



ST CUTHBERT'S

ROMAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

ISSUE 1



Spring 2023

www.scrat.org



I am delighted to share our first St Cuthbert's Trust newsletter with you. It features all of our 15 schools and celebrates the fantastic work that happens in our schools and evidence of our mission lived out in their daily lives.

Whether you are thinking of sending your child to one of our schools, want to work with us, want to volunteer to help with the governance of our schools, or are just curious; you are very welcome to browse and hopefully learn more about the Trust and its work.

Have a wonderful Easter break. See you all next term!

Peter Fearnley (Chair of the Board of Directors)





OUR NEWLY EXPANDED TRUST



As of the first of September 2023 St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust welcomed seven new schools from the East Riding and North Yorkshire area.



The Trust now consists of 15 schools, which are:

1. St Anthony's VC Primary, Hull
2. St Augustine's Secondary, Scarborough
3. St Charles' VC Primary, Hull
4. Endsleigh Holy Child VC Primary, Hull
5. St George's VC Primary, Scarborough
6. St John of Beverley VC Primary
7. St Mary's College, Hull
8. St Mary's VC Primary, Market Weighton
9. St Mary & St Joseph VC Primary, Pocklington
10. Our Lady & St Peter's VC Primary, Scarborough
11. St Peter's VC Primary, Scarborough
12. St Richard's VC Primary, Hull
13. St Thomas More VC Primary
14. St Mary Queen of Martyr's VC Primary, Hull
15. St Vincent's VC Primary, Hull

The Trust is a family of 15 Catholic schools located throughout Hull, East Riding and the Humber. Each of our schools is truly unique and on the following pages they bring you their latest news and achievements; in this edition they focus on their mission in their daily lives and the curriculum.

On 10th January 2023 the Trust hosted its first Governance Information event at St Mary's College Hull. All current and recent foundation governors were invited to attend so that they could be brought up to date on the expanded Trust and plans for local governance.

The level of engagement from foundation governor colleagues, Trust directors and leaders from the schools, as well as their positive evaluations of the event were very welcome. On their departure from the event, foundation governors completed a skills audit, which included identifying their skills and interest for the local boards.



From the St Cuthbert's Chaplaincy Team

St Cuthbert's were excited to host Fr Phil Cunnah the Diocesan lead for chaplaincy on Friday 27th January 2023. The meeting involved staff from across the schools, alongside children and chaplaincy leads from a number of schools within the Trust.

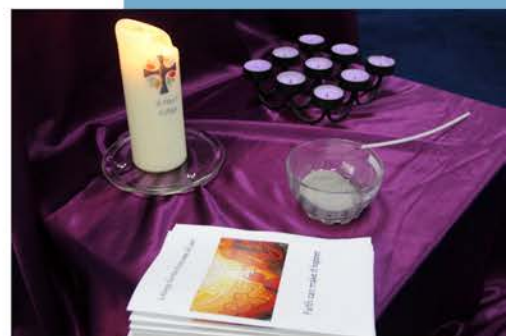
The Trust leads shared their vision for chaplaincy and their exciting plans for chaplaincy going forward as a newly expanded Trust. Our leaders engaged in a deep discussion about how vital it is for all members of our schools and their communities to be given the opportunities that would lead to genuine encounters with Christ and to ensure that the Catholic Life of the school is held in highest regard. This has been carefully accounted for within the Trust's long term action plan for Chaplaincy moving forward.

Afterwards in his letter to our CEO Mr Fitzpatrick Father Phil said "The chaplaincy vision document shared with me, which gave a sense of the trust's intent to provide all its members with an encounter with Christ, is a great development. We spoke at length in our meeting about how we understand the notion of 'encounter', a term which has become ubiquitous in the Church these days. I appreciated the many stories of how this encounter can be found in schools"

Fr Phil spent time with pupils from both primary and secondary settings and had the opportunity to share in a pupil led worship based on the parable on 'The lamp under the bushel' Mark 4:21-25.

The pupils shared their views on what chaplaincy means to them. The pupils spoke highly and deeply about how Catholic Social Teaching had encouraged them to do activities and how their Faith impacted on their daily lives.

They also shared ideas on what displays they would like in the new Chapel and how these displays would contribute to their Faith. It's an exciting time to be part of St Cuthbert's and chaplaincy in the future, building on the successes already embedded within the Trust.



Nicky Coyle
Lead Lay Chaplain



SINGWELL WITH ST CUTHBERT'S RC ACADEMY TRUST...

By Andrew McIntosh, Director of Music, SCRCAT

"Hey Mr Miller...you can hear it all through the land!" was the cry from 600 singers across our Multi Academy Trust (MAT) last week...and they weren't wrong. This month saw the first massed gathering of pupils from across our Trust who engage in our SingWell programme. This is an innovative project that sees our pupils having dedicated time away from their studies to focus on some other creative key priorities. From humble beginnings in just two of our schools, the SingWell programme has grown into something of which we are incredibly proud and which holds great stock in all of our schools.

The roots of our project can be traced back several years. A headteacher with a love of singing and a school needing a little 'reinvigorating' saw two of our instrumental staff leading a 30 minute singing session each week with Years 3 and 4. This soon became a highlight of the week for many of the pupils and was attributed by the headteacher, to bringing much needed light and joy back into the school.

So, we began to wonder, why exactly was this the case?

We of course, knew the answer. The answer wasn't a secret! Nor should it have been a surprise. We all know that making music makes people happy, that singing is good for the heart, the soul AND the body. So really, it's the obvious thing to do more of isn't it?

We set about formalising a programme, pitched it to the Trust leadership and thus the SingWell programme was born.



Fast forward to 2023 and for the last 18 months, all pupils in Years 3 and 4 across our 8 local Trust primary schools have participated in a protected-time 30 minute SingWell session every week led by one of our instrumental staff. The sessions are designed to give pupils a chance to experience success as part of a group, to sing in a healthy manner whilst also learning a little about ensemble skills along the way. Repertoire is chosen carefully to engage and enthuse and resources are bright and lively. More technical concepts like dynamics, articulation and call and response can also be cleverly embedded but sessions are never 'music lessons' (even though they obviously can't help but be so!).

Reports abound from each school of pupils singing songs down the corridor during the week between sessions. Instrumental tuition participation is at a record high in each school and choirs are back up and running to give the most enthusiastic singers further opportunities to shine.

It was always our aim at some stage to bring the groups together to share their work and this month it happened with our 300-seat theatre filled, morning and afternoon, with excited students from across our MAT- whether they were there to sing about Ancient Egyptians, Boudica or do the King Kong Konga, they had a whale of a time!

And you could hear it throughout the land!



Thank you for your service to our children

Mrs Amanda Stone, Head of School at St George's VC Primary in Scarborough retires at the end of the Spring term.

Amanda will be missed by everyone in St George's community and by colleagues throughout the Trust. We wish Amanda well in her retirement and that she has lots of fun times with her granddaughter.





Setting Sail to Sparkle at St Anthony's

At St Anthony's we know how valuable real life experiences are for our pupils: they enhance curriculum learning, make it more memorable and spark passions and aspirations. Our staff strive to plan these enhancements as often as possible and they contribute to our 'Sparkle Curriculum' offer.

Most recently, it was the turn of our amazing Y6 class to have an adventure...in London! Our school is very lucky to work closely with Hull Children's University which helps us to provide many of the exciting trips and visitors to school throughout the year at great prices. This particular trip was their 'Kip on a Ship' experience which provided a real life revisit to their previous WWII history focus.

The pupils had a jam-packed schedule taking in an array of what our Capital has to offer. Travelling by train, we arrived in time to drop our bags on the majestic HMS Belfast docked beside the beautiful Tower Bridge. Then it was off to the theatre! Not only were we immersed in the wonderful production of 'Wicked,' we even brushed shoulders with the celebrities - namely H from Steps - who kindly joined us for a photograph! We returned to the ship for tea in the Mess and a private tour of the famous vessel which is steeped in some fascinating history!

After (some) sleep in the sailors' Mess and a delicious breakfast we were off on Day 2 of our London adventure. First stop: The Natural History Museum! With so much to see, we made the most of our time under the bones of the immense Blue Whale before heading off for a River Cruise to see more of London's Landmarks.

The pupils made us incredibly proud, they forged some unforgettable memories and gained so much from the experience:

Vanessa, a pupil in Y6, said, 'we had a once in a lifetime opportunity to kip on a ship that fought in World War 2. We found out lots of facts about her – it was amazing!'

The staff who attended saw the invaluable impact on the pupils during the trip, 'experiences like this open up a whole new layer of education. It is wonderful to observe the joy and excitement that then follows them back into school and ignites their classroom learning.'

It is one of our aims at St Anthony's to continue to develop our Sparkle Curriculum weaving in these crucial enhancement opportunities to help our pupils know more and remember more. It reaches further than this, however, we want to instil in our pupils the belief that they can have high aspirations for their futures...in the words of 'Wicked,' everyone deserves a chance to FLY!

Next, it's Year 5's turn. They are heading to Edinburgh in April to enhance and embed their knowledge of Scotland - a geography focus from earlier this year.



Let's March – A Lenten Journey

During this season of Lent, the St Anthony's community is on a fundraising journey through its initiative 'Let's March!' We have challenged each class to walk a total of 1000 miles during the month of March to raise money for our chosen Lenten Charity, 'Families Together Service' and the development of our school playground.

Families Together is a service that supports children and families who are struggling due to losing a loved one or from dealing with a severe illness in the family. Many of our pupils and families have benefited from the support offered and our school has forged a deep connection with the wonderful professionals who come in to work directly with our pupils.

Our pastoral staff have been so impressed with the impact the service has had on our pupils: sometimes it can be extremely difficult for people, especially children, to understand and work through complicated feelings such as grief. Families Together Service is doing crucial work with our pupils who are becoming more emotionally resilient and they are feeling valued. They are heard and they know they are not alone as well as being able to work through their grieving process and make sense of the changes in their lives.

As part of our Catholic Life at St Anthony's, we aim to reach out into our community as much as possible and are always looking for new ways to do this. Recently, we took our Glee Club on tour, visiting some of our local Care Homes. The pupils and staff really felt the joy of spreading God's love among those who need 'an extra dose' and the residents were extremely grateful.

Through 'Let's March,' we are not only raising money but hopefully, finding another way to bring our community together through a united cause. We have launched our STA Community Walks to provide opportunities to gather, clock up some miles, get back to nature and get to know each other as members of God's family away from the structure of school.

If you would like to know more get involved or sponsor our pupils, follow us on Twitter: [@StAnthonysCPS](https://twitter.com/StAnthonysCPS)



A celebration of International Women's Day

On the 8th March we celebrated International Women's Day at St Augustine's with our own whole school event. We invited a number of inspirational women to come into school and engage with our pupils during an interactive workshop.

Over twenty inspirational women, including an accountant, a solicitor, a forestry-school teacher, an artist, a poet, a hairdresser, an asylum seeker volunteer, a database analyst and many more gave pupils the opportunity to engage with the visitors and demonstrate their knowledge, enthusiasm and ability to converse with this wide range of adults.

The day was a shared success with many of our guests noting the vibrancy of our aspirational pupils.



Ski Trip 2023



We had a fantastic week away skiing in the Italian resort of Prato Nevoso! We arrived on Saturday 18th to glorious sunshine and perfect conditions. Once ski fit was complete we were all eager to hit the slopes the following morning but first a good night's sleep was needed after a long drive.

Day 1 was a great success, with all pupils mastering the 'magic carpet', snow plough stopping and some skiing at super speeds with Georgio the instructor. Pizza night on the second evening was very much welcomed by all after pasta overload (what else can we expect in Italy??), and the snow tobogganing was a huge highlight - especially Mrs Richards' epic fall!

By the end of the week we had many happy faces skiing down blue and red runs - fair to say that the pupils were all super skiers! Thank you to all staff and pupils for making the SAS Ski Trip 2023 one to remember.



ST CHARLES'
VC ACADEMY

Design & Technology Week

St Charles' pupils were #STCstars during our recent DT week. They showed real resilience and aspiration when developing their skills as well as great pride in and happiness with their final products.

Our Reception pupils had a fantastic time researching and taste testing several seasonal fruits to decide which they thought would make a tasty filling for a fruit crumble. They then used their careful cutting skills to prepare the fruit for cooking.

Year 1 show great creativity when they turned boxes into vehicles. They explored different axles and axle holders as well as investigating the difference between a fixed and a free moving axle. Their exploration skills were then put into action as they created a vehicle which moved across the classroom carpet.

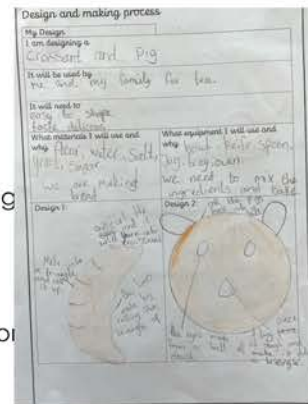
During DT week in Year 2 the pupils could be found making free standing structures. After researching different types of houses, they decided to make a house for a character from their Guided Reading book. Before they could turn their design into reality, they spent time practising different joining methods before using the most effective one to make their final design.

Meanwhile, in Year 3, the pupils have learnt how to prepare and combine food. Their task was to create a healthy sandwich using their knowledge of the food pyramid, how to select healthy options and to understand the importance of a balanced diet. They investigated and tasted different types of bread and fillings which included a range of meats, cheese, and salad before creating a list of ingredients which would support them in the making of a healthy sandwich.

Year 4 retrieved knowledge from their previous work on science of electricity about how to identify electrical products and build a simple circuit. This knowledge was then put to the test during DT week when they had a design brief to design and make a working torch. They looked at the features of a torch as well as how to build their own switch using conductors. They used their evaluation skills to evaluate a variety of different torches and they used this knowledge to write their own design criteria. Once they had designed and made their torches, they then evaluated their own product against the design criteria and reflected on what they would do differently next time.

What a week we had in class 5 when they embarked on their technology topic, bread! Pupils began by finding out where bread came from before the excitement of tasting different varieties. After careful consideration, they designed their own loaves and were keen to roll their sleeves up to put this into practice ... although they hadn't realised quite how much the loaves would rise! It was hard work mixing and kneading but everyone produced a tasty loaf of bread of which they were rightly proud. Yum!!

This term, St Charles' Year 6 pupils used their culinary skills to taste bread and decide what kind of flavoured bread they were going to make. They chose ingredients based on seasonal availability and mixed the ingredients aware of the effects of kneading and warmth on gluten, to make their bread reach the desired consistency. The pupils created full loaves and, needless to say, the smell was de-lici-ous.



Spring Cleaning Our Lives

On Ash Wednesday, we began our Lenten journey with a whole school Mass led by Canon Stephen. Some of our parents joined us as we began to think about how we would ready ourselves for the great feast of Easter. Canon spoke to us about 'spring cleaning' our lives so that we were ready for Easter and, everybody who wished to, received their cross of ashes.

Each day of Lent we focus on two of the actions which we are called to do during Lent: prayer and giving. Our prayers so far have encouraged us to think of, amongst others, those we are thankful for, people who are sick, the people of Ukraine and our families. Instead of giving up something, we are trying to give more so each day, we have an act of kindness. Although simple, we have found it can make a big difference: smiling – lots, remembering to be grateful and being peacemakers.

We have a Lenten Prayer Garden in Upper Key Stage 2 which grows bigger each day as we add our prayers to it.

Each class in school has shared, or is looking forward to sharing, a Lenten liturgy with parents and carers during their Stay and Pray session. We are focusing on themes and messages important to us all during this Lenten period. Our Year 5 Stay and Pray was well attended and was a lovely opportunity to share our pupils' spiritual development with our wider school community.

Prayer stations, reconciliation and Holy Week commemorations are still to come as we keep our eyes and hearts fixed on God and the care of each other.



Daily encounters with Christ

In true Endsleigh tradition the centrality of faith and the provision of opportunities to worship are at the forefront of the daily lives of staff and pupils. Therefore, Endsleigh is currently undergoing a programme of improvement under the strategic leadership of its new Executive Headteacher, Mrs Spencer, who joined St Cuthbert's Trust from Our Lady of St Peter in Bridlington in September 2022.

Following Mrs Spencer's clear and purposeful vision, Endsleigh has gained a central prayer room that has been designed to provide the Endsleigh family with opportunities to worship in a welcoming, serene and tranquil space. What once was the leadership room has been relinquished, redesigned and redecorated to ensure that all who work and play in the school have a dedicated place where they can experience personal encounters with Christ.

The beautiful and historic Endsleigh Holy Child has been a school since it was built in 1928 within the grounds of the Sisters of Mercy convent. The Sisters of Mercy, founded by Catherine Macauley, first arrived in Hull in 1856 in response to a request from the Parish Priest of St Charles' Hull to take charge of the education of Catholic children in the city. The school's adjoining convent has since been converted into flats and the old Endsleigh teaching school shut down in the 1970s. Nevertheless, Endsleigh Holy Child continues to grow and nurture pupils in their faith just as it did for many of their parents and grandparents.

This dear and beloved school remained standing through both world wars and, to this day, continues to provide a quality, Catholic education for local children. The beautiful, old building has stood the test of time and the walls and corridors have seen and heard the laughter and angelic singing of many pupils over the years.

Further changes are underway to repurpose existing space so that the school can hold Mass and invite its families to join in sharing and celebrating worship and achievements with their Endsleigh and parish community. We hope that the Endsleigh family continues to grow and flourish so that it can continue its evangelical and educational work, meeting its current pupils in future years through their own children and grandchildren. May the school continue the work of the inspirational Sisters of Mercy for many years to come.



Explorer Day

Throughout the first half of the spring term KS1 have been studying explorers in their History lessons. They learnt what an explorer is, how explorers gather evidence and why they are significant throughout history. The pupils looked at a range of explorers including Felicity Aston, Matthew Henson and Neil Armstrong. The children were fascinated when they learnt all about Neil Armstrong and they were eager to learn more about astronauts.

To celebrate the end of our History unit we held an explorers dress up day. The children all came to school in a range of explorer costumes. We had astronauts, safari explorers and even our own desert explorer. They looked very impressive.

Throughout the day pupils took part in many exciting activities. For their first activity they went on a scavenger hunt to find out who the hidden explorer was. They loved racing around the playground to find the hidden clues. All pupils were able to work out that our hidden explorer was Neil Armstrong and we were able to watch a video telling us more about his amazing career. Their second activity gave them the chance to become jungle explorers. We looked round the jungle and gathered our own evidence including some amazing drawings of animals seen in the jungle.

In the afternoon, pupils were able to show off their artistic skills as they used junk modelling supplies to build their own rockets. Class 1 developed their teamwork skills by creating larger rockets in groups. Staff were amazed at the details pupils added to their rockets and at how imaginative pupils were being when creating them. To end the afternoon pupils followed instructions that they had written in their English lessons to create their own astronaut helmets.

What a fun day we had!



Learning about global warming

Pupils from Year 5 and 6 at St George's, Scarborough have been learning about the impact of global warming in their geography lessons. They have researched the use of wind farms and solar panels and discovered that these can help to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels whilst also providing cheaper and greener energy.

Pupils quickly made links to their work in RE on Pope Francis' vision for the environment: Laudato Si, in which he encourages us to take care of our planet and of those who are poor and will be most negatively affected by the impact of climate change. This is something that our pupils are passionate about and many of them are inspired by the work of climate activist, Greta Thunberg.

Pupils were concerned that some people in Eastfield may really struggle to pay their gas and electricity bills and were keen to try to help people as much as they could by working with our Mini Vinnies to turn concern into action. The Mini Vinnies have planned to visit our local sheltered accommodation to see how they can support the elderly within our community with staying warm.

Pupils decided to write to our local Member of Parliament, Robert Goodwill, to encourage him to talk to fellow Members of Parliament about the introduction of more wind farms and solar panels across our local area. They referenced the Pope's encyclicals and explained how important it was for us all to take action that will combat climate change.

Dear Mr Goodwill,

We are writing to you to encourage you to speak in Parliament about the importance of renewable energy. The new houses near our school all have solar panels on them. Can we help people in the older houses to get solar panels?

This will help people who have high gas and electricity bills.

In his letter Laudato Si our Pope tells us that we must look after our planet and the resources we have, for this reason all houses should have solar panels on them to save the environment and protect our future not just the new ones.

All of our class think this is very important and want to know what you are doing to help?

Yours sincerely,

Year 5 and 6 at St. George's

We are very proud of our pupils and of the fact that they are becoming advocates for their local environment. We are still awaiting a written response from our MP and plan to write to him again this half term to invite him into St George's to debate with the pupils.

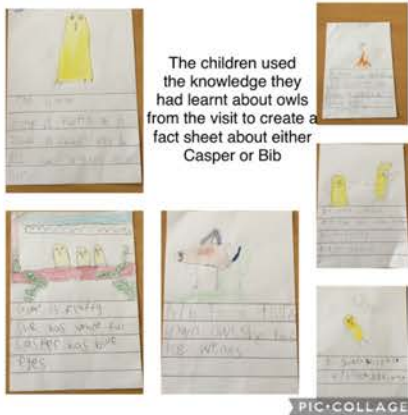


A visit from Casper and Bib!



Pupils at St George's were visited by Casper and Bib who are two owls!

Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 pupils have been learning about animals and their habitats in Science. We have learned about what animals eat, how they hunt and how they adapt to live in their particular environment. Pupils developed their knowledge of nocturnal hunters and how their eyes have adapted to hunt at night. They were all amazed by how far the owls could rotate their heads!



We all really enjoyed the visit and learned lots about the different types of owls that we have in England. We found out that some poisons which are used to kill mice and rats can end up poisoning owls and birds of prey. Pupils plan to design posters to share this information with the farmers in our area.

Our Early Years pupils then wrote fact files about owls and adapted the story of Goldilocks to include owls as the characters rather than bears. They also used their art skills to draw pictures of Casper and Bib.

All pupils really enjoyed the visit and we are so proud of the fact that they all love animals and want to protect them and their environment.



Learning about environmental responsibility

At St John of Beverley we try to think about our responsibility towards helping others in our local community and in the wider world.

On Shrove Tuesday, our Mini Vinnies and staff worked together to have a pancake sale in aid of the DEC fund for the people who have been affected by the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Pupils and adults worked together and raised £119 for the appeal. The people who have suffered in this terrible disaster have also been in our prayers when we have our 'Prayers for the World' sessions led by pupils in class. We use these sessions to help remind ourselves that everything and everyone is connected and that we belong to a wider world.



In line with the Pope's teaching in Laudato Si, we think about how we can look after our immediate school environment and the wider environment around our school. Later this half term, pupils will take part in 'The Great British Spring Clean' where we help to litter-pick in our local environment. We know that the people who live near our school are very grateful for the work we do and it also helps to remind all of us not to drop litter and to care for God's world too.



We have worked hard over the last couple of years to achieve our Eco Flag status. Now, thanks to some hard working and kind members of our school family, we are able to fly our flag with pride.

Our gardening club and our Friends of St John's, have started to get our gardens ready to grow. Our raised beds may look empty now but just wait until the weather starts to get warmer! We have been working hard on our wildlife area too. We can't wait until we can start using these areas to help to stimulate our learning. Our pond is used to help us to learn about the life-cycle of a frog and we can study the minibeasts that have taken up residence in our Bug Hotels. We are so grateful to have such amazing grounds in which to play and learn.



Eco-Schools award success



This half term St Mary's College has been able to proudly fly the 'Eco-Schools Green Flag' on site having been awarded this status.

Work was undertaken by staff and pupils to achieve the award spanning areas such as environmental monitoring, improving recycling through the textile recycling bins now on site in addition to measures such as having 'Switch Me Off' signs on every switch in the building. The Eco-Council and Eco-Club members are working hard to better understand how our actions impact our environment in addition to spreading awareness of how to be stewards of Earth.

St Mary's College now has a battery hub where students can bring their used batteries for recycling and plans are in place to make the school site more biodiverse using insect-friendly habitats and through the planting of new shrubs in the Memorial Garden.



Flame 2023

In our increasingly secular society it is sometimes easy to forget that you are one of many Catholics spread across the UK and the rest of the world. However, walking into Wembley Arena and seeing 8,000 young people touched by the Holy Spirit, worshipping, praying and adoring the Lord is a welcome reminder. Flame makes worship and faith more accessible to young people who are encouraged, through the event, to express their faith in any way that feels right for them. Music especially has always been significant for religion with people throughout history using their God-given musical talents to express their love for and devotion to the Lord. By including genres preferred by the younger generation, such as Guvna B' and Faith Child's upbeat rapping and One Hope Project's soulful melodies, Flame reinforces the importance of music for worship using contemporary artists to move the young people in attendance.

Flame was, of course, not just about the music. All the guest speakers present made a powerful impact on myself and on the people around me: from Cardinal Tagle's call to seek the angels in our lives to Jenny Garzón Saavedra's inspiring passion for protecting our common home. It was truly a blessing to be surrounded by people of such faith, such love for God and all His creation and that led perfectly to Adoration. We sat for ten minutes just being in the presence of Jesus, praying and worshipping and loving Him. It was intense and tears were shed. Being in His presence and knowing He was there with you, as an individual, even when you were surrounded by 8,000 other people, was an amazing experience. I cannot wait to participate in again at the next Flame.

Eleanor Guiver, SM6

Our New Chapel

The Chaplaincy Team based at St Mary's College have recently made the 'big move' of the Chapel to a new position at the heart of the school site. It is looking wonderful and is proving to be the perfect space for prayer, quiet reflection and for celebrating Mass. We have re-launched our weekly lunchtime Masses to students and will offer all Year 7s the opportunity to celebrate Mass during one of their RE lessons over the academic year. In May, Bishop Terry will visit to hold a dedication Mass and Blessing of the Chapel.

The move has also afforded the creation of a workspace for the Chaplaincy team where we can write and develop spiritual enrichment events for the whole Academy Trust. We work diligently to provide weekly resources for the primary schools which can all be accessed online on our Chaplaincy SharePoint.

Last November, St Mary's College was also very fortunate to welcome Father Christopher and Brother John Bosco, from the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal from Bradford. The Friars came into school during their mission week in Hull to speak to staff and students and they led a liturgy to start our staff meeting. The Friars also visited our students in RE lessons and answered questions on how they live in their community and what is it like giving up all their possessions.

The Team are currently busy working on our end of term Lenten services for pupils at our local Parish, Our Lady of Lourdes and St Peter Chanel. These are intended to show the meaning of the Crucifixion of Christ – a fitting end to the term and preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection during Easter.



SEN Hub Launch

SMW historically has a high percentage of SEND children in our school family. We have been looking at ways to fulfil the needs of all pupils and to enhance the provision we offer. Therefore, with a visit to St Peter's and a trip to IKEA, we were on our way, not to mention the £1500 awarded to the school for collecting the most blue Tesco tokens. Big thanks to all who supported us during the token collection, our parents, friends and parishioners.

In order to get this project underway quickly, shelving and benching were removed by staff some came in to decorate on a Saturday and to build new furniture all bought with the £1500. Many thanks to staff who worked to make this project happen.

The room links to the learning and CPD we have undertaken to support functional communication and learning for pupils with social communication needs. The bays created offer a range of sensory, speech and language, quiet, creative and practical life skills. We are just waiting for a small kitchen area to be added so pupils can prepare, cook, wash up and learn new skills. This will be in place soon.

Pupils come into the room working independently with TAs and with each other in small groups. Activities and resources are accessible, pupils choose, find and work on their targets and independence.

We are delighted with how far we have come in a short space of time and just how much difference the room will make to our practice and the impact on the pupils who access it, how our staff will work with groups of pupils and with each other as we strive to provide the best experiences we can and prepare all our pupils for the next steps on their individual learning paths.

What a difference we have made to one of our rooms! What a difference it will make to the learning of our pupils!

Many thanks to the staff who can see this vision and the way forward for the pupils at SMW.



Junior Chaplains



St Mary's Junior Chaplains are extremely busy leading Catholic life across our school. They currently lead weekly Bible Book Club with our EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils. Pupils choose a story, often from the Old Testament to share, including Noah's Ark, Jonah and the Whale, David and Goliath and Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

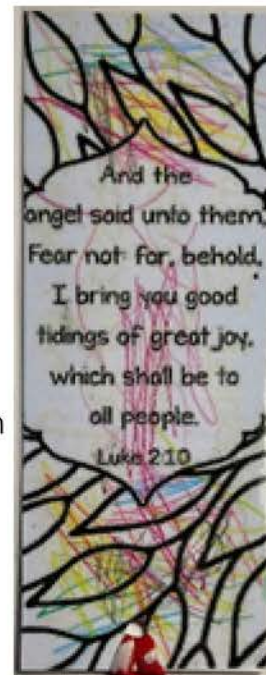
The JCs read or retell the story and plan an activity for the pupils to help them to remember. They made a coat for Joseph, made puppets to retell Jonah and the Whale and played with an Ark and characters to tell the story. The JCs find a suitable colouring activity with scripture for pupils to take home and share with their families.

Working with our parish we made bookmarks which were blessed during our Advent Mass by Father David; they were then given to our parishioners and taken to the housebound. During Advent, we learnt about the Jesse Tree and displayed our tree and work on the altar over the festive Season. We are now preparing to make Easter Cards for our friends at church and we are looking forward to hosting the Parish Tea and Chat in our school.

Whilst we are all keeping Lent, the JCs are leading us weekly in prayer and liturgy for the whole school using many resources. They are writing prayers, selecting scripture and hymns to share within the school community. They are true leaders in the making!

Their Commissioning Day has inspired the JCs and they never cease to amaze us with their commitment and dedication to the faith life of our school.

Recently we enjoyed our first Mission Day welcoming the St Cuthbert's Team to school. We had such a lovely day with so many activities to remind us of our faith in school and who we are. You can see from our photographs how much we gained and shared together. Our Angels are special!



The Selfish Giant: whole-school shared stories



Our Junior Chaplains have decided with our friends at St Mary's to take a story each term that has themes depicting our thoughts, our values and our faith to create a display.

We take an element of the previous display moving onto the next to show we are growing and building together in the school year. We began our new display with a tree and our handprints from last term from The Tale of the Three Trees.

This term we are sharing the story of The Selfish Giant painted by Year 6.

We have enjoyed the story across the school and together made a display where every pupil in the school is depicted. The display is prominent in our school hall where we gather together daily. You all know the story but, for us, we have spoken of how the Giant changes within the book, how the children warm his heart and how the children bring joy and make such a difference.

Our flowers in his garden are made with all our pupils' faces and the petals with their unique fingerprints. Children bring the love and flowers to the garden and change the Giant's way of life.

One character in particular is loved by the Giant, he has nail wounds in his hands and feet.

"these are the wounds of love"



The pupils were able to link the story to our faith recognising the symbolism of Jesus in the little boy and new life for the giant in heaven.

"You let me play once in your garden, today you shall come with me to my garden, which is paradise".

With the marks on his hands and feet he must be the Christ child

This is Jesus at the crucifixion, new life in the little boy

Always be kind

Because he wasn't selfish anymore, he was taken to heaven.



Learning Superheroes

At St Mary's and St Joseph, we have recently launched our exciting new 'Learning Superheroes' project. This is an initiative designed to promote Characteristics of Effective Learning throughout the whole school from nursery to Year 6.

To learn well our pupils approach opportunities with curiosity, energy and enthusiasm. If our pupils are not intrinsically motivated or confident to use their skills and knowledge, then their progress can be limited. Whilst Characteristics of Effective Learning are a statutory part of the EYFS framework we want them to be applied in much the same way across the whole school and our new approach promotes and recognises ways pupils can become effective learners across our primary school.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning are broken down into 3 areas:

- **Active Learning**
- **Playing and Exploring**
- **Creating and Thinking Critically**



As a school we have identified which specific characteristics we would like our pupils to develop that will have the most impact on them as lifelong learners. To make them accessible and child-friendly across the school we designed a set of diverse and inclusive 'learning superheroes'.

Each superhero represents a different learning skill taken from across the three main areas and is characterised by a bright and colourful figure digitally adapted and designed by one of our Year 6 pupils, Eryn Jackson-Brooke. They are displayed in our hall for all to see.

We introduced our superheroes with a special launch assembly which built excitement around the project and saw the introduction of our first 'Half-Term Hero' named 'Have a Go Hero'. Posters in classrooms reminded pupils of the key learning behaviours for which we are on the lookout. Individual pupils are rewarded with house points and a special certificate presented in our celebration assembly, recognising those who consistently demonstrate and display these characteristics.

This half term sees the introduction of 'Respect Ranger'. It is important to promote respect to support our pupils as they develop as individuals in our community.

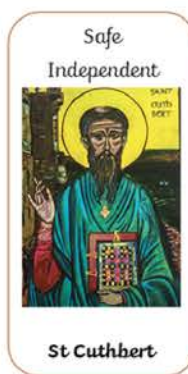
We are looking forward to introducing the rest of our superhero team, they are:

- **Keep it Up Captain,**
- **Agent Link and Learn,**
- **Independent Avenger**
- **Mr/Miss Fantastic Focus**



SMQuality

At St Mary Queen of Martyrs we are investing in "quality to enrich lives." This is done through our eight qualities: ready, respectful, safe, proud, loving, resilient, independent and confident. Through many different ways our pupils learn about these. We believe that by helping our pupils to explore and develop these eight qualities, they will become quality pupils with a love of learning and with interpersonal skills and of course, a sense of belonging. Our eight qualities are linked to the Four Saints who are all connected to our school: Saint Mary, Saint Cuthbert, Saint Oswald and Saint Anne.



We have Saint Oswald and Saint Anne, as our school used to be named Saint Oswald and Saint Anne (a long time ago), Saint Mary, because she is the saint that our school is now named after and finally St Cuthbert because we are part of the St Cuthbert's Multi-Academy Trust.

SMQuality is our unique way of developing the whole child and epitomizes everything that we do in school. SMQuality is the way we walk around school; it the theme for our weekly assemblies; it is the theme for our weekly praise assemblies on a Friday. We also have our exceptional SMQuality stickers that pupils can receive from staff when they produce a superb piece of work. These pieces of work are displayed on our SMQuality Wow Wall which can be found outside the Head of School's office.

The recent quality was 'proud' and Miss Perry talked to the children about how we can be 'proud' in our actions as well as our work. The pupils thought about how they should not compare themselves to others – that they should focus on being proud of their own work and actions. Some of the responses from the pupils in the assembly focused on their wanting to do their best in their work so that their teacher was proud of them. Miss Perry then launched our Hook Writing Week with the pupils. When pupils arrived at school on Tuesday 7th March some very strange things had occurred over night and the pupils all became detectives to try to figure out what had happened.

Our youngest pupils had to work out what happened to poor Fred. It was an exciting day to be in school and all the pupils were so enthusiastic that, even as they went home they were still trying to work out what had happened!



Roll Back The Stone

At St Mary Queen of Martyrs, we started Lent with a lovely Ash Wednesday Liturgy held in school, led by Mr Coyle from the Chaplaincy Team and Mrs Coldham, the Head of School. In preparation for the liturgy, all pupils had some reflection time in the morning to think about their Lenten promise. These are always shared and displayed in school so that staff and pupils can keep reflecting on their Lenten promise and talk about how well they are doing in achieving it. Our classes have then gone on to lead their own liturgies using some of the amazing resources prepared by the Trust Chaplaincy Team. The Lent in a Bag resources take pupils on the journey of Lent over the five weeks that we are in school. The bags help them to learn about this prayerful time in the Church's calendar. Pupils can also use the resources to help them to plan and lead liturgies in their own class. During the last week in school, before the Easter break, all pupils will take part in Holy Week in a day, exploring Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and Good Friday. This is always an extraordinary week to be in school.

On Tuesday 29th March 2023 and Wednesday 30th March, Phase 2 (Year 3 and Year 4) will be performing Roll back the Stone. This is a musical cantata which tells the Easter story through song. We are fortunate to have NAPA (Northern Academy of Performing Arts) supporting in school this year. Year 3 and Year 4 are being helped by NAPA to prepare for what is going to be a superb show! The pupils are very excited about this performance and cannot stop singing the songs - they are even taking it upon themselves to practise at breaktimes and lunchtimes. Their favourite song that they are currently learning for the performance is "Who will you choose?" with "King of the Jews" a close second. We are all excited to see this Easter performance.

Our Mini Vinnies, supported by Year 5 and Year 6, recently decorated hearts for our parishioners. Each heart had a piece of scripture printed on it that talked about the love of God. One of our pupils wrote about the hearts for the Parish Newsletter:

Our St Valentine's Day Hearts

Valentine's day is about giving not receiving. God didn't receive love he gave it and got love back for all the love he gives to others. Valentine's Day is not just a day that you give chocolate and presents it's also about the saint Valentine. St Valentine is a Saint associated with love, but it is God who shows us how to love best and our scripture hearts are God giving us clues about the best way to Love.



Preparing The Way

Lent began on Wednesday 22nd February and at OLSP we gathered together as a school for a special Ash Wednesday liturgy. As part of our liturgy, we listened to a reading from the Gospel according to Luke (19:5). Together, we reflected on the choices Zacchaeus made and how Jesus' invitation to Zacchaeus was cause for reconciliation which led to celebration. Jesus helped Zacchaeus by loving him, by being his friend and by letting him know how important he was to God. Zacchaeus' heart was changed. He became more loving, kind and generous. As a school, we considered the words and actions we could use during this period of Lent to be more like Jesus.



On this special day to mark the beginning of the forty days of Lent, we placed ashes on our foreheads as a symbol to acknowledge that we are sinners and as an outward sign of penance. Jesus spent forty days in the desert preparing himself for his destiny- dying on the cross for our sins. In Lent God invites us to this forty day period of reflection and renewal to allow us to come closer to Him. Traditionally we would give something up for Lent- often children would abstain from sweets and adults would abstain from alcohol. In more recent years we are encouraged to do 'something extra' during Lent: it may be attending Mass if we have drifted away, or attending the Stations of The Cross, or saying additional prayers, or giving to a charitable cause. Within school we are witnessing to our faith and creating opportunities for pupils, parents, and carers to engage with us in prayer and in charitable giving during Lent to bring us all closer to Christ.

Each day at the end of school we will be holding a sixty second prayer within the classrooms and on the playground for the parents. A bell will sound to signal the start of this period of



reflection. We invite all within our school community to gather their thoughts and offer their prayers to God. As a school we will complete our journey through Lent with the Stations of the Cross led by our Year 3 and 4 pupils at Our Lady and St Peter's Church. Similar to our Advent Service in church, parents will be invited to witness this special part of our liturgical calendar and key event within the Catholic Life of the School.

Builders of the Kingdom, Ambassadors of Bridlington and Citizen of the World

At OLSP we strive to develop the skills, knowledge and learning attitudes of our pupils so that they may be the leaders God intended them to be - leaders at all levels in life - Leaders to Build God's Kingdom.

Our Catholic values help pupils to develop their social and moral codes as they build their sense of uniqueness and self-worth as individuals. We believe that all pupils deserve the opportunity to nurture their individual talents and to achieve their true potential. We aim to encourage pupils to develop their understanding of their local and national heritage and their role as citizens of modern Britain and of the wider world. They are learning about sustainability and the environment and how they, as individuals, can make a positive difference through both direct action and political channels. Locally, pupils learn about the sea, the beach, the coastline, Bridlington Priory, The Bayle Gate, Sewerby Hall, St John of Bridlington, local heroes, tourism and the local economy. Pupils also learn to develop a civic pride in their home town and to be ambassadors for Bridlington. Catholic Social Teaching principles of: Dignity, Solidarity, The Common Good, The Option for the Poor, Peace, Care for Creation, The Dignity of Work and Participation underpin all that we do. Thus, our pupils are prepared academically and spiritually to be both contributors to and custodians of our world caring for our precious, threatened environment.



Recently, our Y1 pupils demonstrated the above in abundance with a habitat project. All pupils were challenged to recreate a model representing a habitat linked to one of their areas of study. At Our Lady and St Peter we place a high value on pupils developing a good knowledge and understanding of the world around them that takes them beyond the local area. We focus on learning about different cultures, religions and ways of life in our country and around the world. We also focus on knowledge about places: where they are, what they are like and similarities and differences compared with where we live. We teach our pupils about the world around them and about global issues both past and present linked with our whole school themes. We seek to dispel stereotypical views about the world and different cultures by challenging the children's pre-conceived ideas and encouraging them to think more deeply. The work produced by Y1 was of an extremely high standard and we are so proud of their efforts. This achievement was demonstrated at our weekly sharing assembly where the pupils themselves spoke eloquently and with knowledge about the habitats they had made.

World Book Day

World Book Day 2023 was a resounding success at St Peter's RC Academy, Scarborough.

For the whole of World Book Day week events were held across the school, from Foundation to Year 6, with the ambition of raising the profile of reading and highlighting the joy and fun that can be garnered from reading. Classes took part in nationally-held events, sharing 'live lessons' with thousands of children across the country.

Pupils in EYFS and Year 1 and 2 were treated to a read-along with renowned author Julia Donaldson and illustrator Axel Scheffler. A particular highlight was the drawing workshop led by Gruffalo illustrator Scheffler, and pupils were inspired by his talent and creativity.

Pupils throughout Key Stage 2 also took part in national live lessons thriving on the opportunities to reflect on their love of reading and inspired to seek new and exciting book-based adventures.



In addition to these memorable experiences, all pupils read and were moved by the wonderful wordless picture book, *Flood* by Alvaro F. Villa. The book shows the power of nature over the lives of humans and the potentially devastating impact that nature can have as well as suggesting that, as humanity, if we work with nature, we can help to prevent avoidable disasters. We learned to 'read' wordless books by using the detailed images and noting changes as the story progressed. Pupils were inspired to create responses to the stunning imagery of the book using a variety of methods to do so including the creation of audiobooks to accompany the book as well as diary writing from the perspectives of the family in the book.

On World Book Day itself, St Peter's pupils were invited to come into school in their comfortable pyjamas and to bring their favourite bedtime book. Across the school, classes paired up throughout the day to read with each other and it was heartening to see the nurturing, caring and sincere sharing of their treasured stories. To help make it feel just like bedtime, our highly-valued Friends of St Peter's School group arranged milk and cookies for all pupils to enjoy alongside their books.

Our Mission Day

Staff and pupils at St Peter's School were privileged to take part in a Mission Day on Friday 3rd March. We were joined by Mary and Catherine, members of St Cuthbert's Chaplaincy Team who guided staff and pupils through a day marked throughout by spirituality and reflection.

Before the arrival of the pupils, staff prayers were said and the day was started with all pupils within a special launch assembly. Throughout the day the Gospel of St Matthew was used to consider how scripture helps us to live our mission in the world as children of Christ.

Imagery and scripture were used across the school to consider who inspired the Gospel of St Matthew to be written and how he was assisted by angels, God's messengers. Pupils in EYFS and KS1 marvelled at artwork depicting St Matthew and his assisting angels and worked collaboratively and creatively to consider 'the most beautiful of angels'.

During the Mission Day pupils worked to understand how we can best live God's word by reflecting on the Beatitudes from St Matthew's Gospel. The day was completed with opportunities for drama and storytelling in the form of the parables Jesus used to teach us about the mysteries of faith and God.



The Mission Day provided staff with a much-valued reminder of the importance and significance of reflection and returning to our individual core, often spiritual, values which drive us all to be the best we can be for our wonderful pupils.

Alongside the benefits to staff, both professionally and in terms of wellbeing, the impact was equally profound on the pupils of St Peter's.

Pupils enjoyed the time to talk, to think and to share together as they were confident that they would be treated with love and respect. They found moments of peace throughout the day, particularly finding reassurance that God and his angels of peace are always there and in knowing that we can hear God if we listen carefully.

The fact that this opportunity was provided to us by our St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust underlines our shared values and helps to raise the relevance and importance of the spiritual education of our pupils to a higher level through such a meaningful and valuable Mission Day.





Artspiration!



At St Richard's we place high importance on exploring and developing our pupils' talents and interests across the whole curriculum, providing them with opportunities to broaden their creativity.

One of the ways in which we do this is through enhancement weeks with a specific focus on Art and Design. Each year there are four weeks which are dedicated to studying the techniques of one of the following elements: drawing, painting, collage and sculpture.

Year on year, pupils progressively build upon the skills they have learnt, becoming increasingly proficient, whilst also developing their cultural capital through gaining knowledge of specific artists and their methods. Their explorative artistic journey is detailed in their personal sketch book with a final showcase piece created and evaluated.

This approach has engaged, inspired and challenged our pupils whilst equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art with great success. The achievements of all are celebrated with high-quality displays and showcase galleries throughout the school inspiring our pupils to strive to achieve even more.

This half-term 'Collage' takes its turn in the spotlight with each year group studying different collage skills linked to a carefully selected artist: from Picasso and cutting simple shapes in EYFS; Henri Matisse inspiring Year 1 to use shape, colour and space; Year 2 creating Giuseppe Arcimboldo inspired portraits; Robin Brookes and Megan Coyle helping the pupils in Years 3 and 4 to design landscape collages and, finally, Years 5 and 6 entered the fascinating world of photomontage as used by John Stezaker and Hannah Hock.

Who is your favourite artist?
Henri Matisse because he used paper to cut out shapes.

What is your favourite type of art?
Sculpture because you get to make things and get mucky!

Tell us about some skills you have learnt this year and how they have helped you to improve your art?
Colour mixing - now I can make the right colour.

What is your favourite piece of art that you have created so far?
Colour mixing in my sketchbook - making blues and shades of red.

How does art make you feel?
Proud!

How do you feel about your sketchbook?
I like my sketchbook because it is fun to do. It makes it exciting to work in because no one marks it.

An interview with a Year 1 artist





The St Richard's Retreat ~ Service and Sanctuary

Serving our pupils and their families is at the heart of everything we do at St Richard's. Although our school is situated in one of the most deprived postcodes in England, the generosity of spirit both within the school and in the wider parish community, means that we are rich in so many other ways!

Our school values, rooted in scripture, form the basis of all that we do to work in service for our pupils and their families. We understand the hardships that many of our families face and we have worked hard to provide practical and spiritual support creating a welcoming space of sanctuary and service in the form of The St Richard's Retreat.

During the first Covid lockdown, we recognised the need to provide our families with practical support in the form of food parcels. Thanks to the support of one of our local churches, St Stephen's, and generous donations from parishioners, we were able to provide essential weekly food parcels and regular check-ins with families. After the full reopening of schools in September 2020, we wanted to continue to develop this practical level of support and service and to reconnect and rebuild links between our school, our families, our parishes and our faith.

Creating a warm and welcoming school environment for our families was a priority for us. We identified a need for a retreat- a place where our pupils and families can find sanctuary and support, peace and prayer. We sourced help from our local ward councilors who provided funding for furniture and resources to transform our prayer resource room into a living retreat for our families. Our intention was simple: to show how we live out our faith by providing a safe haven and opening our doors to welcome our families into the heart of our Catholic community.

For many years, we have been faithfully supported by the St Vincent de Paul Society, which is run from our local churches of St Bede's and Sacred Heart, and they have been instrumental in our endeavour to provide tangible support to our families. They have provided emergency funding for our most vulnerable families as well as vouchers at Christmas for many of our pupils. Recently, we received a large donation from the SVP to support our newly established food bank. This had been set up by the staff of St Richard's in response to the aftermath of the pandemic and the current cost of living crisis that has adversely affected so many of our families. The St Stephen's Community Centre also work closely with us and provide frequent donations to the food bank.

However our Retreat is not just a place to house a foodbank, it is also a safe space for both parents and pupils to play, pray, chat and find support. 'Gab and Grab' is a concept that we have always wanted to deliver: a place of sanctuary for the community and a weekly coffee morning attended by many parents and even the local lollipop lady! Food is replenished weekly and parents come and help themselves to the essentials that are needed in these expensive and uncertain times. Advice is given, messages are passed in these Gab and Grab sessions and parents know to ask for any items for families and friends if required. St Stephen's Fairshare often provide crates of fresh fruit and vegetables which we encourage our pupils to set up as a grocery store outside at the end of the day, giving away the produce at pick up times.

Our Retreat is going from strength to strength. In addition to Gab and Grab, we have also enlisted the support of the Early Help Team to provide parenting advice and support for beyond the school walls. In addition to providing a welcome refuge to support the mental health and wellbeing of the families we serve, the retreat is also used to support those in crisis.

St Richard's is striving to ensure the best possible start for our pupils as we work tirelessly to provide a welcoming and caring community which is built upon the Gospel Values. We reflect Jesus' teachings in all that we do and, with the support of our local, compassionate Catholic community and the strong links that we have established, we ensure that our pupils and their families experience true Christian values which are reflected in our commitment to:

Aspire. Learn. Serve and Grow in Christ



Reigniting Community Links

Developing links with the community has always been at the heart of the mission of St Thomas More VCA and after a period of lockdowns and closed doors, there was a united drive between parents, carers and the school community to reignite and develop the community links with the school.

In 2021, the STM PTFA was formed with the purpose of developing the opportunities for all pupils at St Thomas More. Over the past 24 months, the committee has sought to raise funds and build community partnerships to support wider opportunities, enhance the environment and the aspirations of pupils attending the school.

A close partnership between the school and the parents has seen some of the following initiatives taking place with many exciting projects pencilled in for the coming months. Supported by the generosity of the parents, carers and wider community, the PTFA has secured grants and raised significant amounts of money for the pupils of St Thomas More. Their creativity and passion for developing experiences for the children have led to Discos, Bake Sales, Fairs, 'Love your School' and 'Break the Rules' days as just some of the ways of raising funds for the pupils.

Each year the PTFA has worked with the school to think of a single driver as their main fundraising aim. Following the pandemic, developing the opportunities for creative play has been the initial focus.



In 2022 the PTFA supported the development of the playgrounds in school, working with staff and pupils to produce playground markings across the school site with plans for installing a Trim Trail in 2023.

Working with class teachers and leaders within the school the PTFA has sought for ways to enhance the curriculum offered at St Thomas More. They have worked with other charitable organisations and local companies to secure funding to offer the children further opportunities across the curriculum. The PTFA has supported initiatives to develop Wellbeing Spaces, Artist partnerships and to engage inspiring visitors.

Supporting the needs of our school community and the wider environment has also been a priority for the team. This year we have seen the development of a pre-loved uniform swap shop offering a wide range of quality pre-loved uniform to the school community free of charge. In the autumn term the PTFA, supported by the Woodland Trust and an army of parents and grandparents planted over 700 saplings across the school site developing our Forest School Area and creating much needed shade, habitat and hedgerows in the coming years.





Celebrating Community



As a school we have enjoyed the opportunity to welcome back our families, parish and priest back into St Thomas More. It has been wonderful to see our pupils flourish in their leadership capacity as Junior Chaplains and Mini-Vinnies.

Our Junior Chaplains have been working closely with Mrs Collinge, our Chaplaincy Lead, to deliver whole school worship and to support pupils throughout the school to deliver worship and prayer in their classes. As a team they have flourished and shared wonderful prayerful experiences with the other pupils and their parents.

The Mini-Vinnies have been considering the ways in which they can demonstrate the love of Jesus in our local community and beyond. This year they have supported a local foodbank, raised money for disaster relief with CAFOD and helped the pupils at St Thomas More to think about how they can be better stewards of God's creation.

Reigniting our Parish links after lockdown has been wonderful, it has been great to welcome Father Dawson back into school to share Mass with us and to start to get our pupils back into the parish and celebrating Mass with the parishioners in one of our parish churches. We are looking forward to more opportunities to develop our links with the parish and to help the pupils at St Thomas More to celebrate the unity in Christ that we share with the parish.

As a school we have seen a wonderful resurgence of pupil leadership throughout the school. Pupils have taken the opportunity to share worship and prayerful experiences within their classes and to the whole school. Pupils are looking forward to welcoming parents, carers and the parish family back into school this Lent as we look back to the first Easter and prepare to celebrate the risen Christ.





Pupils Lead The Way

Our pupil leadership groups work with the school community to promote and develop the Catholic life of the school driven by the Gospel Values and our school mission "to share Christ's love through all that we do".

To demonstrate how they do this we asked all our pupil leadership groups how they support the Catholic life of the school.

RE Ambassadors:

We enjoy celebrating other pupils' success in RE with our termly certificates. We are proud to welcome people to the school and come up with new ideas of how to help others.

Junior Chaplaincy Team:

We support pupils in our class to get closer to God and set our minds to being with Him. We encourage people to help others because the Bible says 'love your neighbour as yourself'. This will help others to communicate with people they don't usually talk to and to help those who are sad.

Mini Vinnies:

We help the school with its charity work and parish links such as making cards for parishioners, helping with the flowers and celebrating termly Masses together.

Eco Warriors:

We are trying to recycle more and look after our world. It is important that we try to keep the environment clean and reduce pollution.

Digital leaders:

We help keep pupils safe online by sharing information about risks. We help with technical issues and some of us also lead at Code Club.

Anti-bullying Ambassadors:

We are helping keep pupils safe – encouraging them to make good choices and be positive towards others. When pupils are sad, we help them, comfort them and ask what is wrong. We are on a mission to prevent bullying in our school.

School Council:

We like to make changes so that pupils can enjoy school as much as possible. We are improving our outdoor spaces so that breaktimes are fun and enjoyable for all pupils.

International Pupil Council:

This year we have worked with pupils from other school. We are raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals. We are focusing on zero hunger! We are also developing work with our partner school.

Playground leaders:

On the playground we help others to make good choices in their play. The best thing about being a playground leader is seeing all the younger pupils smiling. The pupils make us laugh too!

By giving our pupils these important roles of responsibility they are able to work with their peers and our community to bring God's love in the form of faith in action. It is our pupils' understanding of this powerful love that makes St Vincent's a special place to be, journeying with Christ by our side.





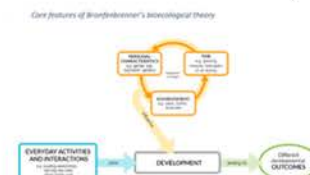
Spotlight on Inclusive Education: St Vincent's 'HUB' Provision

At St Vincent's VC Academy, our HUB (Help, Understand and Belong) has become a great success! It is a carefully designed learning environment for our pupils with more complex special educational needs.

Our approach is based on research.

Bronfenbrenner's psychological theory demonstrates that children's development is the result of everyday activities and relationships in their immediate environment, as well as:

- interactions among 'within child' factors (gender, age, disposition, genetics),
- the wider environment (class, school local area),
- time-related processes (i.e. growing maturity, time spent on an activity).



The HUB's approach combines an enabling environment with good teaching so that pupils can realise their maximum potential. While inclusion does not have a physical location, having a good learning atmosphere will make a school or setting more inclusive. The environment must be one that enables positive interactions that can shape pupils' development over time.

To work out how we can best support our pupils with SEND, we regularly gather information through a range of evidence including pupil progress meetings and pupil voice. We discuss why our focus pupils need an adapted provision and how this could help them as a learner. Through this process, we further understand each pupil's specific strengths and areas of need. These are developed into small achievable steps alongside intervention strategies.

Through effective use of the TEACCH approach, pupils can better understand the classroom setting, teaching routine and social expectations. This approach helps to improve social integration and learner confidence with reduced incidences of stressful interactions between adults and pupils. A workstation is used to show pupils:

- What they are expected to do (using visual or structural cues),
- How much work they need to do,
- How they know that they are 'finished'
- What they will do next.



It has been important for the school to develop a clear focus for the HUB's purpose, including pupil entrance/exit criteria to help decide if a place in our HUB provision is suitable for a pupil and, if so, to what extent and how will this look? The HUB can provide for pupils who are not yet ready to engage with or are working below National Curriculum levels or who need to focus on English, Maths and Science and transition into class at other times.

As part of staff development, other teachers have worked in the HUB to experience the support strategies firsthand so that the approach can be adapted and used successfully in class. We are now at the stage where most focus pupils have a successful balance of time spent engaged in their learning both in the HUB and in the classroom.

The development of the HUB has been an exciting journey!





ST ANTHONY'S
VC ACADEMY



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



ST MARY
QUEEN OF
MARTYRS
VC ACADEMY



OUR LADY
& ST PETER
VC ACADEMY



ST PETER'S
VC ACADEMY



ST RICHARD'S
VC ACADEMY



ST THOMAS
MORE
VC ACADEMY



ST VINCENT'S
VC ACADEMY

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A stylized tree logo with a grey trunk and branches. The branches are filled with various colored leaves: light blue, tan, and pink. In the center of the tree, there is a dark blue cross with a white outline, and inside the cross are smaller leaves in light blue, tan, and red.

St Cuthbert's
ROMAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

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