

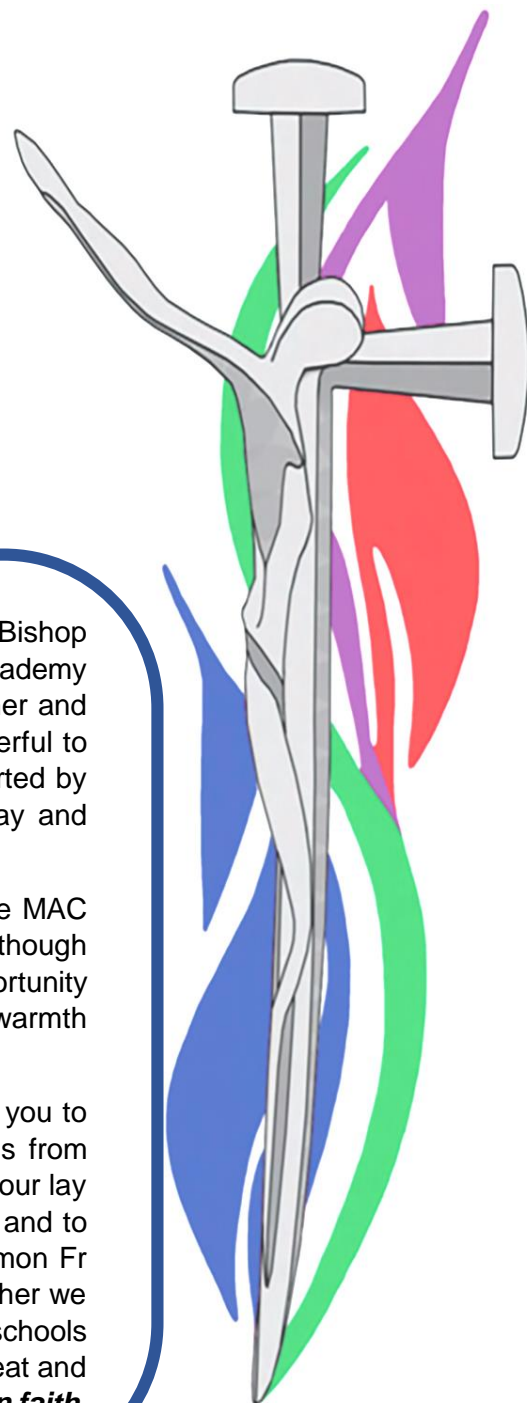
Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company

Achieving together in faith

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2019

Holy Cross Catholic MAC Launch Mass



On Tuesday 1 October staff from our seven schools gathered at Bishop Ullathorne to celebrate the opening of the Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company. Our Mass provided the perfect opportunity to come together and celebrate in what was a very holy and joyous occasion. It was wonderful to welcome Fr Jonathan back to Coventry as principal celebrant supported by our school chaplains Canon Tom Farrell, Fr Moses, Fr Stephen Day and newly ordained Fr John Waters.

At the start of mass young people representing all the schools in the MAC dressed our cross of nails with material in our school colours. Although torrential rain and heavy traffic delayed the start, this provided an opportunity for old and new friends to meet and there was a wonderful sense of warmth and friendship in the hall.

Thank you to everyone who helped on the day but a particular thank you to Mr Billings and his staff who hosted the event and Mr Barrie Morris from Bishop Ullathorne who made the Cross of Nails. Many thanks also to our lay chaplains Laura Kemp and Lauren Stundon who prepared the mass and to our wonderful staff and student choir and musicians. During his sermon Fr Jonathan spoke about the strength of working together and that together we are stronger. As we start our journey together we look forward to our schools combining their many strengths to make our Holy Cross MAC truly great and where all our young people have the opportunity to ***achieve together in faith.***



Welcome from the Chair of the Board of Directors

As Chair of the Board of Directors of the Holy Cross Catholic MAC I would like to welcome you to our Autumn 2019 newsletter and update you on some of the key events that have taken place in the Holy Cross Catholic MAC during our first term. And what a busy first term it has been!

We are delighted to congratulate Ms Emma O'Connor on her appointment as the Headteacher of Cardinal Newman Catholic School and we wish her every success and happiness in her new role. We are also delighted to congratulate St Elizabeth's Catholic School on achieving a "Good" outcome in their Ofsted Inspection in the summer term. The inspection team were highly complimentary about the children and staff and school community.

As we prepare for the end of the Autumn Term 2019, we thank all the staff who work so tirelessly in our schools supporting our children. We particularly thank them for the additional time and effort that goes in to planning, preparing for, and taking part in Christmas events. Your time, skill, patience and dedication have created moments that capture and spread happiness, joy, a sense of togetherness and wonder.

Also a big thank you to our finance and administrative staff for your patience and professionalism as new systems have been introduced.

In 2020 we will continue to follow St John Henry Newman's example as we progress as an organization and to remember that "God has created me to do him some definite service" and, as in our mission statement, to be the best we can be.

As we look forward to a new term, a new year and a new decade we will remain focused on improving outcomes for all our young people and we will continue to work effectively with our staff and wider communities for the greater good across all our schools, parishes and communities.

Thank you also to our parents, parishes, volunteers and indeed our young people for all their efforts in this calendar year. I hope that the hard work that continues to take place across our MAC is reflected in outcomes and achievements later in the academic year.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May you all enjoy the peace and joy of Christmas with family and friends during this season and I wish you every blessing for 2020 and the decade ahead.

John Teahan - Chair of Holy Cross Catholic MAC

December 2019





Holy Cross Catholic MAC Prayer Competition

Academy Prayer

Written by Ashwin

**Year 6, St Augustine's Catholic Primary
School**

Dear Lord

Let us be guided by your wisdom to be
united as the family of God. Help us to
use our gifts and talents to spread
friendship, peace and justice across
our Holy Cross schools and
communities. Give us the strength
and courage to always do our best
and be the best person we can be.

Amen

**Holy Cross of Jesus
be my hope**



Bishop Ullathorne Remembers



Remembrance Day

Our school community came together to remember all of those who have lost their life to war. Students and staff took time to reflect on their great sacrifice and prayed for those in our armed forces.



Several of Bishop Ullathorne current and former students performed in the recent Youth Operatic Group (YOG) production of *The Blitz* at the Albany Theatre in November. Full of uplifting, humorous and moving melodies, the musical opened with the start of a night air raid in 1940 in London's Bank Underground Station and followed the poignant stories of two families during the war. Well done to all the students involved.

Trip to the trenches

In September, 45 Year 11 students embarked on a mission to discover what life for soldiers was like during the Great War. It was an incredibly moving experience and allowed our students to grasp the enormity of the First World War.



Hanny Barry said: "We were taken to a number of museums where we were able to walk through trenches. As World War One is a topic I have been taught in History, I am glad that I was able to go on the trip to Ypres. It helped me gain a deeper understanding of the events and what it was like to live through them."

Eniola Olatunde said: "The trip to the trenches was fun and educational. I really enjoyed learning History in a practical way rather than from a text book. It was a once in a life time opportunity that I would recommend to the younger years."



Erin Rodgers said: "Visiting the trenches and sites of the battles was an incredible experience. It was engaging from a historical perspective as you got an insight into the backgrounds of the nations we live in today and how the wars impacted on our country. From an emotional viewpoint too, it made you reflect on and appreciate all who fought and died during the Great War overall. Visiting the Menin Gate, amongst other monuments, really put into perspective the amount of people who sacrificed themselves for the cause of war. Finding people with our surnames made it feel a lot more personal and a much more vivid experience." 4

Cardinal Newman International Cross of Nails School



Cardinal Newman Catholic School were delighted to receive a letter from The Reverend Canon Kathryn Fleming, Canon Pastor at Coventry Cathedral confirming that their application to become an International Cross of Nails School (ICON School) has been received and approved by the Reconciliation Ministry Team at Coventry Cathedral.

The Cathedral warmly welcomed the school to the world-wide network of ICON schools, and to the wider family of the Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) which extends across US, Germany, South Africa and Central & Eastern Europe.

Cardinal Newman is the first Catholic School in the UK to receive the award that recognizes the tremendous amount of work completed by the school on developing peace and justice across the school and wider community that has been led by the school's Peace and Justice Coordinator Mr Rhys Davies.

On Sunday 24 November Headteacher Ms O'Connor and students from Cardinal Newman attended Sunday service at the Coventry for the blessing of the Cross, followed by a service at Cardinal Newman on 2 December to mark the presentation of the Cross of Nails to the school.



Christ the King Enrichment Activities



It has been a busy term at Christ the King and children have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of Curriculum Enrichment activities. These included: making poppy stones, learning about fire safety, Bikeability, baking to raise funds for guide dogs, a visit to Coventry Cathedral, a visit to Twycross zoo, a visit from Jo Cotterill and the school Halloween disco.



St Augustine's Catholic School

The Wider Curriculum



Where in the world would you see this man-made structure?

Alongside the traditional lessons at St Augustine's, we offer the children a number of wider curriculum experiences designed to inspire the children, enhance their learning and enrich their experiences throughout the year.

In September the school year started with a travel week. Each year group explored a different country from across the continents and learned more about the physical features and the human features of that country. This experience is an annual event designed to widen our children's experience of the world around them.

At the end of October we held a book character pumpkin competition to celebrate Autumn. The children were extremely creative, some with support from home, to re-create their favourite book character on a pumpkin.

Can you spot any of your favourite book characters? →



In October a number of our Y6 pupils visited North Wales for their residential at Plas Dol Y Moch. The weather was kind and our Y6 enjoyed an action packed three days climbing mountains, kayaking, orienteering and making their own lunch!



In November the children were inspired by a visit from an Olympic Bronze medallist, Kristian Thomas. He led a practical session with every class and ended his visit with an assembly where he demonstrated some impressive skills. His clear message to our children was that success only comes with hard work. This is what we hope to instil in our children here at St Augustine's.



St Elizabeth's Catholic School

Ofsted Visit – July 2019

St Elizabeth's were delighted that the Ofsted Inspection Team recognised the hard work and dedication of our whole staff team. We were particularly pleased with how the inspectors recognised the many strengths of the school, including how "improved teaching and focused intervention work help disadvantaged pupils to make good progress" and how "pupils who speak English as an additional language are very well supported." "They are integrated fully into lessons with their class mates and achieve well."

There was recognition that "the school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding", echoing our evaluation of the school. The whole staff team dedicate themselves to the wellbeing of the children, working tirelessly to ensure the children are in school, supported emotionally and academically, and nurtured and guided both within and outside of school. The foundation for the development of the school has been our focus on positive relationships based on our Catholic values and virtues.

The special mix of cultural backgrounds in St Elizabeth's is a strength of our school, we celebrate the rich diversity of our children's backgrounds and were very pleased to see how Ofsted recognised that "the school is a very cohesive and supportive school communitythe behaviour of the pupils is outstanding. This is a highly inclusive school where all pupils feel a real sense of belonging and where behaviour is excellent."

The inspection report celebrates the hard work of the staff team and governors, the close partnership between the school and Parish and the strong, positive relationships between school and our parents and families. The report and judgements echoed our own school self-evaluation and confirmed that the school had strengthened improvements, strategic leadership and governance.

Parents who spoke to inspectors agree, rightly, that their children are extremely well cared for, safe and secure in school.



The combined support of the MAC and improvements to governance following well-devised training ensure that governors are diligent in exercising their duties to oversee and steer the school's work

OFSTED 2019

Congratulations to Beth!

The inspection in July followed an award to Beth Foulstone, the School Inclusion Manager. Beth received the "Coventry Health and Well-Being Award for Outstanding Contribution to Supporting Families in the Local Community" which she dedicated to the staff team. Ofsted commented "The senior inclusion mentor works tirelessly with families, particularly those who are in the greatest need. It is no surprise to see she has recently received the Coventry Health and Well-Being award."



St John Vianney Catholic School

Preparing for the Future!

Our Year 6 children benefited greatly from the Coventry Magistrates visit, which focused on British Values, British Law and consequences. The first part of the visit concentrated on the British justice system and gave the children an insight into how the Magistrates Court operates.

They found out about the consequences associated with breaking the law. The second part of the visit allowed the children to take part in a mock trial. All children participated in role play, following a script to re-enact a trial in a Magistrates Court. The children then debated the verdict, using the evidence to decide whether the defendant was innocent or guilty, beyond reasonable doubt.



Year 6 from all the Bishop Ullathorne feeder schools and Year 7 from Bishop Ullathorne celebrated Mass together at St Thomas More Church. This was a great occasion to meet past pupils and see how well they had settled into their new school.



St Thomas More Catholic School

Learning and Growing as God's Holy People

This term, children and staff have been concentrating on living out our mission statement: Learn and Grow as God's Holy People. The GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Team was commissioned in October during a beautiful service at Christ the King, along with the GIFT Teams of other Coventry Catholic schools. The Team Leaders have been taking their mission very seriously, sharing the story of St Martin de Tours, the patron saint of chaplains, and their vision for the GIFT team over the coming year with the rest of the school in assembly. Since then, they have been leading prayer times and supporting younger pupils in their prayer; they have been enjoying 'sandwiches and songs' – a small lunchtime choir that serenaded the Parish with carols as they arrived at the Parish Bazaar and they have been raising money for good causes. Four members, Willow, Nancy, Delphina and Eva were unwilling to let any opportunity to pass them by, and raised a handsome sum for the Air Ambulance service at the Parish Bazaar selling hot chocolate and reindeer food.



The school marked the month of November by holding a poignant remembrance service. The service was held in the beautiful Prayer Garden with the sea of poppies, made from reclaimed pop bottles. Pupils and staff played a key role in reading during the service and tea and biscuits were served in the school afterwards.

Year 4 also visited the Memorial Park with prayers they had written following Armistice Day. Members of the public were amazed by the spiritual nature of the prayers and the respectful attitude demonstrated by pupils. Year 4 were also delighted to receive a gift from Twinkl, the educational resources company, after Twinkl had noticed a Tweet about the remembrance work they had been doing in the classroom. As a 'well done' Twinkl sent Year 4 the Guinness Book of Records and lots of Guinness goodies.

Our pupils know that loving our neighbour means learning about and respecting our friends of different faiths. Pupils put this into action when they learned about other faiths during Multi-Faith Week. Parents were invited to come into school and share their faith with children and pupils learned about the faiths of Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism and Buddhism.





Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Mission and Aims

Achieving together in faith

Mission

Our school communities are united as the family of God to provide an outstanding Catholic education for all our pupils. With Christ at the centre of all we do, we will inspire every child to be the best person they can be by developing their God given gifts and talents.

Aims:

High aspirations for all

Outstanding education - To create an ethos of collective responsibility, through which we will promote achievement and improve pupil performance

Living out Gospel values and celebrating the Catholic ethos in all our schools with reconciliation and peacefulness at the heart of all we do

Young people – who are resilient and make a positive contribution to their diverse and changing communities

Community - strengthening and nurturing the Catholic life of our schools

Realising talent by developing pupils, staff, academy representatives and Directors for the benefit of the Holy Cross community

Optimising our resources to realise best-value by sharing assets and using economies of scale

Standards - To maintain the highest quality of Catholic education by ensuring accountability at all levels

Service to God by serving others in our school and local communities and national and international communities in need.

Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Contact Details

Holy Cross MAC Head Office is located at:

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The phone numbers may look a little strange because the prefix has changed to 02475 rather than the more familiar 76 ending.

If someone is not available to take your call, please leave a message and we will get back to you.