



Cardinal Langley RC High School

'An Outstanding Catholic School' S48, March 2017

Rochdale Road, Middleton, Manchester, M24 2GL
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Headteacher: Mr A Bridson B.Sc. (Hons), MA (Education), NPQEL

Monday 26th February 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you enjoyed the half term break. Please find below a few important updates as we return to school.

Lenten Fundraising

During the season of Lent, Christians prepare for Easter through prayer, fasting and charity work. Individuals often choose to give something up as a sign of fasting or make a positive change by doing good.

Each year at Cardinal Langley, we challenge our young people to be 'change makers' and raise money to support Caritas through the St Joseph's Penny Appeal as well as collecting Easter Eggs for Middleton Foodbank. As in previous years, we will be rewarding the top 5 form classes that raise the most with the opportunity to finish school an hour earlier than usual on Thursday 28th March and start their Easter holiday before the rest of the school community.

As part of our fundraising efforts this year we will be raffling a football signed by the Manchester United players. This has kindly been donated to school and a photo is attached. Tickets are available on Parentpay for £1 with the draw being made on Saturday 27th April.

I am constantly amazed by the generosity of our school community and last year we collected 520 Easter Eggs and raised £716 for St Joseph's Penny. The fundraising and Easter egg collection will close on Friday 22nd March.

Vapes

I last wrote to all parents about vapes in December following a medical emergency in school. The Government has subsequently announced they are planning to ban the sale of disposable vapes which is expected to be implemented in the next 12 months.

According to Government research, the number of children using vapes has tripled in the last three years and there is strong evidence to suggest that cheap and easy-to-use disposable vapes are partly to blame.

The research shows that in 2023, around 69 per cent of vapers aged 11 to 17 in Great Britain were using disposable vapes, up from 7.7 percent in 2021. This is extremely worrying given the unknown long-term health impacts and the addictive nature of the nicotine in vapes.

While vaping can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit, the NHS advises that you shouldn't take it up if you don't already smoke – and children should never vape.

As a school we are concerned about the use of very high strength nicotine vapes which can cause young people to feel unwell and are particularly worried about the use of vapes which contain unknown substances, such as THC, which can lead to changes in behaviour and in extreme cases young people becoming unresponsive and needing hospital treatment. Earlier this month, Lancashire police issued an urgent warning after pupils in Chorley and West Lancashire experienced dizziness and heart palpitations and in one case, a child lost consciousness for a period of time. Further





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details can be found at <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/police-issue-urgent-vape-warning-28631520>

In order to keep our young people safe, and to deter them from vaping on the school premises, we have recently installed vape sensors in the toilets and any student caught vaping will be sanctioned with a detention and the vape confiscated. Toilets will remain available for students throughout the day but during lessons only the ground floor toilets will be available and students will only be allowed out of class if they have a medical pass or if their teacher has issued them with an 'out of class pass'.

I am asking for the support of parents / carers to help address the issue of vaping and ask that you talk to your child openly about the risks involved. We recognise that some young people may have developed an addiction to nicotine and can direct them to appropriate support if this is the case.

Should you have any concerns about vaping, please contact the school and we will be more than willing to provide you with additional support and guidance.

Mobile phones

The Department for Education (DfE) has issued updated guidance regarding the use of mobile phones in schools. This is in response to concerns about the amount of time young people spend on social media and the potential distraction they can cause in the classroom. The DfE outlines 4 options ranging from an outright ban on school premises to students being allowed phones as long as they are not 'used, seen or heard'. Our current policy is in line with the latter option with students allowed to carry their phones but they should not be used during the day. Students will be reminded of this in assemblies this week. If a phone is seen, students will receive a warning and if they do not put it away then a detention will be issued and the phone confiscated.

Thank you for your continued support

Mr A Bridson
Headteacher

