in.

Which devices are supported?
Your child can access Sparx Reader on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser.

How much does my child need to read?
Pupils need to achieve a minimum of 300 Sparx Reader Points (SRP) to complete their weekly homework.

How can I support my child with their reading?
Sparx Reader adapts to each student's reading level, so it is important that you don't help by answering questions for them. If you help them, Sparx Reader might judge them to be a more capable reader than they are and give them books that are too difficult. You can help by providing a quiet space and a set amount of time for your child to focus on their reading homework each week. The best way to support your child is to ask them about the book the are reading; which aspects they are enjoying, which characters and events they have recently read about or what they think could happen next.

We encourage you to watch a series of short videos, explaining what Sparx Reader is and how it works, available at https://sparxreader.com/parents/ or by scanning this QR code:

Congratulations

Brooke from Year 8 has been in Portugal for the WKC World Kickboxing and Karate Championships. Brooke has won a staggering 5 Golds and a Bronze. She is walking away with 5 new World Champion Titles and all together Brooke is a 7x World Champion. Not bad for a 12 year old! Well done Brooke from everyone at Cardinal Allen.

Also, a massive congratulations to our Year 7 Football team who were triumphant in the Wyre and Fylde Football Final. Everyone of them had a fantastic game and represented our school beautifully.

Finally, congratulations to Ola in Year 7 who went to Majorca with Manchester City over half term. She played against teams from all the world. Ola score the opening goal in the final.
Amazing Ola, well done!

Science News

We are thrilled to announce that our school has won 2nd Prize for the most student hours studied during this year's National Championships! This is an incredible achievement, and we couldn't be prouder of all the students and staff who contributed to this success. The competition was open to nearly 2,000 synced schools across the country, making this accomplishment even more remarkable. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved, we collectively completed a total of 4,108 hours of learning this term. Our students' efforts have also been reflected in the outstanding results of our assignments, with an average score of 83% across the board. A massive thank you to all the students who participated, and a special well done to our incredible staff for their support and guidance throughout. This achievement highlights the power of collaboration and determination, and we look forward to building on this success in the future.

Proposed Admissions Policy 2026

Please see our proposed arrangements for admissions to our school for September 2026 for consultation. If you would like to comment on these please contact the school directly.
Proposed Admission Policy Sept 2026 - with SIF.pdf

Charity News

Pupils at Cardinal Allen Catholic High School have shown their commitment to community service by raising money for local charities. Through various fundraising activities, including sponsored events, charity drives, and school-wide campaigns, pupils have united to support causes that make a positive impact in their local area. The efforts have not only helped raise significant funds but have also instilled in the pupils the values of compassion, teamwork, and social responsibility. By actively engaging with the community, Cardinal Allen pupils are making a difference and setting an example of generosity and care for others. When pupils join us in Year 7, they all vote for a charity that they would like to raise funds for, they then support this charity for the full 5 years that they are with us.

Here are the current charities our year groups are supporting:

Year 7

Year 8

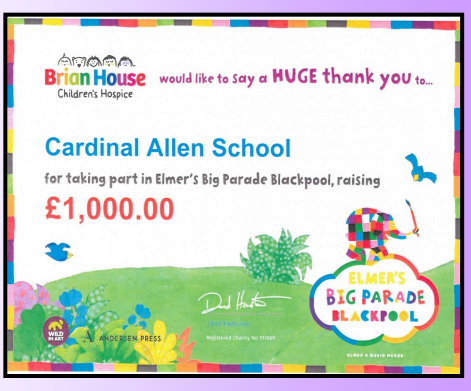
Year 9

Year 10

Year 11

So far this year pupils have done a cake sale making over 100 pounds for all the charities to share. There was also a non uniform day at the end of term with a donation from pupils towards our charities along with a Christmas raffle for 2 hampers that Senior Prefects sold the raffle tickets for. Kindness UK have made us 2 bird feeders and pupils have made Christmas decorations for their grotto in their Cleveleys shop.

Amounts donated to charities so far are RNLI £800, Cancer Research UK £500, Men's Shed £800, Brian House £900, Foodbank £390, Trinity Hospice £1000, British Legion Poppy Appeal £100, Kindness Counts £100.



Attendance Matters

Attendance at Cardinal Allen – key reminders

- All pupils must be on the school grounds by **8:35am** at the latest, where they line up on the courts (playground).
- Pupils are registered in Form Rooms at **8:40am**.
- If a pupil arrives **after 8:40am** they enter through the late door (accessed from the main car park).
- Pupils arriving to school late receive a same-day 30-minute detention.
- School finishes at **3:10pm**.

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school that day, you must phone the attendance line: 01253 872659, select 'option 1' for attendance and leave a voicemail.

We ask that you provide medical evidence for any appointments, such as the orthodontist or hospital. Please email this to: *medicalevidence@cardinalallen.co.uk*

Attendance Team

Mrs Eccles – Assistant Headteacher
Mrs Imisson and **Mrs Mabela** – Attendance Improvement Officers
Mrs Carey – Pastoral Assistant Year 7
Mrs Savage – Pastoral Assistant Year 8
Mrs Buchanan – Pastoral Assistant Year 9
Mrs Holme – Pastoral Assistant Year 10
Mrs Walsh – Pastoral Assistant Year 11

Talk to us

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help.

Attendance and Behaviour Reward Trips

We are delighted to have invited record numbers of pupils on our Christmas pantomime attendance and behaviour reward trip. This is testament to how many more pupils are achieving excellent attendance every week, meaning they are in the best place to achieve well.

The pupils had a wonderful time watching Aladdin at the Pleasure Beach and were a credit to the school. It was a wonderful festive trip, and we are looking forward to even more pupils joining us for next year's pantomime, and on our upcoming trips this year.

We have now launched our second trip of the academic year, this time visiting the Vue Cinema on 2nd April 2025.

Once again, we will invite all pupils with over 97% attendance between 2nd December an 28th February, as long as they have had no suspensions from school during this period.

Recommended Reads

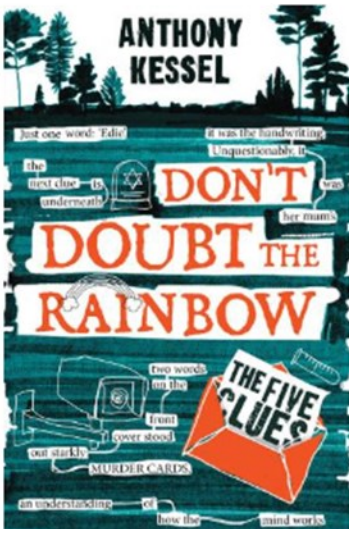
Catch Your Death by Ravena Guron

KS3

Stranded in a snowstorm, three teens find themselves in the middle of a murder plot at Bramble Estate. Are they snowed in with a killer? How much danger are they in? This taut, twisty and compelling thriller, narrated separately by Devi, Lizzie, and Jayne, blends classic suspense with modern gaslighting in a clue-ridden plot. 12+ readers who like puzzles from Cluedo to whodunnit podcasts will love this clever murder mystery that appeals to analytical minds and features an ending no one will see coming. Highly recommended for Year 8 libraries.

Crime

The Five Clues by Anthony Kessel



KS3

This gripping murder-mystery thriller follows 13-year-old Edie Marble as he searches for the truth one year on from her mother's mysterious death. After finding a note from her mother, she follows a trail of clues that leads her to expose a pharmaceutical company's sinister secrets. What were they hiding and how far would they go to keep it secret? The Five Clues is a compelling and fast-paced read that's perfect for readers who enjoy themes of friendship and resilience. The first in the 'Don't Doubt the Rainbow' series.

Mystery

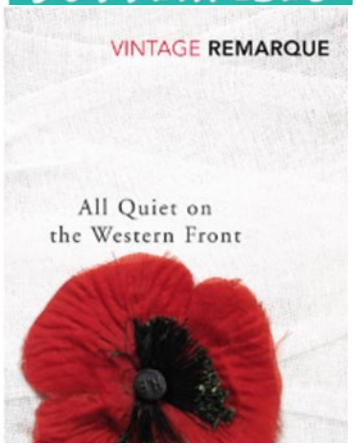
Paper Butterflies by Lisa Heathfield

KS4

A heartbreaking story about June, who feels trapped in her life full of secrets and lies. She longs to escape, and when she meets Blister, she thinks she might have – but her new hope has unimaginable consequences. Very sad and moving.

Thriller

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque



KS4

A dark first-person account, this is a simply told, yet chilling, story of the realities of war. Pressed into action by a fervent and patriotic teacher, Paul soon witnesses conditions in the trenches. A moving story that beautifully illustrates the pointlessness of conflict. Perfect for more advanced readers in Year 10.

Historical fiction

Christmas Wishes

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our pupils, families, and staff, for your support and encouragement this year.

The pupils have worked extremely hard both within and beyond the classroom and it continues to be a great joy to see them grow and develop into brilliant young adults—much of which is recorded in this newsletter. It has been great to be invited into this week's Achievement and Attendance Assemblies and have the privilege of seeing so many awards being presented.

It just remains for me to wish you and your families a very Happy and Holy Christmas and all God's blessings for what we hope will be a great 2025. 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 Masses in our local parishes

St Wulstan's & St Edmund's, Fleetwood
Christmas Eve: 6.30pm and early Midnight Mass Carols 8.30pm with mass at 9pm

St Mary's, Fleetwood
Christmas Eve: 6pm Carols with Mass at 6.30pm Christmas Day: 10am

St Bernadette's, Bispham
Christmas Eve: 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Christmas Eve: 8.30pm Carols followed by 'Midnight' Mass at 9pm
Christmas Day: 11.30am

St Teresa's, Cleveleys
Christmas Eve: 6.30pm Christmas Day 10am

St John Southworth, Cleveleys
Christmas Day: 10am