



*The Catenians*

*Strengthening family life  
through friendship and faith*

## DRAFT ARTICLE FOR CATHOLIC TODAY

### Working with the Young Catholic Adults of Tomorrow

To help pupils cope with the ever increasing demands of today's competitive market for jobs and college places, two local Catenian groups in the Solihull area have combined to help Sixth Formers in local Catholic Schools prepare for life beyond school.

Volunteers from the North Warwickshire and Solihull Circles of The Catenian Association delivered Employability Skills workshops and briefings and provided Practice Interviews to over 100 secondary school pupils at St Peter's Catholic School in Solihull and Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School in Acock's Green, Birmingham.



Sixth Formers at Archbishop Ilsley

They also provided in-depth Practice Interviews, feedback and coaching to pupils at both schools who applied to Oxford and Cambridge Universities and Medical Schools, which the students said they found very useful and which in some cases may have helped the pupils get one of these very competitive university places.

The Catenian Association is a Catholic Men's Organisation founded in 1908 and enthusiastically endorsed at the time by Bishop Casartelli in Salford, which today has over 10,500 members in four Continents. Its logo features the words "Family, Friendship and Faith" to which the word "Fun" should realistically be added, and one of its main aims is to help Catholic Youth.



**St Peter's Catholic School**  
A Specialist Science College



**ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY**  
**CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
*Justus et Tenax Propositi – Just and Firm of Purpose*



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The CSSI (Catenian Secondary Schools Initiative) volunteer panel covers a wide range of occupations, from a retired GP to many volunteers with extensive business and recruitment interviewing experience. Interviews largely focus on “soft” factors such as attitude, motivation and team-working as the schools provide more than adequate academic training, and these soft factors are much harder to teach and quantify.



St Peter's 6<sup>th</sup> Formers

The Head Teacher of St Peter's said *"Thank you again to you and your team for giving up your time to support our pupils make the next steps in their career journeys. I hope we can work together again in the future."*

The Head of Careers at Archbishop Ilsley said *"Thank you so much for all of the help and support you have given and continue to give to our students" and "The pupils have all said how much they appreciate the advice and guidance you have given them"*.

You can find out more about both The Catenians and our work with local schools (and download many useful free documents on Employability Skills) at:

<http://northwarwickshirecatenian.com/index.php/catenian-secondary-schools-initiative/>

or please contact the CSSI Organiser, Tom Brassil at [tgbrassil@aol.com](mailto:tgbrassil@aol.com)



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