



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



OUR MISSION

'Growing in faith, serving with love, transforming our world; together in Christ'

Serving 25 schools in the Nottingham Diocese

PENTECOST 2 2023 NEWSLETTER



As we come to the end of the academic year it is important to recognise the wonderful work going on across all of our schools.

As a Trust we have refocused our Mission statement, which is 'Growing in faith, serving with love, transforming our world, together in Christ.' We have seen this lived out by our pupils and staff in so many different ways, which include raising tens of thousands of pounds for charity, campaigning on environmental issues or being involved in work to support local communities. Even more

incredibly, this has been done against the backdrop of a cost of living crisis and demonstrates the great work being done by our schools, not only in educating and forming our children, but striving to form a society in line with the vision that Christ gave us. It's been a very busy year in terms of inspections, with over 20 in total, including Ofsted and Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspections. The strength of leadership, quality of curriculum, support for our vulnerable pupils, and quality of Catholic life and collective worship have come across strongly and have been such a positive reflection of the hard work of staff in all of our schools.

Looking forward, we are excited to

see how the Government project to rebuild three of our schools pans out, alongside the new St Mary's building in Derby which is set to open later this year. This will be a flagship eco school which will be wonderful for the community of St Mary's who have been through so much since the fire in 2020. I hope you and your families can enjoy a well earned rest over the summer and we look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

Kevin Gritton
Chief Executive

Schools celebrate Eco Garden openings

Eight schools in the Trust are busy working on their new Eco Gardens - with two celebrating official openings.

The gardens at English Martyrs', in Long Eaton, and Blessed Robert Sutton, in Burton, have been completed and official opening ceremonies have been held.

Other gardens are planned at St Thomas', in Ilkeston, Holy Rosary, in Burton, St Edward's, in Swadlincote, St Joseph's, St George's and St John Fisher, all in Derby.

The eight schools were among 26 which applied for funding from East Midlands Airport's Eco Garden project.

All schools were asked to submit designs for gardens or green spaces that substantially boost biodiversity and lead to improved wellbeing.



Pictured above is the opening of the garden at English Martyrs' and pictured right is the garden at Blessed Robert Sutton.



70th anniversary celebrations at St John Fisher

Congratulations to St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy, in Derby, which celebrated its 70th anniversary on June 20th. A full day of celebrations was held to mark the occasion and the festivities started with a visit from BBC Radio Derby. Staff, former pupils and current pupils were interviewed

throughout the breakfast show. Pupils enjoyed ice cream at lunchtime before Mass was celebrated with Bishop Patrick. Following Mass, ex-pupils and staff were invited into school for refreshments and to reminisce about their time at school whilst looking through old photos.



Three schools graded 'Good' by Catholic Schools Inspectors

Three Trust schools have been graded Good by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate.

Saint John Houghton CVA, in Ilkeston, was graded Good with Outstanding features as was St Mary's CVA in Glossop. St Elizabeth's CVA, in Belper, was graded Good in all areas and Good overall. At St Mary's, inspectors said that it was a "welcoming and inclusive Catholic

school, which lives out its mission statement in an outstanding manner for the benefit of all pupils." Pupil behaviour at St Elizabeth's was described as exemplary and inspectors said that school leaders were ambitious for the vision of the school.

At Saint John Houghton, inspectors said: "The exceptional Catholic ethos permeates all areas of school life."



Reflection from our Lead Lay Chaplain, Jamie Agius.

As we come closer to the end of another academic year, we should try to take the time to reflect on how it's gone. There have been many ups, quite a few downs and many days when things are just ticking over. As Catholic Christians, we should try to find God

in all of these moments; the happy, the sad and even in the mundane. This is easier said than done but if we look at Jesus' life, we can see him go through

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these experiences in an accepting and prayerful way. He experienced the sadness of loss when Lazarus died, he expressed his joy on recognising the faith of the centurion and probably

spent many moments just sat with his friends doing nothing hugely significant.

St Terese of Lisieux teaches us that even in the quiet and often boring moments of the day we can experience God's presence.

Let's spend time each day trying to recognise where and how God can be encountered, and give thanks for all those times in the last year where we have had the opportunity to grow as human beings.



Pioneering new eco school takes shape

A pioneering new eco building for a Derby primary school that was destroyed by fire is taking shape. All of the five main single storey structures of St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy's building on the school's Broadway site have been erected and the process of cladding them with cedar is well underway. The installation of windows has begun along with the construction of the large central covered walkway which will connect the buildings. A multi-use games area is also being created. Painters and decorators will begin work in the coming weeks and the building is scheduled to be completed in late autumn. The biophilic design focuses on connecting those inside the building – set to be the UK's first biophilic school - with nature, with the goal of promoting physical and mental health.



Schools mark Shakespeare anniversary

A celebration of the 400th anniversary of the release of Shakespeare's first folio of works took place across the Trust. Anna West, from Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby, led the programme as part of the Stronger Together project which she leads on – bringing schools together through performing arts. Primary schools performed a Shakespeare play in a day, which was linked to their KS2 literacy curriculum for Year 5 and 6.

An artist was allocated to each school and during the day they explored script and devised work around key themes and ideas in Shakespeare's work.

At the end of the day each school had a 15-minute performance that they shared with either parents, schoolchildren in an assembly, or both.

Secondary schools all had a half day visit from an actor who has worked for the Royal Shakespeare Company and who developed bespoke workshops for each school based on what they have specified they wanted. At Saint Benedict, the whole of Year 9 visited Derby Theatre over two days and experienced a carousel of street dance, drama and music and rap which linked to key scenes and themes in Romeo and Juliet.

Anna has also secured £165,000 funding, with Derby Theatre, from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Teacher Development Fund. Staff in six schools will work with artists from the theatre on embedding drama-based and creative approaches to support students to develop language skills.



We were delighted to welcome pupils and staff from our schools to our Pupil Parliament meeting, where they unpicked our Mission statement: "Growing in faith, serving with love, transforming our world; together in Christ."

There were some great examples of how our Mission is being lived out in schools and how it could be lived out in the future. In groups, pupils and staff then discussed what they would like to see happening in schools on our Feast Day in December.



OUR MISSION IN ACTION

- how pupils across our Trust are living out our Mission and transforming our world



Children and staff at Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in New Mills are supporting a school in Uganda as part of an international aid project. The school has created links with Busyangwa School, sending over letters, artwork (pictured), clothes and sweets and has also raised £600 to buy a battery-operated TV. The relationship has been built as part of the Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning programme, which helps schools to make connections locally and globally. Children at Saint Mary's have also received letters of thanks from pupils at Busyangwa School. Patricia Chapman, Headteacher at Saint Mary's, said: "As part of our Global Learning lessons we have been liaising with Busyangwa School which is in Uganda. This is part of the Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning programme, which supports schools internationally to learn about and collaborate on the big issues that shape our world."



Class 1 and 2 at St George's in Derby made wind socks to remind everyone to keep the oceans clean.



Students at St Philip Howard in Glossop have been busy fundraising for Refugee Action.



A Year 6 pupil at All Saints Catholic Voluntary Academy in Glossop surprised his lovely grandad and other residents of Willow Bank Residential Home in Hadfield, with one of the beautiful Easter Gardens made by Class 3. What a lovely way to make your grandad smile!

Pupils at Holy Rosary in Burton took part in a walk to share the message around road safety, raise awareness and make a difference in their local area.

