

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 - July 2021

An End of Year Message

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Another quite extra ordinary school year comes to a close, one that has challenged, frustrated and demanded more from us all than we could ever have imagined. You have all shown tremendous resilience and strength in such trying and difficult circumstances. The spirit that has been shown, has shone brightly within our schools – the children that we serve have been magnificent and inspiring throughout this difficult journey. One thing that we have learned is that we are so much stronger as a group of schools working collectively together in Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic MAT.

You will see within the Newsletter just some examples of the exciting and positive work that all of our schools are involved in. I am also so pleased that St Alban's Secondary School in Ipswich managed to safely organise a Year 5 welcoming event this week. It is so important that we prepare our young people for the next stages on their education journey.

It is also that time of year when not only do we see transition and movement from our students, but also from members of staff across the whole of the Trust. Seeing people move on or away gives

us an opportunity to thank them for their hard work and dedication but to also wish them every success in the future.

Interestingly, the date that most of our schools break up on is the Feast Day of St Daniel.



He was born in 409 A.D and became a monk in Samosata on the Upper Euphrates (Turkey). There he learned of St Simeon Stylites the Elder, living on a pillar at Antioch where he got to see him on two occasions. At the age of forty-two, Daniel decided that he too

wanted to become a stylite (from the Greek word “stylos”, meaning pillar) and live on a pillar at a place near Constantinople. Emperor Leo the First built a series of pillars with a platform on top for him. Daniel quickly became an attraction for the people. He celebrated the Eucharist on his pillar, preached sermons, dispensed spiritual advice, and cured the sick who were brought up to him. St Daniel lived to a great age, spending the last thirty-three years of his life standing on the pillar in an amazing display of endurance and belief in God. He is the patron Saint of courage, fortitude and strength.

On behalf of all of the Directors of Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic MAT and myself, we wish you all a restorative and peaceful Summer break.

Flavio Vettese

Interim Chief Executive Officer



the DIOCESE of
EAST ANGLIA



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*Christ at the Centre,
Children at the Heart*

Trust IT Updates and Recent Projects

Education over the past academic year has certainly faced a number of challenges and IT has often been at the forefront when it has come to maintaining outstanding teaching. Since the start of the first lockdown, our Trust has loaned over 180 devices to families who, without support, could not access remote learning. Positive relationships with local IT providers also brought in kind donations of equipment. Through targeted staff training on distance learning platforms, the Trust as a whole has provided a high standard of education throughout a very difficult time for all.

Across our Trust schools we are also focused on providing the best classroom equipment we can to facilitate quality teaching and learning. A number of our schools have invested in more mobile devices, such as iPads, Chromebooks and laptops. This is offering a more flexible approach to the usage of computer devices in the classroom when compared to the traditional IT settings.

During the May half term break a brand new wireless network was installed at St Felix Catholic Primary School.



The newly installed wireless network uses the latest WiFi 6 technology to

provide cutting edge connectivity across the whole school site. Plans are already in place to install the same technology across other school sites. Working alongside our valued service providers we are also improving internet connection and speeds across all schools to provide the leading and high performing service required and expected by our young people today.

Along with the wireless and internet improvements and the investment in mobile devices, a number of Trust schools have had new interactive touchscreens installed into classrooms, with further installations planned for the summer break.



Replacing the original projector and interactive whiteboards not only looks neater, it also provides a modern and high-quality teaching resource which will be used in the classroom for years to come.



Tim Line

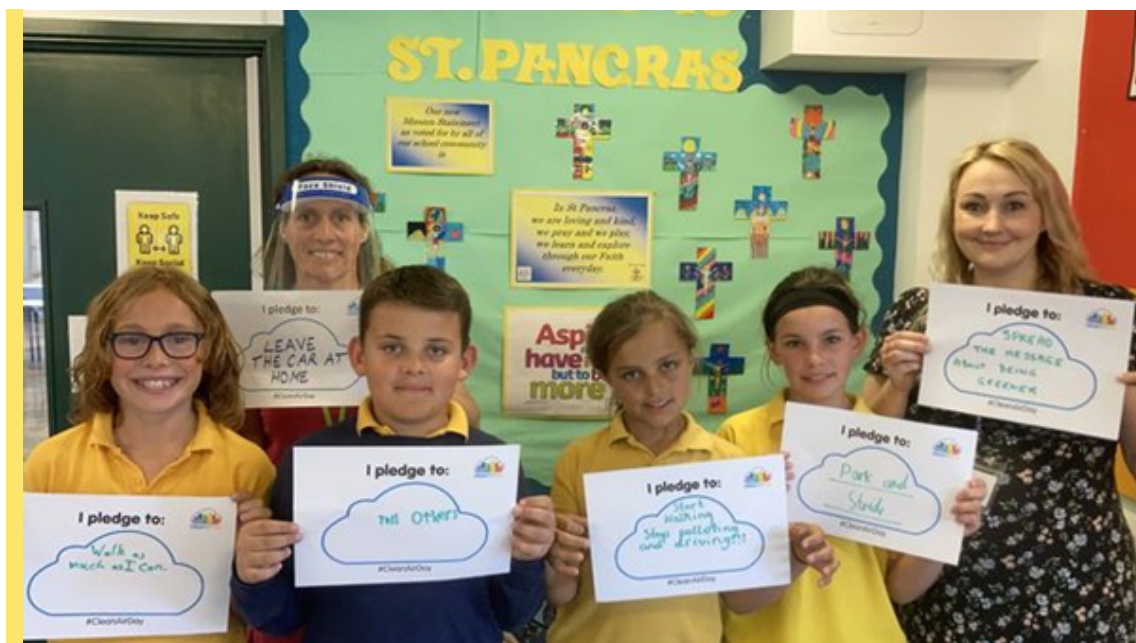
Director of IT

*Christ at the Centre,
Children at the Heart*

St Pancras Primary, Ipswich

National Clean Air Day

It was National Clean Air Day this year on 17th June 2021. Clean Air Day is the UK's largest air pollution campaign. Every year, air pollution causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK. The World Health Organisation and the UK Government recognise that air pollution is the largest environmental health risk we face today. St Pancras welcomed representatives from Suffolk County Council to talk to our Year 5 children about air pollution and a virtual assembly was shown in all classes. We asked parents to support us by making sure they switch off their engines if waiting to collect or drop off children in support of the Suffolk Idling Action Campaign. As a school, we continually strive to promote and live out our school value of Stewardship and reflect on Pope Francis' words in his encyclical, "The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all."



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

Relationships and Sex Education Day

As part of RSE day, Reception made beautiful love hearts using different materials; we even made some using natural materials too! The children thought about what love means to them.

Emma - Love is something that makes you happy.

Ivan - I think it is important to have love because then you have friends.

Kezia - Love is kindness.



Year 3 also had great fun on RSE day. They created self-portraits to make a class photo to show how we all contribute to our class community. They also wrote their own fables to show how to be a good friend and created hearts with positive reinforcement messages on them to remind us to be kind to ourselves.

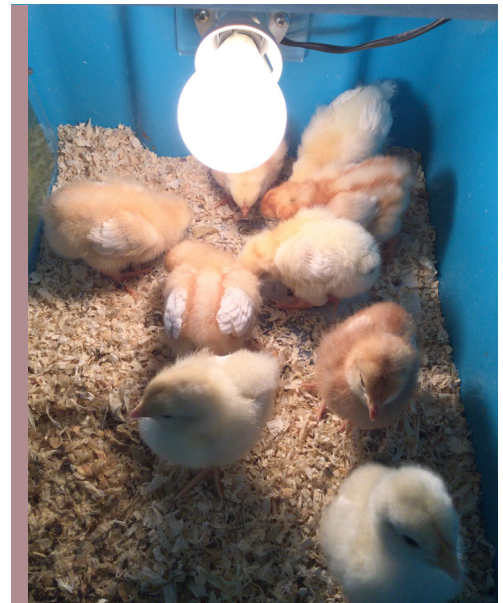
The Great Fire of London

Year 2 we started their new topic on The Great Fire of London. After learning more about what London was like in 1666, in Art they created some fiery night sky silhouettes. They used the medium of watercolour to create the hot, fiery sky then black paper to create the skyline. That part was quite tricky but Year 2 didn't give up! Wonderful creations Year 2 artists.



Eggstra Special Visitors

Our Reception children had a wonderful two weeks watching eggs hatch and chicks emerge. Alongside the chicks were some butterflies ready to emerge from a number of chrysalis. Some chicks were rehomed by school families whilst others were returned to a farm where they will enjoy a free-range life. The butterflies were released in our prayer garden where we are continuing to plant butterfly and bee-friendly plants. Children loved to write about the chicks and butterflies.



Fundraising for Human Rights



Our Upper Key Stage 2 children chose to establish a Refugee Club following a presentation to them by an inspirational speaker from Amnesty International. Refugee Club prepared and lead their own presentations to the rest of the school. They also co-ordinated a fund raising walk in our own grounds on one of the rainiest days in June. Impressively, they have raised an incredible £1,500 for Amnesty International. This has left all staff incredibly proud of their maturity and focus in setting up the initiative themselves and raising so much money.

A Gift from Sisters of St Louis

We are delighted to receive a beautiful collection of hand made tiles depicting the Stations of the Cross from Sister Mary Jo. We are going to hang them around our school to allow us to make a journey across our site whilst praying together. We will prepare some writing to describe each each picture over Autumn term and hang them for everyone to enjoy. We are so grateful for this wonderful gift that originated in the USA.





Cows Around Cambridge

Have you "herd?" There is a moo-vel-ous art trail for Cambridge weaving its around the city! In total there are 90 cow sculptures to be discovered, and St Laurence pupils designed one of the mini moos! The cow is painted with the school colours and decorated with photos of the children taking part in various activities. The Art club children were responsible for taking the pictures that represented the school's motto: Through God's grace a community growing in knowledge and understanding.



May Crowning



Year 3 and 4 celebrated the end of May with a Marian procession and crowning. The children prepared readings and prayers and processed around the school singing "As I Kneel Before you" to each year group. Together with the St Laurence and parish priest Fr. Simon they said a decade of the Hail Mary. Fr. Simon blessed each year group and all school staff. Finally, the children returned to the hall, where they "crowned" Our Lady with flowers.

Fr. Simon has taken some of the flowers the children laid to place at the statue of Our Lady at St Laurence Church.

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



The Not So Ugly Bug

There has been much eagerness in KS1 at St Felix to watch butterflies emerge from their cocoons. Each of the three classes had their own caterpillars to raise and monitor in their chrysalides.

Greta said: "We were happy when the caterpillars finally arrived and they were very cute. The chrysalis is a special cocoon for butterflies."

Then the race was on to watch the butterflies wriggle forth and open their wings.

"I felt happy that the caterpillars hatched but I liked the butterflies the best" said Lucy.



Our school EMERGE project reflects on the challenge of waiting for your wings to dry before you fly away and it was wonderful to observe this in action.

"I know some chrysalises are white and brown and they do the metamorphosis into butterflies, otherwise there would be weird butterflies." James remarked.

The pupils loved nurturing the bugs and it was amusing to watch the teachers carrying their hatcheries to and from school each day just in case something happened overnight.



A Day of Creativity

On 1st July, we welcomed three Year 5 classes into school for a day of creativity. Despite restrictions, classes from St Pancras and St Mary's in Ipswich were able to take part in four taster sessions. These consisted of Music, Art, English and Humanities.



Students were able to experience secondary school for a day and express themselves, most loudly through song. A wonderful day was had by all and we look forward to not only hosting more classes in the near future, but welcoming many of these pupils from some of our trust primaries into the St Alban's family in just over a years time.

St Alban's Live!

On June the 16th we had our latest live event. It was lovely to be able to host a 'Welcome to St Alban's' virtual event for our incoming Year 6 students, parent and-carers. Whilst we have not been able to meet them in person yet, we were able to answer lots of questions about the start of secondary school life at St Alban's.

Over 100 parents, carers and pupils tuned in from the comfort and safety of their



own homes to meet some of the key staff who will play a big role in their learning journey. Technology has allowed us to overcome some of the barriers that Covid19 has put before us and enable us to welcome these new Year 7 students into the St Alban's family, and hopefully fill them with comfort, clarity and excitement.



A Growing Sixth Form

Over 90 students joined us into Year 12 for an amazing induction week. It was a blend of lessons, higher education aspiration events, as well as a bonding session at Go Ape in Thetford. High wires and Segway fun was had by all!

A warm welcome to a dynamic and thriving Sixth Form to all our new recruits!



Taster Day for Year 10



Year 10 were out of uniform and into A level lessons for the day, giving them a glimpse of Sixth Form life here at St Alban's. The majority of year 11's stayed on with us this year, and we look forward to continuing this again next year. With new courses such as Health and Social Care and Government and Politics, (as well as a thriving community) we are in no doubt St Alban's Sixth Form goes from strength to strength!

End of Year Party



Thank you to the leadership team for organising an amazing end of year party. Even with restrictions in place, we found a way to celebrate a year of hard work and the amazing community we have here. A nightclub with free ice-creams? – who could ask for more!

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





Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Trust

End of School Year 20/21 Staff Movement

The end of the school year will see a number of staff moving on to new challenges. We sincerely thank them for all they have contributed during their time in our schools and wish them all good luck and God's blessing for the future. They include:

Lizzy Bennett, Joint Head of School, St Laurence Primary, taking on her first Headship in a Cambridgeshire CoE village school

Beth Jeavons, classteacher and PE lead, St Laurence Primary, not returning after maternity leave and relocating out of Cambridgeshire

Sheila Kelly, classteacher, PSHCE and PiXL lead, St Laurence Primary, getting married and relocating out of Cambridgeshire

Paula Hawkins, HLTA, St Laurence Primary, commencing teacher training through SCITT

Anya Fleming, TA, St Laurence Primary, commencing undergraduate degree teacher training

Matteo Muscionico, Premises Manager, St Louis Academy and cross trust

Gary Rolfe, Key Stage 1 Lead, St Louis Academy, moving to another school

Nick Wognum, classteacher and Computing Lead, St Louis Academy, moving to another school

Ryan Mannell, classteacher, St Louis Academy, taking up a sports coaching post after completing his NQT year

Dionne Hawes, catering assistant, St Louis Academy, developing her dog grooming business full time

Lucille Martin, Head of School, St Pancras Primary, begins her maternity leave at the end of term



Kate Ridall, SenCo, St Mary's Primary, moving to a class teacher role at another school

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Tracey Veitch, St Mary's Primary, Key Stage 1 lead, moving to a class teacher role at another school

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Teresa Costa, Learning Support Assistant, St Felix Primary School, leaving at the end of a fixed term contract

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Craig Tourney-Godfrey, Teacher for Business Studies, St Alban's High School, leaving at the end of the year.

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Jane Broxton, Head of Computer Science and Business Studies, St Alban's High School, retiring at the end of the year.

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Jonathan Nicholls, Teacher of Religious Educations, St Alban's High School, leaving at the end of the year to take another teaching role at another school.

Bob Pattinson, Head of Science, St Alban's High School, retiring at the end of the year.

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June Wright, Teaching Assistant, St Alban's High School, retiring at the end of the year.

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Jack Blackwell, Teaching Assistant, St Alban's High School, leaving at the end of the year to take up a new role.

Cross Trust Staffing Movement

Jenny Magee Wallace, Senior teacher at St Mary's Primary, is being seconded to take up the temporary HoS role at St Pancras Primary, while Lucille Martin is on maternity leave.

Karen Bryan, EYFS lead and SenCo at St Louis Academy, is also taking on the SenCo role at St Felix Primary. This post has been temporarily covered this year by Jenny Robertson, the Inclusion Manager at St Laurence Primary.

Congratulations to...

Alice Lebbon - St Louis Academy, Kimberly Beale and Lucy Peck - both St Laurence Primary, and Fiammetta Lori and Catia Martins - St Alban's High School who have all successfully completed their NQT induction year.