Cardinal Wiseman
Catholic Technology College

Forward in Faith
Dear parents and carers, welcome to our school. We are a school that is changing and we challenge our pupils to grow and change with us. Our purpose is summed up in our mission statement: ‘Forward in Faith’. We take every pupil whom we are privileged to serve and challenge, support and develop them to move forward on their path in life.

Secondary school is where pupils discover what particular talent and passion they have; what job or role is going to make them happy and then we start them on their path to brilliance. The journeys they will make are their own; the learning is theirs but we will walk with them and enable them to be their best in every aspect of themselves.
Cardinal Wiseman is a wonderful school and our pupils are exceptional young people.

Head Teacher: Mrs C B Stewardson MA NPQH
Our staff know our pupils well and to enable excellent learning to take place they employ a variety of activities and approaches within lessons. Every teacher has high aspirations for our learners. This means that our pupils are challenged to think differently about how they approach learning. We ask them to frame their thinking in such a way that they can say:

I want to... I am able to... I can... and so I will.

In this way pupils start to own their ambition and take responsibility for their learning and as they become more independent they build a natural momentum. They go ‘forward in faith’.

**Learning is exciting**
The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it but that it is too low and we reach it.

Michaelangelo
We know that all of our pupils want to learn in a school which is calm, stimulating and secure. For this reason, and because we believe that each individual member of our community is worthy of a profound and unique respect, we promote the highest expectations of personal behaviour and conduct.

It is in justice to all our pupils, parents and staff that we consistently and persistently work towards a behaviour policy which is transparent and fair and inspired above all by the values of Jesus. To this end, and to support the attitude to learning of all our pupils throughout the entire school, we have developed our Emmaus Centre, a well-resourced, positive behaviour provision, as a means to helping individual students reflect more deeply on the choices they have made and begin to find their way again. Its ethos lies within the vision of the school as a whole: namely, that every pupil can be successful.

It is our intention at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College that our school remains a place free of all disruption and discourtesy of any kind and where all our young people come to a fuller knowledge of their own true worth and potential.
The school is incredibly quiet and so clean. The pupils are so polite.

Visiting primary school teacher
Our faith and values are part of everyday life here at Cardinal Wiseman as we create a positive and caring environment in which we celebrate the qualities of each individual and the essential goodness of each person.

Our pupils play a vital role in developing their own faith, throughout opportunities during the school year, ranging from whole school and community masses to leading assemblies.

Our Lay Chaplains guide our pupils, helping to ensure they receive chances to celebrate their faith. This can be through visits to retreat centres such as Alton Castle or the numerous charity events that pupils run.

Through this important work our pupils learn to appreciate and respect themselves, their community and the beliefs and cultures of others. Our pupils know that we all belong in this world that we share and we are born to be good and wonderful people.
There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28
We know that our pupils are fantastic in so many ways. In class they want to learn and ask clever questions.

At break and lunchtime they show care for one another and the school environment. They are passionate about developing the school. They are responsible and great ambassadors to Cardinal Wiseman when they work with local primary schools and the local community. We are proud of our students.
“Students show respect for each other and their teachers, and enjoy school life.”

Ofsted 2013
Our message to our pupils is clear - they have no limits to their potential to achieve and be successful. As a school we are always looking for that light bulb moment where that potential can be unlocked and then nurtured over time. What we are searching for goes beyond the academic, as we aim to develop the whole child.

Knowing what our pupils are interested in is very important to us. This information is used to shape our extra-curricular programme of activities. There is a range of exciting opportunities offered to our pupils that enhance the school experience: performing in the school choir or production, overseas trips, visits to museums and art galleries, theatre trips…

We make our pupils aim high so they give themselves the best possible chances in life. We guide and support them throughout the school year to enable the right choices to be made at every step of their school lives. The aim is to make the ‘right choice’ to allow future success and fulfilment. For many, the right choice is to opt to study in sixth form and then go on to university. For others, it may be an apprenticeship and then employment. Above all, for everyone, we aspire for greatness.
Aspire not to have more but to be more.

Archbishop Oscar Romero
Successful students

Being a successful person is about more than exam results; it’s about courage, resilience, commitment and responsibility.

Wonderful people don’t happen by accident: they have to practice! So our pupils are given every opportunity to show great leadership qualities in the local community. Our pupils are able to progress on their chosen paths in life and we have ex-pupils studying at the best universities in the country, undertaking apprenticeships with leading businesses, training in such varied courses as horticulture at Birmingham’s Botanical Gardens and fashion design in London.

In the words of our school hymn, ‘Together we go forward in faith.’
We look forward to welcoming your child to our school.
Students work well together in lessons. They understand that others may have views different from their own and show a high degree of respect when this occurs.

Ofsted 2013
Dear parents, I am delighted to welcome you to our school. Our distinct Catholic nature means that we see every child as a unique and precious creation of God and that it is our duty and privilege to teach them not only lessons in Maths and English but lessons in Values. We teach our pupils to be compassionate towards others, especially the less fortunate; and loving by their just actions and forgiving words; to be grateful for their own gifts, for the gift of all other people, and for the blessings of each day; and generous with their gifts, becoming men and women for others. We teach them to be learned, finding God in all things; and wise in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

We are a school that believes in excellence for all. Our mission statement is ‘Forward in Faith’ and we join our pupils on their life journey, at whatever stage they are, and take them forward to be the best learner they can be in all aspects of their life.

We value personal excellence and support our pupils to achieve it. At Cardinal Wiseman that means our pupils are challenged to be responsible, caring and kind and supported to be hardworking scholars who achieve exceptional exam success. Their many talents will be nurtured so that they can excel and move forward in confidence.

Every day I witness the dedication, hard work and determination of the staff here to progress our pupils in every way. Our staff love the work that they do and want to make a difference, and at Cardinal Wiseman that happens. I hear from our many visitors about how much they have enjoyed meeting our pupils and how impressed they are by them. It doesn’t surprise me at all: I know they are exceptional and it is our privilege here to give each individual child all that they need to develop their exceptional talents in whatever direction they choose.

This is an exciting place in which to learn and an exciting place to grow up. You know your child better than anyone else and are looking for the school that suits them and will match their needs.

I hope that your visit to the school gives you a sense of what every day is like at Cardinal Wiseman so that you are able to make the best decision for your son or daughter.

“Cardinal Wiseman is a GOOD Catholic School with OUSTANDING features” – Section 48 Inspection Nov 2013

Mrs Christina Stewardson
Head teacher
The English Department

We aim for all pupils to be articulate, confident speakers; thoughtful and intelligent listeners with superb expertise in reading and writing.

The English Department at Cardinal Wiseman focuses on establishing and extending our pupils communication and literacy skills through reading, writing, and speaking activities. At Key Stage 3, pupils consolidate and improve their ability to write and respond to a variety of texts. This prepares them for Key Stage 4, where there is a strong emphasis on developing analytical capacity when reading; structure and cohesion in writing; and confidence and clarity in spoken language. Pupils are exposed to a range of literature, and learn to reflect on how concepts and values are presented and explored through different language techniques and styles. Pupils will develop an appreciation for poetry and literature within an innovative, safe and positive environment that will allow students to take risks. Pupils will develop further their communicative skills through exposure to film, theatre and the arts through enrichment. Lessons make regular use of the library and of computers for word processing and research purposes. Currently, pupils are entered for GCSEs with the Edexcel exam board in English Language and English Literature.

The Mathematics Department

We aim to develop the deep thinkers and quick minds of the future – the next mathematical geniuses!

Mathematics is a key skill used in everyday life. It is important that all pupils are encouraged to develop their skills in number, algebra, geometry, statistics and problem solving. All pupils are set challenging targets and our experienced staff aim to develop each pupil’s confidence, reasoning and communication to achieve these targets.

In Key Stage 3 we aim to expand pupil knowledge of Mathematics, not just finding a method to solve a problem but developing their understanding of the processes needed and how these skills can be transferred. Pupils develop the confidence to solve unfamiliar problems and understand the importance of Mathematics and its application in the real world.

This provides the foundations for Key Stage 4 which pupils begin in Year 9. Pupils follow the Edexcel syllabus, a linear course at either foundation or higher level. Each pupil will sit three exams; two calculator papers and one non-calculator paper.

The Mathematics department strives to maximise every individual’s academic and personal potential. Pupils are thus encouraged to speak to staff when they require extra help. Additionally, break-time drop-in sessions are available daily.
The Science Department

*We encourage speculation, creative thought and thorough analysis of evidence to create rigorous scholars.*

The Science department provides an exciting, innovative and engaging approach to active learning for our pupils at Cardinal Wiseman. Pupils learn through investigative practical approaches, allowing them to discover and investigate the scientific world around them.

The department is well equipped with five newly refurbished laboratories, all with wireless internet access and the use of a visualizer. Two of the laboratories are equipped with Interactive White Boards (IWB). There are also two preparation rooms operated by 2 laboratory technicians.

We teach the KS3 National Curriculum in Years 7 & 8. In year 9 pupils begin GCSE study. They either go on to study 3 separate sciences or GCSE Core and Additional Science. All science lessons are based on scientific enquiry and the development of practical skills.

The Spanish Department (Departamento de español).

*We are developing the diplomats and business leaders of the future – fluent and confident in a foreign tongue.*

The Spanish department offers a rich and exciting curriculum which aims to equip pupils with knowledge of the language as well as the culture of the Hispanic world. We achieve this through authentic teaching resources, interactive learning strategies and pupil projects, such as plays and day trips, which allow them to explore real-life contexts with a focus on the four key language skills; speaking, listening, reading and writing.

The Spanish assistant provides intense language sessions. This unique opportunity allows pupils to practise their Spanish with a native speaker in small groups. Furthermore, we have established a “pen-pal” relationship with a school in the Canary Islands which allows the pupils to write to “real” Spanish people of their own age which provides opportunities to broaden cultural horizons and gives our students a view of life from a different perspective.
The Geography Department

We see Geography as an essential subject for all highly educated citizens of the world.

Pupils in Key Stage Three follow a carefully designed programme to suit the new National Curriculum. It covers such diverse topics as disasters, development and ecosystems. Each pupil will complete a Home Learning Project in Year Seven and Year Eight. Our curriculum aims to offer opportunities for varied learning within the class and enriching out of class learning experiences (such as fieldwork, creative design and role play).

GCSE Geography is offered as an option at the end of Year Eight. GCSE pupils study for three years and currently undertake the OCR B specification. Key Stage Four pupils have three lessons each week and will be offered the opportunity to participate in fieldwork and further out of class learning. GCSE Geography is a well-regarded qualification at schools and Sixth Form colleges and a must have for pupils wishing to study A level Geography and beyond.

History Department

We develop our pupils to have enquiring minds – learning the lessons from history to build a better future.

At Key Stage 3, History is taught for 2 x 50 minute lessons per week. Pupils study key topics from the past, ranging from life in Britain during the Middle Ages to the impact that the Blitz had upon the British home-front during World War Two.

At Key Stage 4, History is a very popular option choice. The specification taught is OCR Schools History Project, and is completed over 3 years. Pupils study an introductory skills unit on the First World War, Medicine through time and Germany under the Nazis, as well as a Controlled Assessment Unit. GCSE History is a well-respected qualification and equips pupils with many of the important skills needed for post-16.

Detailed schemes of work exist for all study units, which seek to emphasise the development of key skills and a varied approach to teaching and learning. Pupils enjoy their lessons, and form strong bonds with their teachers.

In the History department we also believe in the importance of providing extra-curricular enrichment opportunities for our pupils. Above is an image from our most recent trip to Belgium, exploring the battlefields of World War One, which was a very poignant experience for our pupils.
The RE Department.

*Within the RE department we strive for educational excellence whilst allowing our students to move forward in their faith journey.*

All pupils study RE from year 7 to 11. The first term is spent studying an ‘Induction topic’ which introduces them to the Catholic ethos of the college and there is a strong emphasis on learning about who Jesus is. Pupils enjoy mass in the college chapel as a class during the term. Further year 7 topics include the Bible and the Mass.

At the start of year 9 pupils begin RE at KS4. We follow the Edexcel GCSE course. The pupils study two units. The first unit is Religion and Life- Catholic Christianity. This unit answers many of the big questions in life, such as; is God real? Why do people suffer? When does life begin and end? Pupils find this unit extremely engaging and always have lots of opinions and points to share and discuss. The second unit is Religion and Society. This unit looks at many problems society faces today such as war, crime, medical ethics and human rights and what role religion has to play in these issues.

The Physical Education Department.

*‘Developing the Olympic superstars of the future.’*

We pride ourselves in delivering an engaging curriculum which offers opportunities in a range of traditional and non-traditional sports, whilst also providing positive experiences in a variety of physical activities. We strive to create confident individuals who enjoy being physically active and understand the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle.

We have a range of facilities on site including a sports hall, 20m swimming pool, large sports field for football, rounders and athletics, 3 basketball cages and a dance studio which is new for September 2015.

The PE department not only supports pupils to improve practical skills but nurtures key attributes including the independent learning skills, ability to lead, analyse performance, observe, and feedback information.

We deliver enjoyable and innovative lessons where pupils learn the importance of good sportsmanship while doing their best to succeed in line with catholic values and ethos.

We provide extra-curricular opportunities as well as intra-school competitions in various sports and activities and also compete in a number of local schools competitions each year.
The Music Department.

The Music department provides all pupils with the opportunity to learn to sing and/or play an instrument and develop a love for music through performing, composing and appraising.

In years 7 & 8 pupils, have one period of music a week where they listen, perform and compose music from a variety of times and places using different instruments. In addition particular emphasis is placed upon vocal skills and music technology as the department has a set of 16 Apple computers. At Key Stage 4 pupils can go on to study the Edexcel BTEC First Award in Music or GCSE Music.

Pupils also have the opportunity to learn to play instruments taught by a team of staff from Birmingham Music Service. Pupils currently learn brass, string and woodwind instruments, along with drum kit, guitar, and steel pans. A variety of extra-curricular activities also take place such as our school show in February. We also host an area band that is open to budding instrumentalists from local schools and have a choir called ‘Faith’ that rehearses after school each week. The choir regularly performs both in and outside of school and plays a central role in the school’s liturgical life. The choir has also performed to the senior citizens of the Maryvale Community Project, worked with choirs in our local Catholic primary schools and performed at a number of other venues such as Bishop Walsh Catholic School and Sutton Coldfield Town Hall.

The Drama Department.

Drama provides pupils with the opportunity to rehearse, create and perform on a variety of different platforms, including performances to their peers, family and friends and the wider community.

Drama is a subject which inspires pupils to be creative and imaginative and equips pupils with key life skills. In year 7 and 8 pupils will have one lesson of Drama a week. In Key Stage 3 Drama lessons, pupils will learn how Drama is created, including the acting and staging skills that are needed to put a piece of drama on the stage; how to create characters and play characters in performance; and learn many skills that are highly valued in any walk of life including teamwork and confidently presenting yourself in public. In years 9, 10 and 11 pupils have the opportunity to take a GCSE qualification in Drama.
The Computing Department

Cracking the code that will create the new technologies of tomorrow!

The Computing Department has two networked computers rooms, each containing 30 computers.

The aim of the Computing curriculum in years 7 and 8 is to develop confident digital citizens who understand the power of their digital world. As well as how to keep themselves safe online in the modern world, it uses accessible, challenging and engaging projects that empower students and promotes the productive use of Coding Skills.

All students in years 9, 10 and 11 study a Computing course following the National curriculum requirements. In addition Computing is studied as an option following the OCR GCSE Computing (J257) course.

The Department also offers a comprehensive GCSE Business Studies course as a separate option.

Computers in the school are available for use after school. Pupils also have access to the School’s Google Docs system which allows them to store work on the Cloud to complete at home.

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Design and Technology

Everything around us has been designed and created by somebody. D&T is about creating the designers of the future.

Design and Technology is a thriving department which challenges pupil’s creativity, imagination and increases their practical skill set to improve their quality of life. The Design & Technology Faculty is made up of three subjects; Art and Design, Food technology/Catering and Resistant Materials Technology. All pupils have the opportunity to experience all of the subjects and have the opportunity to opt for qualifications at Key Stage 4.

Art and Design

In Art lessons pupils develop ideas inspired by contemporary and historical, personal and cultural contexts. Displays in our large and well equipped Art rooms provide a stimulating environment in which to develop creative thinking.

Pupils work from observation, experience and imagination, on practical projects in which they will learn to think creatively and develop their skills using different media, techniques and processes including multimedia. In addition to lessons, opportunities exist to work with visiting artists.
Food Technology / Catering

In Food Technology lessons, pupils get to combine practical and theoretical elements of food including producing products such as cakes, pastas, jam, breads etc. Pupils learn about:

- Classification of food materials, such as starch, sugar, protein, fats etc. – an important skill for keeping a healthy balance in day-to-day life;
- Understanding of the working characteristics of food materials and understanding of the way food components are specified on packaging – e.g. weight and volume;
- Analysing food components available in a variety of forms – e.g. fresh, frozen, liquid etc.;
- Development and understanding of the source of basic foods and the primary processes involved in conversion to workable materials;
- The design process of creating a new product.

Resistant Materials Technology

The subject aims to teach pupils to understand the designing and making of products from resistant materials through practical activities, and in doing so develop confident problem solving techniques and an understanding of tools, equipment and processes.

At Key Stage 3 pupils learn the fundamental processes in shaping wood and plastic. We also consider the development of design from both aesthetic and functional perspective. With the aid of the schools Laser cutter all students are taught basic CAD/CAM skills and are able to produce quality products.

At Key Stage 4 pupils learn the further development of technical and industrial processes, product research, description, user’s wants and needs, product development, the joining and forming of resistant materials and evaluating. KS4 pupils research and develop two projects; Educational toys and an item of Personal interest.

Challenge Curriculum (Years 7 and 8)

We develop a love of learning which challenges our pupils and enables them to succeed.

The Challenge Curriculum is a unique curriculum to Cardinal Wiseman which enables pupils to choose an additional subject which they are passionate about. Pupils are stretched and challenged in smaller class sizes leading to great results which they are required to exhibit and/or present to their parents throughout the year. The choice of subjects changes from year to year. Here are some of the subjects that have been offered recently: Theatre Skills, Environmental Studies, Dance, Philosophy for Children, Musical Performance, French, Sport (Tchoukball) and Creative Writing.
Behaviour for learning.

“Students’ attitudes to behaviour are good. They are consistently positive about their learning and this is, combined with improved teaching, is having a good impact on the progress they are now making in lessons.” Inspection – April 2014

At Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College we recognise that all pupils want to learn in an environment which is calm, stimulating and secure. For this reason, and because we believe that each individual member of our school is worthy of a profound respect, we promote the highest expectations of personal behaviour and conduct.

It is in justice to all our pupils, parents and staff that we consistently work towards a behaviour policy which is transparent and fair and inspired above all by the values of the Gospel. To this end, and to support the attitude to learning of all our pupils throughout the entire school, we have developed our Emmaus Centre, a positive behaviour provision, as a means to helping individual and groups of pupils reflect more deeply on the choices they make. Its ethos lies within the vision of the school as a whole; namely, that every pupil can be successful.

It is our ambition at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College that our school remains a place free of all disruption and discourtesy of any kind and where all our young people can come to a fuller knowledge of their own true worth and potential.

Learning Support

Reading and writing are ways of thinking, living and working on paper. Learning to read and write… are ways of changing the way we think, extending the way we are becoming more.

All pupils at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College are valued as unique and special and all are welcome within our inclusive school. There are some pupils who will benefit from some additional support with their learning, to enhance essential literacy or numeracy skills in particular, and this may be through individual or small-group withdrawal work in the Learning Support Centre.

Communication of all issues relating to SEN is clear, extensive & discrete, sensitive to the needs & wishes of our pupils & parents & readily accessible through our advanced & comprehensive use of ICT.

Adhering to the DfE’s Revised Code of Practice and in collaboration with our support network within the Local Education Authority, pupils with SEN experience the help they receive in a truly positive light and are consistently guided towards achieving their fullest potential across the curriculum.
The Spiritual Life of the School

Our school mission statement "Forward in Faith" emphasises the importance of our faith and values as being an integral part of the everyday life of the school. Mass is celebrated weekly as the summit of all our efforts to enable our pupils to grow in faith and love. Throughout the year there are many events which give our pupils the chance to develop their spiritual lives.

These are led by our team of lay chaplains, each of which works with a year group to prepare class Mass, House and year group assemblies. Our school Chaplaincy group also assists in preparing Mass and other liturgies. In addition to this many charitable activities are also undertaken. Our priestly chaplain is Fr Eamonn Corduff, Parish Priest of Christ the King in Kingstanding, who joins us weekly to celebrate Mass. We are also fortunate to be situated adjacent to the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, and Father Eamonn kindly allows us to use the church for whole school celebrations and joint liturgies with our Catholic feeder primary schools.

We also have the opportunity to attend the diocesan pastoral centres such as Savio House, Alton Castle and others, which provide programmes of outdoor activities alongside time for reflection and prayer. Pupils in Year 11 also have the opportunity to visit Taize in France, following their exams in the summer. Part of the Spiritual development of our pupils involves an awareness of the needs of others. To develop our pupils engage in a variety of fundraising activities during Advent and Lent. Thousands of pounds have been raised through various sponsored events and pupil driven initiatives.
Enrichment Activities and House Competitions

There is a wealth of opportunity for learning experiences beyond the normal curriculum. Here are some examples of the different activities that we provide.

Birmingham Catholic Secondary Schools Event – our pupils participate in a range of events and competitions with pupils from other schools in Birmingham including debating, swimming, performing arts evenings, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) events and Maths Challenges to name a few.

Our Physical Education Department offer a wide range of sporting activities through their expanding enrichment programme. There are competitive individual and team sports such as athletics, football, netball and basketball. There are also other activities based around participation for all such as table tennis, fitness, dance, gymnastics, swimming and archery.

The Drama and Music Department, alongside Dance provide many opportunities for students to enhance their performance skills which create pupils who continually grow in confidence and are proud to share their talent with others by performing in public, assemblies and in school productions.

The Art Department capture the creativity of our pupils, there are reams of fabulous art work proudly displayed across our school.

The ICT Departments enrichment opportunity develops the pupil’s ability to use the latest technology software and engages pupil’s in computer games programming.

Debatemate is a national debating competition for all year groups. Our pupils have had great success in confidently debating topical issues at local and national level. They were winners in the national Debatemate competition 2014 and they were invited to question MPs at Westminster in London.

History, Geography, RE and the Maths Departments also provide enrichment opportunities which consolidate existing skills and knowledge in an environment that is fun, challenging and engaging.

We promote healthy competition across the school with our House System. All pupils represent their house group which helps to develop a team spirit. We hold a series of house competitions throughout the year ranging from Maths Challenges to Dance Competitions to Sports Day.
Educational Visits and Trips

Many educational visits take place every year at various times, to a diverse range of locations. Highlights in the calendar are the Geography trip to visit Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius and the History visit to World War I sites in Belgium and France. Other specialist trips aimed to educate, inspire and provide new experiences for our pupils include the following:

- Retreats to numerous pastoral centres including Savio House and Alton Castle
- Year 11 retreat to Taize in France.
- Trips to Oxford University for the most able pupils
- a visit to the British Science Festival at Birmingham University for the most able Scientists
- an educational visit to the space centre in Leicester
- a year 7 concert at Symphony Hall in the International Convention Centre, Birmingham and a tour of the new Library of Birmingham.
- Various Rewards Trips around the county that enrich the lives of our pupils.

We feel so strongly that all pupils deserve the opportunity to have their lives enriched with a variety of different opportunities and activities that we have designed with our pupils a Student Pledge (see overleaf) consisting of 15 things that pupils should do before leaving the school.
Pupil Pledge

Things you should do before leaving school …

1. Take part in a residential trip.
2. Take part in charity work or a fundraising activity.
3. Take on a leadership role.
4. Help to make a change in your community.
5. Visit an art gallery/museum.
6. See a production at a theatre or attend a concert.
7. Attend a regional/national sporting event.
8. Take part in a performance.
9. Take part in a liturgy.
10. See the sea.
11. Climb a mountain.
12. Represent your house.
13. Represent your school.
15. Visit a place of further or higher education.