

Autumn/Winter 2024

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

# Newsletter

## ***Celebrating our student achievements***

We were thrilled to celebrate another fantastic year of results for our students this summer.



Sixth Form students celebrate at The Trinity

### **Outstanding A-Level Achievements**

Sixth Form students across the Trust have achieved remarkable results at this year's A-Levels, with a phenomenal average pass rate of 96% and 62.5% of students attaining A\*– C.

Moira Dales, Deputy CEO of the Trust, said, "I am thrilled to extend my warmest congratulations to all our Sixth Form students on their A-Level results! The dedication, focus, and sheer hard work they've invested over the past few years are truly commendable. These results are a testament to their resilience and commitment to academic excellence. We do not doubt that our students will continue to achieve great things in the years to come."

### **GCSE Success Across the Trust**

We also celebrated the GCSE achievements of our students with 67% of academy students attaining Grade 4+ in five GCSEs, including English and Maths.

James McGeachie, CEO, expressed his pride in the students' accomplishments, "We are all delighted for the Year 11 students across all our secondary schools. Their hard work, dedication, and perseverance throughout the last two years have truly paid off and as a result, achieved these amazing results.

We are looking forward to continuing to work with the large number of our students who are moving into our sixth forms.

I would also like to thank the teaching and support staff in our schools who have worked so hard to support our students."

### **Recognising Excellence**

The success of the Trust's schools extends beyond examination results. Nottinghamshire's 12 top state secondary schools for 2024 include two of the Trust's academies: All Saints', Mansfield and The Becket, Nottingham which rank among the top 10 schools in the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council areas based on Progress 8 scores.

The Becket School has further cemented its reputation for excellence, ranking 7<sup>th</sup> among state schools in the East Midlands in The Times' Best Secondary Schools list for combined A-Level and GCSE results. Nationally, it stands proudly at 194<sup>th</sup>, recognised for its outstanding percentage of top grades at both A-Level and GCSE.

Congratulations to all our students, staff, and school communities for these outstanding achievements!



# 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).

Click the logos below to read the full reports:

## Ofsted



**Our Lady of Perpetual Succour**  
Remains a 'Good' school

## CSI



**St. Patrick's, Wilford**  
Rated: Outstanding



**The Becket School, West Bridgford**  
Rated: Outstanding



**Holy Cross, Hucknall**  
Rated: Outstanding



**St. Philip Neri & St. Bede, Mansfield**  
Rated: Good



**Saint Mary's, Boston**  
Rated: Good



**St. Augustine Webster, Scunthorpe**  
Rated: Good



# The Trinity becomes a Lead Music School

We are thrilled to share that The Trinity Catholic School, Aspley has been selected as one of Nottingham's Lead Schools for Music for 2024-25, as part of the National Plan for Music Education.

This reflects the outstanding music provision which the students at The Trinity School receive and we are delighted to be able to be part of this project, which will support the musical development of many young people across the city".

As a Lead School, they will collaborate with the Nottingham Music Service to enhance music education across the city, providing valuable opportunities and experiences for children and young people.

Together with other lead schools – Forest Fields Primary, Greenfields Community School, and Nottingham Emmanuel School – they will contribute to shaping the future of music education in Nottingham.

James McGeachie, CEO said, "We are delighted that the Trinity Catholic School has been chosen to be one of the Lead Schools in this exciting venture.



# Our Lady of Good Counsel celebrates 50 years



Our Lady of Good Counsel Primary School in Sleaford recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at their current location.

The milestone celebrations included a Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick and a blessing of a new wooden cross to mark 50 years, and was made using recycled school benches. Staff and students dressed in period outfits in a 'through the decades day'. To close the celebrations, an open evening for past pupils, parents, staff and governors.

Thank you to everyone who made this celebration so special.

# Staff appreciation post!

Headteacher at St. Augustine's, Stamford, Tina Cox, would like to extend a special shout-out to **Claire Griffin** for her incredible dedication and hard work in creating marketing materials for the school.



Claire goes above and beyond, often working on these projects in her own time. Her recent contributions include designing school newsletters, posters, and even the cover and inserts for a published book of poetry featuring the work of St. Augustine's students!

Thank you, Claire, for your creativity, commitment, and the positive impact you make on the St. Augustine's school community!

**Do you have a member of staff you would like to appreciate?** Send your shout-out to [marketing@ololcatholicmat.co.uk](mailto:marketing@ololcatholicmat.co.uk) and we will include it in the next edition of our newsletter!

# The gifts of Christmas spread joy at St. Augustine's

This year, Christmas at St. Augustine's, Mapperley is extra special. The Trust Estates Department has teamed up with local contractors to spread joy to the children. These generous contractors have gone above and beyond to bring happiness to the school community.

Thanks to this incredible support, the school is brimming with presents, lovingly wrapped and tagged by school staff.

The highlight of the season will be a visit from Father Christmas himself! On Thursday, 19 December, he'll make a special stop at St. Augustine's to personally deliver the gifts.

Mrs. Moore, Headteacher at St. Augustine's shared, "The response has been overwhelming... this will be life-changing for the children."

It is truly a Christmas to remember, where the gifts are more than just presents – they are symbols of the love and community that make St. Augustine's a place of warmth, joy, and lasting memories".





# Creative fundraising across our schools

This term, schools across our Trust have demonstrated incredible generosity and creativity in their fundraising efforts. From musical events to markets and Christmas initiatives, our students, staff, and communities have come together to support a variety of worthy causes.

## St. Augustine's, Stamford

In November, St. Augustine's hosted 'A Musical Extravaganza' with parishioner Pat Gallagher to raise vital funds for the Wajir Mission – which supports a community in north-east Kenya, on the border of Ethiopia and Somalia.

After 50 years, this was Pat's final fundraising event before retiring - an impressive £1,500 was raised from the event!

## The Good Shepherd, Woodthorpe

At The Good Shepherd, students and staff



participated in the Teams4U Shoebox Appeal, collecting and sending 170 shoeboxes filled with essential items to Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania.

This incredible act of kindness will bring joy and hope to those in need this Christmas.

## St. Joseph's, Shirebrook

Pupils at St. Joseph's have been very busy this term, raising an incredible £2,500 for a variety of worthy causes.

They have shown commitment to helping people around the world, raising the following:

- CAFOD: £511.96
- Mary's Meals: £483.59
- Children in Need: £276.54
- MacMillan: £458.65
- School in Bethlehem: £749.01

## Christ the King, Arnold

The Sixth Form students at Christ the King organised a week packed with exciting events to support Children in Need, raising an impressive £905.19!

Highlights included:

- A Bake Sale, Find the Pudsey, and How Many Sweets in a Jar?
- A thrilling Staff VS Students Penalty Shoot-Out, with staff claiming victory
- A crowd-favourite Soak the Teacher event, where brave staff members spent their Friday afternoon drenched for a good cause!

All of these fundraising efforts showcase the incredible generosity and dedication of our school communities.

## St. Hugh's, Lincoln

Students at St. Hugh's have gone above and beyond with several meaningful fundraising initiatives this term.

The Mini Vinnies and School Council collaborated to raise funds for Shepherd Food Ministries in Nigeria and Medical Aid for Palestine, making an impressive £180.

Inspired Year 6 students also contributed by creating and selling jewellery and keyrings to support Dementia UK and Breast Cancer UK.

Families at St. Hugh's generously donated items to provide Christmas gifts for children and adults in need. Donations were delivered to the Bridge Church on Lincoln High Street to bring festive cheer to families requiring extra support.



# Parliament Week: Inspiring our pupils

During Parliament Week, students at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Lincoln and St. Joseph's, Boughton have been deepening their understanding of how Parliament works and the importance of democracy.

At Our Lady of Good Counsel, Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to meet Baroness Harris of Richmond online. She spoke about her role in the House of Lords, offering valuable insights into the workings of Parliament, and answered the children's thoughtful questions.

Meanwhile, children from St. Joseph's Primary took their learning to London, where they enjoyed an exciting and educational visit. During their visit, the children explored the Natural History Museum, a walking tour including Buckingham Palace and then a tour of both Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament.

These experiences brought the lessons of Parliament Week to life, inspiring students with the history, function, and significance of the UK's democratic institutions.



## Makaton Club spreads Christmas cheer



The Makaton Club at St. Patrick's, Wilford visited Century Court Residential Home in Wilford this term to spread lots of Christmas joy and cheer.

The popular club, attended by children across the school, teaches children how to sign in Makaton from general greetings to popular Christmas songs. The residents were delighted by the range of festive songs, infectious enthusiasm and the clarity of their signing.

The children thoroughly enjoyed serving the residents of Wilford by spreading the Christmas spirit and have even been invited back in the spring for more. Well done Makaton Club!

## CTK students make a difference this Christmas

During Advent, students from Christ the King, Arnold generously volunteered at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Lunch for the Elderly, held at the Good Shepherd Parish Centre, Arnold.

They spent the afternoon serving meals, conversing with the guests, and singing traditional Christmas carols. They even had the opportunity to meet the Mayor of Gedling!





## Saint Jude's Hub: Students lead the way

### Saint Mary's, Boston

Saint Mary's enjoyed a wonderful retreat day this term on Bishop Patrick's priority of 'Encounter'. With the help of Hannah Leech and Tom Baptist, the whole school enjoyed exploring how we can encounter God through His wonderful creation.

Every class created some artwork based on a different line from the psalm we had focussed on in our opening Celebration of the word and afterwards we used this artwork, along with photographs and prayers from the day, to create a new whole-school display entitled 'Praise the Lord'.

It was a wonderfully spiritual day filled with scripture, singing, praying, creativity and teamwork.



### St. Mary's, Grantham

At St. Mary's, the EYFS class led the Harvest Festival, encouraging donations for the Grantham Foodbank, singing, and writing a prayer. They led the festival with the Chaplaincy Team, involving the whole school and parents. Well done to EYFS!

### St. Augustine's, Stamford

This term, St. Augustine's have been showing generosity towards their local and global neighbours.

For their Faith in Action project this term, Year 6 voted to spend time with some residents from local care homes. A group of Year 6 volunteers worked with Mrs Wright to plan what we could do, and it was eventually decided that we would invite them to a Christmas tea party with drinks, snacks, a Christmas sing-along, craft activity and Nativity themed bingo. The invitation was then extended to the parish and to a local organisation which supports young adults with additional needs. What a wonderful way to recognise the human dignity of every person, both young and old, and to bring some seasonal joy to our local neighbours!

The Chaplaincy Team have also been busy planning a fundraiser for a community they have linked with in Wajir, Africa. After hearing that the children there would greatly appreciate some toys to play with during their break times, the Chaplaincy Team at Saint Augustine's promptly organised a fundraiser to make this possible and raised £46.50!

### St. Norbert's, Spalding

St. Norbert's held their annual Advent retreat with the theme 'Let People See the Light.' The day included singing, praying, and creative activities, raising £49.59 for CAFOD World Gifts.



Article by Lucy Wright, Lay Chaplain

## Saint Francis of Assisi Hub news

### Saint Francis of Assisi Hub Mass



On a sunny Friday, the Saint Francis of Assisi Hub gathered at Our Lady and St. Patrick's Church for the annual Hub Mass. Led by Fr. Pitak, representatives from each school in the Hub: St. Patrick's Primary School, Wilford, St. Edmund Campion, West Bridgford, Our Lady and St. Edward's, St. Ann's, Blessed Robert Widmerpool, Clifton and The Becket School celebrated Saint Francis' legacy of peace, humility, and love for creation.

### The Becket School Red Wednesday



The Becket School marked Red Wednesday in support of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Students and staff dressed in red to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians worldwide and prayed for the millions of people who face violence, discrimination, and even death for their faith. Our ACN cake sale, featuring an array of red-themed cakes and treats, raised an impressive £180 to support this vital cause.

### Bishop Patrick's pastoral visit

Bishop Patrick and Father Simon visited The Becket School, showcasing the Chaplaincy Mission Teams' initiatives.

The visit included a Q&A session, a Celebration of the Word, and the commissioning of the Chaplaincy Team.

Each team member received their Chaplaincy Team badge, blessed by the Bishop, as a symbol of their dedication. The team left the celebration feeling deeply proud and inspired in their roles as faith leaders within our community.



### Chaplaincy Team Training and Retreat Day

On World Youth Sunday, the Chaplaincy Team, led by Chaplains Ruth and Mrs. Conlon, engaged in prayer-robics, a quiz, and preparations for the Jubilee Year and Advent season.

### Youth Week at The Becket School

Our Youth Week concluded with a beautiful Youth Mass at Holy Spirit Church in the Parish of the Annunciation, celebrated by Fr. John Martin on the Solemnity of Christ the King.

The church was filled with young people and families, and students from The Becket School and Saint Edmund Campion school did a wonderful job at leading parts of the Mass beautifully. The celebration was brought to life with incredible worship music, led by the talented Mr. and Mrs. Ryder from The Becket School, raising both spirits and the roof!

After Mass, we enjoyed fellowship over Papa John's pizza and refreshments, leaving us inspired, empowered, and energised to continue building God's Kingdom. Youth Mass at Holy Spirit Church Youth Week concluded with a Youth Mass at Holy Spirit Church, celebrated by Fr. John Martin. The Mass featured worship music and was followed by fellowship with pizza and refreshments.

Article by Ruth Cotter, Lay Chaplain

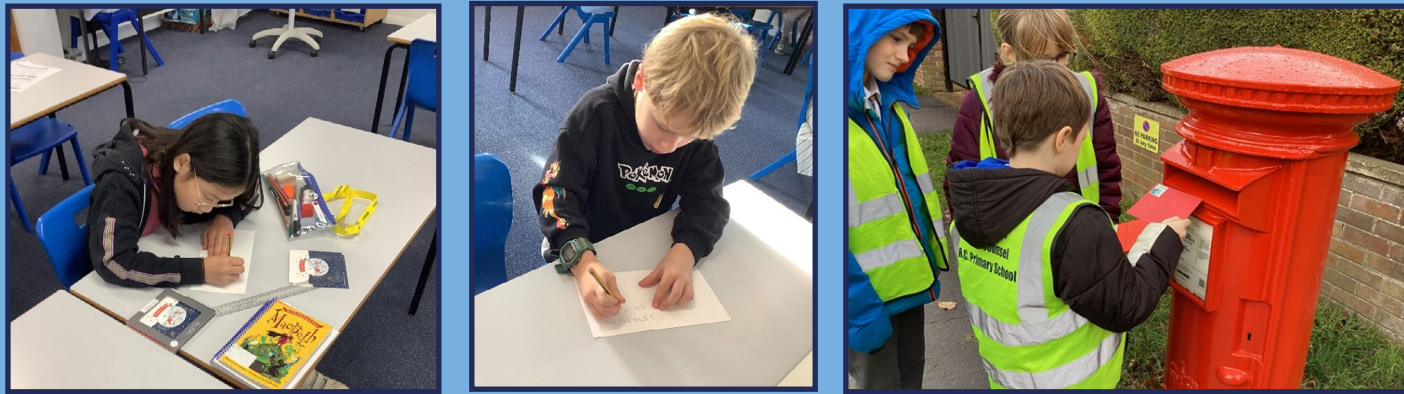


## Festive Friday: Spreading seasonal joy

Earlier this month, pupils at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Sleaford, celebrated Festive Friday! They wrote Christmas cards and posted them to people in the community and even hand-delivered some to local care homes.

The Mini Vinnies also went along to Oakdene Residential home to read and play games with the residents. They engaged in conversation and found out lots of interesting facts about them. Some of the residents taught the children how to play dominoes, card and board games.

What a beautiful way to spread joy during the Christmas season!



## Blessed Robert Widmerpool Advent celebrations

Years 4, 5 and 6 at Blessed Robert Widmerpool began their school Advent celebrations with a Singing performance re-telling the birth of Jesus.

The Faith in Action Team has been working hard this term towards the Pin-Level Badge. Part of this has been to volunteer their time to raise money for their chosen charities: Missio and St. Vincent De Paul.

Catholic Social Teaching principles have guided the Catholic Life and Mission this year. They were lucky to welcome a CAFOD Volunteer who led workshops for children this term. On the same day, they dressed up in costume as the Catholic Social Teaching CAFOD characters to raise money for CAFOD.



## St. Bede's creates RHS Reflection Garden

St. Bede's accessed the National Education Nature Park Grant from the Royal Horticultural Society, using it to create a stunning reflection garden on their grounds.

The grant is to help children and young people connect with nature through their education setting, such as a school, nursery or college.

This year, four more of our schools will be eligible for the grant, and we can't wait to share updates on the progress of their gardens as they come to life.

Find out more about the grant here: [National Education Nature Park](#)



## St. Hugh's joins Peace Doves artwork in Lincoln

St. Hugh's, Lincoln took part in the Peace Doves artwork displayed in Lincoln Cathedral this December.

The installation was created by sculptor, Peter Walker and over the summer around 12,000 people shared messages of peace, love and hope. In addition to this, children's artwork is also on display in the lady chapel at St. Hugh's Church.

Thank you to Jo Bailey, a parishioner of St. Hugh's Church, who has facilitated their participation in the project.





## Celebrating faith, learning and wellbeing

This term has been full of meaningful and memorable experiences for students and staff at Holy Trinity, celebrating faith, learning, and wellbeing.

### A Special Mass for Year 4

Year 4 students from across the De la Salle Hub who made their First Holy Communion last year came together for a special Mass at Holy Trinity Church. Each child brought forward an RE book and a school jumper to represent their school during the Introduction to the Mass.

The children led the readings beautifully and sang joyously, creating a truly heartfelt celebration. Afterwards, they enjoyed socialising and playing together before returning to school.

### Vocation and Commitment

A Visit to Mount St Bernard Abbey As part of their RE topic on 'Vocation and Commitment,' Year 5 and 6 students visited Mount St Bernard Abbey and interviewed Fr Joseph to learn about his life as a monk.

Students were fascinated by the monks' dedication to their calling, learning about their 3am wake-up times, daily prayers, self-sufficiency, and work making beer and pottery.

Inspired by Fr. Joseph's story, the children created a film to share their insights with the rest of the school. [Click here to view the film.](#)

This resource is also available for other schools to support their teaching on Vocation and Commitment.

### Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing

To mark World Mental Health Day in October, Holy Trinity's Pupil Peer Mentor team led a whole-school assembly focused on the importance of mental health and well-being. The team visited classrooms to teach activities for managing emotions like anger, sadness, or anxiety. They also presented staff members with Self-Kindness cards, reminding everyone to take care of themselves as well.

Well done to all involved for making this term so impactful and inspiring!



## St. Augustine's pupils delight with musical show

Students from St. Augustine's, Mapperley, visited Nottingham Hospice this term to perform a musical theatre show for the patients.

They performed songs from well-known musicals and Disney classics and afterwards made crafts with the patients.

Congratulations to all involved, what a wonderful way to give back to the community.



## 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:

- Employee Systems Officer
- Trainee Teacher
- Teaching Assistants
- Teachers (Primary)
- Head of Music and Drama
- Midday Supervisors
- Lay Chaplain
- Site Manager
- Minibus Driver
- Pastoral Assistant
- Deputy Headteacher

Visit our vacancies page to find out more: [www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/work-with-us](http://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](http://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](mailto: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!

### Follow us on social media:

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