

**WELCOME**

Dear Parents/Carers

The last half term seems to have gone very quickly – but I didn't want it to pass without us reflecting on some of the brilliant achievements and successes of our students. It is fantastic to see so many university offers coming in for our Year 13 students and there is still support available for those needing help with interview preparation and apprenticeship applications.

'Next steps' is naturally at the forefront of our Year 13 students' minds; however, it is never too early to think about progression! Now is also the time for students in Year 12 to start thinking about their futures, whether that be Higher Education, apprenticeships, or employment. There are a range of exciting 'Inspire Me' talks planned for the coming months and students should also make sure they are making a careers interview and thinking about university and employer open events in preparation for their progression beyond Carmel.

As we are now in the period of Lent, a time for reflection and spiritual growth, it feels appropriate we share some of the events that are planned in the coming term including our Monthly Mass on 7th March, celebrated by Fr. Michael, and a dramatized version of The Passion.

On behalf of myself, and all the staff at Carmel, I wish to thank you for your continued support in ensuring that our young people make the very best of every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Best wishes

Janet Gater
Principal

Message from our Principal

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Key Dates

Review 1 Consultation Year 12 (online via SchoolCloud): Thursday 29th February 1.30-7.30pm

Review 3 Consultation Year 13 (online via SchoolCloud): Wednesday 27th March 1.30-7.30pm

Mock Exams Y13: W/C 4th March

Guidance Interview Evenings for New Applicants:

Thursday 7th March (4.30-7.30pm), Thursday 11th April (1-4pm), Friday 12th April (1-4pm)

Open Event: Tuesday 12th March

End of Term: Thursday 28th March

Summer Term

Term Begins: Wednesday 10th April

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May

College Closes for Half Term: Friday 24th May

Term Begins: Monday 3rd June

End of Term: Friday 5th July



Staff Spotlight

Paul Morgan
Estates

What I love about working at Carmel?

The variety of the work we do!

Working at Carmel is a pleasure as each day brings something different. To manage a campus of this size is a challenge and it would not be possible without the skills, knowledge and flexibility of the Estates team. As a famous builder once said, 'Can we fix it?' Well, most of the time we can!

As well as working with the Estates team to maintain the facilities, I also utilise our resources by opening up the college to the wider community. For example, we support the NHS to improve health provision in the borough, for example, by opening up our facilities to provide a Diabetic Eye Screening Clinic during the Easter break. So, besides the daily emails, talking to contractors, ordering equipment, moving furniture, what do I really love about working at Carmel? That's easy to answer, it's the people both staff and students.

What do I do outside of college?

I am a father to two wonderful daughters who both attended Carmel and have gone on to have successful careers as a Deputy Head Teacher and a chartered Town Planner. I'm a grandfather to one with another on the way so a lot of my time is taken up with granddad duties. I'm an Evertonian for my penance but also like to travel and socialise.

Celebrating Excellence!

Congratulations to Noah Christian and Aimee Watt for achieving 100% attendance last half-term. They were the lucky winners of £50 Amazon vouchers. We know that excellent attendance is key to our students achieving their potential so each half-term we encourage our students to aim for 100% attendance with the chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher.



Parents and carers can support us in ensuring that their young person's attendance remains on track. We discourage holidays during term time and ask that any absences are reported to Reception via telephone or email. Authorised absences, for example, medical appointments, university open days, should be reported to students' Personal Achievement Tutor (PAT).

We appreciate your support in encouraging our young people to see that attendance matters!

Inspire Me!

DR NATALIE KENNY, CEO OF BIOGRAD TALK

We had the privilege of welcoming renowned scientist Dr Natalie Kenny, CEO of BioGrad to our college. Dr Kenny presented an exciting talk as part of our “Inspire Me” series, sharing her awe-inspiring story of overcoming personal and financial struggles within her scientific field, to open the UK's second largest Biobank facility specialising in medical and scientific support for education and research organisations. Bethannie Freeman, Biology teacher, at Carmel said “Natalie provided an inspirational talk to our A Level Science students, with guidance on what to consider in a future career and how scientific research can open so many doors for them”.



Chaplaincy News!

CAFOD Young Leaders raised awareness of CAFOD and their work through library displays, during Harvest and Advent prayer times, as part of our Christmas market and in an assembly to Y11 students at De La Salle High School.

They've completed their second training session and are keen to lead our college in fundraising for CAFOD this term.

The Big Help Hub

A collaboration between various departments, including Business BTEC, Art, Foundation Learning, and individual students led to us raising an impressive total of £858.80 for The Big Help Hub.

LGBTQ+ History Month Exhibition

Our Pride and Diversity Group focused on this year's theme of #Underthescope to explore elements of LGBTQ+ culture and fashion.

Catenians' Public Speaking Competition

Six students participated in this prestigious event, delivering speeches before a panel of judges on a variety of topics including 'Some Thoughts on AI'; 'My Hero'; 'The Perfect Day'; 'Dogs are a Thorough Nuisance' and “The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.” (GK Chesterton)

Our students demonstrated impressive confidence under pressure to deliver clear, coherent speeches. After close scrutiny by the judges, Bertie West was announced the winner and will proceed to the regional final at Liverpool Hope University on 22nd March.

Geography, History & Politics Trip To Washington DC

Forty of our Geography, History and Politics A Level students took a trip across the pond to Washington DC to enjoy an itinerary bursting with memorable experiences. Some of the highlights from their trip included visits to:

- **The US Capitol**
- **Supreme Court**
- **White House**
- **Lincoln Memorial**
- **IMF**
- **National Archives**
- **International Spy Museum**
- **Mt Vernon**
- **National Museum of African American History & Culture**
- **Arlington Cemetery**

Other highlights of the trip were interviewing US Capitol workers on their day-to-day duties working for the US government, seeing what George Washington's house looked like and visiting the iconic spot where Martin Luther King Jr delivered his infamous "I Have A Dream" speech. Students also had the opportunity to enjoy some retail therapy in their downtime, along with experiencing the local cuisine and savouring a delicious two course meal at the Hard Rock Café.



Eco Hive Garden Centre Flourishes With Sustainable Creations

The Eco Hive Garden Centre Team was buzzing with activity on Tuesday 21st February as they proudly showcased their latest eco-friendly products.

In line with their commitment to sustainability, the Foundation Learning team has been hard at work crafting an array of products during their lessons. This week's offerings included an assortment of treats such as sweets, cards, treat boxes, and specialty items like Malteser truffle cones and Ferrero Rocher cones. Additionally, students and staff can explore a range of handcrafted items including wax melts, soaps, beautiful floral arrangements, and pocket hugs. As the team gears up for the upcoming spring season, the garden centre is now featuring an array of hanging baskets and planters available for purchase. Excitement is building as the Eco Hive Team prepares to unveil a new collection of items, including bedding plants, vegetable seedlings, and herbs – perfect for those looking to cultivate their sustainable gardens.

Exciting News Unveiled: Oxbridge Offers Arrive!

Congratulations to the seven Carmel students who have just received offers to study at Oxbridge! The application process to study at Oxford and Cambridge is a rigorous one. As well as stringent entry requirements, the process itself is tough, requiring lots of dedication and preparation.



At Carmel we offer the High Achievers+ Programme which encourages and supports students who are applying to Oxbridge and other competitive institutions, as well as for highly competitive degrees such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. Delivered by our specialist High Achievers+ Co ordinators, the Programme offers students activities, events and support throughout the year.

University of Oxford Offers

Students who have received offers to study at Oxford include: -

Leanne Mabena (St Mary's High School) – Medicine at Saint John's College

Lewis Klieve (Auckland College) – Mathematics at Lady Margaret Hall

Jasmine Armstrong (Broughton Hall Catholic High School) – PPE at St Hilda's College

Cambridge University Offers

Cambridge offers were received by:-

Holly Atherton (Loreto Grammar School) – English at Churchill College

Shea Rainford (De La Salle) – Law at Sidney Sussex College

Jessica Maclean (St Peter & Paul Catholic High School) – Geography at Murray Edwards College

Oluwakemi Akeredolu (Hillside High School) – Law at Corpus Christi College

10 out of 10 for Carmel's Undefeated Basketball Team!



Huge congratulations to our Basketball First Team who triumphed at home yesterday against Newcastle Eagles. The impressive 107-50 score marked the tenth consecutive win for the boys, placing them top nationally in the prestigious College Basketball League (CBL). Coach Dominic O'Neill said "I'm so pleased that our players have been able to showcase their unwavering

commitment to achieving both collective and individual success on a national level. Their hard work, both within and outside the academic setting at Carmel, positions them for remarkable accomplishments in the future."

Imaginarium Theatre Workshop Inspires Performing Arts Students

Thank you to Julie Ashurst from Imaginarium Theatre for delivering a fantastic Berkoff movement workshop to our Lower Sixth BTEC Performing Arts students.

Based in Prescot, Imaginarium is an Associate Company of the Shakespeare North Playhouse. It is a theatre and community arts organisation that tours the North West with spectacular outdoor productions of Shakespeare plays and literary classics. Additionally, the company offers community and educational programmes, such as the session our students took part in.



It was a pleasure to work with Julie, whose interactive and energetic workshop sparked the imaginations of our Performing Arts students. They also found out about all the amazing opportunities on offer at the Shakespeare North theatre. Our students are looking forward to watching Imaginarium's next National Theatre performance in the near future.

Carmel Students Shortlisted for £1,000 Young Writers Competition

We are thrilled to announce that English students Eryn McDonald, Aoife Britton-Cooke and Aiden Hunt have been chosen as finalists for the Frank Moran Young Writers Competition.

This prestigious, annual writing competition is run by Liverpool Athenaeum. It attracts entrants from across the North West, who are aged between 16 and 19. Our students entered by submitting a piece of fiction or non-fiction writing on a subject they were passionate about. The winner's prize includes a year's membership to the library and £1000 prize money. Aiden, Aoife and Eryn have done extremely well to reach the final eight!

Carmel's three finalists attended a reception at The Athenaeum earlier this week. They enjoyed drinks and canapes, before having a tour of the ornate library. Our students now have until 29th March to submit their final task: a 1500-word piece of original prose on a subject determined by the competition judges. They will attend a final reception at the Athenaeum on 16th April where the winner will be announced.



Foundation Governor Vacancies

We're looking for new Foundation Governors to join our Governing Body. This rewarding voluntary role is strategic rather than operational, focussed on supporting and challenging the College's leadership team to drive continued improvement. All applications are welcome and will be considered in the context of the Governing Body's current skills mix. We are, however, particularly interested in applications from individuals with a professional background in finance, legal and/or HR.

There are currently three vacancies for Foundation Governors as advertised on the College website here. Foundation Governors are appointed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool and are expected to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the College. If you, or someone you know, are interested in applying or would like further information, please contact the Clerk to Governors via clerk@carmel.ac.uk