



**Message from the Headteacher**

**'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.'**

**(Archbishop Oscar Romero)**

This coming Sunday, the Gospel will remind us of the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Luke powerfully illustrates the stark contrast between a rich man who lived a life of luxury without compassion for others, and a poor beggar named Lazarus who suffered greatly. It is a profound reminder of the importance of humility and caring for those in need. In a world where we are often encouraged to aspire to have more or seek more, it's useful for us to pause now and then to reflect on what we can all do to just be more.

Oscar Romero spoke out against injustice in El Salvador, urging people to “aspire not to have more, but to be more”. On 24 March 1980, he was murdered while celebrating Mass. Recognising him as a martyr for the faith, Pope Francis canonised him in 2018.

Romero’s words are powerful and have become a driving force for what we want our students to achieve at Cardinal Hume. Examination attainment, progress, the curriculum, attendance, destinations and careers are all, of course, extremely important. However, at the heart of our school, we want each individual to search for excellence and be more. For me, this is about exemplary behaviours, strong values, excellent relationships, acts of service, and pushing ourselves outside our comfort zones. Put simply, are we giving 100% in everything, giving something back, and seizing the opportunities we have?

Best wishes,  
Mr Robson

**Breakfast Study Hub:**

Research consistently shows the importance of a nutritious breakfast on student achievement. The Breakfast Study Hub ensures all our students get off to the best start each day:

**What? Free breakfast for all students**

**Where? D2**

**When? Every morning 8.10-8.35**

**Who for? Everyone from KS3 - 5**

**Forthcoming Events**

	<b><u>Forthcoming Events</u></b>
Y7	Key Information for Year 7 and “Meet the Tutor” evening: 9 <sup>th</sup> October 4-6pm. Please confirm attendance via Microsoft Form <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/r9ZFqY820s">https://forms.office.com/e/r9ZFqY820s</a>
Y8	Key information for Year 8 parents’ evening, 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 6pm-7pm
Y9	Key Information for Y9 parents’ evening, 16 <sup>th</sup> October, 6pm -7pm.
6 <sup>th</sup> form	Parent Information event, Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October, 6pm-7pm.

## Important Reminder About Term-Time Absence

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to remind you that Head Teachers have the discretion to authorise leave of absence during term time **only in exceptional circumstances**. The Department for Education (DfE) **does not** consider holidays or other leisure-related absences to meet this threshold.

Recently, we have seen a rise in requests for term-time holidays. While we understand the value of family time, it's important to remember that every day in school matters. Research shows that even short periods of absence can significantly affect a child's learning and future opportunities. In fact, recent findings from the DfE highlight a strong link between attendance and achievement. For example, Year 11 pupils with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve a grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs compared to those attending 90–95% of the time. Missing just 10 extra days a year can reduce the chances of reaching these grades by around 50%.

As parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child's education. We kindly ask that you consider the impact of absence and plan holidays during school breaks to ensure your child gets the best chance to succeed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Robson, Head Teacher

## Year 7 Meet the Tutor and Information Night

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 4pm-6pm

At Cardinal Hume Catholic School, we work alongside parents and carers to ensure that your child can thrive educationally and personally. We also understand that parents themselves can find their child's move to secondary school a daunting one, and that being able to meet your child's teachers can be very reassuring. On Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, parents are invited to come into school to have a brief five-minute chat with your child's tutor to discuss how they have settled into their new school. **Tutors will not be able to update on academic progress; this meeting is purely to discuss how your child has settled in.**

**This event is for parents only, and we ask that you attend without your child.** As well as allowing for more candid conversations, this also means that we can share important information about the Year 7 experience with you. At 4.30pm and again at 5.30pm there will be a presentation in the Main Hall where key staff will present on supporting common issues which arise in Year 7, the student attributes, and the extracurricular opportunities available to your child.

If you wish to attend the evening, those with surnames A-M are invited to attend between 4pm and 5pm, while those with surnames N-Z are invited to attend 5pm-6pm. Please complete the form below to let us know whether you will be attending the Year 7 Meet the Tutor event.

<https://forms.office.com/e/r9ZFqY820s>

We look forward to meeting you.

## Reminder: The Cardinal Hume School App

Please can parents ensure that they have downloaded the school app. This is an essential tool for reporting student absence, celebrating your child's success through House Points, and finding out what is going on in the school community. For students in Y7 and Y12, letters were given to your child in tutor this week. Please contact the school office if you did not receive one.

