



22 October 2021

Dear parents / carers

What an incredibly busy half term it has been. We have managed to see the majority of the year groups (Year 9 is after half term), Open Evening, sporting fixtures have started again, we are planning our Sixth Form Open Evening, Talk the Talk workshops for Year 7 and 8, Studying workshops for Year 11 and parents, Walking Talking Mocks, Careers events, Black History Month activities, UCAS workshops, Road Safety presentations, assemblies, Year 7 Caythorpe Trip, Year 7 Welcome mass with Bishop David and many, many more activities, on top of all the learning as well! Next half term Year 11 and Year 13 have their mock exams which will give a real clear indication of how their studies are going and where specific support is needed.

I have rarely enjoyed my job as much as I have this one, I feel very at home with the staff, pupils and you as parents. I greet the pupils most mornings as they arrive into school and they never fail to make me smile as they blow off their cobwebs and manage a 'morning' or a smile. Every day at Cardinal Newman starts with whole school prayers. Two years ago, I had the tremendous privilege to travel to Rome and attend the canonisation of our patron John Henry Newman, now Saint John Henry Newman. During his homily, Pope Francis said one phrase which has echoed with me 'Prayer is the medicine of the heart.'. What a wonderful phrase and sentiment. Prayer really allows us to unburden our stresses and celebrate our highs.

I am so glad that prayer holds a central part of our school community and I would really like to engage that prayer life that we have with yours. If you are interested in exploring how to be involved in the prayer life of the school please can you email my PA Mrs Bradley at sbradley@cardinalnewmanschool.net to express your interest. I will then arrange a meeting to get an initiative underway.

As I sit here and write this we have just completed a rather muddy Sponsored Walk across the Warden Hills. It was a great event and also inspiring to see the whole school community come together as one! I look forward to seeing how much money we have raised for the school charities. If you would like to contribute please do so by following this link ([click here](#)).

As an avid rugby fan (and I still attempt to play regularly) I am keen to see an increase in participation in this wonderful sport. I attach a flyer that one of our parents sent through to us regarding rugby for year 7-11 at Luton Rugby Club. Please do use the contact details on the flyer if you are interested.

After some delay, the ground works for the canopies around the school are going to be completed over half term so that the canopies can be installed the week beginning 15th November. The three new canopies will all be ready before Christmas.

Due to the significant increases in positive COVID cases in Luton I will also be writing to you towards the end of the half term week with updated guidance around our processes and procedures for mitigating

and limiting the spread of the COVID virus. In the meantime, please do follow government advice and continue the routine twice weekly LFD testing. Also if you want your son/daughter to have access to a vaccine please follow this link to the information from Luton Borough Council ([click here](#)).

We have also been informed today that one of our pupils has been diagnosed with Scarlet Fever. If you have any concerns please follow this link to get further information ([click here](#)).

As ever, below are some reminders for you to read.

Have a blessed weekend and half term break,



Andrew Bull MA
Headteacher

Request for Governors

The St. Thomas Catholic Academy Trust is making an appeal for governors, in particular to serve the St Martin de Porres community and that of St Margaret's of Scotland. If you would like more information please contact mgilmartin@stcat.co.uk

Uniform

Please check the uniform policy in the student planners so that you are aware of all the high expectations.

Dropping off and collecting pupils by car

No cars are allowed on site between 8.15am and 9.15am 2.30pm and 3.20pm (except where permission has been given in advance). For the safety and welfare of all pupils please support the school in this. If you need to pick up your child by car then wait until after 3.20 or collect them from somewhere close to the school, as highlighted in previous communications. Please avoid coming on to Warden Hill Rd to collect or drop off your children. The level of traffic is becoming unmanageable on this narrow street.

Drop Everything And Read

As part of our improving literacy strategy we are stopping the whole for 20 minutes each week to read. Please make sure that all pupils have reading material to read every day but especially on the day they have DEAR.

Do follow all that we are up to on our Twitter feed [@CNSLuton](#) and Instagram account [@CNSLuton](#)

Week beginning 25th October - Half Term

Monday 25th October	Half Term
Tuesday 26th October	Half Term
Wednesday 27th October	Half Term
Thursday 28st October	Half Term
Friday 29th October	Half Term