

Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Spring 2023 Newsletter - Issue 9

Diocese News

Dear Friends,

I hope that you, your family and friends are in good health and that you are beginning to enjoy the lighter evenings and warmer days. It probably doesn't do to remind us that the evenings will start to draw in again on the arrival of the summer solstice on June 21 which marks the longest day north of the equator and the shortest day in the southern hemisphere. Time passes all too quickly, and as William Shakespeare wrote within Sonnet 18 "Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, And summer's lease hath all too short a date".

All of the trust schools have been very busy with so many positive activities and ventures (you will be able to read about these within the newsletter). In addition, our primary school students have completed their Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) for this year. All of our primaries had 100% pupil attendance for the recent Year 6 SATs, despite alteration to the testing timetable caused by the additional Coronation Bank Holiday. Children showed great resilience and rose to the challenges of the tests as they were extremely well prepared by their schools.

Within our two high schools the exam period is well and truly underway. We wish all of our students the very best for their exams, we are confident that the hard work and dedication of all involved will ensure successes for the future.

In the last term St Pancras, St Felix and St Laurence have all been successful in appointing new Foundation Governors and are in the process of inducting them to support school leadership in this vital role. I am so grateful to all of the wonderful governors who give so generously and freely of their time and expertise to support and develop our schools.

St Louis welcomed Bishop Peter Collins to officially open and bless an impressive new school facility - a community kitchen. This has already been put to great use by pupils and other local groups.

The trust is also very excited to have some new cross trust appointments - these have been so helpful in ensuring closer collaboration across the trust which will ultimately add to the mutual benefit assured throughout the trust.

The trust is also very grateful for the wonderful work that Anna Slater has put into pulling the newsletter together.

Christ at the Centre, Children at the Heart



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The Saint Paul VI's Story **the liturgical feast is celebrated on the 29th May**



Born near Brescia in northern Italy, Giovanni Battista Montini was the second of three sons. His father, Giorgio, was a lawyer, editor, and eventually a member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies. His mother, Giuditta, was very involved in Catholic Action within the community.

After ordination in 1920, Giovanni did graduate studies in literature, philosophy, and canon law in Rome before he joined the Vatican Secretariat of State in 1924, where he worked for 30 years. He was also chaplain to the Federation of Italian Catholic University Students, where he met and became a very good friend of Aldo Moro, who eventually became prime minister. Moro was kidnapped by the Red Brigade in March 1978, and murdered two months later. A devastated Pope Paul VI presided at his funeral.

In 1954, Fr. Montini was named archbishop of Milan, where he sought to win disaffected workers back to the Catholic Church. He called himself the "archbishop of the workers" and visited factories regularly while overseeing the rebuilding of a local Church terribly disrupted and ruined by World War II.

In 1958, Montini was the first of 23 cardinals named by Pope John XXIII, two months after the latter's election as pope. Cardinal Montini helped in preparing Vatican II (the second ecumenical council of the Vatican, one of the most important events of the century where thousands of bishops and other religious leaders came to the Vatican City to forge a new set of operating principles for the Catholic Church) and participated enthusiastically in its first sessions. When he was elected pope in June 1963, he immediately decided to continue that Council, which had another three sessions before its conclusion on December 8, 1965. The day before Vatican II concluded, Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras revoked the excommunications that their predecessors had made in 1054. The pope worked very hard to ensure that bishops would approve the Council's 16 documents by overwhelming majorities.

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Paul VI had stunned the world by visiting the Holy Land in January 1964, and meeting Athenagoras, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople in person. The pope made eight more international trips, including one in 1965, to visit New York City and speak on behalf of peace before the United Nations General Assembly. He also visited India, Columbia, Uganda, and seven Asian countries during a 10-day tour in 1970.

Also in 1965, he instituted the World Synod of Bishops, and the next year decreed that bishops must offer their resignations on reaching age 75. In 1970, he decided that cardinals over 80 would no longer vote in papal conclaves or head the Holy See's major offices. He had increased the number of cardinals significantly, giving many countries their first cardinal. Eventually establishing diplomatic relations between the Holy See and 40 countries, he also instituted a permanent observer mission at the United Nations in 1964. Paul VI wrote seven encyclicals; his last one in 1968 on human life.

Pope Paul VI died at Castel Gandolfo on August 6, 1978, and was buried in St. Peter's Basilica. He was beatified on October 19, 2014, and canonized on October 14, 2018. Since 2019 his liturgical feast has been celebrated on May 29.

Reflection

Pope Saint Paul's greatest accomplishment was the completion and implementation of Vatican II. Its decisions about liturgy were the first ones noticed by most Catholics, but its other documents—especially the ones about ecumenism, interfaith relations, divine revelation, religious liberty, the Church's self-understanding and the Church's work with the entire human family—have become the Catholic Church's road map since 1965.

Saint Pope Paul VII Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our brothers and sisters throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all both a restful and enjoyable break.

Best wishes,

Flavio

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

Supporting futures - Career ready

Congratulations to 18 of our Year 12 students who have been accepted on to our Career Ready programme this year! We are the only school in Suffolk to work in partnership with this fantastic charity. During the programme students will experience Master Classes and Work Place Visits, each student will be given a mentor from industry that they will meet with regularly, as well as networking and internship opportunities.



Our Career Ready Sixth Form students were meeting their mentors for the first-time face to face! There was a real buzz in the room. A big thank you to all our mentors who have volunteered to support our students on their Career Ready journeys!

World Book Day

In March the school celebrated World Book Day. This was a fantastic opportunity to bring the school community together through our shared love of reading. There were lots of exciting events happening in school including: Staff sharing their favourite books, competitions run through the library and the book swap café was back once again this year (after proving so popular last year). We also launched the Readathon across all year groups to coincide with World Book Day. Readathon is a national charity that raises vital funds for books in schools and for children who are hospital.



Reading Ambassadors

This term also saw the launch of our reading ambassadors programme. This programme pairs Year 12 ambassadors with Year 7 mentees who need support in developing their reading skills and reading confidence. The ambassadors undertook five weeks of intensive literacy and reading training and are now well underway with their reading programme with their Year 7 mentees. Although the reading ambassadors programme is focused on reading and developing reading skills, it is also a brilliant way to generate positive student relationships across our school community.



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St Benedict's Catholic School

Developing Wisdom, Compassion and Resilience through
Prayer and Work

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition

On the weekend of the 30th April we took 20 Year 10 and 11 students on their Silver expedition, for the Year 11s it was their assessed expedition and the practise for year 10s.

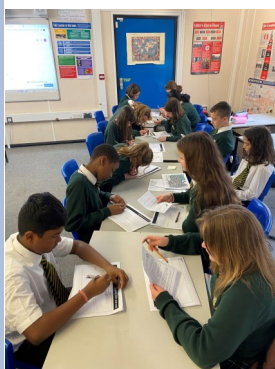
All of students behaviour was exemplary and I even had a member of the public stop me to say how charming and polite they were. They followed their routes with some amendments because of closed footpaths, cooked a hot and substantial meal in the evening, one group had steak and chips! and prepared breakfast.



We were blessed with the weather during the day and although it was cold in the evening, they kept warm playing football and sitting around the camp fire singing and eating marshmallows!

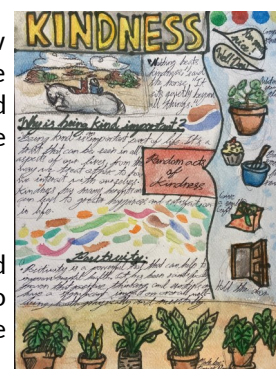
It was a pleasure to spend the bank holiday weekend with such a lovely group of students, well done to them all!

PSHE and Citizenship



Year 7 have been learning in PSHE and Citizenship about how to stay safe and well e.g. as a pedestrian, cyclist, in water, in the sun and from harmful substances. Last lesson students loved using the key information to teach each other in a memorable way, as shown here.

Here is an example of a recent Year 9 homework challenge. One of the key skills Year 9s are working on is Creativity and Darien Almojuela put this into practice by creating a piece to inspire others to be kind. This is just one of the brilliant tasks he completed.



Good Luck

We would like to wish all of our Year 11 and 13 students the best of luck with the upcoming GCSE and A Level exams, you are all awesome go smash it.

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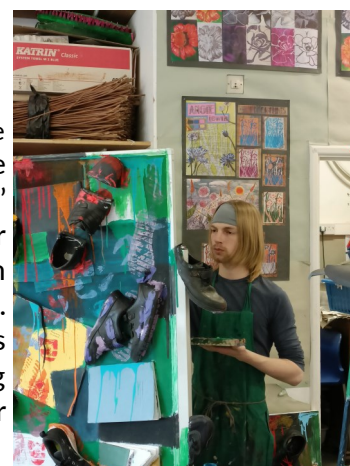


St Benedict's Catholic School - Sixth Form

Developing Wisdom, Compassion and Resilience through
Prayer and Work

Art and Design Technology Exhibition - Open Evening Thursday 22nd June

Our A-Level artists and designers have been working hard this week to realise their ideas as final outcomes during art exams this week alongside submission of the final projects for the Design Technology students' personal NEA's. The students have all worked hard to develop their ideas on a range of possible starting points selected from the Art Exam paper; from 'Portraits, Shoes and 'Sleep' to 'Travel and Silhouettes'. Products made by the Designers include a range of outcomes includes tables, a parasol, a trophy cabinet for the school and the most amazing upcycled chair design. Well done to all our artists and designers for their thoughtful and independent responses.



Year 12 Biology—Conservation Trip to Colchester Zoo

Zoos can be somewhat controversial – they house animals (and plants) that are away from their normal geographical habitats. But modern-day zoos perform vital functions in the areas of conservation and preservation and these were the themes of the day.

The day started with a 60 minute talk on the subject of "Conservation" which is not as simple as it sounds. According to geological fossil records there have been 5 "mass extinctions" in the history of our planet, when the majority of species on Earth have died out entirely due to natural causes – for example, volcanic activity, extreme climate change or even asteroid impact. It is now widely thought that we are in a period of the 6th mass extinction and that humans are to blame! Since the Industrial Revolution, human activity has had an increasingly profound and harmful effect on habitats worldwide. Many species of plants and animals have become extinct as a result of this, an example being the Dodo of Mauritius that died out in the late 17th century. However, extinctions are still happening today, a recent example being the Baiji – Chinese River Dolphin. Last seen in the wild in 2004, it is now thought to be extinct due to the damming of the Yangtze River to obtain hydroelectric power. The talk also covered illegal hunting and the issues that drive this, again, a very complicated area that is only going to be tackled through education. The students then had the chance to explore the zoo and learn more about what the zoo is doing with its breeding and conservation programmes.

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St Felix Catholic School

Followers of Jesus learning together

St Felix celebrated the Coronation with Pomp and Poetry

Pupils came bursting with colour and enthusiasm into the Hall at 2pm after a day of coronation themed activities. From crowns to coronation kebabs, the children embraced the Coronation and could explain what we were celebrating.

Kacper in Y1 said "We are celebrating King Charles III as our King!"

Milana in Y3 said, "I enjoyed today because it was really good celebration and it's not about the activities; it's about the actual coronation."

Boriana in Y3 said, "I have drawn Queen Liz because that's my part in the poem."

Emily in Y5 said, "We made a poster working in pairs to show everyone how the king gets crowned."

Zosia in Y2 said, "I had a good day because we did fun activities and I made a flag."



Y6 wrote poems entitled if I were king for a day...

Ideas included bringing back endangered animals, having a magical genie, housing the poor, helping the unemployed, endorsing world peace, riding a unicorn through the town, being smarter than Albert Einstein, making a hi-tech suit and flying to Mars and...

"I would wear fancy cloaks and give money to blokes"

Poor King Charles has a lot to live up to!

After a delicious Fairtrade tea party, a great finish to the day was the poetry. It started with Elgar, waving of flags, and singing the National Anthem and had poems from Reception to Y6. Mrs Shrimpton, TA in Y5/6 even composed a special verse based on the meter of *I Wanna Be Like You* from the Jungle Book presented by Horowitz.

You're the king of our country, sir,

A British VIP.

You're at the top and now you've got

To rule our great country.

You'll be our sovereign lord, sir,

And visit different towns.

You're just like any other man,

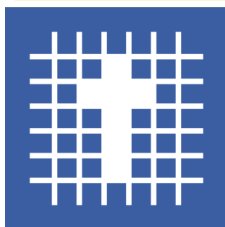
But you're the one who wears the crown.



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St Laurence Catholic Primary School

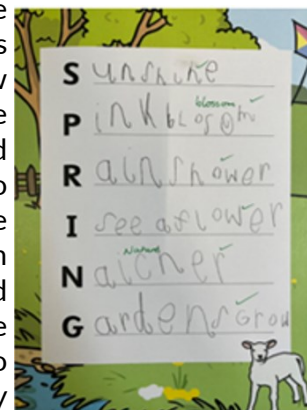
Through God's grace, a community growing in knowledge and understanding

Spotlight On Wrens Growing and Changing in Wrens Class!

The children in Wrens Class have been learning about things that grow and change and how we grow food to eat. They have particularly enjoyed learning about seasonal change as we enter spring. They have been able to spend more time outside, playing in the forest as well as their outside classroom where they have been able to spot the signs of spring. The children completed tree paintings of the four seasons and wrote spring acrostic poems.



The children also took on the challenge of growing their own sunflower seed. They were excited to see the little shoots emerge and they now understand that the plants need water and light to be able to grow. As soon as the plants are big enough they will be planted outside and we are looking forward to seeing how tall they grow.



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St Louis Catholic Academy Loving to Learn

Celebrating Class Mass



St Louis children in Years 5 and 6 celebrated Mass with our Parish Priest, Fr Leo. Fr Leo regularly celebrates Mass with the whole school in church but it is very special for the children when he leads a class Mass. Children wrote prayers, led singing and discussed their faith with Fr Leo. As Year 6 prepare to transition to secondary school, there was an opportunity to reflect on their time in school and the opportunities and hopefulness ahead. One week after their SATs, there was a sense of peace and prayer for children and staff. We are welcoming Fr Leo back in June to lead mass for our Reception Class.

Catenians Gift St Louis Mission Rosaries for Every Child

The Catenians are working to help teachers teach children to regularly pray using Rosaries. To achieve this, we have received beautiful new Mission Rosaries.

This gift is to encourage the children to pray the Rosary regularly. Inspired by a headteacher who said, "Praying the Rosary is the best antidote to bullying, and poor behaviour in the school." Cards entitled 'How to Pray the Rosary' are enclosed with each Rosary sent, as well as 'Angelus' cards.

This apostolate is financed by voluntary donations from Catenians who wish to promote a love of this powerful and life-changing prayer amongst the young.

'The Catenian Rosary Group' has worked to distribute more than 120,000 children's Rosaries free to schools, 36,000 to prisons on request from the prison chaplains, and more than 550,000 to the missions. St Louis are delighted to receive this generous gift.



Sporting Success for Our Young Children

Forest Heath Sports Partnership hosted a wonderful morning of inclusive sports for our young children in May. The Panathlon event allowed children to compete in a relaxed and fun environment that was adapted to meet everyone's needs. Edmund confidently explained to the whole school assembly how they had all taken part and met with other schools. They unanimously voiced their delight at being part of a winning team. This is the first inclusive event that St Louis has been invited to and we look forward to many more.



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St Mary's Primary

Learning and Living through Faith

Lambs

A local shepherdess visited the school with new lambs. We learnt about new life and were very excited to feed and hold the lambs. We were amazed at all the hard work that went into rearing lambs and the knowledge that's required.

Amanda: When the lady came in I learnt that all sheep have special numbers clipped on their ear to know where they are and who they belong to.

Alvin: I rated this session 10/10! I learnt that crooks were used to catch lambs and sheep. The larger side is to grab them by the neck and the smaller side is for their leg – we had to use one on one of the lambs as it decided to make a run for it!



Suffolk Farm Show - Year 3 Visit



We started at the Wildlife and Conservation Zone where we visited exhibits from the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary, Beekeepers, Wildlife Trust and Wild Play. We watched some gundogs show their skills before moving on to the food halls. We moved to the STEM Zone to visit the stands provided by EDF Energy, Kinetic Science Foundation and Power Networks. Our next stop was The Sheep Show. Later in the day we went into the area with the Hamilton Bloodhounds and stroked a beautiful Suffolk Punch horse. Finally we saw large machinery and a robot and the livestock area. Some of us were also extremely lucky and talked to 'Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh'.

Science Week

The theme for British science week this year was connections, each class took part in a science investigation.

Our Reception class planted peas and are looking forward to watching them grow and hopefully being able to taste them.

Year 1 learnt about how and why we smell. They put their smelling skills to the test to conduct a science experiment called Happy Smells.

Year 2 tested to see how different soaps clean hands.

Year 3 were set a 'Bridge Challenge.' They were asked how could they make a bridge hold 20g of weight with only two pieces of paper between two chairs 20cm apart? Quite a competition ensued!

In Year 4, they explored the connections that could be made with Fingerprints.

Year 5 made Moon Dials to track the different phases of the moon.

Year 6 tested out the hypothesis that fizzy drinks contain more sugar than still drinks.



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ST PANCRAS



St Pancras Catholic Primary School

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

Celebration Concert at Snape Maltings

The school choir participated in the Snape Maltings Celebration Concert on Friday 10th March. Although the choir has only recently formed, they gave a very polished performance of 'A Spoonful of Sugar' and 'The Summons'.



Science Day

On Monday 13th March we had a fun educational science day based around this year's theme of 'Connections'. Rainbows activity was 'Happy smells', where the children had to use their sense of smell to guess what was in the concealed pots. Years 1, 2 & 3 made a bird from only 4 pieces of paper and a pair of scissors. Years 4, 5 & 6 had a go at the paper bird activity as well as designing and making a bridge from only paper and a small amount of tape to see who could make the strongest bridge.

Mother-figure morning

On Monday 20th March we celebrated our first Mother-figure morning. We invited an important mother-figure in the children's lives to come and watch an assembly and then join in a craft activity with their child afterwards, this included Mums, carers, Grandmothers, aunts or cousins. It was a lovely morning and 115 mother-figures attended and completed some quite challenging craft activities.

World Water Day fundraiser

This year our Lenten charity is CAFOD. We decided to do a special fundraiser on World Water Day – 22nd March. The children were invited to dress in blue and green clothing to reflect the colours of the environment. The Mini Vinnies also organised a cake sale to support our efforts.



A Coronation Picnic at the Community Garden

Although we are situated in an urban setting with little green space, we are fortunate to be close to a community garden. The children in Rainbows had a fantastic afternoon visiting the community garden for a Coronation picnic. The class enjoyed listening to the story 'Paddington at the Palace' and then sang and signed a Coronation song. The children enjoyed wearing their crowns and waving the flags they had made in class. They then spent some time exploring the plants and decorations and learnt about 'the friendly bench'.

Harrison said "I liked looking at the flowers where we were sitting".

Noah M said "You can go to the friendly bench with your family".

Eliza said "we had a tea party for the King".

Amari said "we waved our union Jack flags".



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