

# Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

## 2023



**HAND IN HAND WE LISTEN TO GOD'S CALL  
WE LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD AND WE  
SHARE GOD'S LOVE THROUGH SERVICE**



**KNOWLEDGE  
THROUGH THE  
LIGHT OF FAITH**

**LEARNING & GROWING  
AS GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE**



# ACHIEVING TOGETHER IN FAITH



**LEARNING, GROWING  
& PRAYING TOGETHER  
WITH CHRIST OUR KING**



**LOVE ONE ANOTHER  
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU**



**ACHIEVING OUR BEST UNLOCKING OUR POTENTIAL  
REVEALING WHO GOD WANTS US TO BE**



# Message from our Chair of the Board of Directors

**Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Directors**

Some years ago, I was able to visit Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity. There, I went down into the Grotto of the Nativity and stood in silent reverence by the silver star that is inlaid on the floor, indicating "Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus natus est." This translates as, "Here, Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary, the reason why we celebrate Christmas."



I want to wish you all some well-deserved time off to rest and enjoy the festive spirit of celebrating the birth of Christ, our Saviour, with your family, friends and the local community. I want to thank all the pupils, staff, volunteers, Governors, parents, clergy and Directors within the Holy Cross Catholic MAC for all your hard work.

At this time of year, we think particularly of our loved ones and remember all those who are sick or have died and pray for them and their families.



We also remember those around the world facing conflict or famine and those in Coventry trying to find ways to pay their bills and keep their families fed and warm. Our school communities always respond so readily to the plight of others and to help those in need.

May the joyous message of Christmas fill your life with love, peace, the presence of God and the warmth of his love. I look forward to seeing you in the new year to meet the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Holy Cross of Jesus, be our hope.

John Teahan



# Message from our Catholic Senior Executive Leader

## Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Directors

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter as we come to the end of the long and very busy Autumn Term. Once again It has been another successful term for all our schools there is much to celebrate and we give thanks for the many successes and achievements from across all our school communities and MAC Central Team.

As always, there are many incredible things happening across our schools and collaboratively across our MAC and we continue to be incredibly proud of all our children and young people and all they do on daily basis to live out their school mission and the mission of Holy Cross Catholic MAC. However we are particularly proud of the kindness and care they show for others through their prayers and fantastic fundraising activities . We are also very grateful to all our staff, parents, Governors and Directors who work tirelessly to ensure that our children and school communities are places of love, hope and joy.

The joy and hopefulness of the the Christmas season and birth of Baby Jesus and the gifts of peace, love and goodwill to all people that it brings are so important and we look forward with hope to the New Year.

As always we particularly pray for all those for whom Christmas will be a sad and lonely time, particularly those caught up in conflict around the world and hope and pray that peace can be found to bring these wars to a swift end.As always we particularly pray for all those for whom Christmas will be a sad and lonely time, particularly those caught up in conflict around the world and we pray that peace can be found to bring an end to all wars and conflict.

On behalf of everyone at Holy Cross Catholic MAC, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a peaceful, holy, and relaxing Christmas and we hope that the New Year brings you all good health and happiness.

Holy Cross of Jesus be our hope.

Marina Kelly



# MAC ECO HEROES

## Our Pupils Leading the Way!



In November, a group of passionate individuals from all our schools met for the first time as the Holy Cross Catholic MAC ECO Heroes group. This group was formed with the aim of making a positive impact on our environment and to inspire others to do the same.

During the meeting, pupils from each school shared updates on the different activities they have been doing to help protect the planet. Many schools have organised litter picking events, while others had been promoting the use of reusable water bottles and lunch boxes. One school had even started a composting programme to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfills.



The enthusiasm and commitment of the pupils were truly inspiring, and it is clear that they are all passionate about protecting the planet. The group also discussed plans for future events and initiatives, including a tree planting day and a campaign to reduce single-use plastics in school.

By coming together as a community, the Eco Heroes group hopes to make a real difference and inspire others to take action. They believe that when everyone makes small changes collectively we can make a big impact when we all work together.

After the conclusion of COP28, the group is now engaged in planning their future activities and events, with a focus on achieving their goals and objectives.

*“Our new MAC Eco Heroes group is an amazing example of young people taking action to protect our planet. Their dedication and hard work in making a positive impact on the environment is truly inspiring and is a testament to the power of community action. Keep up the great work!”*

*Marina Kelly  
Catholic Senior Executive Leader*



# MAC INSET DAY

## 17 November 2023

On Friday 17 November all our staff gathered for our Mission, Vision and Values Staff Inset Day at Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School. It was a wonderful day of learning and reflection for all our staff focused on Catholic Social Teaching.



We had the pleasure listening to two inspirational speakers, Sr Judith Russi and Fr Eamonn Mulcahy, who shared their extensive knowledge and experience of Catholic Social Teaching. Sister Judith is the director of Educarem, a charity which supports leadership in Catholic schools across the country and Fr Eamonn is a Spiritan missionary with extensive experience of Youth Ministry, Adult Faith Formation and leading spiritual retreats to priests, religious and lay-people in Europe, North America, Australia and Africa.

The day was brought to a close with a whole MAC Staff Mass in the wonderful, brand new sports hall at Bishop Ullathorne and the opportunity to reflect on our shared mission of *Achieving Together in Faith*.

After mass we were able to celebrate long serving colleagues and present our long service awards given to those who have achieved 25 years of service. Thank you to Fr Simon for leading our Mass with Fr Des and Fr Eamonn and to Fr Eamonn who presented our long service awards



# LONG SERVICE AWARDS

## 17 November 2023

At the end of our INSET day, we recognised and thanked the hard work of six members of staff for their long service, commitment and dedication to young people. It was a special moment for us to come together and celebrate those who have tirelessly served young people in Coventry for an incredible 25 years or more.

A huge thank you to the staff for their unwavering support and hard work, which have helped shape the lives of countless pupils.

Joanne Cox – Bishop Ullathorne

Susan Horrocks – Christ the King

Julie Miles – St Elizabeth's

Karen Pickup – St Thomas More

Sue Priami – St Augustine's

Denise Walton – Chris the King



# Department for Education National School Rebuilding Programme

## Holy Cross Catholic MAC School Rebuilds

We are very excited that our two secondary schools are included in the new National School Rebuilding Programme. This exciting news means that Holy Cross Catholic MAC is one of only a handful of educational trusts in the country receiving more than one secondary school rebuild. Bishop Ullathorne has started its planning and Cardinal Newman is about to start work.



BAM has been appointed as the successful contractor for Cardinal Newman Catholic School. Formal planning consent has been applied for and work is expected to start in April 2024, with the finished school opening in 2026/27.

The design includes a new two-storey academic block and a Sports Hall/Sixth Form block that will perfectly complement the retained dining block.



# Capital Works Update

## Energy efficiency works

Over last summer, we completed a vast amount of work to improve our energy efficiency across our estate, including replacing old lighting with new, more cost-efficient LED lighting. This will improve lighting in areas around schools and also help with keeping school running costs down.



## Bishop Ullathorne

The Bishop Ullathorne new £4m Sports Hall is now open and has been nominated for the National Building Awards.

This brand-new facility houses four badminton courts, indoor football, cricket nets, basketball hoops, trampolining and mats for gymnastics.

Associated works have been completed on expanding the canteen area to give students more indoor seating during social times.

This has been achieved by removing the old sixth form space and turning this into extra dining while creating a new area for sixth form, including a new social space with a separate study area.



## Christ the King

Reception pupils are enjoying their new play area, this soft play grass and track is giving them a run for their money! We have also refurbished the courtyard at Scots Lane to create a usable play and study space for pupils.



# Capital Works Update

## St Thomas More

The great outdoors! These covered areas at St Thomas More are a fantastic addition to the playground. During sunny or rainy days, pupils can still enjoy the outside space.



## St John Vianney

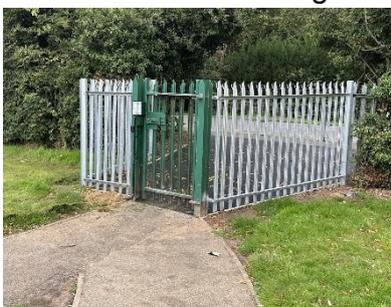
Another fantastic outdoor area for pupils to take advantage of during all weather conditions.

This area replaces a previously unused area of the school.

## Cardinal Newman

Works on the Tamworth Road student entrance are complete and this change gives a much-improved experience when entering and exiting the site.

A new hard-standing area has been created for students during social times by replacing the surface in the Normandy Garden with a loose stone to give students more space to relax and enjoy the outdoors.



# Christmas is here!

The Christmas nativity plays are an essential part of the Christmas season, and schools have been working incredibly hard over the past few weeks to ensure everything is perfect. For many, the nativity play is an opportunity to showcase their talents and creativity, with costumes, music and sets all carefully crafted to create a magical and immersive experience for the audience. The plays provide a chance for children to learn about the Christmas story and the religious significance behind the birth of baby Jesus, as well as to develop important skills such as public speaking and teamwork.



The hard work and dedication of schools and students ensure that the message of hope and love is shared widely.





CARDINAL  
NEWMAN  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Achieving together in faith*



# Christ the King Catholic Primary School

## Christmas Reindeer Dash – Charity Fundraising

A huge thank you and well done to the whole school community who have raised over £3,600 for the Give a Duck Foundation, completely smashing their original £1,000 target. The charity, whose mission is to provide a Chemo Duck for every child diagnosed with cancer, have supported two members of Christ the King family, Finn McGorisk and Miss Sullivan's little boy Shay. A huge well done to the whole school community for their fantastic efforts and there is still time to donate by visiting the Just Giving web page.



## 100% Attendance

Congratulations and well done to all the children who achieved 100% attendance in the Autumn Term.



## Christmas Cards for the Locals

Years 5 and 6 have been out delivering handmade cards in the local community. We've had lots of emails from residents telling us that we have made their day!



# St Augustine's Catholic Primary School



## Art Work with Real Art

Pupils across the school have been producing amazing art work with the help of the fantastic artists from Real Art.



## Charnwood Care Home

The children from the choir who performed at Charnwood Care Home were fantastic. They sang beautifully and engaged positively with the residents. The staff and residents at the care home thoroughly enjoyed their presence and even joined in singing some of the carols. Special thanks to Mrs Mills for her hard work and dedication in making this happen!



# St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School



## Chaplins Pantos

Key Stage 2 children have recently enjoyed a visit from Chaplins Pantos and watched a performance of Cinderella in the school hall.



## Thank You to Year 1 Parents/Carers

A big thank you to Year 1 and their parents/carers for their contributions during the Advent Prayer Service. It was lovely to gather together to listen and reflect on The Annunciation.

## The Gruffalo at The Warwick Arts Centre

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a performance of The Gruffalo in December.



# St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

## Happy Retirement to Mr Carroll

The school said a fond farewell today to Mr Eamonn Carroll who retires today after 18 years of dedicated service at St John Vianney. Mr Carroll will be a greatly missed by the whole school community and had many different roles. We wish him a long and happy retirement and every good health and happiness in the future and he will always be welcome at St John Vianney.

## Year 2 Prayer Service



Year 2 enjoyed their prayer service today and used clay to produce Bambinelli figures, which they painted afterwards. Thank you to all who attended to make it such a special event.



## Year 6 Dol-y-Moch Trip

Well done to Year 6 who recently had a fantastic time at Dol-y-Moch and the opportunity to complete a range of outdoor activities. A great time was had by everyone – despite the weather!



# St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

## A Letter in the Post

Reception Class have been learning about their own address and how to send a letter. The class walked to the local post box to post a festive surprise to themselves! They enjoyed talking to a local resident who was also going to post some letters!



## EYFS and Year 1 Nativity Play

Such a special morning in school for the EYFS and Year 1 Nativity Play. The children were absolutely amazing.

## A Reception Wedding

Reception have visited church to learn about what happens at a wedding celebration. Fr Simon helped them learn about the vows made by the bride and groom.



# Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

## A night of wonderful song and prayer

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to give us a beautiful concert.

Special thanks to Mr Dallman and Miss Stundon for their exceptional efforts in making it a memorable experience.



## Bronze Character Passport Award

140 of our Year 7 and 8 students achieved their Bronze Character Passport Award for being active members of our Christian community. They have all achieved over 30 ace points, developed their love of learning through our Super Curriculum and completed their Reading Award. The Character Passport also gives them the opportunity to select from tasks such as planning and delivering an Act of Worship to their form, participating regularly in a school club, and representing the school at an event such as opening evening or sport event.



## Rope-grown mussels

Bishop Ullathorne were 1 of 250 schools nationwide that were lucky to receive a free 8kg delivery of rope-grown mussels from Offshore Shellfish. Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition learned how to check, prepare and cook the mussels and then taste them! It was a great experience, as many students had not tasted mussels before. A huge thank you to the Food Teachers Centre and the Fish Heroes Programme for this great opportunity.



# Cardinal Newman Catholic School



## Coundon Park Community Work

Students recently put in a shift at Coundon Park coppicing the hedges. As you can see from the photos, this is no easy task, but students are making some progress. Well done to everyone involved - you really are making a difference to the wider community!



## Mauricare Ashfield House

Students had a great time visiting Mauricare Ashfield House. The school choir entertained with Christmas carols. The residents were overwhelmed with how talented our students were. Students also handed out Christmas cards that had been produced in our Creative Kindness sessions. We wish everyone at Ashfield Residential Home a happy and peaceful Christmas!



## Year 11 Visit Snowdome and the cinema

Year 11 had lots of fun on their rewards trip to the Snowdome and the cinema! As you can probably tell, there were lots of 'Bambis on ice'! It was lovely to see Year 11 celebrate their hard work and achievements this half term and we hope they have a lovely and restful Christmas break.



## Holy Cross Catholic MAC Prayer

Dear Lord

Let us be guided by your wisdom to  
be united as the family of God.  
Help us to use our gifts and talents  
to spread friendship, peace and  
justice across our Holy Cross  
schools and communities.  
Give us the strength and courage  
to always do our best and be the  
best person we can be.

Amen

**Holy Cross of Jesus  
be our hope**

