

Summer 2026

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

Newsletter

From Colour Dashes to Kindness: Making a Difference...Together



More than 30 of our Trust schools have come together, to take part in sponsored Colour Dash events, helping raise over £40,000 for our partnership charity, *Lifting Children's Hopes* (LCH).

LCH is dedicated to improving the happiness and wellbeing of children and young people across the East Midlands. With a vision of creating a world where all children have the opportunity to flourish, the charity works alongside schools to remove barriers that can prevent children from thriving.

The Colour Dashes not only provided a memorable experience for pupils, but have also helped make a real difference to children and families across our school communities. They raise much-needed funds for the charity's wider work, but also contribute to a cycle of care that directly benefits children and families within our own schools.

Through programmes including support for school trips, mental health and wellbeing, essential items, family experiences, hobbies and activities and emergency assistance – LCH helps ensure that children and young people can access the opportunities many of us take for granted.

Thanks to the support provided through the charity, more than 1,000 acts of kindness and practical support have been delivered across our Trust schools. These have included:

- **101 school adventure grants** helping children access educational visits and residential experiences.
- **43 essential/emergency support packages** for families facing hardship.
- **93 toiletry packs** for teenagers.
- **286 Christmas gifts**, ensuring children experienced the magic of the festive season.
- **51 winter coats** for children in need.
- **21 Santa and seasonal experiences.**
- **45 cinema and family outing opportunities.**
- **152 family toiletry support packages.**
- **54 prom support awards**, helping young people attend important milestone celebrations.
- **176 filled pencil cases** to support learning in the classroom.

These numbers represent far more than statistics. They represent children attending a school trip for the first time, families receiving support during difficult times, young people taking part in enrichment activities and pupils feeling included alongside their peer group.

The remarkable money raised through our Colour Dashes highlights the generosity of pupils, families, staff and local communities. Every lap run, every splash of colour and every sponsorship donation contributes to changing lives and ensuring that children across our region have the support they need to succeed.

<https://lchcharity.co.uk>

Faith in Action, Caring for Creation

Schools across the Trust have been taking meaningful steps towards their climate action plans, showing how small actions can make a big difference.

Throughout the year, pupils and staff have embraced a range of sustainability initiatives, including food waste awareness weeks, uniform exchanges, walk-to-school challenges, car boot sales, community litter picks and the Big Plastic Count. Schools have also promoted energy conservation through activities such as Switch Off Fortnight and encouraged generosity by collecting food donations in exchange for non-uniform days.

World Earth Day provided a particular focus for environmental action. At **Saint Mary's, Boston**, pupils created wildlife habitats, bird feeders and artwork highlighting climate change and plastic pollution, while **St Augustine's, Mapperley** planted forget-me-nots as a reminder not to forget our responsibility to care for the planet.

St Teresa's, Aspley organised a whole-school litter pick, **Our Lady and St Edward's, Thorneywood**, explored how small lifestyle changes can reduce waste and save resources, and **St Norbert's, Spalding** and **St Joseph's, Boughton** incorporated environmental themes into worship and classroom learning.



Across the Trust, schools have also been creating and enhancing prayer gardens, planting for

biodiversity and encouraging pupils to become active stewards of the environment.

These initiatives not only help reduce environmental impact but also inspire children and young people to take responsibility for the world around them. Together, our school communities are turning climate action into everyday action and helping to build a greener future for all.

Eco-Stewards Champion Sustainability

Students at **All Saints', Mansfield** are helping to make their school more sustainable through innovative environmental projects. Using funds raised on World Earth Day, the Eco-Stewards purchased more than 250 customised reusable water bottles for incoming Year 7 pupils, helping to reduce single-use plastic waste across the school.



Inspired by the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Stewardship, students led every stage of the project, from fundraising and market research to design and organisation.

Following specialist staff training, the ALS Technology team has launched a new recycling initiative. The project will transform recycled plastic into items such as keyrings and jewellery, giving waste materials a new purpose while further promoting sustainability across the school community.

Bishop Patrick Blesses New Outdoor Chapel

The school community of **Our Lady of Lincoln**, came together in June for a special celebration as Bishop Patrick blessed the school's new outdoor chapel. The afternoon began with Mass in church before guests gathered outside in the sunshine for the blessing of the new sacred space.



The celebration concluded with a musical performance from a group of pupils playing their ukuleles. With beautiful weather and a prayerful atmosphere, the event was a memorable occasion for the whole school community and a wonderful way to celebrate this valuable new addition to the school.

St Mary's outstanding outdoor spaces



St Mary's, Nottingham, is proud to have achieved the *Platinum OPAL Award*, recognising the school's outstanding commitment to providing high-quality play opportunities for all pupils. OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) is a nationally recognised programme helping schools enrich children's play experiences and maximise the benefits of outdoor learning.

The school have also opened a new nature pond and wildlife area, funded through the National Education Nature Park programme. The project has transformed part of the school grounds into a rich and diverse outdoor space, creating new habitats for wildlife while providing pupils with exciting opportunities to learn about nature, biodiversity and environmental stewardship.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the ongoing work to develop joyful, creative and enriching play opportunities for their pupils.

Sustainability Brought to Life at E.ON's Blackburn Meadows

Year 8 students from **The Becket School, West Bridgford**, enjoyed an inspiring visit to E.ON's Blackburn Meadows Power Station, where they saw sustainability and innovation in action.

Students learned how the facility transforms waste wood into renewable energy, helping to power Sheffield while reducing waste and supporting a greener future.



The visit also celebrated the power station's impressive 10 years of environmental impact and demonstrated how science and engineering are tackling real-world challenges.

As well as touring the site, students attended a presentation about E.ON's apprenticeship programmes and heard first-hand from employees about their career journeys. The visit offered a fascinating glimpse into the range of roles available within the industry and inspired students to consider careers in science, engineering and sustainability.

Two Schools Achieve UNICEF Rights Respecting Awards

St Joseph's, Shirebrook is proud to have achieved the *UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting School Award*. This recognises the school's work in helping children understand their rights and creating a culture of respect, equality and inclusion.



Saint Mary's, Boston, achieved Silver and they are now working towards the Gold Rights Respecting School Award, continuing its commitment to putting children's rights at the heart of school life.

These awards reflect the hard work of pupils, staff, governors and families across our school communities – well done to all!

In Memoriam

As a Trust family, we pause to remember and give thanks for the lives and service of colleagues and community members who have sadly passed away this academic year.

We remember **Fiona Longden**, Teaching Assistant at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Mansfield; **Claire Marshall**, Teaching Assistant at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, Hucknall; **Aiden Calvert**, Teacher at The Trinity Catholic School, Aspley; and **Deacon Martyn Swaby**, a valued member of the Our Lady of Perpetual Succour community in Bulwell.

We give thanks for their dedication, kindness and the positive impact they made on the lives of pupils, families and colleagues.

They will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered in our prayers.

May they rest in peace.



HAF is Back



The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme supports children who receive benefits-related Free School Meals, offering them access to fun, enriching activities and a free healthy lunch every day during the school holidays.

Book a place via the links below:

Derbyshire schools: <https://bookings.itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk/list>

Nottingham City schools: <https://eequ.org/nottinghamcityholidayactivitiesandfoodhaf>

Nottinghamshire Schools: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/holiday-activities-and-food>

Lincolnshire schools: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-pupil-support/holiday-activities-food-programme>

Headteacher Honour for Fran Moore



Congratulations to Fran Moore, Headteacher at **St Augustine's, Mapperley** on being awarded Nominee Certificate status in the 'Headteacher of the Year in a Primary School' category at the Pearson National Teaching Awards.

Fran was recognised for her outstanding leadership and dedication to improving the life chances of children in one of the area's most deprived communities.

Her vision of 'one family' has transformed parent and family engagement and strengthened the school community.

Guided by her mantra: "The quality of our work counts, the quality of our character counts, every second counts," Fran continues to inspire pupils, families and staff alike.

A well-deserved achievement.

A Pawsome New Colleague at CTK

Students and staff at **Christ the King, Arnold** are delighted to welcome a very special new member of the school community: **Vinnie Reign**, an emotional support dog who has joined the Pastoral Support Team.



Vinnie will help create a calm and supportive environment for students, providing comfort and encouragement to help them feel safe, confident and ready to learn.

His name has a special connection to the school's motto, 'Christus Vincit, Christus Regnat' ("Christ conquers, Christ reigns"). 'Vinnie' is inspired by Vincit, symbolising courage and resilience, while 'Reign' reflects Regnat, representing calm, support and reassurance.

Welcome to the community Vinnie Reign!

Marathon Success Raises Over £6,000

Following months of training and fundraising, Elspeth Wilkins-Campbell, Headteacher at **St Joseph's, Boughton**, and Nik Shively, Deputy Headteacher at **St Philip Neri, Mansfield**, successfully completed the London Marathon and raised more than £6,000 for CAFOD.

Reflecting on the experience, Elspeth and Nik described the event as unforgettable, with an incredible atmosphere and thousands of spectators lining the route to cheer runners on every step of the way.

Crossing the finish line after months of dedication and training was a particularly special moment. Elspeth and Nik would like to thank everyone who donated, offered encouragement and followed their marathon journey, saying the support they received played a huge part in helping them achieve their goal.



Poetry Awards at Lincoln Festival

Pupils from **St Hugh's, Lincoln**, achieved outstanding success at the Lincoln Music & Drama Festival 2026, with 38 children competing in the Light Verse and Performance Poetry categories.



All pupils performed to an exceptionally high standard, with many securing 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards.

A special congratulations goes to Emmanuella and Abdullah (pictured), who both won their respective poetry-reading categories and received trophies for their performances.

Abdullah's captivating recital also earned him the prestigious Lincolnshire Chronicle Cup for outstanding performance. Their confidence, expression and excellent oracy skills brought their poems to life and made the school incredibly proud.

Irish Dancers Celebrate Success



Congratulations to pupils from **Our Lady of Lincoln**, on their fantastic achievements at the British National and Scottish National Irish Dancing Championships.

Lilia was crowned Under 8 National and Scottish National Champion, while Ivy Rose achieved the same incredible double success in the Under 10 category.

Dolly also claimed the title of Preliminary Scottish Champion. These outstanding results reflect the hard work, dedication and talent of all three dancers.

Irish dancing lessons takes place weekly at the school, with opportunities for pupils to attend additional classes and compete at national events.

As well as developing dance skills, Irish dancing helps children build friendships, fitness, and confidence. The whole school community is incredibly proud of their achievements and looks forward to celebrating their continued success.

Celebrating Two Remarkable Headteachers

This summer, the Trust bids a fond farewell to two long serving Headteachers whose dedication has shaped their school communities for many years.

Jane Smedley is leaving after 14 years as Headteacher of **St Patrick's, Mansfield**, while **Greg Hughes** retires from **St Hugh's, Lincoln**, after an incredible 22 years as Headteacher and 35 years of service to the school.

The Trust thanks both Jane and Greg for their outstanding leadership, commitment and service to Catholic education, and wishes them every happiness for the future. From September, Clare Pyatt will become Headteacher at St Patrick's, and Maria Blood will take up the role at St Hugh's.

Ever Wonder How Schools Plan Their Trips?

From museum visits and sports fixtures to residential adventures, every school trip begins long before pupils step onto a coach. Across the Trust, schools use EVOLVE, a specialist educational visits management system, to plan, risk assess and gain approval for trips and activities. The system helps staff manage everything from travel arrangements and staffing ratios to safety procedures, ensuring visits are well organised, safe and educationally valuable.

Educational visits continue to play a vital role in broadening pupils' horizons, with **49,478** visits planned across the Trust during the 2025–26 academic year. Whether linked to PE, History, Geography, English or Science, these experiences bring learning to life and create lasting memories. Behind every successful trip is a great deal of preparation, helping to ensure pupils can explore, learn and thrive beyond the classroom.

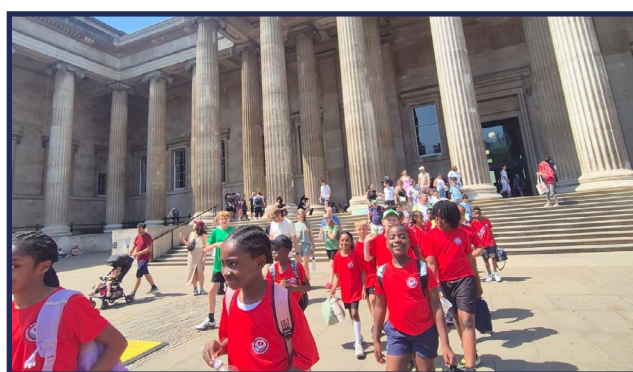
Game, Set, Match!



Students from **St Joseph's, Boughton** enjoyed a truly unforgettable visit to Wimbledon, experiencing one of the world's most famous sporting events first-hand. During the trip, pupils had the opportunity to visit the iconic Centre Court and watch two live matches on Court 1.

The visit provided a once-in-a-lifetime experience, giving students a unique insight into the world-famous championship.

London Reward Day



More than 40 children from **St Augustine's, Mapperley**, enjoyed what many described as "the best trip ever" after earning a free visit to London through their outstanding behaviour. The action-packed day included over 15 hours of unforgettable experiences in the capital, culminating in a spectacular West End performance of Hercules. Special thanks to **Mrs Kingsland**, who successfully secured a special grant to fund the trip.

From Upcycled Denim to National Success

Students from **The Becket Sixth Form, West Bridgford**, celebrated a fantastic achievement as their Young Enterprise company, Denim Dogs, reached the National Finals in Cardiff. The Year 12 team competed against 12 of the UK's top student companies after winning multiple awards at local and regional stages of the competition.

The team creates dog collars, leads and waste bag holders from upcycled denim donated by local charity shops, reducing textile waste while promoting sustainability. Students designed, made and marketed the products themselves, developing valuable business skills with support from former business adviser, Dai Jones.



Chaplaincy Hub Round-Up

St Jude's

Our hub schools have been celebrating faith, community and prayer through a range of chaplaincy activities this term.

At **St Norbert's, Spalding**, pupils hosted a special retreat afternoon as part of their journey towards the CAFOD Live Simply Award. Working alongside Mrs Wright, pupils planned reflective prayer stations for parents and parishioners, alongside art activities, meditation and Visio Divina. The day concluded with a whole-school Celebration of the Word and a new worship song led by Lead Lay Chaplain, Hannah Leech.



Meanwhile, at **Saint Mary's, Boston**, the school community came together to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Ordination of parish priest, Fr. Dominic O'Connor.

Pupils and staff marked the occasion by creating prayers and a scrapbook filled with photographs and special memories in recognition of Fr. Dominic's dedicated ministry.

At **St Peter and St Paul's, Lincoln**, pupils have been making full use of their recently blessed outdoor chapel, hosting several Celebrations of the Word in the space, including events for visiting Year 5 pupils and international guests.



Decorated pebbles created by parishioners, pupils and visitors now add colour and meaning to Sarah's Singing Group; a group of incredibly talented SSPP students. The students were excellent, and the community thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Oscar Romero

We recently invited students from our hub schools to design a new Oscar Romero Hub logo. With so many fantastic entries, selecting just one winner was no easy task, so we decided to combine ideas from across the submissions to create a logo inspired by the students who entered.



Congratulations to Erin and Lianna, whose designs were chosen as part of the winning entries! Thank you to everyone who took part – we're proud to showcase a logo that reflects the talent and collaboration across our Hub.

Students from the Youth SVP group at **Christ the King, Arnold** have been putting their faith into action by supporting elderly members of their local community.

This term, pupils visited a residential care home, spending time chatting with residents, playing games and sharing stories about school life. Students said the experience as rewarding and enjoyable, with many making new friendships and helping to brighten the residents' day.



The group also volunteered at the Good Shepherd Church Summer Lunch Party. Through these experiences, students have shown how simple acts of kindness, service and companionship can make a real difference.

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:

- Office Manager
- Teaching Assistants
- Midday Supervisors
- Teaching posts
- Site Technician
- Minibus Driver

Visit our vacancies page to find out more:
www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/work-with-us

Helping Our Families With Financial Support

Our Trust initiative, The Little Acts of Kindness Fund supports eligible pupils with school-related costs, from trips and uniforms to meals and travel.

Learn more and check eligibility criteria here:
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!

Mental Health Space

At Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT, we're building a community where mental health and wellbeing thrive.

Our resources offer practical support and guidance for staff, students, families, and mental health first aider and promote awareness and positive wellbeing across our schools.

Access here: [Mental Health Space](#)

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