

Welcome to our Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT's newsletter
for our 36 primary and secondary academies across
Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City

Autumn/Winter 2023

Newsletter

Shaping the future: **Trust Synod**



Back in mid- October, representatives from all our Trust academies, including staff members, chaplains, priests and other key members in the Trust came together to take part in our first Synod!

A Synod is a time for voices to be heard and for subjects to be approached that will enable the Catholic church to continue to grow in inclusivity. Understanding other people's opinions and suggestions, enables the church to move forward with future generations.

This memorable day marked the beginning of a very important and transformative start not only for those involved in the Trust, but for everyone involved in the Catholic Church

around the world as we begin to work in unity with Bishops and various other Church officials as they meet for their Synod in Rome.

During the day, those attending focused on the three key elements of the Church that will also be discussed at the Synod in Rome – communion, participation and mission. This was a wonderful opportunity to hear individuals' take on the topics, questions and scriptures that were put before them.

Often in life, we listen to respond, rather than listening to understand and fully take in what others are saying. The Synod focused highly on giving that time of quiet and reflection after listening to ensure that everyone's viewpoints were fully absorbed.

Throughout the day there was live music played by Fr Joe, Director of Chaplaincy, Tom Baptist and Lay Chaplain, Beth Richards which allowed everyone to have a chance to experience a time of prayer through worship. We heard the songs Freedom Reigns and

The Lord's Prayer. If you didn't make it this time, we would love to see you at our next annual Synod in 2024!

Article by Beth Richards



Reflecting on our year as an expanded Trust

In September 2022, the 15 Lincolnshire academies from St Thérèse of Lisieux joined the 21 Our Lady of Lourdes academies and the two Central Teams merged, making us one of the country's largest Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts.

A celebratory mass was held in October 2022, and our community came together for the first time as the new union. During the mass, Bishop Patrick blessed the statues of the two Trust patrons, St Thérèse of Lisieux and Our Lady of Lourdes. All schools received a framed Trust prayer and a statue of St Thérèse, in recognition of our merger and our Lincolnshire schools received statues of Our Lady.

James McGeachie, CEO shared his reflection: 'Within the new larger Trust, we have begun to share best practice across many areas, including Catholic Life, early years, forest schools, the primary curriculum, safeguarding, well-being, secondary subject expertise, options and sixth form networks.'

I am sure that Catholic education in our part of the Diocese of Nottingham will go from strength to strength.'



Ofsted and CSI update

Well done to all our hardworking and dedicated staff and young people for their work and support during recent Ofsted and Catholic Schools Inspections (CSI):

Ofsted



St Joseph's Boughton:
Remains a Good School



St Joseph's Cleethorpes:
Remains a Good School



St Augustine's Webster:
Good with Outstanding behaviour and attitudes

CSI



Our Lady of Perpetual Succour:
Outstanding



St Bede's, Scunthorpe:
Good with many areas 'Outstanding'

Star in Our Schools Award

A huge congratulations to Mrs Williams from St Mary's, Grantham who has been awarded a UNISON Star in Our Schools Award!



UNISON takes pride in celebrating public service workers, which includes running nominations annually for schools to select a member of staff who they feel deserves recognition for their work.

Mrs Williams was nominated because she is always there to support staff with her kindness and her fountain of experience and knowledge. There is nothing Mrs Williams would not do for a student, colleague or friend.

Round up of our GCSE and A Level Results

This summer we celebrated the amazing GCSE and A Level achievements of our students from across Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

65% of Trust academy students achieved Grade 4 and 5 GCSEs including English and Maths and at A-Level, students across our Trust achieved an average pass rate of 91%, with 63% receiving A*-C.

Commenting on the GCSE results, James McGeachie, CEO of our Trust said, "We are all delighted for the year 11 students across our secondary schools. They have shown great resilience, determination and hard work over the last two years and as a result, achieved these amazing results. They are now ready for the next stage in their journey, and we wish them well for the future."

Moira Dales, Deputy CEO at the Trust said of the A Level results: "It's been another fantastic year for our Sixth Form students. Despite the immense challenges of the past few years, we are so proud to see that the hard work of our students and dedicated staff has led to these remarkable achievements."

Congratulations to everyone within the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust who contributed to our students' educational achievements this year.



St Peter & St Paul

Celebrating 60 Years of St Patrick's, Wilford

On Monday 16 October, the community at St Patrick's, Wilford celebrated their 60th birthday. They enjoyed a beautiful Mass celebration led by Bishop Patrick, who spoke to the children about Saint Patrick and what it means to be a saint.

The celebrations were attended by all members of the school community including Trust and Diocesan representatives, past pupils from The Becket school, parents/carers, parishioners from Our Lady and St Patricks Church, Governors and staff members, past and present.

It was clear the children enjoyed the celebration as their singing raised the roof! It was wonderful to see so many visitors who have played such an important part in the growth, life and joy of the school.

Bishop Patrick was also able to stay to bless the brand-new Community Prayer Garden. The blessing was a truly beautiful occasion with the sun shining and the birds singing.

Happy Birthday St Patrick's – here's to another 60 years of inspiration and joy!



The Becket named in The Times' School list

The Becket School, West Bridgford, has been recognised as one of the East Midlands' best UK secondary schools in the recent The Times Parent Power School List 2024.

The list showcases academic excellence but also celebrates schools who may not be right at the top but are rising, innovating and helping pupils flourish.

Paul Greig, Headteacher at The Becket explained why the school has been placed as one of the highest locally in the East Midlands:

"This ranking has placed The Becket ninth in the East Midlands, and is based on combining GCSE and A Level results. Overall, the school is placed 240th nationally. For a comprehensive school to get this ranking is a brilliant achievement and a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our staff and students. I would also like to thank our families who have also supported our students through their Summer exams.



"We have a very strong school ethos and good support in place to enable our students to achieve. Our staff are both talented and dedicated, running after school sessions to enable our students to fulfil their potential. A lot of our Year 11 students have stayed on in our Sixth Form, with many Year 13 securing a place at their first choice university and we wish them well in the next stage of their education."

Boosting staff wellbeing in Stamford



Staff at St Augustine's, Stamford kicked off Advent with a staff wellbeing session creating wreaths.

Everyone had a great time getting into the festive spirit. Big thank you to Debbie Tuisavura for organising, foraging for natural embellishments and teaching on the night.

Woodland Trust offers free trees for schools

The Woodland Trust is offering free tree packs for all our academies.

This an amazing initiative that will allow pupils to make a real difference, create homes for wildlife and fight climate change:

- You choose from 15, 30, 105 or 420 saplings.
- Packs are delivered in tree-planting season either March or November.
- You can apply each season until your project is complete.
- All trees are carefully selected native species, homegrown in the UK.

For more information and sign up for your free pack please visit: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/supportus/act/your-school/plant-trees-with-your-school

Raising money for Macmillan Cancer

On Friday 29 October our Nottingham Central Team came together for a Macmillan Coffee Morning. They enjoyed a dress-down day with lots of cake and raised an amazing £327 for Macmillan Cancer Support!

All Saints Sixth Form, Mansfield also held a coffee morning, raising an incredible £465 in online and cash donations.

A huge thank you to everyone who made the events happen (bonus points for the home bakes!) and for the generous donations to such a worthy cause.

To find out more about Macmillan Cancer Support, and how to run your own coffee morning, please visit their website [here](#).



Improving Forest Schools across our Trust



In November our Designated Safeguarding Lead Network attended a Forest School session at St Joseph's, Boughton to support staff across our Trust in developing Forest School practices.

Forest schools are delivered through regular outdoor sessions over a long-term period. It helps nurture the relationship with nature and develop pupils' interactions with each other, including communication skills, resilience, confidence and independence. Essentially, Forest School sessions teach pupils to take risks but in a supported environment where they can learn and grow as individuals.

Our team really enjoyed the session at St Joseph's, and it enabled them to see the importance of Forest schools across our Trust. A big thank you to everyone for all the hard work and effort they put into organising the session.

We are looking forward to seeing how this will improve the Forest School provision across our Trust.

Lincolnshire schools enjoy the sprit of Advent

We have had a busy and exciting Advent term within the Saint Jude's hub, with lots going on at each school.

This term, we have all been focussing on the theme of Encounter and there have been lots of events and activities that have helped us to encounter God's love and to help others encounter His love too.

These include Harvest collections for various local charities, school Masses, Remembrance Services, Rosary prayer groups, activities for World Youth Fun Day and the opportunity to all come together to participate in our Trust Synod.

Saint Mary's, Grantham held a wonderfully successful Harvest collection. The generous contributions of their school community were donated to Grantham Foodbank and Grantham Passage and will make a huge difference to people in need within their local area.

Saint Mary's, Boston held a beautiful Remembrance Day service in school with contributions from every class. Year 6 also walked to the cenotaph in Boston town centre where they laid a wreath made of their own poppy themed artwork.

At the end of November, Saint Norbert's, Spalding enjoyed a lovely and spiritual Advent retreat. The main theme was 'encounter' but we split our retreat into three parts: message, journey and charity. We explored different parts of the Nativity story and completed activities (such as creating a variety of angel displays around school) that helped us to think about how we can be God's messengers by helping people encounter God's love this Advent and Christmas through acts of kindness.

As part of their Faith in Action efforts, Saint Augustine's, Stamford have been collecting for the Ukrainian Shoe Box Appeal. Eighteen shoe boxes with toys, sweets, gloves, and some other essentials have been sent off to help bring some joy to children in incredibly challenging circumstances this Christmas. Augustus the teddy bear also travelled with the boxes and has now reached Kiev, where he has been adopted by a kindergarten.

Article by Lucy Wright, Lay Chaplain



North Notts schools share message of peace

Pupils from St Philip Neri with St Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy, Mansfield shared in an Advent Prayer Fayre, working with the De La Salle Hub Chaplains and the school Chaplaincy Team, to create a range of Advent resources to mark the change in the Church seasons and to begin 'preparing the way'.

Pupils shone in both leadership and participation and the whole school engaged in activities that will benefit the school and parish communities. Some were even carpenters, hammering their own Jesse trees!

Chaplains from All Saints', Mansfield led a Day of Peace with younger chaplains from across the De La Salle Hub, where they responded to Scripture, created prayers and raps and devised their own peace pledges to take back to their own school communities.

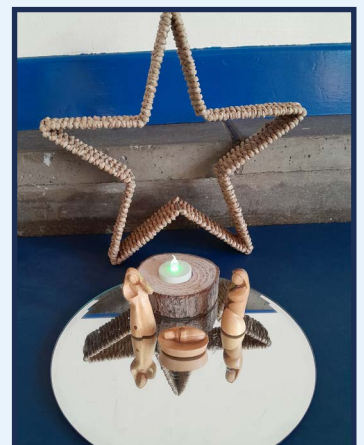
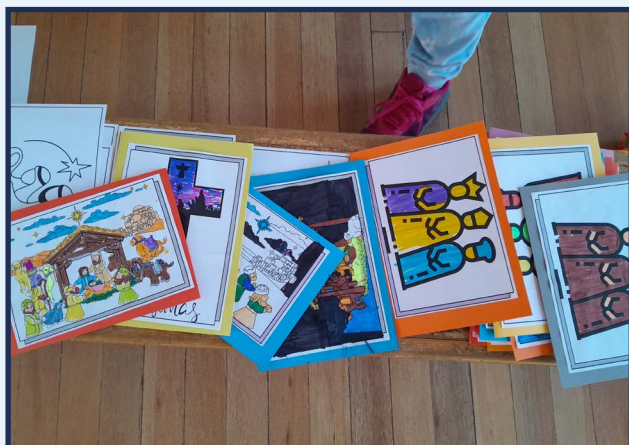
It was an excellent opportunity, where all present reflected on ways that God calls us all to be peacemakers and to live out the message of peace that Jesus gave to us all in John 14:27:

"Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid."

The annual Christmas Card Design Competition winners at All Saints' were proudly celebrated by headteacher, Mr Cuomo, on the Feast of The Immaculate Conception. What a wonderful way to honour Our Lady, who said 'yes' to God, by celebrating these young people who said 'yes' to this mission!

Well done to both winners whose cards will be so well received by members of our parish, local community, Governing Body and Trust.

Article by Clare Lund, Lay Chaplain



Generous grants bring exciting changes

We're excited to share the news that St. Augustine's, Stamford and Holy Cross, Hucknall have been awarded substantial grants to support their ongoing projects and initiatives.

St. Augustine's, Stamford, has received a generous grant of £2,000 from The Lady Dorothy Cecil Charity. Lady Dorothy Cecil's charity is one of Burghley House's charitable trusts and was established in 1605. The objectives of the Trust are to award financial assistance for educational purposes to beneficiaries who live in one of the Parishes of Stamford.

Headteacher, Tina Cox, reached out to the charity and explained St. Augustines' vital role in their community and the incredible projects the school has planned, including renovating the school library, improving the Forest School area and enrolling all staff members on Trauma-Informed Schools UK training courses.



Holy Cross, Hucknall, also received a generous donation of £1,500 from the Tesco and Coop Community Funds towards a wonderful new gardening programme. The plan is to create a vibrant community garden on the school grounds that everyone can enjoy.

With this project, they hope to strengthen intergenerational links and become more self-sufficient by providing fresh produce for after-school meals and the school guinea pigs! They're also planning to donate some of the vegetables to a local charity food bank.

This funding will significantly impact both schools, and we are so excited to see the positive changes it will bring.



Harvest Festival 2023

A huge thank you to all our pupils and families for their generous Harvest donations this year. All donations went to local food banks to support families in need during these very challenging times.



Warm hamper project

Pupils at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell really impressed with their compassion this term through their efforts to raise the issue of homelessness in their community.



They created warm hampers to be sent to Emmanuel House, Nottingham as well as writing letters to their local MP, Alex Norris.

To find out more about the work of Emmanuel House, visit: www.emmanuelhouse.org.uk

Flourish in Love: Virtue benches installed



Last year, the St Augustine's, Stamford School Council children teamed up with the Friends of St. Augustine's team who arranged and paid for six new benches for the school grounds.

Each bench has one of the school's virtue pairs beautifully carved into the oak as a reminder for St. Augustine's children to Flourish in Love.

These are a wonderful addition to the school and we are so pleased to hear that the benches are being well used at break and lunchtimes!

New wellbeing space at St Hugh's

The music room at St Hugh's, Lincoln is undergoing a remarkable transformation into a wellbeing 'Forest' room.

The space will soon host wellbeing meetings for children and parents, featuring activities like ELSA Lego therapy. Additionally, it will serve as a versatile environment for general group work, phonics, intervention sessions, and crucial CIN/CP/TAC meetings.

A huge shoutout to all involved in this fantastic initiative. We can't wait to see the space being used by the community at St Hugh's.



CTK fundraiser for Malawi partnership



The Culture Club at Christ the King, Arnold has announced a partnership with Lumbria Community School in Malawi, Central Africa.

Lumbria School faces challenges due to limited government funding so the fundraising efforts of the Culture Club is vital to support projects there.

So far the CTK Culture Club has raised over £375, facilitated a letter exchange between students and collected fiction and non-fiction books for the library at Lumbria School.

The next goal is to raise funds for shipping these books to Malawi, and any support for this cause is highly appreciated.

To find out more about the Culture Club and Lumbria school, please read the CTK Bulletin [here](#).

Remembrance day across our Trust

All of our academies paid tribute to those who have fought and those who have died in war and conflict for this Remembrance Day.

Our young people commemorated Remembrance Day in a variety of ways such as by sharing poems, creating poppies and through prayer.



Tour of Britain cheer



St Joseph's Boughton enjoyed the Tour of Britain race passing the school on the very first day back after the summer.

The children designed flags as a summer holiday challenge and enjoyed cheering the racers on.

St Bede's hole in one

Back in October, St Bede's, Scunthorpe were visited by Dane Duffin, St Bede's Alumni and PGA Professional, who delivered a golf session to a group of Year 8 students.



Over 50 students took part and enjoyed an amazing opportunity to be given expert golf coaching by a professional from local Forest Pines Golf Club.

A big thank you to Dane for taking the time to share his knowledge with St Bede's students.

Looking for your next career adventure?



We have a number of teaching and non-teaching vacancies available in our trust.

If you are seeking a rewarding career with ample opportunities for growth and professional development, we want to hear from you!

Current vacancies:

- Lay Chaplain Apprenticeship
- Minibus Driver
- School Maintenance Engineer
- Teaching Assistants
- Education Welfare/Attendance Officer
- Trust Grounds Officer
- Headteacher
- Class Teacher (Key Stage 2)
- IT Technician
- Learning Support Assistant
- Midday Supervisors
- Cleaner
- Out of School Club Lead
- Site Manager

Visit our vacancies page to find out more:

www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/work-with-us

Helping our families with financial support



Have you heard about our Trust initiative, the **Little Acts of Kindness Fund**?

The fund offers financial support for all eligible registered pupils attending our academies.

The fund helps families with any costs associated with their respective academy which includes paying for curriculum trips, school uniform, educational equipment, school meals, travel and more.

All requests will be considered against the rules and eligibility criteria detailed on our website.

To find out more about the fund and how to apply, please visit: www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/our-trust/little-acts-of-kindness-fund

Have you got a story to share with us?

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the newsletter, we love showcasing the amazing accomplishments of our students and staff.

If you have a story you would like to share in the next edition, please email us at marketing@ololcatholicmat.co.uk or send us a DM on Instagram (@ourladyoflourdescmat), ensuring necessary consents are in place for GDPR purposes.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to share your school's stories and accomplishments with the Trust community!

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