



Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Ms G Keany

20 July 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff

As we come to the end of the 2015/6 school year, I wanted to celebrate with you what has been a momentous year of change for the whole school.

Firstly, I want to wish our Year 6 children and families the very best for their futures and success in their new schools. The Year 6 leavers' production was once again a great success and enjoyed by everyone particularly the children.

To our staff that are leaving; Miss Dowd, Miss Grunsell and Miss Gelona, a big thank you for all that they have done to help Cardinal Newman be the happy, successful and special school that it is. We hope you all enjoy your new jobs.

The Celebration of our 50th year as a school on Saturday 9th July was a huge success (even the weather was kind!) and I want to note a special thank you to the members of the PA who ran the Fair and made so much money and the Anniversary Steering Group including Mr Wayne Mason as the lead Governor and the hard working staff who prepared for the day, as well as the displays in the hall. They made great reading and I was able to talk to several people who came back to see the school and really enjoyed their trip down memory lane. Even the 'teenagers' were thrilled by sitting in seats they sat in not so long ago and it made me smile when I heard one of them exclaim "everything is so small" to hear someone reply "No, it is just the same - it is you who have grown!"

Bishop Richard Moth will be celebrating a 50th Anniversary Mass close to Cardinal Newman's feast day next October; details will be shared when known.

The school has had a great year on all fronts, in the new KS2 SATs results, the drama productions, art and science events, parent and family events and the success of our in-house Wraparound Care.

However, the decision to go forward and join the Xavier Catholic Education Trust (XCET) with 8 other Catholic schools has been historic. I firmly believe that this action will enable Cardinal Newman Primary School to thrive in a very challenging education environment and that working so closely with our partner schools can only enhance and improve the education we offer as a school. This effect will be seamless for children, staff and parents. You will not see anything different when you come back in early September – the conversion date is 1st September – but as the year progresses what governors hope is that more opportunities will open up for staff and children. More information about the new Directors and how the XCET works will be shared with parents and staff and it is hoped to have a celebration about this new organisation early in the 2016/17 school year.

Finally, this is my last letter as Chair of Governors for the school. It has been an immense pleasure for me to have carried out this role and I have enjoyed meeting many of you over the 7 years I have been a governor here. I have agreed to become a Director of the new XCET and I am excited about what the future holds for all our schools. I shall continue as a governor until my new role is confirmed in February next year.

We continue to look at ways to raise money for the school and wish to thank all those parents or family members who already contribute to the school Governors' Fund which enables the school to maintain the buildings and other important infrastructure and so makes a huge difference to the school and what we can offer.

Once again this summer there is an extensive programme of work in the school buildings. If you do not currently contribute we would be grateful if you could consider a contribution no matter how small. A form is available via the office.

As always we would like to hear your views and you can feedback directly to the clerk to governors at: clerk@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk.

Thank you all for your continuing support for Ms Keany and the school and I hope you all manage to find some sunshine before the autumn.

All the governors and Ms Keany wish you all a very happy and relaxing summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you all back next term.

Yours faithfully

Carole Ann Roycroft
Chair of Governors