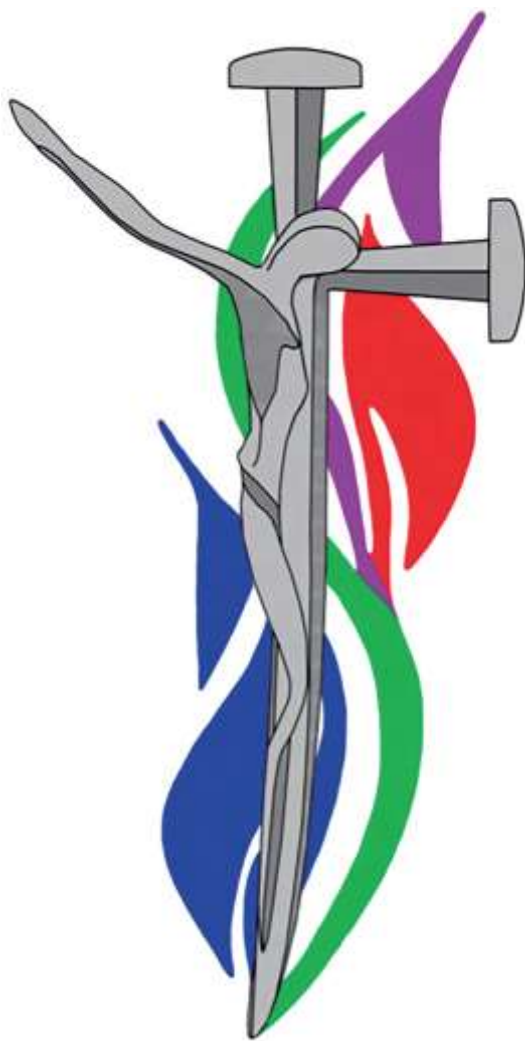


Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

2021



Achieving together in faith



Achieving together in faith



**To all Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors
and Directors
at Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy
Company Schools**

As the 2020/21 academic year ends we reflect on the very challenging last twelve months and the impact of Covid-19 on all of our schools. Although schools have overcome significant challenges since the start of the pandemic school leaders continue to manage the daily Covid issues and sadly we were unable to celebrate our planned "Thank You" mass recently.

Once again, the Board of Directors would like to thank all the staff and Governors for the support they have given to our pupils. We could never have envisaged that this year would present us with so many more uncertainties, changes and challenges. Teachers, staff, pupils and parents have shown such resilience in managing the difficulties and confusion which Covid-19 brought about. A particularly big thank you to the Head Teachers, Leadership Teams and Central MAC staff who have led us through this year.

The Board of Directors continue to place the pupils and staff at the heart of every decision we make and every action we take, and it has never been more important for schools to work together as part of the Holy Cross Catholic MAC to address the issues collaboratively. Despite the challenges from Covid-19 there have been many successes and achievements throughout the year some of which are referred to in this Newsletter. Our school websites celebrate lots of the wonderful achievements of our young people, staff and school communities.

There are many other developments which are planned for the new academic year both within our schools and across the MAC and we hope and pray that moving forward schools will soon be able to return to their usual routines and classroom-based learning.

We wish all our pupils and staff who are leaving us at the end of this academic year all the best for the future. As always, we particularly keep in our prayers those that are ill or have died especially members of our family, friends and colleagues of those within our school communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our all our young people and their parents for their hard work, patience and support during a very challenging school year and I hope that you all have a relaxing, safe and restful summer holiday.



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To all staff, we are extremely grateful for your support for our children and their families during these unprecedented times, everyone has played their part; Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Learning Mentors, Chaplains, Nursery staff, Finance staff, Admin staff, DRAs, Cleaners, Site Service Officers, Catering Staff, HR staff, ICT staff, the Central Team, our external suppliers and our Leadership Teams.

I would also like to thank all the Governors and Directors for their time in supporting Catholic education within the MAC during this difficult time and look forward to continuing working in partnership with you in 2021-22.

We hope that everyone who is part of our MAC community will enjoy a well-earned, peaceful, safe and happy summer break. I look forward to welcoming you back in the new academic year, achieving together in faith as we pray for a speedy end to the pandemic.



Holy Cross of Jesus, be our hope.

John Teahan

Chair, Board of Directors



Achieving together in faith



Dear Staff, Parents and Carers, Governors and Directors

As we come to the end of an unforgettable academic year where we have faced numerous challenges we look forward to the opportunity for rest and relaxation and quality time with our family and friends. Although the academic year has been immensely challenging for everyone we have been amazed at the way all members of our school communities have responded.

I would like to pay tribute to the children and young people across our family of schools who have been remarkable in their attitudes and efforts since returning to school full time in September. They have been patient, thoughtful and understanding – a credit to their families and a lesson to us all. They have had to cope with a great many changes and uncertainties and they have done so with fortitude and resilience. Everyone in the MAC is very proud of them and we hope they get a good break over the holiday.

Although the government has now announced its plans for the Step 4 lifting of restrictions we are still experiencing a number of positive cases in our schools. As we know with this pandemic, it is very difficult to make future decisions and the arrangements for the new term will be confirmed in writing to parents and carers towards the end of the holiday when headteachers will write to parents with the final arrangements for the start of the new school year.

Since September our guiding principles have been to keep our schools open and our staff and pupils safe and happy. It has been very important to keep schools as normal as possible for the children, at a time of unprecedented challenge.

I would like to thank all the staff who have worked so hard and supported one another, not just in their school but across the MAC. It is at times of challenge that we really appreciate the support of our friends and family, and the support we have gained from working together as a family of schools has made a huge difference.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for your support, patience and understanding. We have been overwhelmed by the many messages of support and thanks received across our schools and hope we have been able to resolve issues quickly for people when they have arisen. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter but we know we still have challenges ahead of us and we will need to remain vigilant and careful in the meantime.



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The partnership between parents/carers and schools has never been as important as it is now and it is up to all of us to make sure it remains strong and mutually supportive.

During the summer holiday we will continually monitor the published guidance and will notify you of any changes before the start of the new school year. Whilst we all look forward to some normality, I also appreciate that for some pupils and their parents, these changes may bring uncertainty and some anxiety. If you have any concerns or questions please contact your child's school who will be answer school specific questions and offer any appropriate support if needed.

A couple of weeks ago we had national "Thank You Day". It was about saying "thank you" to all of those in our lives and communities who have helped us through the last 17 months. We all have someone to say "Thank you" to this year and we had planned to have a Thank You Mass for our school communities to recognise all those who have helped us over the last 18 months. Unfortunately, due to the increasing number of positive cases across Coventry we made the decision to postpone the mass until a safer time.

I would like to thank all the children, staff, Governors, Directors and parents and carers for their shared effort and support in helping to keep our school communities safe by adapting to the changes that have been made to the everyday running of the school. We have frequently needed to react at very short notice to the latest guidance and have appreciated the adaptability and flexibility that everyone has shown in an everchanging environment.

The relaxing of restrictions enables the disruption of the education of our children and young people to be reduced. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, mental and physical health, and life chances, but I am confident of the success of our catch-up plans for our students, and look forward to seeing their progress in the new academic year.

At the end of the academic year we say goodbye to staff who are leaving us and thank them for their contribution to our schools and their dedicated service to our communities. We wish them every success, good health and happiness in the future. We also wish every success and happiness to Years 6, 11 and 13 as they all prepare for the next phase in their educational journey or the start of employment.

On behalf of everyone at the Holy Cross Catholic MAC, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a peaceful, happy and relaxing summer holiday and we pray that in September we can begin our new academic year with normal schools' systems and routines.



Holy Cross of Jesus be our hope.

Marina Kelly

Catholic Senior Executive Leader



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Way of the Cross



The Coventry Cross of Nails represents Coventry as a city that has Peace, Justice and Reconciliation at its heart. These are fundamental values that our young people need, not only to be safe at school, but to enable them to make better choices throughout their lives and to have the ability to manage challenges they will face when they leave school.



However the Holy Cross is also a symbol of love, hope, triumph and salvation and we wear it as a sign of our faith.

The **Way of the Cross** is a faith-based journey from 4 to 19 that will help our pupils enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development through participation in school, parish, National and Global activities. It will explain how each of our young people can make a positive contribution, not only to their school and their parish and community, but also to national and international issues as they grow in a challenging, exciting and changing world that is often divided by conflict.

The journey will inspire our pupils and whole school communities to understand how they can aspire to always do their best and be the best people they can be and how they are made for greatness – inspired by Christ and his journey to the Cross.

Our commitment to our young people and their families is to provide an exceptional Catholic education based on the seven Holy Cross characteristics, as well as an outstanding school experience from 4 to 19.

By the time our young people leave our schools they will have begun to understand what God is calling them to do and the seven ways they are committing to be:

Holy Cross Characteristics	Our Commitments
Equal and inclusive	<i>I will respect and appreciate the rich variety of people and cultures</i>
Active members of a catholic community	<i>I will participate in my parish and local community</i>
People of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation	<i>I will defend and promote the rights of all people</i>
Responsive to God's calling	<i>I will hear God's call to know him and to love him</i>
Global citizens	<i>I will strive to understand the wider world and the wonder of it</i>
Charitable and caring	<i>I will try hard to make things better for others</i>
Stewards of our planet	<i>I will work to make our planet more peaceful, more sustainable and fairer</i>

Developing the Way of the Cross for our Young People

Seven Areas of Focus for 2021 – 2022

Schools will work collaboratively with our pupils to support the development of the 7 characteristics of the Holy Cross pupil.

Initially the following activities have been identified to support the development of the Way of the Cross characteristics:

1. Stations of the Cross and Devotion to the Cross (Responding to God's calling)



As part of the faith development of our young people, all pupils who attend a Holy Cross school will have the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of the Stations of the Cross through a series of planned activities throughout the year and particularly during Lent.

2. ICON Schools (Global Citizens)

All schools will show their commitment to the Coventry Cross of Nails by applying for International Cross of Nails Schools status (ICONS). By completing this application schools will demonstrate their commitment to developing and embracing the three themes of the Coventry Cross of Nails with their school communities. These are:



- Healing the wounds of history
- Living with difference and celebrating diversity
- Building a culture of peace.

3. Peace Prayer Gardens & Coventry Peace Award (People of Peace and Justice)



All schools will show their commitment to peace and reconciliation by applying for the Coventry Peace Award. In addition, all schools will have a Peace Prayer Garden on their school site which will include a Peace Pole, a Normandy apple tree and a remembrance area.

The planting of peace poles started in Japan in 1976 and are an internationally recognised symbol for peace and the Normandy apple tree is reminder of the events of 1944 when Allied troops landed on the Normandy beaches close to the orchards. Our dear friend Dennis Davison, former World War II veteran who landed on the beaches in 1944 introduced the apple trees as part of the work he did with young people developing the importance of peace in their lives.

4. Eco Schools (Stewards of our planet)



In line with Pope Francis' call for us all to become stewards of our planet Holy Cross schools will all apply for Eco Schools Awards. To support this process all schools will have their own Eco Group and there will be a joint school meeting termly as well as an annual MAC Eco Conference where pupils from across our schools will have the opportunity to collaborate on environmental projects.

5. Celebrating equality and diversity annual event - (Equal and Inclusive)



The Holy Cross Catholic MAC is planning to have an annual event to celebrate the faith and cultures represented across our school communities. All schools will be represented at the event which is currently planned to take place at the Albany Theatre in April 2022. Further details to follow.

6. Termly collaborative support for charity (Charitable and Caring)



Over the next academic year our schools will continue to support local, national and international charities with a variety of fundraising activities. Pupils will have the opportunity to work collaboratively to raise money across the MAC for their chosen good causes as well as continuing to work on their own chosen charity events

7. School presence in Parish Communities (Active members of a catholic community)

One of the Holy Cross Catholic MAC key priorities for the next academic year is to improve links between our schools and their Parish communities to support spiritual growth of our young people. Schools will liaise with their local Parish Priest to identify how they can:

- Develop further links with local Parish Groups
- Take a more active role in the Parish
- Support the preparation and planning of liturgical events throughout the year



St Elizabeth's



Christ the King



St Augustine's



Holy Family



St Thomas More



St John Vianney

Our school's Parish Churches

News from Our Schools



Christ the King Catholic Primary School



A Right Royal Visit

Year 6 pupils at Christ the King Catholic Primary School were happy to meet The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall at Coventry Cathedral.

Prince Charles and Camilla visited the city on Tuesday (25 May) at the beginning of the launch for the City of Culture.

The pupils were in the right place at the right time as they were on a school trip to the cathedral.

Olympic Torch

In June, as part of the lead up to the Tokyo Olympics Christ the King pupils took part in a friendship relay The Olympic Torch from the 2012 games arrived at Christ the King from Parkgate Primary School and 6 pupils from Year 6 were selected at random from a draw to run the next leg of the relay to their new friends at Sherbourne Fields School.



Year 5 Residential at Alton Castle

Year 5 Christ the King Catholic Primary School pupils thoroughly enjoyed attending a three-day residential visit to Alton Castle in the summer term. The focus of the retreat was Discipleship.

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

50th Anniversary Celebrations



This year St. Augustine's have celebrated the 50th anniversary of the school opening. Although it was not what we had planned, it was definitely something to remember. It was a day full of celebrating, sharing memories and reminiscing!

We delved into the history of our school. The day started with a virtual mass in celebration of our school community. The school created a museum filled with pictures throughout the years, newspapers, registers, letters and facts that each year group had researched. There were virtual interviews with past pupils, staff and even a past headteacher! Time capsules were made by each child and buried in the school peace garden, and the day ended with a picnic and games played from the last 50 years together with a bit of a boogie to music through the decades!

This day reminded the school community about how special St. Augustine's school is and how together, they are filled with joy, happiness and friendship to last a lifetime.

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School at the Opening of the Rose Garden

The opening of a COVID memorial garden – made up of four new rose beds – was attended by pupils from two of our schools, Cardinal Newman and St Elizabeth's. The rose garden was officially opened in Coventry's War Memorial Park to remember all those who lost their lives during the pandemic and to mark the UK City of Culture year.



The opening was attended by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Col George Marsh and Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor John Mc Nicholas who made speeches and unveiled the plaque.

Coventry Memorial Park,
14th June 2021.

The Master of Coventry Freemans Guild also attended and Fr Teddy from Our Lady of the Angels, Princethorpe, and Fr Moses from St Elizabeth's, shared their thoughts with the families who have been touched by the sad loss of loved ones.



On behalf of the Godiva Trust, Lady Godiva, Pru Porretta MBE, remembered all those who have been loved and lost during the Covid-19 pandemic. Each rose is a fragrant reminder of their lives.



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

Sporting Involvement in Summer 2021

Although 2021 proved to be a challenging year for inter-school competitive sport, St John Vianney enjoyed successes in the Summer term including:

- Success at the first 'live' event for 18 months which was the boys and girls cross-country for Year 6 children hosted by Cardinal Wiseman. Fifteen Catholic schools took part in the event and St John Vianney girls dominated their race achieving 1st, 2nd and 3rd places to secure victory in the girl's race. Another impressive run from the boys saw them finish second in their race. These fantastic displays by both teams saw SJV finish second overall.
- St John Vianney organised a football rally at the AT7 centre for east and west Catholic schools.
- St Augustine organised a Hi-Five netball rally at Bishop Ullathorne where SJV finished 4th from 9 schools.
- The Blue-Ribbon event of each year is the Catholic Sports Athletics event held at Warwick University organised by Good Shepherd. This event comprises of six track and field disciplines for both girls and boys and is contested by all 18 catholic schools in the city.



After some truly stunning performances St John Vianney triumphed and won the Catholic Sports Athletics trophy which proved to be a fitting end to the year! A fantastic achievement for the Year 5 & Year 6 children.

As well as the outside events that the school has enjoyed in the summer term they have also had individual classes' sports days in school, each class taking part in a sprint race and novelty race against their classmates.

Sadly, all these events have not been open to parents and relatives this year, who we are sure would have been delighted to see all the wonderful performances the children have put in. Hopefully 2021/2022 will see us back to some sort of normality.



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Olympic Torch – 30 April 2021

In April, the school was delighted to be able to pass on the Olympic Torch Flame of Friendship. A group of pupils from All Saints brought the torch to STM and were welcomed in the playground (all covid-secure, of course!) by pupils as we received the torch. They extended the hand of friendship by entertaining everyone with a song and then taught everyone a dance. The torch visited each St Thomas More class that afternoon and a team of Y3 runners from St Thomas More were joined by Dave Busst of Coventry City fame to take the torch to Grange Farm School. There, the STM team took part in a virtual assembly and taught a dance to the Grange Farm pupils. It was a joy to see pupils from across the city together in friendship and to learn of the Olympic values and the value of resilience from Dave Busst



Peace Prayer Garden – 9 July

The school have been busy planning out and preparing the area that will be transformed into a Peace Prayer Garden to supplement the already well-established Prayer Garden. A lot of the work will be done during the summer holidays.



STM does Coventry City of Culture 16 July



Children across the school have enjoyed learning all about Coventry and the culture and different cultures within our city. Artists, illustrators and authors have visited the school to talk to children and share their contributions to Coventry as a City of Culture. Children attended school dressed in Two Tone to

celebrate some of the City's music heritage children have also been invited to wear something that represents a culture they belong to. Thank you to all staff, visitors and parents for supporting our exciting learning.



Cardinal Newman Catholic School

Lunchtime never looked so good! New £4m Canteen Block at Cardinal Newman



September will see the opening of a brand new £4 million canteen block at Cardinal Newman Catholic School. Built as part of the school expansion to admit an extra 30 pupils per year, the state-of-the-art new block has 4 service points over 2 levels to cater for all pupils during break time, lunch breaks and breakfast club.

Designed by Seymour Harris architects and constructed by G F Tomlinson the new facility will be finished in August ready for a September start.

The new dining hall, includes a new, fully fitted catering kitchen and toilet facilities, as well as a mezzanine upper floor to be used by the school's older students, accessed via an internal floating staircase or accessible lift.

The new dining hall will overlook the existing playing field and will also feature an outdoor dining area which will consist of a new external terrace and elevated tiered seating built into an existing grass bank. Internally, there will be high-finish feature concrete columns and the ceiling will be fitted with domed roof lighting to allow natural light into the building.

The current dining halls, located in the Lindisfarne and Canterbury blocks will be refurbished and transformed into four new teaching classrooms, a sixth-form seminar room and a new central ICT Technicians Suite.

The scheme also involves the recently completed refurbishment of the DaVinci Science Building – including science rooms fitted with new laboratory furniture, and a technology room.

Headteacher, Ms O'Connor commented *"The school is extremely pleased to be receiving this investment. The dining hall has been beautifully designed and it puts the student at the heart of the dining experience. The additional refurbishment of the laboratories and the much-needed additional classrooms will ensure that the students are able to enjoy learning in an environment they deserve. It really is an exciting time"*.



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

Jumping for Joy!

Bishop Ullathorne is getting a brand-new Sports Hall!

As part of the temporary pupil expansion at Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School a new £1.7m 'four court' Sports Hall is being constructed.

Headteacher Chris Billings said...*"We are all incredibly excited about the prospect of a new Sports Hall at Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School. There has been no investment in new building at Bishop Ullathorne for over twenty years. This significant investment will allow us to develop our sports provision in school as well as leading to improved Performing Arts and Sixth Form facilities. This project will also allow us to come together as a whole school community more regularly for joint worship and celebration"*.

The new fully accessible Sports Hall is scheduled to open for September 2022 and will feature a main sports area as well as changing areas and toilet facilities.



Other Summer Site Development Work

Schools not out for summer!

As Holy Cross MAC has over 3000 pupils we automatically qualify for yearly capital funding rather than having to submit any bids to the government.

Over the summer we're carrying out nearly one million pounds of works across the MAC and these are the principle projects per school.

School	Capital Work Agreed
Bishop Ullathorne	A major expansion of 7 undersized maths classrooms into larger teaching areas, fire door replacements and kitchen works.
Cardinal Newman	Whilst we await confirmation of a whole school rebuild from the DFE we're still undertaking Health and Safety works as well as significant investments in ICT.
Christ the King	Significant electrical refurbishment works at Westhill Road including new LED lighting and a new Fire Alarm system as well as roofing works
St Augustine's	The total refurbishment of 3 pupil toilet areas along with significant car park resurfacing and fire door replacements. We're also replacing the flooring in the reception classrooms.
St Elizabeth's	Having already undertaken sound proofing and a reception area revamp, this summer we're improving site perimeter security with fencing adjustments and new vehicle/pedestrian entrance gates.
St John Vianney	Drainage works are being undertaken to stop playground water pooling and also a large section of roof is being replaced.
St Thomas More	A major project is underway creating zoning of internal and external areas using fencing and redecoration.



Achieving together in faith

**Thank you to all Staff Leavers
during 2020/21**

To all of the staff retiring from Holy Cross Catholic MAC schools and those moving on to opportunities elsewhere, we would like to say an enormous thank you for your service and all that you have contributed to improving the lives of children and young people in Coventry.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the future.



Bishop Ullathorne

Lisa Russell
Harpal Bains
Katie Killeen
Tamara Igodo
Emma Stonehouse
Sarah Bannigan
Jackie Dines
Bev Spencer
Mark Garrett
Nathanael Salter
Sarah Whibley
Jas Dhillon

Cardinal Newman

Martina Haggarty
Cyril Sheldon
Elizabeth Dwyer
Gillian Powney
Cassandra Hemmings
Charlotte Harris
Peter Osborn
Lucy Bassett
Alan Homer
David Riddick
Scott Thornton
Katie Emery
Stephen Knifton
Natalie Mackey
Vic Panjanaden
Edward Timmins
Samantha Caherty
David Grant
Gurpreet Thandi

Christ the King

Christine Hogan
Danielle Bowen
Caroline Molloy
Mary McCann
Noreen Quirke
Karen Rossiter
Maria Crowley
Tracey Skelly

St Thomas More

Ann Mills
Diana Hannis
Amanda Clark
Louise Winter
Anna Atkins
Claire Sandy
Ruth Brooks
Freya Bath

St John Vianney

Teresa Kantor
Lynsey Wheeldon
Andrew Glover

St Elizabeth's

Colette Windridge
Christopher Glover-King
Kylie Glover-King

St Augustine's

Helen Forrest
Lyn Linaker
Marie Power
Celina Richardson

The Diocesan Vision

In a recent Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard Longley, the Archbishop outlined the vision for the Archdiocese moving forward. More information on the Vision is available on the Diocesan website: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/vision

As we look forward to the Summer holiday we finish our newsletter with the Prayer for the Diocesan Vision and ask Our Lord to bless all members of our Holy Cross Catholic MAC and keep them safe throughout the holiday.

Prayer for the Diocesan Vision

**Spirit of God,
descend on me this day.**

**Grant me the Spirit of joy, to lift me,
the Spirit of hope to inspire me,
the Spirit of love to surround me and
the Spirit of truth to enlighten my path.**

Holy Spirit,

**I pray for a new outpouring of your grace,
so that I may grow in worship of your name
in love of you in my prayer
and in my actions towards others.**

Come Holy Spirit into my life to guide me.

**Strengthen and defend me,
so that I may be drawn ever closer to you.**

**Help me this day and always
to be a channel of grace
in all I say and do
and invite others into relationship with you.**

Amen

**Bernard Longley
Archbishop of Birmingham**