

Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

2024



Holy Cross Catholic MAC goes GREEN!
See inside for more details on our Eco activities.

Message from John Teahan Chair, Board of Directors

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

As we come to the end of another academic year, this newsletter gives a flavour of some of the activities that have been taking place across our school communities as well as some information about future plans.

It was a pleasure to recently attend the Catholic Social Teaching Conference held at Bishop Ullathorne for our schools, and particularly meeting staff and pupils as we plan for future collaborative working, with a focus on Stewardship of our Planet and supporting those most disadvantaged in our communities.

Recently, our primary school pupils have received their external assessments results, and once again a huge well done to all our young people and staff. As always, the Year 11 and 13 students and staff wait for GCSE and A Level results in August, but we are very aware of all the hard work that has been undertaken by the pupils and staff in preparation.

I recently attended a meeting on the Archdiocesan Vision for Catholic Education. A new Catholic Multi Academy Trust (CMAT) is due to be set up in the North area of the Diocese initially by September 2025. Further details will be shared once we know more about the plans and the impact on Holy Cross Catholic MAC schools.

At this time of year, we also say goodbye to staff and pupils that are leaving our community - we thank them for their service and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Thank you to all the staff, pupils, parents, volunteers, clergy, Governors and Directors for all that has been achieved this year. Wishing you all a very pleasant break from school; come back safe and refreshed. God bless you all.

John Teahan

Chair of Board of Directors
Holy Cross Catholic MAC



Message from Marina Kelly Catholic Senior Executive Leader

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers, Governors and Directors

As we come to the end of another academic year, we look back on the many successes achieved throughout the year. We also look forward to the summer holiday and the opportunity for rest and relaxation and quality time with our family and friends. We continue to be immensely proud of all our young people and amazed at the many wonderful achievements by pupils and staff in all our schools.

A huge thank you to all our young people and staff who make our schools wonderful places to work and who have worked so hard and supported one another, not just in their school but across the MAC and their communities. Over the last twelve months we have further developed opportunities to work together across our schools, and the support we have gained from working together as a family of schools is much appreciated.

I would like to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support, patience and understanding. 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. At the end of this newsletter, please see information from Coventry City Council regarding access to support during the summer holiday if needed.

At the end of the year, we have to say goodbye to many members of our communities as they move onto new things. Well done to all our Year 6 pupils on their recent SATs outcomes and good luck to you all as you prepare to start secondary school. I am sure that our Year 11 and 13 students and staff will be anxiously awaiting their GCSE and A Level results in August, but whatever the outcomes, I know that our staff and pupils could not have worked any harder and we are incredibly proud of them all!

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. This year, we are also very sad to say goodbye to Mr Chris Billings, Headteacher of Bishop Ullathorne, as he leaves us to take up his second headship at Chenderit School in Oxford. Mr Billings has dedicated 23 years of service to Catholic education, having worked in all three Coventry Catholic secondary schools in many different roles, including: Head of Drama at Cardinal Newman, Assistant Headteacher at Cardinal Wiseman and Deputy and Headteacher at Bishop Ullathorne. We thank Chris for his tremendous hard work, commitment and support for young people in Coventry and wish him every success in the future!

On behalf of everyone at the Holy Cross Catholic MAC, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a peaceful, happy and relaxing summer holiday with hopefully some warm, sunny days!

Holy Cross of Jesus be our hope.

Marina Kelly

Catholic Senior Executive Leader



Keaton Slater

On Friday 12 July, Cardinal Newman turned blue for their end of year school mass dedicated to celebrating the life of Keaton Slater. Thank you to Mr and Mrs Slater for attending the mass and to all the staff and students who made the mass so special and a celebration of Keaton's life.

***Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.***

Amen.



A look back at our recent Ofsted Inspections!

Inspections

The Spring term was very busy at Holy Cross Catholic MAC as we welcomed six Ofsted Inspection teams to our school communities. We are delighted with the reports that have been published, which recognise all the wonderful work that takes place in our school communities on a daily basis. If you would like to read the reports, the links are below.

Date	School	Outcomes		Reports
03/04 July 23	St Augustine's	Section 8	Continues to be a good school	Click here
30/31 January 24	St Elizabeth's	Section 5	Good with Outstanding Features	Click here
07/08 February 24	St Thomas More	Section 5	Good with Outstanding Features	Click here
27/28 February 24	Cardinal Newman	Section 8	Continues to be a good school, could be outstanding with a Section 5	Click here
27/28 February 24	Bishop Ullathorne	Section 5	Good in all areas	Click here
05/06 March 24	Christ the King	Section 8	Continues to be a good school, could be outstanding with a Section 5	Click here
19/20 March 24	St John Vianney	Section 8	Continues to be a good school, could be outstanding with a Section 5	Click here

The inspection reports are wonderful to read, and we know that they are a result of the tremendous hard work, commitment and care shown by all our staff to ensure that we provide the best educational experience and support to our pupils and their families.

A huge thank you to all our staff for all that they do every day to support our pupils in achieving their full potential - it is very much appreciated, especially by our young people.



Carmel Keane

Cardinal Newman Catholic School



We are delighted to share the news that Carmel Keane from Cardinal Newman Catholic School, has been honoured with the prestigious Papal decoration, Bene Merenti. This esteemed recognition serves as a testament to Carmel's enduring commitment and exceptional service to the Catholic Church. Her remarkable efforts have left an indelible impact, particularly through her dedicated work with the youth of Christ the King parish.

The Papal decoration, Bene Merenti, serves as a symbol of honour, recognising Carmel's exceptional dedication and selfless service. It is a fitting acknowledgement of her significant and meaningful contributions to the Catholic Church.



Carmel's impact extends far beyond the confines of Christ the King parish, resonating with all those who have had the privilege of crossing paths with her. Her ethos of kindness, empathy and generosity has touched countless lives, fostering a spirit of unity and compassion within the community. Through her leadership and unwavering support, she has helped foster a sense of belonging and purpose, particularly among the younger members of the parish.

"I was truly honoured to receive an award from Pope Francis for 'excellent and long service to the Catholic Church' - The Bene Merenti.

To be recognised in this way by my parish Priest Tom Farrell and the Archbishop and in turn, the Pope, who approved this award means, more than I can describe in words."



As we celebrate Carmel's well-deserved honour, we are reminded of the profound impact that individuals can have when driven by a desire to uplift and serve others. Her journey exemplifies the transformative power of selfless dedication and the enduring influence of acts of kindness and compassion. The Papal decoration, Bene Merenti, stands as a testament to Carmel's exceptional character and her impact on her community.



Catholic Social Teaching Conference

11 July 2024



What a fantastic day! This year, we brought together pupils from all Holy Cross Catholic MAC schools for a day focussed on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. There was a particular focus on the work of our Chaplaincy teams and Eco and sustainability, which builds on the excellent work our Chaplaincy and Eco groups have been doing this year in schools.

We were delighted to welcome our three guest speakers: Sister Judith Russi; Roger Harrabin; and Aliza Ayaz. Sr Judith opened the conference with her inspirational talk on Catholic Social Teaching, demonstrating how young people are called to be social activists and make positive changes to our world. Pupils and staff were inspired by the many examples Sr Judith shared about young people, some as young as five, who have achieved great things.



Sr Judith Russi

**Director of EducareM
Charity**



Roger Harrabin

**BBC Journalist &
Environmentalist**



Aliza Ayaz

**United Nations Youth
Ambassador & Climate
Activist**

Sr Judith was joined by Roger Harrabin and Aliza Ayaz. Roger is a British journalist who was the BBC's energy and environment analyst until July 2022. He has broadcast on environmental issues since the 1980s and has won many awards in print, TV and radio. Aside from his speciality, he has covered many major general news stories. Roger spoke about his role at the BBC and the work he has done around the world.





Catholic Social Teaching Conference

11 July 2024



Aliza Ayaz is an international climate activist, business and sustainability consultant and a United Nations Ambassador. She spoke with our pupils about their future and the impact of climate change on their future. Pupils made pledges and placed them on our peace tree.

Our MAC Commitment to the future

Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company aspires to be a leader in sustainability and caring for 'God's Planet'. Through the teaching of the Catholic Social Principles and the United Nations 17 Sustainability Goals, we want to motivate all our students, staff and visitors to follow a forward-thinking approach towards protecting our environment - for now and for future generations - with a strategy embedded in our Catholic Ethos and the curriculum, as well as within school sites and operations across the MAC.

The 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

- Theme 1: Dignity of the Human Person
- Theme 2: Family and Community
- Theme 3: Solidarity and the Common Good
- Theme 4: Rights and Responsibilities
- Theme 5: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Theme 6: The Dignity of Work
- Theme 7: Stewardship



Parent Survey Feedback

April 2024

Many thanks to all the parents and carers who participated in our recent survey. We received a lot of positive feedback as well as helpful comments on areas where parents and carers felt improvements could be made. The Headteachers of each school will keep parents informed about the actions taken in response to the specific feedback received for their school.

We had 556 responses from parents across the MAC:

- 84% said they would recommend their school to another person
- 82% said their child was happy at school
- 84% said their child felt safe at school
- 80% said the school recognises when their child is working well
- 84% said the school has a good range of subjects for their child
- 78% said the school ensures its pupils are well-behaved
- 80% said the school has high expectations for their child

Pastoral care is outstanding in all aspects

Thank-you to all school staff for their hard work and dedication.

This school really is like another family

Thank you to the teachers who work so incredibly hard.

My child loves school and I know staff care about her wellbeing and progress

A huge thank you to all the staff for being so supportive and hard working.

It is a very happy place to be. Pupils and staff seem very happy

THANK YOU

Department for Education National School Rebuilding Programme

Cardinal Newman

Work has now started on the new build school project at Cardinal Newman, enabling works to improve drainage on the pitches that will be used whilst the new building is under construction. These works will ensure that the school has adequate outdoor sports provision during the construction phases.

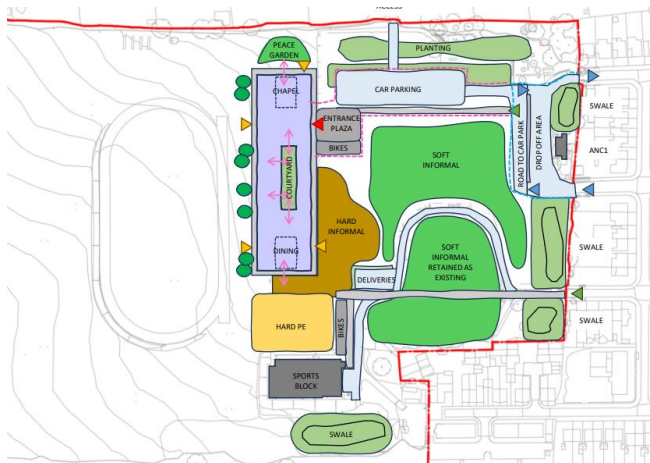


BAM Construction will begin works on the new school buildings this summer, with the new main school building scheduled to open in September 2026. The brand new 4-court Sports Hall will be the last building completed in mid-2027 and the current Sports Hall will remain in use until then. Construction access will be off the Tamworth Road, to minimise disruption to everyday school life.

The school will have all new ICT infrastructure and devices, and well as new furniture and fittings. Only the current £4m Dining Hall will be retained.

Bishop Ullathorne

We have now completed the costing exercise for the new Bishop Ullathorne school and the procurement stage is now starting.



The initial idea is to build a brand new school behind the current school buildings.

The only building to be retained will be the recently finished new £3m Sports Hall.

It is hoped that a contractor will be appointed before Christmas for work to start next year, with the new school opening in 2027.

HCCMAC Capital Works Update

Another £1 million invested in our schools this year....

After much detailed planning our 2024 Capital Works will total over £1,000,000 this year.

We are spending £100,000 on energy efficiency improvements such as LED lighting and roof works/insulation.

With both secondaries getting new build schools, the main works at **Bishop Ullathorne** and **Cardinal Newman** this summer are moat bridge safety works and new Tennis Court fencing, which are areas not affected by the new build programmes.

Our primary school sites will be the focus for a lot of the future investment and major projects include:

St Thomas More is getting a new changing area, new calming area, LED lighting and enhanced security.

At **St Elizabeth's**, we have refurbished the first floor teaching area and improved the fire exit route now that the adjacent church hall has been demolished. We have also installed new high-level hall windows.

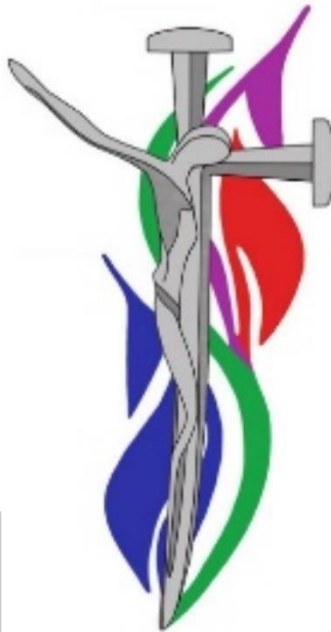
Christ the King, Scots Lane is receiving a brand new fire alarm system and DDA hall ramp, whilst at Westhill Road we are refurbishing the playground Trim Trail and prayer garden areas, as well as installing new Main Hall heating panels.



At **St Augustine's**, we are creating a new staff workroom and meeting room, as well as a new outdoor gazebo for extended outdoor teaching.

And finally, **St John Vianney** is getting a brand new £80,000 Reception play area.

News from around our Schools



Achieving together in faith



Christ the King Catholic Primary School



Crowning of Our Lady

On Sunday 19th May, the Crowning of Our Lady was led by the Year 3 children and staff of Christ the King school. The parishioners were delighted to see the children who had their First Holy Communion the previous day, and it was a very special mass for our Parish community.



First Holy Communion

On Saturday 18th May, children in Year 3 had their First Holy Communion at Christ the King Church. The children were prepared beautifully by Miss Walker, Miss Duffin and Mrs Lewis. Two very special services took place and all the children were a credit to their school and families.

First Aid workshops for all children (funded by Christ the King Parents and Teachers Association)



Christ the King PTA funded First Aid workshops for all children during the summer term. The children learnt vital lifesaving information and skills; each session was tailored appropriately for each age group. The families of Christ the King were delighted that such an important workshop could take place within school and are thankful to the PTA

for funding the workshops.

D-Day celebrations

On Friday 7th June, the whole school joined together to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. They celebrated with a whole school picnic on the field and finished the celebration with a prayer service led by Year 6.



St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Oscott College

Year 6 recently had a wonderful visit to Oscott College. They had the opportunity to ask questions of the seminarians; find out about their vocation and explore the beautiful college. The visit culminated in celebrating mass in the chapel. Staff were very proud of how reflective and respectful the children were throughout the visit.



Vocations Week

Thank you to all our special visitors for coming into school to share their vocation. The children were truly inspired and reflected on what God is calling them to be, both now and in the future.



St Augustine's Election

Congratulations to the Vision Party who won the St Augustine's election. All children had the opportunity to attend the school polling station to cast a vote. Well done to all the children in Year 6, especially all the party leaders and a particular 'well done' to the winning Vision Party leader.



St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

Flame of Friendship

On Monday 8th July, a group of Year 4 children represented St Elizabeth's at Warwick University for the Flame of Friendship finale event, celebrating the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris. The Coventry 'Flame of Friendship' torch made its way around 62 Coventry schools, who then gathered at the University for a final celebration. At the University, pupils participated in a dance, led by dancers from the Royal Opera House, a steel band procession and a ceremony of songs, videos. This was the first time so many Coventry schools have gathered, and pupils represented themselves beautifully in their manners, enthusiasm and exceptional dance moves!



Year 6 Transition

This half term, our Year 6 children were joined by the Year 6 children of our sister school, Good Shepherd, for a Belgrade Theatre performance of 'Big School' which focused on their transition from primary to secondary school. The performance was one of a number of experiences our children enjoyed in preparation for their move into secondary education. We send all our best wishes to our Year 6 children

and all the Year 6 children from across the Holy Cross Catholic MAC as they prepare to take their next steps on their educational journey!

Cultural Heritage Day

This term, pupils celebrated the wonderful diversity they share at St Elizabeth's. The school has over twenty home languages, and pupils were invited to wear or to bring any aspect of their cultural heritage into school for their first 'Cultural Heritage Day'. This celebration proved to be a wonderful event which provided our children with an opportunity to celebrate their family ties to Coventry and other areas of the UK and also many, many countries across the African and Asian continents. We look forward to repeating this celebration of our school identity next year!



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School



Sports Day

Pupils and staff were delighted that the sun shone for their Sports Day which included a running race and a novelty race. The nursery children loved the 'bean bag on the head' race, although some didn't get the idea that you are not supposed to hold the bean bag with your hands! Everyone had great fun and we ended stickers and treats.



Children's Mile

Pupils and staff ran the children's mile around Coventry's Memorial Park in June with many of other Coventry Schools, and pupils sprinted round the track, leaving the teachers way behind. There have been many sporting events throughout the year that St John Vianney children have entered and this has helped support their application for the gold sports award for the 6th year running.



First Holy Communion

Year 3 celebrated their first sacrament of Holy Communion in May and had a fabulous day receiving the body of Christ.

Many thanks to Fr Des who helped prepare pupils for this wonderful sacrament.



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Sports Day

The children at St Thomas More enjoyed a wonderful day of sports and competing. They took part in many different events, each testing a different skill, to earn points towards the House Cup. Children from each class were later presented with medals for their outstanding participation during the day, due to reasons such as giving all of their effort, showing fantastic enjoyment and encouraging and supporting their peers.



The winning house was Lourdes but well done to everyone who participated!



Junior Maths Challenge

Twenty Year 5 and 6 pupils recently took part in the Junior Maths Challenge, with great success! Five children scored so well that they achieved Bronze Awards and Five children scored so highly that they achieved Silver Awards. Well done to all who took part!



St Thomas More Feast Day and 10th Anniversary Celebrations

St Thomas More enjoyed a beautiful day of celebration for their Feast Day and to mark the 10 year anniversary of the new school building opening.

The school and parish came together to worship at Mass and then processed into the school grounds to the statue of St Thomas More, where Fr Simon said prayers of thanks. Parishioners and visitors were then treated to tea and cakes in the Community Room while children enjoyed a BBQ lunch (special dispensation granted as they were celebrating their Feast Day). In the afternoon everyone enjoyed ice creams in the sun. What a lovely way to celebrate as a school!



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

Taekwondo British Open Championships

A massive Congratulations to Harvey in Year 7 who attended the Taekwondo British Open Championships this week. He is now a British Open Champion, winning:

- Gold Medal - Patterns
- Gold Medal - Special Technique
- Silver Medal - Sparring



Election Day

Our students took to the voting booth to decide which manifesto they agreed with most results were announced once they had been counted and verified. Thank you to Mrs Hayes and our sixth form leadership for managing the voting station.



Trip to the Trenches



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

Year 11 and 13 Proms 2024



Cardinal Newman Catholic School

Cultural Diversity Day

On Thursday 4th July, Cardinal Newman held their annual cultural diversity day. Students dressed in their cultural clothing, and experienced African dancing, sessions with CAFOD and many more activities. In the afternoon, students learnt about saints from around the world and worked as a tutor group to create their own saint.



Cardinal Newman Election

On Thursday 4th July and to coincide with the General Election, Cardinal Newman elected their own Prime Minister. The candidates worked hard canvassing in the weeks before the election, and students were taught about the political system. Students from Cardinal Newman and our primary schools all voted during the day. Labour were successfully elected. Well done to Patrick Ruddy who becomes the new prime minister and well done to everyone who participated and voted!



Chinese Visit to Newman

Between Tuesday 9th and Friday 12th July, Cardinal Newman hosted a group of Chinese students. The Chinese were greeted by pupils and staff to start their 4 day tour of Coventry. During their tour, most of the students were fascinated with the differences between Chinese and English schools. It was remarkably interesting to hear about the cultural differences within the education system and how the school day and the subjects taught differ.



Cardinal Newman Catholic School

Year 11 and 13 Proms 2024

There were two fantastic evenings with Year 11 and 13 to celebrate the end of Key Stages 4 and 5. All students had a fantastic time at both events. We wish every single one of them the best of luck on their next journey and look forward to seeing them for their A Level and GCSE results days.



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**

Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Term Dates 2024-25

Term		Date	Length	Bank Holidays
Autumn	Autumn Term 1	Monday 2 September 2024 Friday 25 October 2024	8 Weeks	
	Autumn Term 2	Monday 4 November 2024 Friday 20 December 2024	7 Weeks	Wednesday 25th December Thursday 26 th December
Spring	Spring 1	Monday 6 January 2025 Friday 14 February 2025	6 Weeks	Wednesday 1 st January
	Spring 2	Monday 24 February 2025 Friday 11 April 2025	7 Weeks	Friday 18th April Monday 21 st April
Summer	Summer Term 1	Monday 28 April 2025 Friday 23 May 2025	4 Weeks	Monday 5 th May
	Summer Term 2	Monday 2 June 2025 Friday 18 July 2025	7 Weeks	Monday 26 th May

INSET Days 2024-25

Day 1: Monday 2 September 2024

Day 2: 15 November 2024

Day 3: Monday 6 January 2025

Day 4: Friday 27 June 2025

Summer Holidays 2025

To begin on Friday 18 July 2025

