



An update from the Trust

Flavio Vettese has recently been appointed as the Interim Chief Executive Officer for Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Flavio will be well known to many of you as the Deputy Director for the Schools' Service for the Catholic Diocese of East Anglia, a position he has held since September 2016. Alongside this role, he has been seconded over to Our Lady of Walsingham CMAT as the Interim Chief Executive Officer. Our Trust is one of only two Catholic Multi Academy Trusts in East Anglia and was originally setup in 2016 working with academies across Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The schools currently in the Trust are St Alban's High Ipswich, St Felix Primary Haverhill, St Laurence Primary Cambridge, St Mary's Primary Ipswich, St Pancras Ipswich and St Louis Academy in Newmarket.



"Moving forward out of the current situation presents us with many fine opportunities to further develop the learning potential for the children and communities we serve. For example, building on and enhancing how we use technology to improve teaching and learning as well as supporting teachers in their future professional development is very important. I am also keen that we work with the full range of partners and schools, this in turn, will allow for a diverse, open and supportive Trust. The Catholic mission of our schools is central to the way in which we operate and ensuring that our values are focused on outstanding educational, spiritual and moral outcomes for all children is so important. I have been very humbled by the warmth and generosity in which colleagues have greeted me. I am delighted to be a part of the next stage of development, it is truly a very exciting time ahead for Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic MAT."

Flavio has said that "I am delighted to be working for the Trust and building on the great work achieved by Teresa Selvey who will be retiring. Our schools have worked tremendously hard, particularly throughout this last year. A year in which the resilience of staff has been matched by their determination and professional approach, which in turn has ensured that opportunities for learning have not been missed."

Fr. Simon Blakesley

Flavio has asked me to contribute an article to our first Newsletter and as a priest who over the last 30 years has seen Catholic schools somewhat on the backfoot to recruit active Catholic teachers to fulfil their vocation in our schools, I am delighted to see how we are now in a much stronger position to attract and facilitate the career and professional development of committed Catholic staff.

We have to face the fact that is not the bricks and mortar that make our schools Catholic, rather it is the 'living stones' of our Catholic teachers and support staff that make our schools the communities of faith that we want them to be. Our 'strap line' is Christ at the Centre – Children at the Heart, and this is only possible if we are unafraid to proclaim our faith in Jesus Christ and in the Body of the Church, wounded though she may be, before our children and the families, both Catholic and of other denominations, that commit them to our care because they share our core values.

Previously, the way we found our 'Catholic' staff was to place adverts in the Catholic press or in the TES with the proviso that that preferred candidate would have some sympathy with the religious ethos of the school. Now, when more adverts are placed on-line, it is far more sensible to give either the CEO or the Executive Heads as the first points of contact either for NQT's or other Catholic teachers working in the state or private sector but not in our Diocesan schools, when they first explore the possibility



of working within the Catholic sector. They can then talk to a flesh and blood human being who can sort out many practical issues.

I am sure that many more ideologically committed young Catholics would apply to work in our schools if the application process was not so haphazard, and I am now so much more confident that our MAT wide senior leadership team are ideally placed to give great advice to any applicants, from practical advice about property prices or giving a realistic idea of what aspects of their professional development would be central in helping younger Catholic teachers to build a secure future within our Catholic family of schools.

We now have the flexibility and openness of e-mail and social media to make our offering of employment and ministry much better known. I am confident that both Flavio and Clare are superbly well-placed to guide any 'new recruits' in the establishment in their vocation and careers within Catholic Education so that Christ may be at the Centre and Children at the Heart.



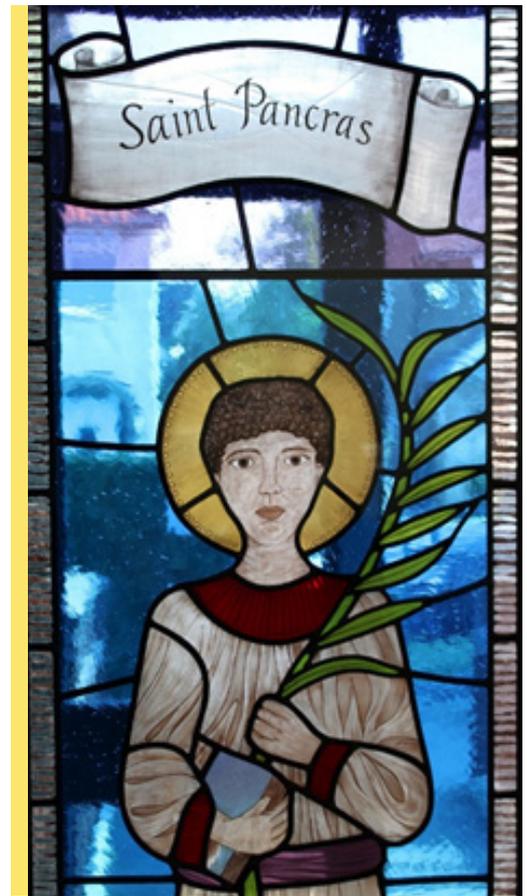
St Pancras Primary, Ipswich

St Pancras Feast Day

St Pancras Feast day is on 12th May and ordinarily, we have been unable to celebrate our feast day as a school due to the fact that it always falls in SATs week. However, this year with no SATs taking place, we have been able to celebrate our feast day at school! Children were invited to come into school in bright colourful clothing and we started the day with a liturgy led by Mrs Martin, our Head of School. All classes then looked at the story of St Pancras and reflected on our school values. In the afternoon, many classes celebrated with games, outdoor activities and as St Pancras is the patron saint of children, we let children do what they enjoy most - learn through play!

The Story of St Pancras

Very little is known about the life of Saint Pancras but what we do know about him, helps us to understand how he embodied many of the values of our school. Pancras was born in 289 AD in an area we now know as Turkey. St Pancras was orphaned at an early age and taken to Rome by his uncle. Both he and his uncle converted to Christianity during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. This was a dangerous time to be a Christian in Rome, as Diocletian fiercely persecuted Christians and had them put to death.



Despite this danger, St Pancras announced his faith publicly. He was arrested and put to death at the age of fourteen. St Pancras showed great courage at such a young age for which we greatly admire him.

**We are Loving and kind,
We Pray and we Play**

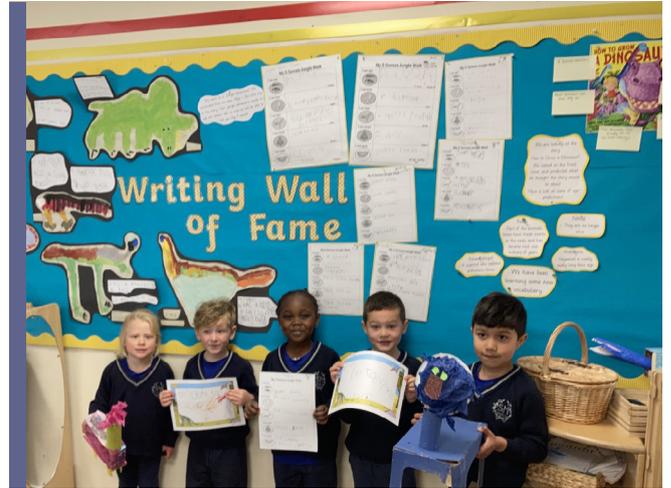


Year by Year Review

Reception

Over the last couple of weeks Reception have been very busy with our dinosaur topic! We have not only made models but we have painted some fantastic dinosaurs and written facts about them using our sounds!

We have also been pretending to be Albie (the little boy in the story) when he went into the jungle! We used our senses and wrote down what we could see, hear, smell, taste and touch!



Year 1

Year 1 were very excited to receive a letter this week from Sir David Attenborough! We had used clips from his documentaries in our topic on the Savannah and now we are working on ways to protect the planet in our summer topic, which we know is very important to him.

We wanted to let him know what a superhero he is to us - even though he doesn't wear a cape! He very kindly wrote back to us straightaway and we will treasure this hand-written letter from a National Treasure.

Year 2

As part of our India topic, we have created some amazing artwork. For centuries, India has regarded the elephant as a cultural symbol and they are a sacred animal to Hindus. Inspired by this, we each drew then decorated and painted an elephant. Initially the children said they could never draw an elephant but, with perseverance and a positive attitude, look what they produced! Very proud of you Year 2 - keep up the great work.



Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about Pentecost - how Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, came to the apostles and gave them the gift of language to help them in their mission of spreading the word about Jesus. Children wrote their own prayers in the shape of a flame, asking for help from God for their friend.



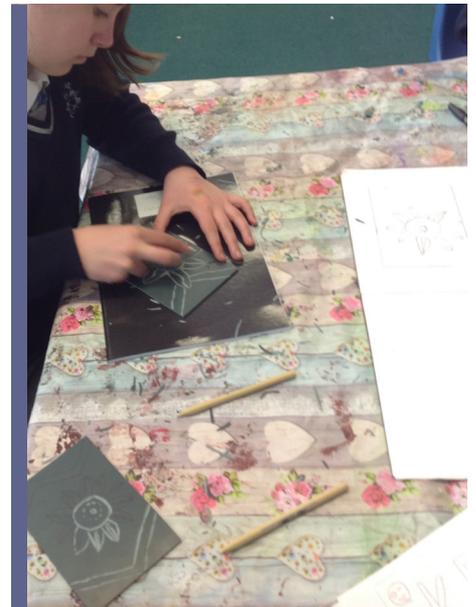
Year 4

Year 4 having been looking at climate change and the effect it has on our planet. They made eyes of the world and tilted it the Eyes of the world are watching and so are Year 4!

Year 6

Year 6 have been lino printing. It was so lovely to see their designs become a reality. They have each produced 5 prints to be presented within the journey they each took to achieve their works of art. The final products do look brilliant. Well done Year 6.

8 of our year sixes entered a virtual National Reading Competition. The children involved showed great perseverance and really enjoyed the event. It was really tricky - the children were up against some high school students too! Well done Year 6. This shows what a passion for books we really have.



Mila passed her Grade 3 Cello. She often performs to the class which is a great treat!



Learning and Living

Through Faith

www.stmaryscatholicprimarypswich.com

June Update

Summer 1 term has been very busy for staff and children as we continue to help them to progress in their learning. We are very grateful to parents for all the support that they give to school and for their help in reading with their child every day, supporting them with their catch up homework and bringing children to school on time and ready to learn.

This is a very important time of year for our Year 6 children and we plan to make it special for them. We are working closely with families to help every year 6 child to make a great transition to their new schools. Many of them will be taking part in a two day outdoor camp in the woodland, use of an amazing climbing wall, an overnight camp and cooking outdoors. This is being delivered with Abbeycoft Outdoors and UKS2 teachers.

This year, we are excited to welcome all the Nursery children who applied to join us gaining a place in Foundation. It will be great to see them move up through our school. Recently, we have seen some families move to new homes and jobs as Covid rules relax and this has created spaces for new children to join us.

The Friends of Saint Louis continue to support school and we are so excited to announce that our family grounds day will finally take place in June.

Year 6 Tiny Plays



Our Year 6 pupils worked with professional play writers in school during May. The first part of the Arts Council funded project was participation in writing workshops. Professional playwrights delivered two workshops in our school, a week apart, exploring the art of playwriting. Children learned about plot, character, storytelling, drafting and staging. By the end of the second workshop,

all students had drafted a 5 minute play.

Following the workshops, a selection of the 500 plays written by students across all participating schools will be rehearsed and performed by professional actors on the Theatre Royal stage. Children are invited to this event at Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds.





This has come about because of our work towards becoming an Artsmark Silver School. Fantastically, this is opening up so many new creative opportunities across the school.

The whole process will be filmed by Suffolk film company Allegro Creative who will document the project in a short behind-the-scenes film which can be shared with friends, family and the rest of the school community. We have secured photo permissions from participating children. We hope that the experience will help our children to develop their writing skills and provide them with the opportunity to see live theatre

"It was fun letting our imaginations explode!" - Filip Kotlarek

*"The teachers were so knowledgeable; we learned so much about acting."
- Ayla Clements*

"It was exciting coming up with ideas out of nothing." - Tia Garcia

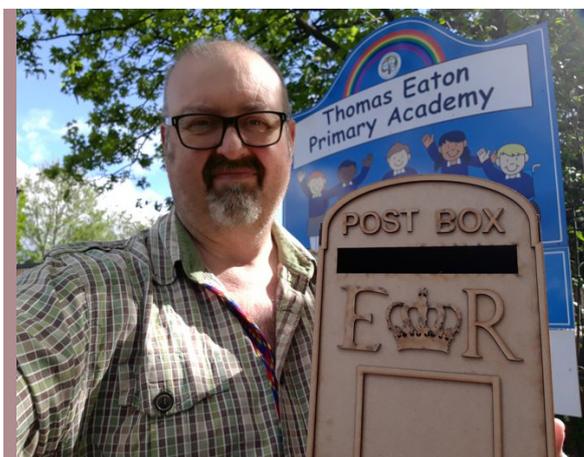
*"Our minds were flooded with ideas after getting to see other people act."
- Jack Varghees*

Writing with Purpose

Our Postcards to a Fenland School

We were invited by West Suffolk Council to take part in a postcard exchange with a Fenland school. All our year 5 and 6 children were given postcards designed by professional artist, Penny Sobr. The cards celebrated coming out of lockdown and children were invited to share their experiences of new freedoms with children in another school. On 13th May, an exchange of cards took place and it was exciting to hear from our partner school. Our postcards arrived in a wonderful postbox to encourage our children to post a further reply back. It was great to read the cards and to look at the many questions that the other students had about us. Mrs Blakeley, our Head of School, was very impressed with the handwriting presentation skills shown by St Louis card writers!

Following on, Penny Sobr delivered an art class to our children who were tutored in developing their own postcards. These were amazing and will form part of an exhibition of artwork. This opportunity was funded by Arts Council England.



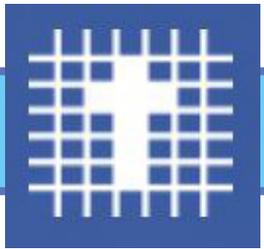
Fantastic Foundation Say Thank You to Godolphin

Godolphin MD, Hugh Anderson, and Penny Taylor, UK Charities Manager, visited Foundation and joined children in officially opening the new outdoor learning area. Godolphin and FOSL have helped fund this incredible space. The children were so excited to show off their new skills on the new equipment. They have been able to show great progress in achieving some of their Early Learning Goals because of the new learning area.



Pentecost Celebration Gallery



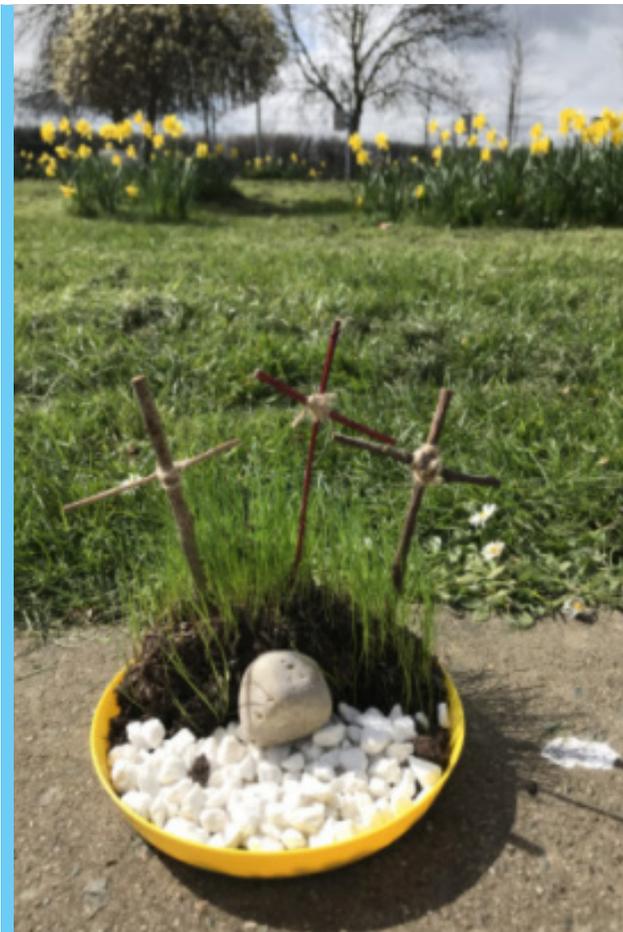


Years 3 and 4 - Passion Play

Many congratulations to the Year 4 children who acted out the Passion of our Lord. Because of the current restrictions around bubbles the performance was filmed via Zoom and watched virtually by the rest of the school community including our Parish. The Passion Play is a tradition at St Laurence that really sets the tone for the Easter season. Well done to Miss Corcoran, Mr Fitt and Miss Peck, lower key stage 2 teachers, who were able to produce an excellent play in very different circumstances.



Easter Gardens



Before the half term break the KS1 children took home their Easter Gardens, which they have been tending and looking after since the beginning of Lent. The children looked very proud as they carried home their gardens which are a symbol of Jesus death and resurrection. If you would like to make your own Easter Garden here is a link to a video which explains how create one:

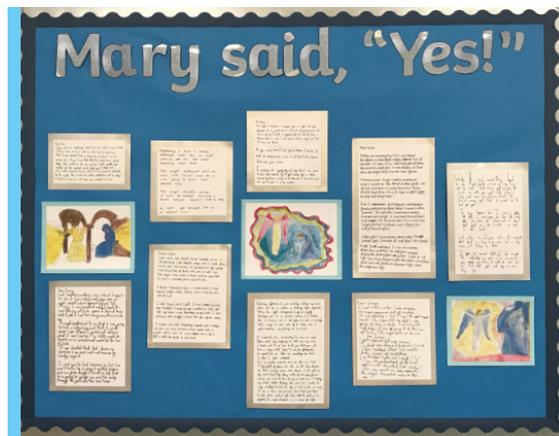
[Click/Press Here](#)

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



Display Board Update

The display boards at St Laurence have been updated to highlight the children's work from their RE topics this term. Topics included Mary Our Mother, God's Promise to Zechariah, Injustice around the World and KS1 applied their skills of sign language to The Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary.



RE Quality Mark

In April St Laurence was reaccredited with the REQM award.

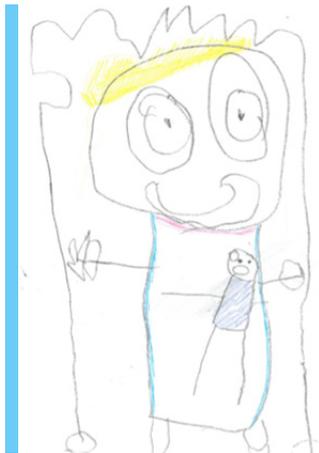
The assessor, Sandra Teacher said:

"St Laurence help their children develop their journey of faith in a positive learning environment. The school has a strong consideration of pupil wellbeing and pupil voice. St Laurence promotes children's spiritual development and offers opportunities for high quality reflection"

"Within the school there is a celebration of diversity and pupils are strong in their identities and knowing where they came from. St Laurence provides high quality teaching based on a quality curriculum with a particular emphasis on self assessment and sequencing and progression"

Our Lady of Walsingham

Our Reception children have been thinking about Mary during her special month. They listened to the story of Our Lady of Walsingham and drew pictures of the Our Lady of Walsingham statue. Illustrations below provided by Isla-Rose, Eliana, Aleah, Hanna, Lena, Marion, Joseph, Christiana and Bill



*Through God's grace,
a community growing in
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NSPCC Number Day

On Friday 7th May St Felix celebrated the fun of Maths and asked pupils to dress in something with a number on it or a countable set of objects.

They had a range of fun activities around number and donated £191 because this was a fundraising opportunity for the NSPCC who provide vital services including the Childline Number 0800 1111.



Captain Tom 100 Challenge



On Friday 30th April at St Felix we took the Captain Tom 100 Challenge

Everyone was invited to take on a challenge around the number 100 anytime and anywhere across the day. It was simple.

Classes chose their own 100 challenge. It could be anything they liked – from walking 100 metres to baking 100 cakes or writing 100 letters:

Year 1 bounced to ball 100 times

Year 3 completed the maths activity of 100 coins and also went outside and did 100 footsteps and star jumps, 100 metre run, 100 second squat and high plank. Everyone enjoyed themselves in Dahl class and were very tired afterwards.





St Alban's High School, Ipswich

Exam Focus

St Alban's Year 11 and Year 13 have been fully focussed to achieve the high standards expected of them in their final term with us. With all the assessments complete, we can reflect on an amazing effort by students, staff and parents working together to achieve top results. We are so proud of them and look forward to another brilliant set of examination results. Our induction weeks for Sixth Form start soon and we are delighted to see so many Year 11's moving into Sixth Form with us. We can't wait to continue our journey with them. We wish those moving on to university, training and employment every blessing ; knowing that the young people we are sending out will contribute so much because of who and how they are – young saints in the world.



Year 11 Leavers

St Alban's wishes them all the best for their futures



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School Prayer Garden

Katherine Edwards - School Chaplain

We have made good progress on our new landscaped prayer garden. We have dug, rotivated, de-stoned the flower beds and will add some top soil/soil improver in the next few weeks. Everybody can already see the tremendous progress that has already been made.

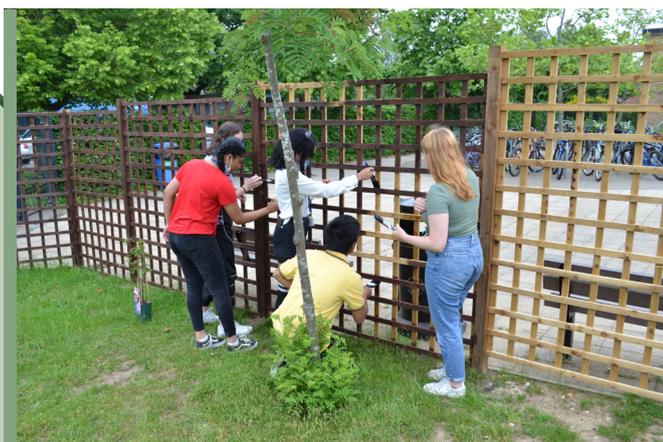


The perimeter trellis has just been put up. We will be buying shrubs and plants over the next few weeks in addition to those already received.

One key aspect we wanted to bring to the prayer garden was 'Rememberance'. Many people like to remember a loved one through planting a particular flower.

If you would like us to plant a shrub, rose, lavender, acer, buddleia and would be happy to make a contribution to the cost please email myself at.

kedwards@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk



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Sixth Form - Views from Student Leadership Team

Our time in Sixth Form has not been how we expected it to be. We never thought we'd spend so much time at home! The national restrictions brought about a need to find different ways to support each other, resulting in a closer community despite the separation. Students have experienced greater pressure to adapt to a more independent study technique, better preparing us for the university workload. For the first half of the year, many worried about sitting normal A level exams. Once TAGs were introduced, it relieved the tension and allowed us to finally focus on an end goal. As our assessments are now drawing to a close, many are looking on to university, whilst some have secured apprenticeships. We are all looking forward to the future.

On the last day of term, we will have a warm-hearted leavers mass reminiscing about the memories made in the last year as well as a positive look into the future that approaches the Year 13 students. Following this we are having a BBQ and then a Sixth Form rounders match to celebrate the completion of a stressful year. After the last day has been shared the Year 13's will have prom to look forward too with one last night to all be together before we all depart and move on to the next chapter of the lives.



It has been a busy year and as we reflect we have been given opportunities to build leadership skills. One great memory to leave with was the decorating of the sixth form for Christmas which we hope will be carried on for the future years. Despite the challenges from COVID-19 our Sixth Form experience will be one to remember and we are thankful for the support and encouragement we have received from the school.

We would like to recognise the efforts of our House Captains, who despite the difficulties of COVID have been so determined and consistent in helping to support and raise awareness of those in need. Each of them organised House Charity Day events for Sixth Form and encouraged the rest of the school to do the same such as COVID friendly bake sales, whole school prize raffles and boba tea – and that's just from the Sixth Form! Year 7 were especially great at raising money! The collective



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efforts of the whole school raised a massive £1200 so far this year for our charities - CAFOD, Mind and SVP. A great achievement that will have a real positive impact.



In addition to this, during Lent, the school joined together as part of the CAFOD 'walk for water' challenge with students completing sponsored laps around the field. In particular one of our Year 13 students – Anangan, head of the chaplaincy team, took on the challenge of walking 10,000 steps a day for 40 days in hope of spreading awareness of water poverty in disadvantaged countries. He raised an amazing £316 for the charity!

Due to social distancing, traditional whole school masses have not been able to take place this year. As a Catholic school, faith and fellowship are a huge part of our identity - it is what makes us unique. The endless efforts of our brilliant Sixth Form chaplaincy team and choir have ensured that the school's virtual services have remained meaningful and more beautiful than ever. Thank you so much.



The pastoral and chaplaincy team have been so helpful in easing the worries of us Sixth Form students throughout such a stressful year. Despite the challenges both students and teachers have faced due to COVID-19, it is certain that the Year 13's time at St Alban's Sixth Form has still managed to be a positive and successful one.

As we end our time here as students, we have so many people to thank for making our High School and Sixth Form experience so special. Our great teachers, who have continued to support and care for us throughout the years, who have persevered with the constant changes and pressure and who have given us the confidence to trust in them. It is also important to recognise those who work behind the scenes. The cleaners, the caretakers, the canteen staff, the technicians, the governors – everyone who plays a role in allowing us to be at school. They do so much. One of the biggest lessons of the pandemic is of how important school is, not only in our learning but also to our physical, mental, and social wellbeing. We are blessed to be here.

Of course, we can't forget our peers – the students. There are so many memories to look back on fondly and so many friendships that have been built to last. The enthusiasm and commitment of students in every year group has been vital to making this year a real success. Despite being separated into our bubbles there

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was always a real sense of unity within the school. This what makes St Alban's so special – a community that cares. We are proud to represent our school and we are proud to be a part of St Alban's.

Thank you so much for everybodys continued love and support,



The Sixth Form at St Alban's

Learning... Respecting... Caring...



www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk/sixthform



Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Trust

John Tuttle - Chair of OLOW Directors

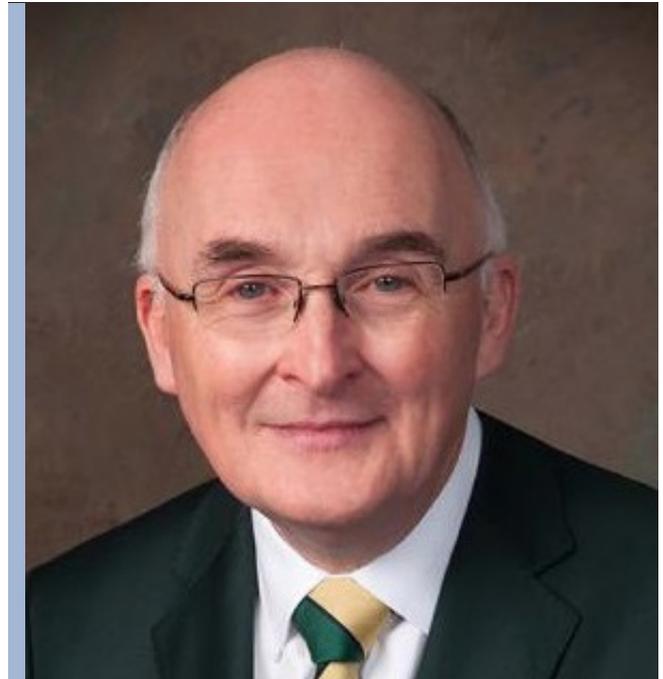
Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to support the introduction of this newsletter for our Trust. OLWCMAT is a family of schools and as such aspires to be a community capable of improving the lives of all involved. Collectively, over time, we wish to demonstrate that through our combined efforts we deliver measurable benefits to the children and students in our care, their families and carers and our staff. Whilst we celebrate the individual characteristics and history of each school our aim is to utilise our resources and talents from across the Trust to be continuously raising standards of achievement. This requires us to have a comprehensive strategy capable of responsiveness to the needs of individuals in order that we can truly claim to have enhanced the educational and spiritual wellbeing of each of our children and that we provide members of staff with lasting growth opportunities.

Central to the fostering of these ambitions is Trust wide communication and collaboration. The newsletter will be published twice- termly and it is hoped will provide a vehicle to celebrate achievements, share initiatives and start to provide us all with a sense of what it means to be a member of the Trust. As an organisation we also intend to be outward looking, as such the newsletter may help to showcase our identity as we seek to benefit from partnerships and collaboration with various agencies and providers.

Christ at the Centre,

Children at the Heart



I have been asked to say a little about myself. My wife and I live in Newmarket having moved to the area some 25 years ago when I joined Cambridge University Press. We have two daughters who live locally. Although now retired, I have been extremely fortunate to have had a career in Educational Publishing. I started as a graduate trainee and joined my first board at 31. Consequently, I managed various educational divisions and businesses for nearly 30 years. These spanned UK School Publishing, Global English as Foreign Language and E- Learning Partnerships. To have been involved in a creative industry that enabled me to regularly visit over 60 countries and work with leading authors, academics and Ministries of Education was a privilege.



In retrospect, I can see that a key challenge through my career was the management of change. During my time, the Educational Publishing Industry went from family -owned concerns to corporations and from print based operations to digital. Our understanding of pedagogy, learning and related design of materials also changed significantly. I recall the introduction of the double page spread with declared learning objectives and anticipated outcomes. Compare this to blended learning platforms, profiling and diagnostics at the individual level, Learning Orientated Assessment, the Flipped Classroom, the use of interactive technologies and the beginnings of AI to analyse speech and writing errors by each native language. Although the principles of good teaching and learning remain recognisable the application and delivery methods are undergoing a revolution.

I also recognise the transformative power of education. The examples are numerous but for me a key realisation was when I got caught up in the war in Beirut. I was observing a lesson when the school was hit and I became intensely aware that learning English was quite literally a passport to a more secure life. Similarly, in Saudi the provision of equal learning opportunities for girls has the potential to shape a more inclusive future.

Being part of the wider community of OLW will I am sure enable us to meet and benefit from the changes that are never ceasing. Your daily work has a profound long-term impact on both the children and society. I look forward to the journey with you and I am constantly in admiration of the passion you all bring to your roles.

I wish you all good fortune,

John

the DIOCESE of
EAST ANGLIA



www.rcdea.org.uk

*Christ at the Centre,
Children at the Heart*

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