

# Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust



## Summer 2023 Newsletter - Issue 10

### Thank You

Dear Community,

It's hard to believe that we are rapidly coming to the end of another academic year. It is an absolute pleasure to be able to highlight in this newsletter a very brief snapshot of the many opportunities for creative learning, curriculum enrichment and celebration of achievement which have taken place in all of our wonderful schools over the last few weeks. They showcase some of the many opportunities for all of our pupils in the Our Lady of Walsingham family of schools to learn, grow and achieve, well prepared and ready for the next step in their own individual journey of learning and faith.

During the year there have been difficulties and uncertainty created by various world and national events, including the ongoing war in Ukraine, transfer of sovereignty following the death of the Queen and the cost of living crisis. Despite this, our schools continue to be safe, secure and welcoming places for all our pupils and staff. These very real challenges serve to highlight the importance of being part of a Trust community of schools that tackle and successfully overcome difficulties together. Within our Trust mission statement this ethos of shared vocation is clear and lived out in all schools every day: *As a family of schools, we will work together in faith and love to fulfil the Church's mission.*



The end of the school year provides the prospect of a welcome break to the normal term time routine. It also gives us the opportunity to stop and reflect on all those who have played their part in the development and formation of our pupils and success of our schools. We are blessed with the support of wonderful parents, governors, and staff as well as the enormous contribution, hard work and resilience of each of our unique pupils themselves.

Pope Francis reminds us of the importance of saying thank you as a form of prayer and source of grace. He said: *"Above all, let us not forget to thank: if we are bearers of gratitude, the world itself will become better, even if only a little bit, but that is enough to transmit a bit of hope. The world needs hope. And with gratitude, with this habit of saying thank you, we transmit a bit of hope. Everything is united and everything is connected, and everyone needs to do his or her part wherever we are."*



All of our schools continue to forge ahead in so many areas to provide an excellent, rounded, faith filled education for our pupils. This edition of the newsletter celebrates and says "thank you" to all who have contributed to the richness and diversity of the school experience across the Our Lady of Walsingham Trust.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Clark

## Christ at the Centre, Children at the Heart



# Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust



## St Benedict's Catholic School

Developing Wisdom, Compassion and Resilience through  
Prayer and Work

### A Wonderful Summer Term

Our summer term has been as busy and hectic as usual, with public exams for years 11 and 13, mock exams for years 10 and 12 and a whole host of school activities including; trips for the lower school, sports day, Proms for years 11 and 13, St Benedict's Day Mass, our Inaugural St Benedict's Day Fayre, Awards Evening, UCAS Discovery Event trip and more. It goes without saying that non of these events would be possible without the amazing team of teachers and staff here at St Benedict's and we are very grateful to them all, for their hard work and dedication.

### Year 11 Prom 2023

Year 11 Prom held their Prom at Ravenwood Hall. Thankfully the sun arrived in the early afternoon to set the stage for a wonderful evening. The students arrived in style and looked very much the part in an array of fabulous dresses and suits. They enjoyed a hog-roast and lots of dancing. It was lovely to see so many staff and parents who came to take photographs. Huge thanks to everyone who helped make the evening memorable for them.



### Maths Challenge Success

Following his exceptional performance in the Junior Round of the Maths Challenge, where he received a gold award; George Wightman gained entry into the Pink Kangaroo competition. The Pink Kangaroo is the second round of the maths challenge, only available to the top 10,000 students in the UK, the top 25% of these students gain a certificate of merit from the Pink Kangaroo.

The qualifying score this year was 90 marks for a certificate of merit, while George managed to score 119, massively exceeding this benchmark. Well done George, brilliant work.

Here is a chance for you to test your maths ability with one of the questions from the paper.

19. A rectangle with vertices  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(100, 0)$ ,  $(100, 50)$  and  $(0, 50)$  has a circle with centre  $(75, 30)$  and radius 10 cut out of it. What is the slope of the line through the point  $(75, 30)$  which divides the remaining area of the rectangle into two shapes of equal area?

A  $\frac{1}{5}$

B  $\frac{1}{3}$

C  $\frac{1}{2}$

D  $\frac{2}{5}$

E  $\frac{2}{3}$

### Christ at the Centre, Children at the Heart



# Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust



## St Benedict's Catholic School - Sixth Form

Developing Wisdom, Compassion and Resilience through  
Prayer and Work

### Sixth Form Update

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June we welcomed all the Year 11 who have applied for our sixth form to our Induction Morning. The day started with a welcome from Mrs Senior and then a talk from Mr Richmond about what the students can expect during their time at St Benedict's sixth form, including the new extra-curricular subjects and the numerous trips that are organised for them. Mr Richmond was followed by Matt Fildes, an ex-Bennies student working at Raiffeisen Bank International AG, who gave a talk on his career journey since leaving St Benedict's. The students were then able to enjoy break in the common room with snacks and refreshments before having the opportunity to meet the teachers for each subject they are considering for A-level study. Those who have applied for the Cambodia trip also had the opportunity to attend a talk with Matt Spiller to find out more about the 2024 trip. We hope the students enjoyed the morning and are looking forward to joining our sixth form after their well-deserved summer break. A huge thank you to all the members of staff who helped with the running of the event.

On Tuesday we took all the Year 12 students to the NEC, Birmingham, for the UCAS Discovery Event where they had the chance to meet representatives from over 150 higher education providers alongside industry giants such as PwC and the armed forces. The students all left buzzing with ideas and thoughts about their post-18 options, and now have plenty of time and information to continue their research into their preferred courses.

### Royal Academy Summer Exhibition



Our 12 Art and Design students visited the Royal Academy in London to gain inspiration for their personal investigations and NEA assignments from the amazing array of work on display. We were hit by fields of still life paintings and political commentary as the work has been curated this year by British artist David Remfry RA. Exploring the theme of 'Only Connect', inspired by a quote from the novel *Howards End* by E. M. Forster, the exhibition holds 1,614 featured works, including Richard Malone's dramatic mobile installation in the Wohl Central Hall pictured here.



"It was so inspiring to see such a broad combination of artworks by both professional and amateur artists. The textile work has given me lots of inspiration for my own project" Claire Jones, Year 12 student.

We had a fantastic day, so we look forward to seeing how the students make use of their research now!



## Christ at the Centre, Children at the Heart



# Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust



## St Felix Catholic School

Followers of Jesus learning together

### Exciting Visits in June

St Felix has been lucky to have two important visitors in June.

Bishop Peter joined the school on 9<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate Mass for the 50th anniversary of the school's opening. The bishop led Mass at 10.30 alongside Canon David Bagstaff and Father John Warrington. Mass was attended by the pupils, staff, governors, trust board representatives and former heads. The children sang beautifully to excellent playing by Mrs Lashmar, a former headteacher. Y3 and Y5 provided a descant to the hymns and showed how liturgical music is shared at St Felix. Pupils in Y5 and Y6 led prayers and reading and Y4 carried the offertory. The bishop blessed bookmarks donated by the HSA.

After a wonderful service, the friendly Bishop visited the classrooms to meet the children and see how St Felix functions. He even had a go at playing the drums! Pupils were eager to say hello and receive a handshake. A delicious lunch was provided for the adults and a chance to look at records and photos from the school's 50 years since 1973.

The children all had a piece of the birthday cake and a bookmark to remember the occasion. It was a fantastic day and very special for the St Felix family.



Matt Hancock MP visited St Felix on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June to see the excellent quality of provision available. He spoke to a number of our Nursery pupils about their work on explorers and one asked him if he was the man in the picture – Sir Edmund Hillary! Our Reception children are learning about Stories from the Past and were keen to retell the story of Prometheus and the Fire, and Pandora's Box. They shared their recent work on being in Government and Abi was able to tell him that the job of MPs was not to play with playdoh, as he suggested, but to make decisions!

Mr Hancock then visited other classes in school to meet the school councillors and talk to them about their recent learning in history. Boriana Y3, explained how she was elected and Riddell class could talk about the impact of Simon De Montfort and the roots of the word Parliament - Felicity said, "From the word parler - to talk together." Hugo in Potter Class shook Mr Hancock's hand and explained his job as a school councillor; lots of meetings!

James and Florence in Year 4 took part in a brief debate, with Mr Hancock's help, to convince the class to keep or change the school uniform. Great thinking from both children without any preparation.

Inkpen Class (Y1) knew exactly what an MP did. Tilly summed it up, "You make the decisions for the country!" The class also engaged in debate about which is better - zebras or elephants. It came down to stripes versus a trunk! He was very complimentary about what he saw during his visit.

St Felix is always happy to welcome visitors to meet our wonderful children.



### Christ at the Centre, Children at the Heart



# Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust



## St Laurence Catholic Primary School

Through God's grace, a community growing in knowledge and understanding

### Inaugural Arts Week

At St. Laurence, we have had our inaugural Arts Week and it was a big success! We had two artists in residence, music workshops from Travelling by Tuba, cheerleading workshops and each class chose a different artist to study. At the end of the week, we had an open gallery evening for parents, carers and families. Lots of people attended and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.



Quails (Y3/4) were also making felt portraits of themselves. The artist they studied was Hundertwasser who loved intricate zen tangle patterns.

Here are Quails class, enjoying a cheerleading workshop. A big thank you to the Superstar coaches!



Owls (Y5/6) studied Gaudi's tiled designs and produced some of their



Kingfishers (Y2) were inspired by Van Gogh's Almond Blossom painting and lay on the grass to get an artist's perspective. They sketched, coloured washed and stippled to get the perfect result.

Wrens Class (YR) were studying Degas and his ballerina pictures. They also painted the sunflowers they had



Magpies (Y5/6) recreated the Mona Lisa by their chosen artist, Da Vinci. They each created their own interpretation.



Y5/6 worked with Andrew, another artist in residence, to produce some batik wall hangings.



Nightingales (Y1) worked with artist in residence, Heidi, who was showing them how to make felt portraits with wool. They were studying Georgia O'Keefe's work with flowers and created their own flower watercolours.



My favourite part of Arts Week was the Rousseau sketching because I am already a big fan of sketching and colouring.

*Aleksandr Year 6*

I enjoyed the Tuba Assembly because I had never seen some of those instruments before—such as the French alpine horn.

*Anthony Year 5*

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# Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust



## St Louis Catholic Academy Loving to Learn

### **St Louis Leavers Enjoy Sunshine in Shropshire**

Year 6 children travelled to Shropshire for a PGL activity break at Boreatton Park in late June. They faced many challenges including giant swings, canoeing and climbing. Our school recognises that pupils who take part in learning outside the classroom improve their standard of work and have increased confidence and self-esteem. For some, it was their first experience of being away from home and they proved themselves to be highly resilient and brave in trying out new adventures. As the cost of these stays increase, we are thinking of ways to help families to save over longer periods because this time away is so important.



St Louis School Fair was held on 7<sup>th</sup> July and was a huge success thanks to the amazing PTA volunteers who barbequed sausages, sold raffle tickets for amazing prizes, prepared foods from across the world, filled trolleys with tombola prizes and hosted the St Louis Has Got Talent competition for the second year. The event raised an incredible £3041.50 that the PTA are saving up to invest in some new trim trails for our outdoor classroom and football posts.

### **Vocations Month**

Our focus on vocations has expanded beyond the intended fortnight this year because of the positive call for speakers. Children have had the opportunity to;

Learn building and construction skills

Meet the PCSO to discuss road safety

Hear from the Fire Service Team (who needed to leave quickly to respond to a call to a fire)

Learn about the many jobs in hospitality from the manager of Bedford Lodge

Discover the range of horse related employment from training to vets

Find out about the work of a consultant anaesthetist

Listen to a lawyer and her path from A levels to become a partner in a London law firm that combines her passions for horses and law

Alongside these talks, we had time to reflect on the vocations that God calls us to do and there were opportunities to reflect on the value of work beyond financial gain. We discussed service to others and the mental challenge offered by some careers. The children developed great discernment in their questioning of visitors over time. We are so grateful to all the speakers who gave their time.

### **Reception Class Mass with Families**

Our youngest children came together with their families for their Mass led by Father Leo. Parish links are so important to us and we are grateful for Father Leo's many visits during the school year.



### **Local Horse Connections**



Our older children have been deepening their understanding of the local area by visiting the National Racing Museum to help them to understand the origins of racing in our town and learning about the racing economy today. The children experienced walking in the footsteps of horses in the demonstration of the exercise area. They were able to enjoy the artworks and enjoy talks. This supports our knowledge of local history and geography.

### **Christ at the Centre, Children at the Heart**



# Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust



**St Mary's Primary**  
Learning and Living through Faith

## ArtS Week

26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 saw St Mary's enjoy ArtS Week with a packed 5 days of art, design, dance, singing and music performances. Each class had a significant artist to inspire them and they created work in the style of those artists and also their own unique art using techniques and ideas they had researched and discussed. On Tuesday morning the whole school took part in our Mash Up Morning where the children worked in mixed class groups in small workshops trying new techniques. With 14 workshops (run by staff and a visiting glass artist) and 7 classes to mix up it was quite the feat of organisation but everyone had a fantastic time and the atmosphere in the school for the morning was brilliant - a real creative hub! There was a singing performance after school on Tuesday and later that evening a wonderful music concert. On Friday we had parent musicians put on a scratch concert for the school and at the end of Friday we opened our ArtS Week Exhibition with every class a gallery full of original art for parents and carers to enjoy. Each gallery also had an Interactive Zone for children to have a go at one of the activities that class had done during the week. The work created during Mash Up Morning was used to decorate the outdoor classroom and re-named The Flower Bower in honour of the floral themed hangings, collage, pictures and weaving it contained. Overall a week to celebrate with the children whole-heartedly embracing the opportunities it offered.



## Christ at the Centre, Children at the Heart



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ST PANCRAS



## St Pancras Catholic Primary School

We are loving and kind, we pray and we play, we learn and explore through our faith everyday.

### St Pancras

This term we have been opening the school up and inviting parents in to a number of different events. Following the success of our first Mother-figure morning in March, we celebrated a Father-figure morning in June. One hundred and fifteen father-figures attended an assembly and then completed a craft activity with their child in class. It was a really joyful occasion for us all and a wonderful way to celebrate the important role models in their lives.



We also held two 'planting mornings' where parents came to help make our school a little more green and beautiful, and we are very grateful for the plant donations made by local plant centres.

We were blessed with good weather for our Key Stage Two Sports afternoon and a new fastest sprint record was set by Darcie in Year 5 running 75m in 11.7 seconds. Darcie also set a new record for standing long jump, jumping 1.86m. All the children showed great sportsmanship and lived out both our school and Olympic values.

*Darcie hearing that she has broken two school records*



## Christ at the Centre, Children at the Heart





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**St Alban's High School, Ipswich**  
Learning, Respecting, Caring

## The Sixth form at St Albans

Visit to the University of Essex 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023

As part of our higher education and next steps provision, students in year 12 attended a day at the University, comprising lectures on "How to apply and choose Universities" and a student Q&A panel, an academic taste session and campus tour.

Students commented:

"It was an amazing experience in which we were able to learn about uni life as-well as prepare ourselves for what's to come and learn about the different types of universities out there"

"I really liked getting to experience the different types of classes as they are different to our sixth form ones and much more independent which I like"

"I liked the different class environment and the diversity at university as it allows you to be yourself and embrace your course with people with similar interests"



## Christ at the Centre, Children at the Heart



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## **End of School Year 22/23 Staff Movement**

Thank you and good luck to all Trust staff leaving at the end of the school year.

### **St Felix**

Mrs Sue Shackell, School Business Manager  
Mrs Karen Bryan, Special Needs Co-ordinator  
Mr Wolmarans, Classteacher  
Mrs Harriss, Teaching Assistant

### **St Laurence**

Tom Fitt, Classteacher  
Lucy Peck, Classteacher  
Oliver Jiggins, Classteacher  
Emily Beringer, Classteacher

### **St Louis**

Cat Cox, Classteacher  
Bianca Coetze, Classteacher

### **St Pancras**

Sophie Burgess, Teaching Assistant

### **St Mary's**

Lesley Mudd, Classteacher  
Chris Shevlin, Admin Assistant

### **St Albans**

Joshua Plume - PA to Headteacher  
Sam Griffin - IT Technician  
Kirsty Barnes - Teacher of Social Sciences  
Dominic Marchese - Teaching Assistant  
Caroline O'Donoghue - Creative and Performing Arts Technician  
Natasha Horsley-Rai - Teacher of Science  
Kevin Bennett - Senior IT Technician

### **St Benedict's**

Michael Boorman - Teacher of Geography  
George May - Teacher of History  
Susan Bowyer - Teacher of RE  
Sarah Hyden - Teacher of Science  
Scott Walker - Librarian  
Shelley Norman - Art Technician  
Matthew Livermoore - Teacher of RE

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand

## **Christ at the Centre, Children at the Heart**

