



ST CUTHBERT'S

ROMAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

ISSUE 3



Autumn 2023

www.scrat.org

The St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust began the academic year with a new Mission Statement.

Launched at a service of dedication in late September at the church of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Peter Chanel in Hull, the new mission and vision has been developed with input from the Board of Directors, Staff, and Members. The Trust's new mission is rooted firmly in the Bishop's Vision for education in the diocese.



The Bishop's Vision

To make Christ known and loved, through the provision of excellent Catholic education and schools intent on finding Christ in their daily lives and sharing that encounter with others.

'All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.' Isaiah 43:13

As St Cuthbert did, we will give ourselves gladly for the education of those in our care and walk with them on their life road wherever it may take them.

Our mission is to:

- *Give every member of St Cuthbert's family the experiences to encounter Christ and know that they are loved by Him.**
- *Enable all to meet their full potential and flourish.**
- *Provide excellent academic opportunities for learning.**
- *Grow in the Christian virtues of Faith, Hope and Love.**
- *Grow in service of others.**





Inspection success for Trust schools



Since our last newsletter a number of our schools have been inspected by Ofsted or the Diocesan Catholic Schools Inspectorate, or in some cases both! Outcomes have been highly favourable in all circumstances, so we have many schools who have been able to celebrate these.

St John of Beverley Roman Catholic Primary in Beverley was rated Good by Ofsted after an inspection in the summer term.

Headteacher Angela Nicholl said: "We were delighted to hear the inspection team talk about the special family feel of the school, the positive behaviour of the pupils and the way everyone looks after and cares for each other. "They were extremely complimentary about the pupils and could see how happy they are. They talked about the 'buzz of learning' created by teachers and staff across the school and the 'positive attitudes' on display."



Pupils, staff and families at St George's Catholic Primary in Scarborough were delighted after Ofsted graded them Good in all areas.

Inspectors said: "This is a school where pupils are happy. Staff make everyone feel welcome. Pupils feel safe because of the care they receive. Staff understand pupils' individual needs and how to support them. This includes pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. "Respectful relationships between pupils and staff help pupils to feel valued. Leaders have high expectations for all pupils to achieve well. They have designed a curriculum to include exciting learning experiences."



St Mary's VC Academy in Market Weighton went through two inspections and got Goods all round.

The Catholic Inspectorate said: "St Mary's is a very welcoming and highly inclusive community with a strong Catholic ethos and mission at its centre. The behaviour and attitudes of pupils in supervised and unsupervised activities is excellent. Pupils frequently show acts of spontaneous kindness towards each other."

Ofsted added: "Pupils speak knowledgeably about modern Britain and its values. They make positive contributions to school life. For example, school councillors help with charity work and some older pupils help newcomers settle into school...Subject leaders have organised the curriculum in mathematics and history in a logical way. They have comprehensive plans for teaching mixed-age classes...Teachers have a very clear understanding of what they want pupils to know. They explain work clearly so that pupils understand what they have to do."



St Mary and St Joseph's VC Academy in Pocklington was declared a Good school after an Ofsted visit in October.

The report said the school has high expectations of their students and there are positive relationships right across the school community. "Pupils are happy, feel safe and achieve well," it said, adding: "Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school."

Executive Head Julie Sutherland said: "It was recognised that our pupils behave well, show respect for everyone and develop good character. We look forward to welcoming many more children and families into our school. I am so proud to be the headteacher of this school community."



Following their recent Ofsted inspection in October, St Augustine's Secondary school in Scarborough has retained its **Good** rating from Ofsted

The school has been recognised again as a nurturing educational institution that not only prioritises academic excellence but also places the well-being and individual growth of its students at the heart of its work.

The HMI report explained that "Every pupil is treated as an individual at St Augustine's School....They are safe and cared for well. They want to meet the school's high academic expectations". Head of School Aishling Robinson is delighted with this well-deserved outcome Ofsted outcome "Our pupils and staff are our greatest asset and it is a testament to their hard work and community ethos that the OFSTED Inspection team recognised this as the core to our school ethos. Our high-quality learning that occurs in every classroom every day is something we are very proud of as it means all our children receive the very best education to enable them to live their best life. We will continue to strive forward as a school community to build on our achievements."



ST AUGUSTINE'S
VC ACADEMY



ST CHARLES'
VC ACADEMY



ENDSLEIGH
HOLY CHILD
VC ACADEMY



ST GEORGE'S
VC ACADEMY



ST JOHN OF
BEVERLEY
VC ACADEMY



ST MARY'S
COLLEGE



ST MARY'S
VC ACADEMY



ST MARY &
ST JOSEPH
VC ACADEMY



OUR LADY &
ST PETER
VC ACADEMY



ST PETER'S
VC ACADEMY



ST RICHARD'S
VC ACADEMY



ST THOMAS
MORE
VC ACADEMY



ST MARY
QUEEN OF
MARTYRS
VC ACADEMY



ST VINCENT'S
VC ACADEMY

Endsleigh Holy Child VC Academy in Hull has been judged to be **Outstanding** after its visit from the Catholic Schools Inspectorate.

The visit was overwhelmingly positive and the inspectors concluded that the provision in all three of these areas was outstanding, with an 'Outstanding' judgement given overall. On the school's RE provision, the report said: "Pupils produce high-quality work in books and take great pride in their work. Pupils make consistently good progress. They have a clear understanding of what they are doing well and what they need to do to improve. They use their knowledge, understanding and skills effectively to reflect spiritually and think ethically."

Executive Head Angela Spencer warmly welcomed the report. "Endsleigh Holy Child is a place where everyone is welcome to come and share their talents and efforts. This inspection rating and the wonderful feedback in our report are moments to reflect on this achievement."



Following a recent triumphant Ofsted inspection at St Mary's College in Hull the school was awarded an 'Outstanding' rating for the second time by inspectors in every aspect of the education it delivers.

The school has now held this status for over 13 years and were the first secondary school and sixth form in the city of Hull to be rated 'Outstanding' back in 2010.

The college exceeded all expectations in every category, earning the highest rating possible from the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. "The behaviour and attitudes of pupils are exceptional. High quality pastoral support is available for all pupils." (Ofsted 2023).



One of the many key strengths highlighted in the inspection report was the exemplary and innovative approach to personal development demonstrated by the staff team. One inspector commented that schemes such as those in place for personal development 'have to be seen to be believed!'. "The sixth form provision at St Mary's College is outstanding. All aspects of life in the sixth form supports students to access future learning and positive destinations."

The 'icing on the cake' came in the very same week as the report was published when The Sunday Times; Parent Power supplement awarded St Mary's College the incredible title of Comprehensive School of the Year award for 2024.



On receiving the news of the report and the award Head of School, Maria Stead expressed her gratitude to the entire school community. "As the school community celebrates these achievements, there is a collective sense of pride and a motivation to continue this pursuit of excellence in education as we move forward".

"We are delighted for the community of in each and every school and would like to thank the staff, directors and families for everything they do every day to give the pupils the best Catholic education and care."

Karen Siedle - Interim CEO



VISIT FROM THE BISHOP



Bishop Terry visited St Mary & St Joseph on Thursday 9th November. He was greeted by the Junior Chaplains who shared refreshments and a chat about our school and the community.

Bishop Terry joined us for our remembrance liturgy where the children reverently remembered those from our lives who we have lost and those who have died in any conflict and war. Children brought the names of loved ones lost to be added to our empty chair prayer space.

The Bishop then visited every classroom and answered prepared questions and a few others from the children. They were all excited to meet him, hear about his life and promised to pray for him as he continues his ministry as our Bishop.





During the season of Advent, we have all been focusing on how to think of others: both in small ways in our daily lives as well as on a bigger scale. This correlates perfectly with our Catholic Social Teaching focus for the half term: The Call to Family and Community. In our collective worships, we have been looking to the scripture for guidance and have been inspired by the Gospel, for example: When Jesus was asked which was the most important rule he said, "First, love God, Second, love everyone else as much as yourself. These are the most important rules." (Mark)

Here at St Anthony's, we have been reaching out into our community during Advent to spread God's love. We were delighted to receive so many donations for our first 'Swap Shop.' Lots of our families came along to benefit from the piles of beautiful children's and adults' clothes that were free to take. Those clothes that were left have been donated to help families in need over the winter.



The Glee Club have also been busy rehearsing ready to spread some Christmas joy! Following the success of their visit last year, they will be going across to The Holy Name Rehabilitation Centre to entertain the residents with their seasonal singing. The staff and patients were incredibly grateful and are looking forward to hosting again this year.

The children love taking part in activities like these:

'I could see some of the people smiling and laughing, I bet they don't have much else to make them happy. I'm proud we could do that.'



News from St Augustine's Secondary School, Scarborough



ST AUGUSTINE'S
SCHOOL



There was a buzz about St Augustine's School this term. Year 7 pupils were given a free fiction book as part of a reading programme, funded by our school and The Book Trust. The aim is to help inspire a love of reading in pupils aged 11 to 13 years old and to provide a practical resource to help our school bring reading to life for every Year 7.

As a participating school our pupils were given the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 16 titles. The books were selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure.



Ms Robinson and Mrs Gomersall handed out the 121 books to Year 7s in a special assembly. Both pupils and staff enjoyed the thrill of receiving an early Christmas present.

'When I received my Bookbuzz book I felt part of something.' – Esme, Year 7 pupil

'Bookbuzz creates a wonderful atmosphere in school, and it has given our pupils the opportunity choose a free book which naturally creates lots of excitement and encourages pupils to read.' – Mrs Gomersall Literacy Lead

'Bookbuzz means you can find different books you never knew existed that you like.' – Elouise, year 7 pupil

'Bookbuzz is an amazing way to get students excited about books.' – Mrs Kirkman, English Teacher

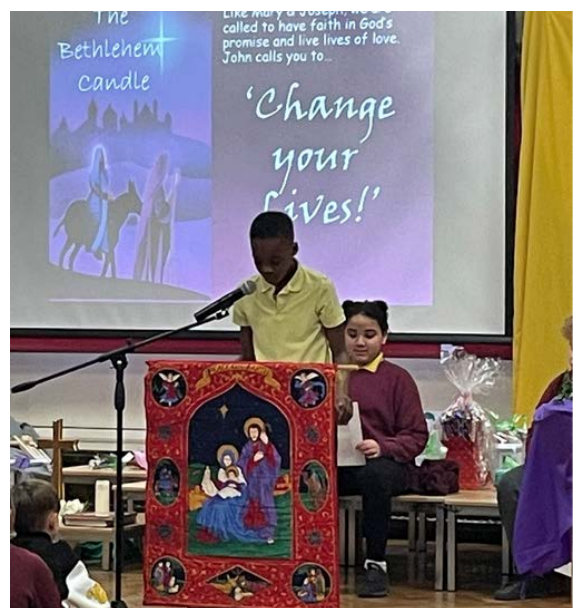


Over the period of Advent, the children at St Charles' have spent time reflecting on the very First Christmas and thinking about how they can prepare, in their hearts as well as their homes for the birth of Jesus. Each week, the children have taken part in Advent Liturgies as well as class stay and pray sessions. It has been so wonderful to share these special times with our families and members of our parish family.

As part of our preparations, Canon Stephen also came into school to lead us in an Advent Reconciliation service. With the words from Isaiah as inspiration, we took the time to reflect on the choices we have made and how we can say sorry for any times we have turned away from God in order to 'Prepare the way, make a straight path for the coming of God'. It was so wonderful that some of our school community also chose to make personal confessions as part of their Advent preparations.

During the last week of term, the Foundation Stage and Key stage One children proudly retold the Nativity story for us and wowed us with their amazing singing. Each class also took time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas by visiting our prayer stations.

Our preparations were brought to a joyful conclusion as Key Stage Two led our families and parishioners in a carol service at St Charles Boromeo church. The children sang beautifully and allowed us time to reflect on the First Christmas share the glory and Good News of the birth of Jesus.



Personal Development

At Endsleigh, we place a real emphasis on the personal development of our pupils.

During the Autumn term, this has come in the form of a wide range of sporting events. Our school has entered on average, one city-wide sporting event each week throughout this term – from badminton festivals, to futsal, to activity ambassador workshops and Disney football sessions. Ranging from ‘develop’ to ‘compete’ events, over 150 of our KS2 pupils have attended Hull Active Schools events! We cannot wait for the Spring Term during which we aim for all pupils in KS1 and KS2 to attend a Hull Active School event – we are already booked on to 9 events already after Christmas.

As well as Hull Active School events, our International Pupil Council (IPC) members have attended events across the city including exploring the Black History Month exhibition at Hull’s Wilberforce Institute for Slavery and Emancipation. Our school council members have joined the IPC visiting art installations at Hull University and these have inspired fantastic discussions back in school, especially as one visit coincided with our members getting the chance to say a big hello to Catherine, Princess of Wales!

We are a school filled with budding entrepreneurs and so during the recent 20th anniversary of ‘Global Entrepreneurship Week’ a team of eight pupils were invited to Hull’s Guildhall to create and promote an event to be held at Hull KR’s rugby stadium. The contest was hosted by the Lord Mayor and judged by former finalists from The Apprentice. Our pupils were fantastic and presented their ‘Big Mash Up’ event to the judges as well as to our entire school the following week, even wearing their customised merchandise for promotion. We cannot wait to explore a range of further personal development opportunities for pupils at Endsleigh during the Spring term.



News from St George's School, Scarborough



On Thursday 12th October St George's School was visited by our Bishop, Terry Draineay.

The Bishop took part in a liturgy that had been written by our Junior Chaplains. The theme of the liturgy was our Mother Mary and the Rosary. The pupils remembered all of those in our local community who were sick and housebound and in particularly the residents of Jazz Court our local care home.

Bishop Terry then visited all of our classes and spent time with the pupils. He explained to them that this is his favourite part of the job!

The pupils in Year 5/6 were treated to a conversation in Spanish between Bishop Terry and their class teacher! They were then keen to discuss local issues that linked to Catholic Social Teaching and were enthused by the bishop's responses.

Our Year 3/4 pupils had researched the bishop's attire and were interested to discuss his cassock, mitre and zucchetto.

Bishop Terry was impressed with their research, and he offered further details that were new to the pupils.

The Year 1 and 2 class had prepared lots of questions for Bishop Terry and wanted to know about his favourite books and authors. They then spent time with Bishop Terry discussing their lives and families.

Our youngest pupils in EYFS shared their PSHE lesson with Bishop Terry and were excited to talk about the friendships that they had made this year. They were also keen to share their talk-through-stories session with Bishop Terry and show off the vocabulary that they had developed through the year.

The bishop's visit boosted our spiritual morale here at St George's and was a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to articulate what their faith means to them.



We have had an exceptionally busy term at St John of Beverley. Here are a few of the highlights!

Trip to Middlesbrough – Mini Vinnies

On Monday 20th November, along with pupils and staff from other Trust and Diocesan Schools, we travelled to St Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough to celebrate the work completed by Mini Vinnies and the St Vincent de Paul group.

It was a long way to travel, but it was well worth it, because we had a fantastic day. We met children, staff and clergy from all over the Diocese. We listened to people from the Diocese talking about the work they do to help to support those most in need. We were reminded about the core message of the Mini Vinnies group 'See, Think, Do'. It certainly refreshed our mission at a local level, whilst reminding us that we are part of a huge organisation.

Bishop Terry celebrated a beautiful Mass with us before it was time to set off home. We really appreciated being able to represent our school, our Trust and our Diocese.



Harvest – community

In October, we held our Harvest Festival in school. Our Mini Vinnies decided that we would support the local Cherry Tree Centre foodbank in Beverley, recognising that we need to support those in need in our immediate community as well as those around the world.

Our families were exceptionally generous, and we delivered 35 bags of food to the Foodbank. The centre were very grateful and assured us that many people would benefit from the help given.



Lifestyle

A group of children from our school decided to participate in the Lifestyle Project run in conjunction with Humberside Police. They chose to raise money for a defibrillator due to personal experience of loss due to a lack of availability of one. They decided to get one for Skidby Playing Fields due to it now being used for multiple sport events and sporting fixtures. They approached Skidby Parish Council and got their blessing and support. The unit the council requested costs £1,800. A rather high target to raise funds for, but they were determined to do it. They made countless buns and cakes for a school cake stall. They went around the businesses in Beverley to ask for donations for two tombolas, asked Beverley Town Council for the charity stall in Beverley Market and Flemingate Shopping Complex for a stall there. They also held another cake sale during an event at Beverley Rugby Club. They organised a charity football match and rattled buckets at Tesco.

Through sheer grit and determination, they achieved their goal and raised a further £300 which they donated to a similar fund raising effort by the Dog and Duck pub in Beverley for a defibrillator for Beverley Market Square. Their defibrillator is now up and running at Skidby Playing Fields and they've been told by many people, not only sporting participants but also by residents and dog walkers about how much of a reassurance it is and how grateful they are.



A spectacle of creativity and talent!

Every year as the Advent season unfolds with prayer and reflection, we also enjoy some traditional British seasonal fun in the form of the vibrant and energetic annual pantomime at St Mary's College.

This eagerly anticipated event resulted in sell-out performances to the public as well as to students in Years 7 & 8 as part of their enrichment programme.

The pantomime is more than just a performance though, acting and presentation skills link to core curriculum for our Performing Arts students, it is also a testament to emerging talent and creativity flourishing within all year groups in the school community with Years 7-13 represented on stage.

For many of our students this is a stepping-stone into the world of performing and as testimony to progression, many of our SMC alumni feature in pantomimes around the country at this time of year both locally and nationally. The supportive atmosphere fosters personal growth and confidence.

As the lights dimmed and the curtains rose, the joy and celebrations kicked in with rapturous audience participation of the show which was penned, choreographed, directed and produced by the very talented team in our Faculty of Performing Arts. Congratulations to all of the cast and crew of Puss in Boots.



News from St Mary's School, Market Weighton



Christmas Shopping Night always gets St Mary's in the mood for what is to come, in anticipation of Advent and Christmas. Organised by our committed Friends of St Mary's (FoSM), it is always great to give our school and parish community the opportunity to come along, meet and chat with friends, sample a mulled wine and a mince pie and do a little Christmas shopping too!

Our children have the opportunity to pre-order a gift for their brothers and sisters, Mums and Dads and on the night itself, secretly shop, no grown-up people allowed in that room, just our children choosing from a range of presents lovingly wrapped by Santa's little helpers. Good shopping children, don't forget to keep your gifts a secret!

The school choir entertained with a few carols and the school buzzed with the excitement and presence of the children, parents, parishioners and friends. Raffle tickets, gift stalls, refreshments and games all made this night special. Many Christmas jumpers were on show from families and friends with the teddy tombola being an absolute favourite as well as the reindeer food which was flying off the shelves.

The FoSM offer a significant amount of activity across the academic year for our community and fundraise relentlessly to provide the children the lots of extra experiences and resources. Recently they have supported transport for visits which enhance our curriculum and the children's experiences and keep the overall cost down for our families.

So, at a time of year when we show our thanks to others, a big 'thank you' to our Friends of St Mary's for organising, coming along to events and supporting our school.



News from St Mary & St Joseph's School, Pocklington

Advent Afternoon takes place at St Mary & St Joseph just before the season begins, this year our house teams prepared for Advent through a number of Mission Together and Prayer Space activities and our adult members of our chaplaincy team lead our Advent Wreath Making, big thanks to Mrs Blake-James and Mrs Slights.

Every child learns about the significance of the Advent Wreath, its candles, shape and colours, four wreaths are made by the children one for each class with every child contributing.

Children learn the importance of the Joyful Angels in delivering the good news within the Christmas story, God sends the angels to share the great news with Mary and Joseph and then of the birth of Jesus.



Christmas Stocking Reflections: we all designed a Christmas stocking to hang in our classrooms for the Advent season, collecting golden coins of our good deeds, with the story of St Nicholas. Good deeds for our friends in school and our friends across the world whose needs are great in order to survive and live their lives.

And finally, our Christmas decorations of thanks, we are thankful for our lives and what we have in it, our families, our friends, our schools, water, warmth and clothes. We use our thankfulness to be aware of others' needs around the world. Decorations and thanks hang from our class trees.

Fr James joined us for our liturgy to bless the advent wreaths as our four-week journey of waiting and preparation begins.

Happy Advent to all.

At the end of the summer term, the staff at St Mary Queen of Martyrs nominated Mrs Teresa Hardmeat for the H.A.S. Lifetime Achievement in Sports award.

Teresa has made massive contributions to the sporting lives and achievements of the children in our school for over 20 years. Teresa originally started volunteering her numerous hours of commitment before working at the school and was a netball coach to the children on several evenings a week.

In 2015, Teresa became a permanent member of staff as a teaching assistant, however, her sporting help and support continued, as she gave up her own time each day and evening to run a different sports club. Teresa has run many sporting after school clubs since becoming a member of staff and has dedicated even more hours in attending, transporting and coaching the children of our school in competitions. Teresa has been an instrumental figure in supporting the pupils of our school to connect with netball clubs, camps and training beyond our extra-curricular offer. This has led to pupils taking up the sport and playing to a national level. Her selflessness does not stop there because within the school hours, Teresa ensures that as many children as possible can access, enjoy and thrive towards an active lifestyle.

On a daily basis, Teresa sets out equipment, encourages friendly competitions, and uses the playground markings with the children during playtimes and lunchtimes; again, giving up her own time to develop our children actively.

The children of our school adore Mrs Hardmeat and her various clubs seldom have places left available; she has over 80 children each week attending her many clubs and each child is given the opportunity to enjoy sports, gain skills and learn to love an active lifestyle.

Behind the scenes, Teresa is an asset to our PE department. She is always at hand to help with checking that the children have the appropriate equipment, so that each child can enjoy PE and sports safely.

Teresa has been a blessing to our school in all things active for many years and we cannot think of another person more suited to have won the Hull Active Schools' 'Sports Lifetime Achievement' award.



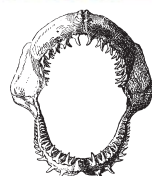
News from Our Lady & St Peter's School, Bridlington

The Catholic life of the school drives all that we do at OLSP and is embodied within our mission statement 'Children at the Centre, Jesus at the Heart.' An important part of our school week is our Rosary club. This is led by a valued parishioner and Steven Leightell, who will be ordained to the Diaconate later this month at Our Lady and St. Peter's Church. Our Rosary club is attended by children from all age groups. We pray the rosary together as a group. We find that by praying the rosary as a group, it creates a sense of unity and shared purpose, as well as providing an opportunity for our school community to support one another in prayer. When we come together to pray the rosary, we are united in our shared experience of praying and meditating. This sense of unity and common purpose is a powerful reminder of how faith can bring people together.



Elsewhere in our Science and History curriculum our children had a fantastic visit from Steve at Dinostar. He showed us his Allosaurus and Tyrannosaurus Rex claws and a fossil of a Triceratops leg bone. He showed us his Allosaurus skull and a cast of a Tyrannosaurus Rex's footprint. We learned lots about dinosaurs, and had many, many questions, which Steve answered. Then he showed us how to dust the sand off fossils to find them in a tray of sand. Everyone got to take a fossil Ammonite, Crinoid and shark tooth home.

And finally our Early Years have been learning about nocturnal animals within our forest school. We learned that hedgehogs are nocturnal, they come out at night to look for food. They like to eat slugs. We went to Forest School and put out a new hedgehog house. We thought about where would be a good place, with less noise. We put the hedgehog house next to the bug hotel so the hedgehog that chooses to live there will have plenty of food! We looked carefully at a photo of a hedgehog and then we collected natural things so we could make a clay hedgehog. We found thin twigs and leaf stems to make the spikes, and some people found stones, small leaves and bark pieces to make the eyes, nose, ears and feet. Others chose to shape these features out of clay, or print them using the end of a twig.



Times Tables Rockstars and Numberblocks Day!

This term at St Peter's we have relaunched Times Tables Rockstars with a whole school event!

All pupils and staff were invited to dress up as rock stars for the day and to take part in a range of exciting activities relating to mathematics. We are so proud of the effort that all of our children put into their maths work and how amazing they are at learning their times tables.

Times Tables Rockstars helps pupils with their recall and fluency in times tables and number, the pupils really enjoy using the online game and testing their recall skills against other players from across the world!

Pupils in our Early Years and Foundation stage had a themed day on Numberblocks they were all very excited to dress up as their favourite Numberblock and share their counting and number skills with the rest of the school!

Miss Wilson, EYFS Class teacher explained 'Our children love taking part in daily Mastering Number sessions with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics where they enjoy subitising (which helps children to see, solve and manipulate numbers in their head) and their mathematical knowledge is growing daily!'

The children were really excited to be dressed up as Numberblocks for the day and there were some amazing costumes! They enjoyed watching some Numberblocks and taking part in some numberblocks activities.

Everyone at St Peter's had an amazing day and our special thanks go to Mr Seeley and Miss Wilson for organising such a superb day for us all.



Numberblock Day





A Degree in a Week!

Raising aspirations and enabling each child to fulfil their potential are a crucial element of life at St Richard's and as part of this we are incredibly fortunate to be part of the IntoUniversity programme. IntoUniversity is a charity that provides local support through career-related learning in order to broaden children's horizons and have a lasting impact on their awareness and knowledge of different career choices.

As part of the programme, our Year 6 pupils complete a focus 'degree in a week'. This year the focus week was based upon 'Creative Arts'. As part of this, the children participated in different seminars which improved their artistic knowledge and skills; this learning took place at the IntoUniversity learning hub at the Freedom Centre. Throughout the week, the children worked collaboratively in teams which were named after significant figures from the world of creative arts; they learnt about these figures –producing biographies, designing posters and even delivering a performance!

In addition to this, the children experienced an immersive trip to the Ferens Art Gallery to develop their cultural capital and explore a variety of artwork firsthand. The end of the week focused on the children's knowledge of university, developing their own aspirations. This culminated in an inspiring trip to The University of York where the children were able to don caps and gowns and graduate with their peers and parents present.

Even when the focus week comes to an end, Into University continue to support many of our pupils through their after school academic support scheme, with some students continuing to attend even after they have left St Richard's and moved onto secondary school.

Here is what our pupils said about this eye-opening opportunity:

"I feel I am more likely to go University now as I know there are lots of Universities to pick from, you will get more knowledge about whatever you want to study and you can study whatever you are interested in! Then you can get a good job based on what you study." Nilah –aged 10

"Before IntoUniversity, I didn't know much about going to university. Now I would like to study science at the University of York because it was really quiet and I felt safe there." Blanka –aged 10

"I think I am more likely to go to university now as I have so much knowledge about it. I am going to work hard so I can fulfil my dreams as I want to study a degree in mathematics." Luis –aged 10



Prepare the Way of the Lord

On Wednesday 6th December, we celebrated a very special Advent mass at St Thomas More VCA. Some of our families and members of the parish joined us as we began to think about how we would prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord.

Father Dawson spoke to us about the importance of preparation during Advent. Children demonstrated exceptional knowledge of the Advent wreath and were able to discuss this in detail. Father reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas and we reflected upon how we can live out our Christian values in the lead up to Christmas.

Pupils commented:

"We celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas."

"God gave us the greatest gift; Jesus."

Each class in school share weekly Advent liturgies. We are focusing on the themes and messages important to us all during this Advent period. Parents have witnessed the growth of our pupils' spiritual development through our pray and stay sessions, which continue to be well attended.

As a Catholic school we value the strong links we have with the two parishes we primarily serve. At STM we aim to reach out into our community as much as possible and are always looking at new ways we can do this. We look forward to coming together as a community in 2024.





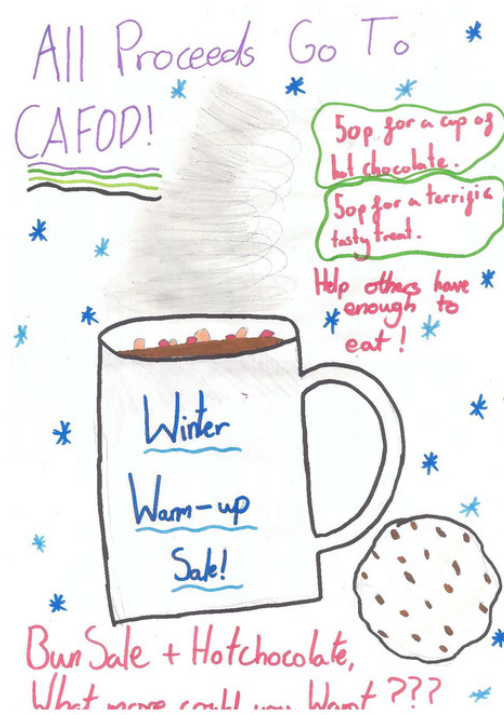
Year 6 – Taking Action!

Year 6 at St Vincent's VC Academy have been developing their understanding of what Stewardship and Solidarity can look like in action...

They have had a fabulous time learning about the South Pole and were lucky enough to be sent special footage and videos from ornithologist David Steel, live from the South Pole. Later in the term, they had a workshop in school with Mr Steel and demonstrated their curiosity and desire to find out more about our common home, the South Pole as a habitat, the effects of climate change, roles in conservation and what being an ornithologist involves.

Their class mission this year is to find their own ways in which they will be 'Sharing Christ's love through all we do' (our school's mission statement). They have developed a project to support CAFOD by demonstrating their Stewardship and Solidarity. Concerned about the impact of climate change on our world, they further explored how this is affecting the environment and the production of enough food to some people to feed their families or make savings. Year 6 have chosen to raise money to buy a cow for a family where they are struggling due to the extreme changes in weather conditions. CAFOD will give 'training on how to look after cattle, as well as how to keep cows healthy so they produce more milk.' Year 6 have various fundraising plans including a hot chocolate / bun sale and a sponsored football match St Vincent's staff vs. Year Six. Hopefully we will have bought a cow by the end of the year!

It has been wonderful to see Year 6 working so hard to develop their understanding of our world, to see and then be part of stewardship in action, continuing to develop their love, respect and care for our common home. We are proud of our pupils' desire to develop their own understanding and offer a positive contribution to society. We look forward to seeing what else they can achieve as we move into their final terms at St Vincent's VC Academy.





“...every teacher in a Catholic School should complete this course”

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