

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

Easter 2024

Newsletter

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week took place from 5-11 February 2024 with this year's theme 'My Voice Matters' – centered around empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

We were so pleased to see students across our Trust participating in wellbeing activities and raising awareness for mental health.

The Good Shepherd Wellbeing Warriors had a fantastic time at a session run by NottAlone. They took part in wellbeing workshops and learnt about local services that support mental health and wellbeing in their community.

Students at Our Lady and St. Edward's wore scarves to school to show their SCARF Values: 'Keeping safe, caring for ourselves and others, achieving our best, being resilient, and being a good friend'.

What is mental health?

Mental health refers to our emotional, psychological, and social well-being and affects how we think, feel and behave.

By looking after children's mental health, they can develop coping skills which can help them boost their resilience, self-esteem and confidence.

Parents and carers play an important role in children's mental health. Resources for families can be found at: www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families

Trust Inset Day 2024

On 9 February, our annual Trust Inset Day was dedicated to staff well-being and mental health awareness.

The day began with a welcome and Liturgy led by James McGeachie, CEO and our Chaplaincy Team, followed by a wellbeing session with our Trust Mental Health Leads. The Central Team and our school staff then took part in sessions relating to understanding mental health.

In response to Staff Voice feedback, staff were able to focus on their own wellbeing in the afternoon, reflecting our commitment to creating a positive and supportive work environment.



A time for giving in our community

This Lent, schools across our Trust and our Central Team have been taking part in CAFOD and SCAIF's Big Lent Walk! The goal is to walk 200km in 40 days.

The sponsorship raised will go to help families and communities overseas fight poverty. CAFOD and SCAIF work alongside local partners to ensure communities receive the correct help they need.

This year's appeals are focused on helping women and girls in Rwanda who are facing gender-based violence and support for fishing communities in Liberia to feed their families.

Last year, the OLoL community walked over 1,600km and raised an incredible £265 for the appeal and we are hoping to beat both targets this year!

To view our sponsorship page or to get involved with the Big Lent Walk, please click: walk.cafod.org.uk/teams/our-lady-of-lourdes-catholic-multi-academy-trust

Lenten Lunch box

Our Central Teams have been taking the opportunity to share our lunch with someone in need this Lent.

When buying lunch, we have bought two of an item and left one in the collection box in our kitchen.

We have partnered with local food banks and charities to donate the items, meaning that our little acts of daily giving will make a difference.



Gaza Appeal

As Lent is a time for reconciliation, Bishops of England and Wales have asked that we support those suffering in Gaza and help those working for peace. Food, water and fuels are increasingly short supply and families need urgent help.

Please see CAFOD's website for more information on how to donate to their appeal and for other ways to support click: cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/israeli-palestinian-crisis-appeal



Sharing best practice at CatColl

In February, Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT hosted over a hundred CEOs, Executive Team members and Diocesan leaders to our Immersion Day at the Diocesan Centre in Derby.

The day focused on our Trust mission strategy and how our Central Team operates. It was a great opportunity to share our approach and network with colleagues from different CMATs and Dioceses across the country.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise the event and to those who presented – the day was a great success!



Sector-led SEND Specialists in our Trust



We are thrilled to announce that two of our Trust Headteachers are trained sector-led SEND Specialists with LEARN SEND Hub.

Tina Cox (St. Augustine's, Stamford) and Lisa Gleed-Thornley (Saint Mary's, Boston) are commissioned to do SEND reviews in other schools as part of the new SEND project. This will allow schools across the county to review and improve the SEND provision in their school.

A huge congratulations to Lisa and Tina, we are very proud of your accomplishments and the positive impact your work will have in our Trust communities.

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).

We are so pleased to announce we have received the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection at St. Augustine's, Mapperley.

Maintaining their 'Good' rating, the school has been praised for its dedication to academic excellence and creating a supportive environment for pupils to thrive and grow.



Read the full report

St. Norberts Wellbeing Gold Award

St. Norbert's, Spalding has been awarded a National Wellbeing Gold Award.

This award comes after the school leadership team participated in the Raising Attainment with Wellbeing (RAW) Programme with Microlink and Teaching Times.

RAW Course Director, Marius Frank said of the school's achievement, "It is clear that the learning community, led by Jenna, has an open and reflective culture, not afraid to talk about barriers to progress, not afraid to take on these hurdles together: this is the heartbeat of an organisation committed to the wellbeing of everyone, and I applaud this."

A huge congratulations to Headteacher, Jenna Withers and all the staff at St. Norbert's for their hard work in attaining this award.



St. Teresa's, Aspley among top 50 primary schools in England



St. Teresa's, Aspley has been announced as one of the top 50 primary schools in England, marking a significant achievement in educational excellence and pupil success.

The school is in the top 1% for reading, writing and maths KS2 tests, as well as the phonics

screening check, highlighting the school's commitment in providing quality education. It is also ranked within the top 200 performing schools in the multiplication tables test.

Additionally, the school proudly holds two Outstanding Ofsted ratings, recognising the high quality teaching, leadership and educational opportunities for their pupils.

Furthermore, the school received an Outstanding rating in Catholic School Inspection, further highlighting its commitment to excellence in all aspects of Catholic life.

Ann Glynne-Jones, Headteacher shared her gratitude to the school community for their hard work and dedication, "Our inclusion among the top 50 primary schools in England is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our pupils, staff and supportive parents.

"At St. Teresa's, we are committed to fostering a nurturing environment that empowers every one of our children to achieve their full potential academically and personally."

St. Augustine's, Stamford recognised for its academic achievements

St. Augustine's Stamford has been featured in the latest issue of Term Times!

The school has been recognised for its achievement of top marks for the three core subjects, making it one of the top performing schools in Stamford, as well as in top 20% of schools nationally for writing.

A huge congratulations to all the staff, students, and families at St Augustine's who have made this impressive achievement possible.

Check out the full article on page 20 at termtimes.ltd.uk/magazine/termtimes-162



Generous grants bring exciting changes



In other exciting news, Tesco has accepted Sacred Heart, Carlton's bid for a grant to help resource their St Sebastian's Heart Space.

The room is a space where pupils who need a little bit extra quiet time can go to concentrate on their work, increase their communication skills, and get ready for independent life.

People can vote to help secure the school's bid in the Radcliffe on Trent, Carlton Hill Express, Carlton and Parkdale Tesco stores.

We're thrilled to announce that Holy Cross, Hucknall, has been awarded another generous donation towards their community garden project!

The £500 grant from Ashfield Council's Community Growing Grant Scheme will go towards buying supplies such as watering cans, trowels, shovels and raised beds.

We're so excited to see this project come together, allowing the school to become more self-sufficient by providing food for their local community and fresh vegetables for after-school club meals.



Supporting communities in India and Africa

We have had a busy and exciting Lent term so far within the St. Jude's Hub, with lots going on at each school. We have turned our attention this term to the Year of Prayer, with schools beginning to create new prayer areas and displays around school. We have also continued to explore the theme of encounter in different ways.

St Norbert's, Spalding have enjoyed lunchtime sessions dedicated to the Divine Praises. In February, the whole school enjoyed a retreat morning dedicated to the Year of Prayer, during which we explored different types of prayer. Together we looked at how we can say prayers in fun and creative ways, we said traditional prayers during the Celebration of the Word.

Saint Mary's, Boston were very pleased to welcome a special visitor, Maureen, who came into their classroom to explain all about her experiences supporting a village in India. Saint Mary's parish in Boston have already established a link with the village, and now the school are going to link up too with Year 5 leading the way on this wonderful project. This will also help them work towards one of the pledges of their Live Simply Award application.

St. Augustine's, Stamford have had a big focus on prayer spaces around school and have also created a lovely multi-purpose room which has been designed with spirituality and well-being in mind. It is known in school as 'The Emmaus Room' and this name was picked carefully in the hope that when anybody uses it, whether for meetings or quiet reflection, they will be guided by Jesus and feel his message burning within them.

St. Mary's, Grantham, 'Mission Kenya' project has seen a good response from the community with kind donations of such things as bubbles and colouring equipment and they are also trying to involve the parish by holding knit and natter sessions in school too.

At Our Lady of Good Counsel, Sleaford, the Chaplaincy team has met with a group from a different year group each week to plan a class

Celebration of the Word based on the word of the week. The children have been excellent listeners and have all had some wonderful contributions to make to our planning sessions. They are keen to make their Celebrations of the Word creative and engaging and their liturgical awareness when choosing things such as items for the focus table and appropriate hymns to sing has been very impressive!

Article by *Lucy Wright, Lay Chaplain*



Using QR codes to follow Jesus on his journey

Pupils from St. Mary's, Brigg were led by the Chaplaincy team in a celebration of the word about Reconciliation. Based on the story of the lost sheep, pupils were given their own sheep and after an examination of conscience, were able to write down anything people wanted to say sorry for. Pupils could leave their sheep in the chapel, or if they wanted to, could speak to Fr. Lim in reconciliation.

The school also celebrated Mass in remembrance of Year 1 pupil Evelyn, who sadly passed away in January. Pupils and staff were able to say goodbye to Evelyn. We ended Mass with 'If I were a butterfly', which is usually sung at the end of the Year 6 Leaver's Mass, as a reminder that our pupils never truly leave us, and that Evelyn is still with us.



The Mini Vinnies at St. Mary's, Grimsby led the whole school a Celebration of the Word based on the principles of Catholic social teaching. At the end of the Celebration of the Word, each class was given one principle of Catholic Social Teaching, and one of our school virtues to look at in detail over the coming term, to help all pupils understand how these link to our school mission statement.

The Chaplaincy teams at St. Mary's, Grimsby, St. Mary's, Brigg and St. Bernadettes, Scunthorpe have been leading reflections on the Stations of the Cross. Both St. Mary's Brigg and Grimsby have recorded short videos about each Station and classes can scan QR codes to follow Jesus on his Good Friday journey.

Article by *Libby Mellows, Lay Chaplain*



Finding faith and hope at The Briars, Crich

During February half term, a group of 45, Year 10 students at Christ the King, Arnold were able to visit The Briars – a Catholic residential retreat centre based in Crich.

During the week stay, they focused on the key theme 'To the highest' which is based around the scripture Deuteronomy 31:8 - "The Lord himself will lead you and be with you. He will not fail you or abandon you, so do not lose courage or be afraid."

The retreat encouraged the young people to take a step back and identify what they are in pursuit of and the greater vision and plan that God has for their lives outside of their own earthly goals.

The week away was filled with many wonderful

activities varying from escape rooms to reconciliation and even some beautiful outdoor walks where we were able to play some games and visit Crich memorial stand.

We would like to thank The Briars for a wonderful week; if you want to support the work of the Briars, please visit the Nottingham Diocese Catholic Youth Service website: www.ndcys.com

Article by *Beth Richards, Lay Chaplain*



St. Hugh's band together for farming fundraiser

The Mini Vinnies and Year 4 children at St. Hugh's, Lincoln worked hard creating loom bands and baking cookies for a Valentine's fundraiser.

They raised an incredible £177.20 which will be donated to the Shepherd Food Ministries – a Lincoln-based charity to build a vital farming and training facility in Nigeria.

Find out more about the work of Shepherd Food Ministries on their website: www.shepherdsfood.org.uk



All Saint's step up for neonatal charity



All Saint's, Mansfield have been working hard to raise money for charity this term, with each class focusing on different fundraising ideas.

Mrs Nattriss' form (7ANS) embarked on a sponsored walk, raising an incredible £159 for the Emily Harris Foundation, a Mansfield-based charity that supports families and staff in the Neonatal Unit at King's Mill Hospital.

A big shout to Leo H and Buba C who raised an incredible £33 each!

To find out more about the Emily Harris Foundation, please visit: www.emilyharrisfoundation.org

St. Teresa's helping those in crisis

Pupils at St Teresa's, Aspley held a cake sale and raised an incredible £449 for the Emmanuel House Support Centre – an independent charity for people who are homeless, rough sleeping, in crisis, or at risk of homelessness in Nottingham.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed. Click to find out more about the charity: www.emmanuelhouse.org.uk



St. Bede's preparing their Year 11 for the future

Year 11 students at St Bede's, Scunthorpe got ready for the next step on their career journey with a mock work interview day.

They were joined by John Leggott College, The Cookie People, The CEC, Rockscape Energy, Birch Chemicals, Active Humber, SSE, the RAF and more!



Sporting triumphs across our Trust schools



The sporting prowess of students within the Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT has once again shone brightly this term, with remarkable achievements across various disciplines. From table tennis triumphs to football feats, here's a roundup of the outstanding performances:

Amelia from Blessed Robert Widmerpool, Clifton has once again secured the Nottingham Girls U11 Table Tennis Championships, marking her second consecutive win. She will now represent her school in the National Schools Championships in the summer.

Amelia is the first girl to progress this far in 27 years and currently holds the 16th rank in the country for her age category!

The girls' football team from Sacred Heart, Carlton battled against adverse weather conditions to emerge victorious as the Nottinghamshire County Cup Champions.

Their resilience and teamwork have earned them the opportunity to represent Nottinghamshire in the regional finals in Birmingham next month.

Additionally, Sacred Heart's Girl's Rugby Team clinched the Paviours Tag Rugby tournament for Gedling.

A fantastic result for all involved – well done!



The girl's football team from Our Lady of Lincoln may not have secured victory in their debut match, but their hard work and team spirit on and off the pitch have been truly exceptional. We are looking forward to seeing their next match!

A big thank you to LEW Electrical Distributors for the beautiful kits and to Headteacher Mrs Desforges who designed it.

Celebrating the art of dance

In February, students from St. Augustine's, Stamford, took part in the Spotlight Dance Festival in Rutland.

They had only been rehearsing with Miss Bush, their Inspire+ sports apprentice for two weeks, and they were incredible on the night! They behaved impeccably throughout the long day, finally performing at 6.45pm.

As one of the dancers came off the stage, he jumped for joy and said: 'Yes, we smashed it, that's the best thing I've ever done. Thanks Miss Bush!'

We also have talented dancers at St. Teresa's, Aspley who have won their regional heat at the Great Big Dance Off!

Their outstanding dance routine has earned them a place in the National Grand Final in Oxford later this year! We are so excited to see them take to the stage again.

Congratulations to the students at St. Augustine's and St. Teresa's who took part and for representing your schools so brilliantly.



Young Voices

Schools from across Trust took part in Young Voices, the largest children's choir concerts in the world!

Over 6,000 school children attended the events in Birmingham and London, along with school staff and parents to bring down the roof with their amazing singing.



School theatre round-up



Students at Christ the King, Arnold showcased an impressive rendition of 'The Wizard of Oz' in February, dazzling audiences with their talent and professionalism.

Similarly, at The Becket, West Bridgford, congratulations are in order for the actors, musicians, and technical team for their outstanding production of 'The Quest', which followed the journey of five youths endeavouring to save Nottingham!

BBC radio skill sharing



In January, Blessed Robert Widmerpool, Clifton welcomed Rob Rose from BBC Radio Nottingham to their school.

They supported BBC Radio Nottingham's Age UK campaign by saying 'Ey Up!' and shining a light on the importance of a friendly 'Hello' to those who may be lonely or isolated.

A big thank you to Rob for sharing your experience of radio with our Digital Leaders!

Athletics champ Dai, inspires next generation

In March, former World, European, and Commonwealth 400m hurdles Champion, Dai Greene, visited Our Lady of Good Counsel, Lincoln.

He spoke to the children about his journey to achieve his dreams and gave some great advice as to how they can aim towards achieving their dreams. The children asked him some great questions and staff and pupils were truly inspired by his story.



Tackling local issues with Bulwell MP

Year 6 students at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell met with Alex Noris MP, their local member of Parliament in January.

They asked him some very potent questions and discussed Parliament and the issue of homelessness.



Mayoral birthday visit



The Mayor of Lincoln visited Our Lady of Lincoln Academy on his official birthday in February.

The children enjoyed the visit and were delighted to sing 'Happy birthday' to him.

Pupil's enjoy 'Fancy Dress'

Students at St. Augustine's, Stamford had a visit from the Mayor of Stamford, Andrew Croft and Town Council members.

Children were able to ask their special guests questions and also got to give their ideas on how they think Stamford could be improved and developed.

The children also had a chance to try on the Mayoral robes and Chains of Office!



Getting creative for World Book Day

On 7 March 2024, our schools had a fantastic World Book Day! Created by UNESCO in 1995, it is a celebration of books and reading marked in over 100 countries across the globe.

Across all our primary schools, we saw some amazing displays of creativity in costumes and activities on the day:



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:

- Primary Classroom Teachers
- EYFS Teacher
- Site Technician
- Site Manager
- Data and Exams Manager
- Exam Invigilators
- Cleaner
- Teaching Assistants
- SEND 1:1 Teaching Assistant
- Schools Maintenance Engineer
- Cover Supervisor

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 schools.

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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 [Our Lady of Lourdes](https://www.linkedin.com/company/our-lady-of-lourdes-catholic-mat/)

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