

Faith in Action

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy Company Newsletter



SUMMER 2024

Dream | Believe | Achieve



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Archbishop Illesley
Secondary Catholic
School



Holy Souls
Catholic Primary
School



Holy Trinity
Secondary Catholic
School



St Chad's
Catholic Primary
School



St Joseph's
Catholic Primary
School



The Rosary
Catholic Primary
School

Welcome to Faith in Action - Summer Edition

As the summer sun brings a well-deserved break, we at St Teresa of Calcutta MAC want to take a moment to reflect on the past academic year. This year has been a journey of growth, filled with both challenges and triumphs. Through it all, we have been blessed by the unwavering support of our entire school community: parents, carers, families, and all those who play a vital role in shaping the lives of our students.

Your dedication to our pupils education is truly inspiring. The countless hours spent fostering curiosity, offering encouragement, and instilling Gospel values are the foundation upon which our students flourish. We are, like the Good Shepherd, called to guide our flock, and your partnership in this mission is invaluable.

A special thank you goes to those who took the time to complete our recent parent surveys. Your honest feedback is much appreciated. We value your voice. The information you provided will be instrumental in helping us improve our schools and ensure even brighter outcomes for our pupils in the coming year. As we embark on this summer season, we pray for continued blessings on you and your families. May you find joy in shared moments, time for rest and renewal, and a renewed spirit for the upcoming school year. Together, we will continue to nurture the potential within each child, empowering them to reach their full potential.



With warmest regards,

Professor Paul Ryan



Fr Hudson's Care - Good Shepherd Mass



On Thursday 23rd May, a group of children were chosen to represent St Teresa of Calcutta MAC at the Good Shepherd Mass. They all sang beautifully!

Mgr Timothy Menezes celebrated the Mass with Catholic schools from all over Birmingham at St Chad's Cathedral.

Fr Hudson's look after the people in our society who are struggling the most, like asylum-seekers and refugees and the homeless, as well as providing support to families in need, people with disabilities and the elderly.

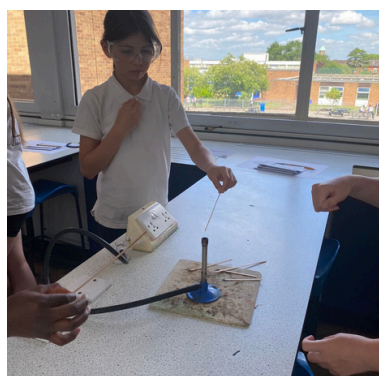
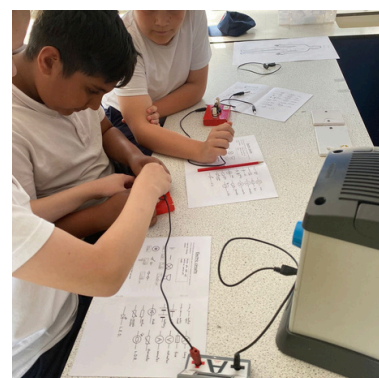
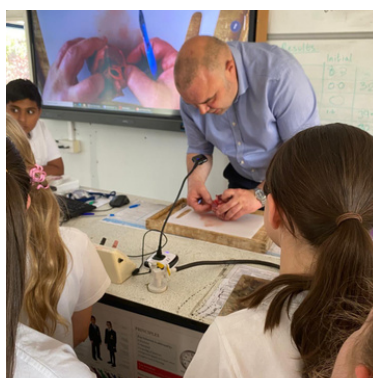
Well done to everyone that took part.



Collaboration between Two MAC Schools Sparks Joy of Science for Students!

Over the summer term, students from Holy Souls have been venturing to the well-equipped labs at Archbishop Ilsley.

There, under the watchful eyes of their teachers they embarked on a series of captivating science adventures.



Students built circuits, experimented with Bunsen burners, and even witnessed the dissection of a heart! The grand finale? Setting fire to the CEO (don't worry, it was safe!).

This collaboration sparked a love of science and fostered a sense of community within the MAC schools. We might just have some future scientists on our hands!

From Classrooms to the Royal Albert Hall: Voices Unite!

Earlier this month, a group of students from our STOC MAC schools had the chance to experience a truly unforgettable musical event. They joined with thousands of other school children at the Royal Albert Hall for a performance unlike any other.

The day was divided into two captivating halves. The first half showcased the lighter side of music from the last century, with a world premiere performance by talented SEN musicians!



The second half of the event took a dramatic turn, as our talented pupils joined in a massive choir of 2,500 young singers from 60 UK choirs, trained by the AC Academy specialists, filled the Royal Albert Hall with their voices.

The performance culminated in a ground-breaking rendition of highlights from Carl Orff's incredible Carmina Burana, featuring a professional symphony orchestra and chorus.



This experience was undoubtedly inspiring for our STOC MAC students, showcasing the power of music to bring people together and create unforgettable moments. It's sure to ignite a passion for music and performance in them for years to come!

STOC MAC General Election

On Thursday 4th July, there was great excitement as pupils from all four of our primary schools gathered at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School for our 'St Teresa of Calcutta 2024 General Election Event'. Prior to the 4th July, each primary school created their own new political party and prepared a manifesto with policies on:

- The environment - what they would do to protect our world for future generations.
- Their local area - how they would improve their local area.
- Schools and education - the changes they would make to schools and education.

Our four new political parties were:

The Equality Party (St Chad's)

The Wellbeing Party (St Joseph's)

The Creative Vision Party (The Rosary)

The Future Builders Party (Holy Souls)

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from each school presented their manifesto and the reasons why they should be elected; the electorate were fifty KS3 pupils from Holy Trinity Catholic School. A lot of great persuasive techniques were deployed including: slogans, rhetorical questions and the use of great facts and figures to support their arguments. The counting of ballot papers resulted in The Creative Vision Party being dually elected with a large majority.

Our congratulations to all the pupils who took part, they were all amazing. Our thanks to all the primary staff who assisted in preparing the children and to the pupils and staff from Holy Trinity for hosting this wonderful event.



Cyber Attack Simulation Day



Last week saw our inaugural Cyber Attack Simulation Day sessions, taking place at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Small Heath. Our schools are accustomed to preparing for various disasters, from fires to lockdowns, but this was our first chance to gather everyone together as an Academy to go through our joint response if we were unfortunate enough to experience a cyber-attack, something that is sadly becoming increasingly common in the education sector and particularly in schools – statistically speaking schools are much more likely to suffer a cyber-attack incident than a fire, and it's vital to look at the risks and the impact this would have on all our schools while trying to continue to operate in difficult circumstances.

Day 1 saw our Primary schools put their plans to the test, with our Secondary schools on Day 2. All schools were represented, and groups initially worked through what staff would do and teach on the first day of an attack, for a period of days and then moved onto the simulation of an incident, starting with the assembly of the cyber response team. A range of topics were covered in varying scenarios such as communication, safeguarding, site access, catering & external bodies that would need to be informed and collaborated with. It was a very constructive day and valuable insight was gained on all fronts, with everyone ending the day with some new knowledge, key takeaways and areas to build upon, adapt and improve.



Thank you to all who attended and for such valuable contributions which made these sessions a great success. Also, a huge thanks to those involved in organising the day, particularly Holy Trinity for being wonderful hosts and allowing our groups to use their facilities for over the two days. We are already looking forward to planning and running our next session in the new Academic year!



Sun, Sweat and Cheers!

Sunshine blazed as St Joseph's pupils rocked their Sports Day at the end of June!

Laughter roared through the competition, from sprint races, bean bag target throwing to heart-stopping relays. Teamwork triumphed, cheers echoed, and everyone gave it their all! Beyond the medals, a day of pure fun and school spirit!



This term at St Joseph's

St Joseph's Scoops Eco-Schools Green Flag Award for Second Year!

St. Joseph's is celebrating a prestigious environmental award for the second year running! The school has been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag with distinction, recognising their outstanding efforts in promoting sustainability.

The Eco-Schools Green Flag is an international accreditation program that empowers young people to drive positive environmental change. Through a seven-step framework, students at St. Joseph's have actively participated in initiatives that benefit their school, local community, and the wider world.

This year's success highlights St. Joseph's continued dedication to environmental stewardship. Their commitment to the Eco-Schools program fosters a culture of responsibility and inspires students to become future environmental leaders.



Roaring success - fantastic trips to Twycross Zoo!

We're thrilled that every pupil had the chance to participate in this exciting series of trips. Students encountering everything from playful monkeys to majestic lions. It was a fantastic way to learn, bond with classmates, and create some wonderful memories





The Rosary Earns "School of Sanctuary" Designation

We are proud to announce the achievement of the "School of Sanctuary" award in June 2024. This award recognises the school's commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students, including those from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds. Schools of Sanctuary is a national network of over 680 educational institutions across the UK who work to create a culture of understanding and belonging for displaced children and families.

This achievement reflects the school's ongoing efforts to promote empathy, compassion, and respect for diversity. Through educational programs, community outreach, and a welcoming atmosphere, The Rosary Catholic School strives to ensure that every student feels valued and supported.



Shining a light on The Rosary

Rosary RC Primary Triumphs at Birmingham Panathlon

The spirit of accessible sport and Panathlon was very much in evidence earlier this term with the Rosary team crowned Birmingham Primary champions for the first time. The passion and dedication of the staff and children was very much in evidence on the day with the team working together with resilience.



Celebrating Cultural Diversity

On 21st May, we celebrated the World Day for Cultural Diversity. We celebrated the cultural richness of our community and staff and pupils worked together, resulting in a fantastic day of cultural outfits, celebrations, language and music.

Everyone embraced the energy of the day with Miss Samiha and Mrs Khan leading bhangra dancing followed by Miss Driver and Mrs Norris demonstrating some Irish dancing.

The mix of afrobeats energised the playground as the children started dancing. Oren, our PE coach contributed playing the bagpipes at lunchtime to a captivated audience of children who were hearing this instrument for the first time.

A day of colour, music and energy was enjoyed by all.





Thank You, Fr. Tim: Memories & Blessings as You Move Forward

Earlier this year Pope Francis appointed Mgr Timothy Menezes, Dean of St Chad's Cathedral, to be new Auxiliary Bishop to serve our Archdiocese.

Thank you Fr Tim for everything. We will fondly remember the moments you have shared with us and the lessons you have taught us. As you prepare for your ordination, know that our thoughts and prayers are with you always.



St Chads - Faith & Diversity

Celebrating Faith and Culture at the Cathedral



On Saturday 22nd June, our school community came together for a beautiful celebration of faith and culture at St Chads Cathedral. The highlight of the event was the 4:30pm Parish Mass, which our school proudly led.

Many of our families joined the festivities in their vibrant national dress, adding a touch of international flair to the occasion. During the Our Father prayer, staff, pupils, and parents united in a moving display of unity, raising their voices in multiple languages.

The presence of Professor Paul Ryan, our CEO, further enriched the event. It was a truly wonderful occasion that showcased the strength and diversity of our school community.

KS2 Embark on a Pilgrimage to Lichfield Cathedral

On Thursday, June 27th, Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 joined Fr. Tim on a pilgrimage to Lichfield Cathedral. The visit held special significance as the school's statue of St. Chad, located at the entrance, is an exact replica of the one found at Lichfield Cathedral.

This statue was gifted to the school in celebration of a relic of St. Chad being translated from Birmingham Cathedral to Lichfield Cathedral. After arriving in Lichfield, Fr. Tim celebrated Mass, followed by a guided tour of the Cathedral for the children and a lovely lunch in the sunshine.



Holy Trinity's Primary School Games Heats Up!



Year 9 Bronze Practice Expedition a Resounding Success!

Over two days, Year 9 pupils displayed amazing teamwork, attitude, and behavior during their Bronze Practice Expedition.

The adventure began on Friday morning with a drive to the starting point at Waseley Hills visitor center. After organizing their rucksacks and maps, the groups embarked on a trek through Lickey Hills visitor center, ultimately setting up camp for the night at Blackwell Court.

Saturday saw an early rise, with students packing up their camp and fueling themselves for the day's walk. They were then transported to Lickey Hills visitor center once more, where they began their final leg to Forhill Ash. We're incredibly proud of all the Year 9 participants for their dedication and hard work during the practice expedition.



On Wednesday 24th April, Holy Trinity Primary School buzzed with activity as they hosted their third ever Primary School Games Event! Six local primary schools came together to compete in a thrilling Handball Competition.

The atmosphere was electric as students displayed their skills and teamwork on the court. The competition was fierce, with every team vying for a spot on the podium.

In the end, after a day of exciting matches, St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School emerged victorious, taking home the coveted Holy Trinity Cup! Medals were also awarded to the second and third place finishers.

A huge congratulations to all the participating schools for their fantastic sportsmanship and enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing who will claim the Holy Trinity Cup next year!



Extra-curriculum & Enrichment

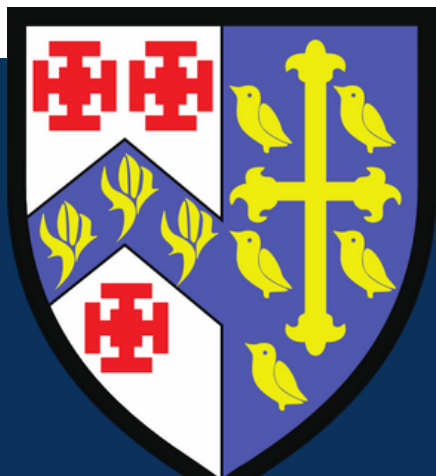
An 'Elevate' workshop for Year 7 and 8 enhanced study skills and motivation, while our young geographers explored Carding Mill Valley, experiencing fieldwork first hand. Year 8 students enjoyed a well-deserved rewards trip to 'Inflatation', celebrating their hard work and achievements. Our 'Brilliant Club' members proudly graduated at Warwick University, showcasing their dedication to extended learning. Year 8 girls attended the 'Cyber First MEGA' event at Villa Park, empowering them in the field of cybersecurity.

Year 10 mathematicians showcased their skills at Ark Victoria School.

Year 9 pupils benefited from a Geography workshop by 'Accelerate Studios', enhancing their understanding of the subject. Year 9 pupils also participated in a Media Literacy workshop led by 'The Guardian Newspaper', developing critical thinking skills about media consumption.

We launched the 'Forward Thinking' initiative, broadening our students' horizons, and organized a visit to the 'Library of Birmingham', emphasizing the importance of reading and research.





Year 8 STEM Challenge Day: A Celebration of Innovation!

We were thrilled to welcome St Peter's Catholic School to Ilsley in June for a day dedicated to all things STEM. Our Year 8 pupils put their teamwork and problem-solving skills to the test in a series of exciting challenges.

From constructing earthquake-resistant towers that could withstand tremors, to designing and building egg parachutes for a safe landing, the day buzzed with creativity and collaboration. Congratulations to one of our Ilsley teams who emerged victorious by a narrow one-point margin over St Peter's in the final challenge! It was truly inspiring to witness these future engineers and technicians working together, applying their knowledge across various STEM disciplines. We look forward to hosting more collaborative STEM events in the future!



ABI Year 12 Connects with Cambodia in Global Link Project!



This year, our intrepid Year 12 students embarked on an unforgettable journey as part of the Global Link program, venturing all the way to Cambodia! Their mission: to connect with the local community and make a positive impact.

Based in a local school, our students became temporary English language instructors, running workshops and igniting a passion for learning in the next generation. But their impact went beyond the classroom walls. They also took on the task of decorating the classrooms, creating a bright and inspiring learning environment for the students. This wasn't just about giving back, though. The trip offered our Year 12 a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore the rich tapestry of Cambodian culture and history.

This incredible experience wouldn't have been possible without the phenomenal fundraising efforts of our Year 12 students themselves! Through their GoFundMe campaign, they raised a staggering £2,000. A massive thank you to everyone who generously donated – your support made this transformative trip a reality.

The funds raised were cleverly divided. A portion went towards travel costs, ensuring everyone could participate. But the students didn't forget their commitment to social good. They also generously shared a portion with the Future Sense Foundation, a local organization they partnered with during their stay.

The Global Link program in Cambodia proved to be a powerful learning experience, fostering connection, cultural understanding, and a spirit of giving in our Year 12 students. We're incredibly proud of their commitment and the lasting impact they've made!

ABI Primary liaison visits 2024

Over the course of the last month, our assistant Headteacher and SENCO, Mr Simmons, has been out visiting our local Catholic primary schools as part of our extensive transition programme.

Meeting pupils from Corpus Christi, St. Bernadette's and Holy Souls, Mr Simmons said "it was a real privilege to meet colleagues from our neighbouring Catholic schools and find out about the great work they do, but also about all the wonderful qualities our new Y7 intake demonstrate on a daily basis through their faith in God. It was even more exciting to meet with the children, listening to their many questions about what life is like at secondary school and in particular Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School."

Transition Day took place on Wednesday 3rd of July and was a huge success. The new Y7 intake at "Archies" got an opportunity to "Let their Light Shine" through various taster lessons including Art, PE, Design & Technology as well as enjoy a music showcase from pupils across our current Y7 to Y12.





School Olympics Ignite School Spirit!

This month, a brand new initiative replaced our traditional Sports Day with a month-long celebration of athleticism and teamwork: The School Olympics!

The launch day was a spectacle to behold, with students decked out in the colors representing their assigned countries. The playground erupted in song and dance as each class paraded, kicking off the competition in high spirits.

Opportunities abounded for students to try new activities. Coach Dean, a Kick Boxing expert, led a thrilling session, while Coach Tiernan introduced the class to the exciting world of Gaelic Football. Coach Colm kept things lively with a variety of ball skills drills and classic games. A special highlight was Dean presenting the students with an actual Olympic Torch from the 2012 Games – an awe-inspiring piece of history that fueled everyone's competitive spirit!

A big shout-out to Year 6 for their invaluable help throughout the launch day and leading the games over the last four weeks, ensuring ensuring a month filled with friendly competition, sportsmanship, and a whole lot of fun!



Year 6 Discovers Their Calling: A Week of Inspiring Careers!

Year 6 has embarked on a whirlwind adventure exploring the world of work! Throughout the week, a diverse group of professionals visited the classroom, sharing their journeys and expertise. From doctors and lawyers to footballers and priests, the children got a taste of countless careers.

This interactive experience wasn't just about learning, it was about inspiration. The week culminated with a discussion on vocations, led by Father Marco. Year 6 left energized, not just about future jobs, but about the unique callings each of them holds.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time and to the Year 6 staff for making this remarkable week possible!



In June we celebrated our 3rd and final Sacrament of First Holy Communion this year during parish Mass.

We need to say a huge thank you to Canon Jonathan and Father Marco for their continuous support, guidance and prayers

We would also like to thank all of the children who came to Mass to support the children in Year 3 by singing in the choir and altar serving.

To our Year 3 staff who prepared the children so well, our dedicated and skilled musicians and all our staff who continually give so freely of their time we thank you so much -as always Please continue keep the all of the children in Year 3 in your prayers on this wonderful step in their journey of faith.

MAC in Action: Sports across our schools





Events coming soon:-

18th - 20th November

**Year 6 STOC MAC Residential
Trip to Whitemoor Lakes Activity
Centre**

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