

ALPHA COURSE

You are invited to the Alpha Course which is taking place at the Centenary Hall, Hednesford on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm, from October 3rd until December. Each evening begins with food and is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share your point of view. All welcome – whatever your views or beliefs. More information at www.cannockcatholic.org/alpha j.gonzalez-fritz@cardinalgriffin.staffs.sch.uk priest@cannockcatholic.org



House	22.9.2017	15.9.2017
Allen	95.8%	97.4%
Hinsley	96.2%	95.7%
Manning	93.7%	96.9%
Newman	94.2%	93.2%
Vaughan	95.4%	94.6%
Wiseman	96.2%	95.7%
Whole School	95.3%	95.6%



THE GRIFFIN

Cardinal Griffin Catholic College

Ad majorem Dei gloriam

Issue 117
28 September 2017
Michaelmas Term
Week 3

COLLEGE PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Morning Prayer

Lord, teach me to be generous:
to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek to rest;
to labour and to ask for any reward
save that of knowing I do your will.
Amen

Evening Prayer

May the Lord support us
all the day long,
till the shadows lengthen,
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then, in his mercy,
may he give us
a safe lodging,
a holy rest,
and peace at last.
Amen

Weekly Prayer

Guardian Angels
Angel of God
My guardian dear
To Whom His love
Commits me here
Ever this day
Be at my side
To light and guard
To rule and guide.
Amen

ENGINEERING CLUB

OPEN TO YEAR 8 & 9
FIGURES & LOWER GRAMMAR

BOYS OR GIRLS

"LIMITED SPACES"

EVERY TUESDAY STARTING FROM
31ST October 2017
UNTIL
EASTER 2018
15:00^{hrs} TO 16:30^{hrs}

(TERM TIME ONLY)

IMPROVE YOUR ENGINEERING/MAKING SKILLS
MANUFACTURING SOMETHING MADE FROM
METAL, WOOD OR PLASTIC THAT IS NOT
NORMALLY MADE IN LESSONS

E.G. CLOCKS, KEY RACKS,
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ETC.

If you are interested or would like more
information please see Mr Shenton
A parental **consent form** is required and must be
returned on or before the first session

MUSIC NOTICES

We are currently working hard on preparations for the upcoming School Show 'O Happy Day'. Auditions have taken place and cast members are excitedly starting to familiarise themselves with their parts. We rehearse every Wednesday from 15.00 ~ 16.00hrs and on Wednesday lunchtimes too, for singing practise. We welcome any more folks who wish to join, please see Mrs Davies or Mrs Burrowes to be added to the cast list if you are interested. We are hoping to showcase some of the musical numbers at Awards Evening and The Christmas Cabaret to give you a little taste of things to come. 'O Happy Day' will be performed here at the Griffin on Tuesday 13th of March and Wednesday 14th of March. Watch this space for information on tickets. We always appreciate having a jam-packed audience so feel free to pop this date in your diary!

The storyline of 'O Happy Day' is based on the students of Loyola Hall finding love, warmth and inspiration from nun Gloria, who enters the students into Britain's Got talent. Filled with a roller coaster of laughs and teenage-angst the show has something for everyone.

OUR PARISH CHURCHES

St Mary's & St Thomas More

Rev Fr Peter Weatherby
<http://www.cannockcatholic.org>
07766 335591

Our Lady of Lourdes

Rev Fr Jeremy Howard
<http://www.ourladyhednesford.com>
01543 422576

St Joseph's, Burntwood

Rev Fr Paul Haines
<http://www.stjosburntwood.co.uk/>
01543 686266

St Joseph & St Etheldreda, Rugeley

Rev Fr Peter Stonier
<http://www.rugeleycatholicchurch.co.uk/>
01889 802531

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 1st October 2017	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday 2nd October 2017	The Holy Guardian Angels
Tuesday 3rd October 2017	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Wednesday 4th October 2017	St Francis of Assisi
Thursday 5th October 2017	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Friday 6th October 2017	St Bruno, Priest
Saturday 7th October 2017	Our Lady of the Rosary

LAY CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

AmDg

GENEROSITY: Calvin Coolidge, (the 30th President of the United States), once said, "No person was ever honoured for what they received. Honour has been the reward for what they gave." A fitting quote for our latest charity project, The Trussell Trust Foodbank Appeal. Last week in assemblies I set a challenge to our students to display three virtues from the Jesuit Pupil Profile; Grateful, Generous and Action. I asked them to absorb these virtues and adapt them into their character traits. By showing how grateful they are for what they have, by showing their generosity by bringing in non-perishable foods to college, which will be donated to the Trussell Trust charity after half-term. Thus taking Action in charity and helping those in need within the district of Cannock. Thank you in advance for your support to this great local cause. ~~Javier~~

LDS

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



MONITORING THE QUALITY OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

During the Michaelmas and Christmas terms, the Leadership Team of the college and the Heads of Department set aside time each week to formally and informally monitor the learning and teaching within the college. By the end of the Christmas Term, they will have visited every teacher at least twice to observe lessons for about 30 minutes. In addition, there will be numerous reviews of exercise books to check on the quality of the pupil's works, the standards of presentation, and the regularity and quality of marking. Your child will receive a sticker in their books recording when and by whom their books were seen. The books are selected at random in order to secure a broad range of abilities and groupings.

OPEN EVENING

Open Evening takes place on Thursday 5th October from 18:30 to 20:30hrs. We will be welcoming pupils and their families from the many primary schools who send children to the college. I would like to thank in advance the many hundreds of pupils and students who turn out to support the college on this important occasion.

AWARDS EVENING

Awards Evening is on Thursday 19th October 2017 and we will be welcoming Father Peter Weatherby the parish priest of St Mary's Cannock, as our guest speaker. It will be a wonderful occasion at which the college celebrates the many successes of the previous year, and honours those pupils and students who had contributed so much to the life of the college.

TRUSSELL TRUST FOODBANK

Through assemblies last week, we have launched our annual fund raising for our local community. Last year we sent over 700 items to the foodbank and this year we would like to reach a figure of 1000. Sadly the demands on the foodbank are greater this year. There are many within our community who do need our help. If every pupil brings in one item we will exceed our figure from last year and if some bring two items we will hit our target. Please give generously!!

CCF

There were 35 pupils present at the first Combined Cadet Force meeting in the gymnasium on Thursday 21st September. The cadets were introduced to Sergeant Young and Staff Sergeant Skillen. At the meeting the cadets were measured for their fatigues in preparation for their first parade on Thursday 28th September. The Cardinal Griffin College Cadet force has been attached to the 11th Royal Signals, we believe that the college is the only CCF unit attached to the Royal Signals and as such we will be under particular scrutiny from the West Midlands division of the CCF!

We look forward to the year ahead and we will welcome the opportunity to recruit for a second platoon for September 2018 from any pupil or student at the college who is Figures (Year 8) or above.

THE GCSE RESULTS

This year, our pupils sat the new GCSE in English and Mathematics. The grades are no longer A*-G, rather 9-1. The old A* grade is a combination of the new 9 and 8 grades and the new 7 is the A grade.

61% of the pupils achieved the equivalent of a C grade in English and Maths (that is grade 4 or above). 78% of the pupils achieved at least a grade 4 in English or English Literature and 67% achieved a grade 4 or grade C in mathematics. The English grades exceeded last year's results which was truly impressive given that the new exam is more demanding.

In the past, we have allowed pupils to sit the Mathematics exam in June of Upper Grammar or November of Syntax and if the pupils achieved their expected progress level or attainment grade, they were able to withdraw from Mathematics to focus on their other exams. One of the distinct advantages of this approach was that the Mathematics teaching groups decreased in size after Christmas and pupils who remained in the subject were taught in smaller class sizes. These smaller groups provided the opportunity for greater individual attention and more, of these pupils were able to meet their progress and attainment targets.

As a result, the governors of the college have decided to achieve budget savings in order that a part time fixed term teacher in Mathematics can be appointed from January 2018 to June 2018 to support Syntax pupils.

For pupils who wish to go onto Higher Education, a number of universities are demanding that pupils achieve a minimum of a grade 5 in English and Mathematics and therefore, we, as a college, will start to use this figure as our bench mark in future.

Other departments who posted very strong results which were well above the national averages included Art, Drama, Music, Health and Social Care, Physical Education, Resistant Materials, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

The analysis of results show a very clear link between attendance and progress. Pupils who attendance was less than 90% could expect to be a grade down on their target and pupils with 85% or less would often be more than 2 grades below expectation. There was substantial evidence that the most important terms for Syntax (Year 11) attendance was in the Michaelmas and Christmas terms, these pupils often maintained their attendance during the remainder of the year, however pupils whose attendance in these two terms were below 90% struggled even if they improved their attendance after Christmas and their overall attendance figures rose above 90%.

COLLEGE CALENDAR	COLLEGE SPORTS FIXTURES
2nd October 2017 Rudiments Pastoral Meeting	Football
3rd October 2017 Figures PTLP	3rd October 2017 Figures v G Wryley (H)
5th October 2017 Open Evening	3rd October 2017 Syntax v Kingsmead (H)
19th October 2017 Awards Evening	4th October 2017 Lower Grammar v Hart (H)
	4th October 2017 U Grammar v Kingsmead (A)
	4th October 2017 U13's Girls v Graham Balfour (A)
	Netball
	4th October 2017 Rudiments v Kingsmead (A)

CONTACT DETAILS

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Tel: 01543 502215

E-mail: office@cardinalgriffin.staffs.sch.uk Website : www.cardinalgriffin.org.uk

PUPIL SERVICES



Illness/absences

We are getting to that time of year when we start to see a drop in attendance due to illness/appointments. Can we remind parents please to contact the college if their child is going to be absence on either of the following:

Absence Line 01543 502215 Press option 1
Text Message 07976 191013 (24 hour service)