



NEWSLETTER

Issue 15 - April 2025

Step into Spring

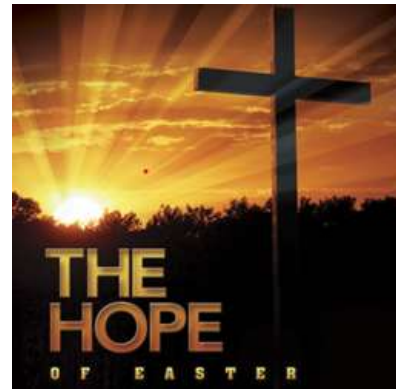
Dear Friend and Colleagues,

Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Trust has had another very positive term of support and development across all of our schools. Our network and staff development opportunities are continuing to have a positive impact on the outcomes of our schools and the young people we serve. Our staff work tirelessly within our schools, as do the wonderful governing body colleagues who give so generously of their time, energy and support. The Trust Directors are very grateful for the vast wealth of expertise shown and demonstrated within our schools every day of the week.

We are also thankful for the guidance and wisdom offered by Bishop Peter in support of all of our schools. The Church sees education as a process that, in light of man's transcendent destiny, forms the whole child and seeks to fix his or her eyes on heaven.

Paul Gilbert Chaplain at St Alban's Catholic High School Ipswich has kindly produced the following reflection for our Easter Newsletter.

"As we journey together in this year of hope, as pilgrims of hope, the Easter story reminds us that the ultimate hope that we have is in the risen Christ. Christ



endured many sufferings, and yet was able to overcome them with hope in his heart. We are called to be beacons of hope in our daily lives, and in doing so, we can make the face of Christ known. We are all called to live life that is full of love, care, and compassion to those around us. Easter is a time when we can find hope even in the darkest times. Easter encourages us to open our hearts to the joys and love that Christ can bring to each one of us.

By embracing the message of Easter, we become bearers of hope that can have a ripple effect on many people. Each one of us has the power to make the difference to many lives. It took one man to suffer on the cross to make a difference. This Easter, we are reminded to live the words of St Pope John Paul II in that we are never to give up on hope, never have self-doubt and do not become discouraged. Easter is a time when we can receive new hope to enable us to rise to the challenges that each day brings".

Christ at the Centre,

Children at the Heart



Prayer

Lord, help us to walk as pilgrims of hope, guided by your light. In moments of doubt, grant us the same courage that Christ had.

Inspire us, Lord to serve with hope in our hearts so that we can be the people you call us to be.

May this Easter inspire us to bring hope to others in our words and deeds so that we can make the face of Christ known to all. May your light of hope shine on us and guide us on the path of faith, hope and love.

We make this pray through Christ our Lord, Amen

Wishing you all a restful and joyous Easter.

Kind regards

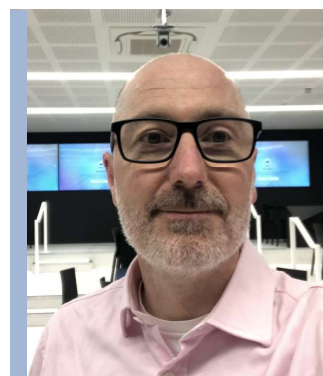
Flavio Vettese

CEO



Trust Updates from Chief Operating Officer - Richard Stevenson

OLOW Moving to Sharp IT Support - In today's digital world more than ever Schools need reliable and efficient IT Solutions to deliver effective Teaching and Learning. The OLOW Trust is excited to announce the start of a new partnership with Sharp IT Services commencing at four of our schools.



Enhanced Security - Sharp will help the Trust introduce enhanced security measures to protect our networks from cyber threats.

Customised Solutions - Every school is unique and Sharp are to help each school develop a realistic roadmap to align the hardware and software systems with the OLOW IT strategy.

Expertise and Experience - To enable this Sharp employs a team of highly skilled professionals with extensive experience in various IT domains. Their expertise ensures that we will receive top-notch service and solutions that are both effective and innovative.

Coming soon, Partnership Agreement - By entering into contract with Sharp the Trust is also able to engage with the Partnership team. This added value offer provides addition support for schools in terms of curriculum development but also directly to students in the form of placements, completions, guest speakers and events. The Trust will be meeting with representatives from Sharp soon to discuss how these benefits will be rolled out in practical terms and how our students across the year groups can get involved.

Christ at the Centre,

Children at the Heart

New Member of the Board of Directors - Sue Price

I am delighted and honoured to join the Board of Directors for Our Lady of Walsingham Trust. I work for the Margaret Beaufort Institute (MBI) where the main focus of my work is providing Pastoral Supervision to those in ministry, teaching the Children's Spirituality Module for the MA in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care and being the link between the Diocese and the Institute for the Diocesan Commission for Formation and Catechesis.



I have what is now called a serial vocation in my career development. I started off by training as a middle school teacher. Unfortunately, that was not the best career choice for me and having spent 6 years trying to learn how to teach, was fortunate to be able to re-train as an Occupational Therapist, a career I loved. I spent nearly 30 years in Healthcare, specialising in Children's Occupational Therapy. At the same time, I had a hunger and desire to study theology, which I did through the Margaret Beaufort Institute, ending up studying for and being awarded a PhD, which focused on the silent spirituality of severely disabled children.

Although I was no longer a teacher, my teaching experience was invaluable when visiting schools to support children in a variety of ways in school. I am very well aware of the current issues and needs of SEND children and the incredible work that is going on through out the trust to support this particular group of children. I know that five years ago, many of these children would have had places in special schools and that the current demand for these places exceeds what is available.

Over the years, through various routes I have had many connections with schools in the Diocese. MBI was tasked by Bishop Alan Hopes with providing a CCRS Lite version which we called the Diocesan Certificate in Catholic Studies (DCCS). I was responsible for its delivery which we did in person for a few years. With Andy Stone's help, this has now become the Introductory Certificate in Catholic Studies, available via the Anspear app. For me, it was a delight to see how people found the course helpful and informative. The feedback continues to indicate that this is a valuable course, especially for those teachers new to teaching in Catholic Schools.

I hope I bring to the Board an understanding of the demands, joys, challenges and expectations of all those involved in teaching, along with a concern for their well-being. I am very happy to visit schools to share in those demands, joys and challenges. I look forward to supporting the ongoing development of the trust, through living out, with all those concerned, the motto of Christ at the Centre, Children at the Heart.

St Pancras Celebrates Silver Artsmark Achievement

We are thrilled to share that St Pancras Catholic Primary school has been awarded the prestigious Silver Artsmark Award. This national accolade, presented by Arts Council England, recognises our commitment to embedding high-quality arts and cultural education into our school curriculum.

The journey to achieving the Silver Artsmark has been an inspiring one, showcasing the creativity and dedication of our students, staff, and wider school community. Over the past year, we have worked very hard to enhance our arts provision, offering enriching opportunities in music, drama, dance, and visual arts. From engaging workshops with a local ceramicist to memorable musical performances, our students have demonstrated their passion and talent across various creative disciplines.

Our commitment to the arts goes beyond the classroom, with exciting collaborations, partnerships, and extracurricular activities that allow our pupils to explore and express their creativity including Choir, dance, Art and drama clubs. This achievement highlights the importance of artistic expression in education and the positive impact it has on students' confidence, well-being, and academic success.



Some examples over the past two years of extra-curricular activities the school has offered or participated in are art club, story-telling club, street dance group who performed to attendees of our summer fete, we re-established the choir – who practiced to perform: in our neighbouring sheltered accommodation, at the Celebrations concert at Snape Maltings, and in Latin for Bishop Peter.

We have reached out from school to the wider community, by becoming involved with the volunteers of a nearby community garden learning from those in our neighbourhood about plants, nature and the benefits of voluntary work. We also sang to and made Christmas cards for pensioners in sheltered accommodation and linked up with children in another Catholic school in Liverpool, drawing them pictures and writing to them about us and asking them about their lives in Liverpool.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed to this achievement, especially Ms Hughes, and our talented students, supportive parents, and dedicated staff. This is just the beginning of our journey, and we are excited to continue our journey, hopefully, to achieving the Gold Artsmark in the future.

Embracing the Mission of Faith and Education - Fr. Robin Mampallithadathil CRM

It is with great joy and gratitude that I take on the role of Parish Priest of St. Laurence Church, Cambridge, as of January 15, 2025. Additionally, I have been entrusted with the privilege of serving as the Spiritual Director and Chaplain of St. Laurence Catholic Primary School. This opportunity fills my heart with enthusiasm, as I firmly believe that the spiritual formation of children is a noble responsibility and a shared mission of parents, teachers, and spiritual guides. Having been ordained as a priest in 2004, my journey in the Order of Clerics Regular Minor—Adorno Fathers—has taken me through various roles, including Vocation Promoter, Vice Rector, Parish Priest, Rector of Philosophy and Theology study houses, and Superior of our religious communities. My experience, both in India and now in the Diocese of East Anglia, has reinforced my conviction that education, when rooted in faith, shapes the future of the Church and society.



Catholic education is a powerful means of instilling faith, values, and moral integrity in young minds. As Pope St. John Paul II once said, “Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others.” Our mission as educators and spiritual guides is to turn the hearts of children toward Christ, nurturing them into responsible citizens and faithful members of the Church.

Jesus Himself emphasized the importance of children in the Kingdom of God: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14). This reminds us of our duty to provide a foundation in faith, morality, and virtue, ensuring that as children grow, they develop a strong moral compass to navigate life’s challenges. The Catholic Church has long been a beacon of education, healthcare, and charitable work, serving humanity without discrimination. This universality of love and service reflects the very heart of Christ’s mission. By investing in the holistic development of our students, we not only shape their intellect but also their hearts and souls, preparing them to be instruments of peace and compassion in the world.

As I embark on this journey with St. Laurence Church and School, I pledge my wholehearted commitment to fostering a strong faith community. I am always willing to offer my time, guidance, and care to ensure that our children grow as children of God and responsible citizens of this great nation. Together, as a community, let us nurture the seeds of faith in the hearts of our young ones, so they may flourish in wisdom and grace.

With Prayerful Best Wishes

Christ at the Centre,

Children at the Heart



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Our School Chaplains are role models to others, representing school both offsite and on and developing and leading Friday Assemblies. We take our Chaplains to lead assembly at the neighbouring All Saints C of E school and their prayer leaders make a return visit to St Louis. This helps them to be confident speakers. Sports Leaders, Play Leaders and Buddy Readers all inspire younger children to aim high.



Located in Newmarket, we are fortunate to benefit from many horseracing related industry contacts and those from the scientific community. During science week, children aspired to be scientists helped by seeing live robots in action, DNA extracted from strawberries and speaking with a consultant anaesthetist and a food scientist. Children in Year 5 learn about the racing industry and visit the Racing Museum. Each year, twenty children are chosen to ride for a week at Newmarket Pony Academy, where they gain skills in resilience and gain much confidence. Nervous starters become confident trotters after five days and all come away understanding the science around caring for horses.

Our oversubscribed Mini Vinnies Group meet weekly and outreach in the community, lead CAFOD fundraising, deliver events during Fairtrade Fortnight and connect with the Parish SVP group. They have prepared Easter cards for the elderly and sold quiz sheets during Lent. The group also corresponds with Patrick, an eight-year-old, that our families fund to educate in Uganda. Patrick sets us a great standard for smart handwriting. These children demonstrate how working together as a socially responsible community, we can share our skills and talents for the benefit of others.

Teamwork is something we develop through sport. As a member of the Forest Heath Sports Partnership, all children experience competitive sport with Suffolk schools. Most recently, we celebrating coming fifth out of over eighty schools in the County Athletics Competition. Our SEND learners especially enjoy their Mini Olympic Competitions and return proudly to show us their winning medals.



We have strong links with Suffolk Police and Bill Butcher, our PCSO is a familiar face to our children. He helps deliver important life skills messages from risks of involvement in County Lines, knife safety PCSO Bill Butcher shares advice about staying safe online It is always sad to see children move on to their next class or onto a new school, but every year, children successfully grow from the many personal development opportunities. Teachers and families are equally proud to see each small steps taken in building confident and independent learners, knowing that everyone plays a part in supporting them to lead fulfilled lives.



*Christ at the Centre,
Children at the Heart*



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St Mary's Primary, Ipswich

Ignite Team Visit to St Mary's

The Ignite Team, the Youth Ministry team of the Diocese of East Anglia, visited on 29th November to support the training of our Worship Council. They delivered a superb training session, and the Ignite Team commented on how knowledgeable and confident our young people are in their roles.



As part of the morning, they led a whole-school Prayer and Liturgy focusing on the beginning of Advent. As always, we especially enjoyed the singing and enthusiastically joined in with the action songs.

Art Workshops

Some of the classes in our school were lucky to have Lily from the Uwu studio in Ipswich visit and run a 'design masterclass' with them whilst talking about her journey into being an artist and the things that have inspired her. This was an Art project funded by Thomas Wolsey 550 project which enables children to access free workshops and Art projects throughout Ipswich. We are proud to have been chosen for these workshops and look forward to working with Thomas Wolsey in the future. The children gained so much from these, practicing new Art skills and talking about what inspires them in their artwork. Lily was a huge inspiration to many.



Mental Health Week



During the week of the 3rd February each class completed activities focusing on mental health awareness. The focus this year was 'growing'. Within our classes we completed activities such as creating our own islands of personality, where we considered what makes us unique. As well as this we thought about how we can look after our own mental health, acknowledging what we like to do and what allows us to find some calm throughout our day. We took time to appreciate that we all have mental health and some days it may require more support than others!

St Pancras Primary, Ipswich

Farming Comes to Schools

There is currently a Suffolk initiative that aims to provide children with a broader understanding of farming and its importance to the community. On Wednesday 12th February, our local farmer Tom Wheaton and his daughter, Farmer Emily, brought his tractor on to the playground so Key Stage One children could climb up into it and also to talk to the children about where our food comes from. He brought examples of different grain with him and explained the process of growing and harvesting to the children. The children were very excited to see the tractor and learn about farming, it was a superb visit and we hope to welcome Farmer Tom and Farmer Emily back again soon.



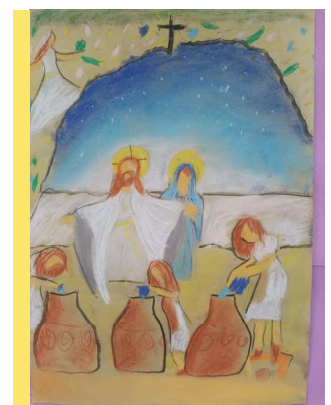
Ignite Training Morning

We were very pleased to welcome the Ignite team to St Pancras to train our newly created GIFT (Growing in Faith together) team. The GIFT team will be our school chaplaincy team and will support and lead prayer and liturgy at St Pancras. The team are specifically responsible for leading in-class liturgy on a Wednesday each week. Alex, Luke and Luke spent the morning with the team, helping them to learn how to choose scripture, write prayers, understand liturgical colours and symbols and lead liturgy with confidence. The Ignite team were really impressed with our GIFT team and they have made an excellent start to leading liturgy during this spring term.



Year 6 RE and Art

Mrs Martin supported the children in creating some beautiful art work with the Year 6 class in their RE lesson at the beginning of the Spring term. In a number of lessons, the children explored the Wedding at Cana, from John's Gospel and then used soft pastels to show their interpretation of this miracle. The children's work now sits proudly outside the staffroom and is a fantastic accompaniment to the scripture that we read in class.



We are Loving and kind,

We Pray and we Play



CAFOD Eggstravaganza

St Louis children are brilliant fundraisers for CAFOD. They raised over £650 during Advent and now their sights are set on an even higher target. This Lent they are holding ice-cream and hot chocolate sales and attending school in non-uniform whilst donating an Easter egg for the school raffle. Each class sells raffle tickets to win the many donated eggs in the prize draw. These Easter treats are a great way to raise funds. Mini Vinnies are also raffling a hand sketched and framed Harry Potter picture.



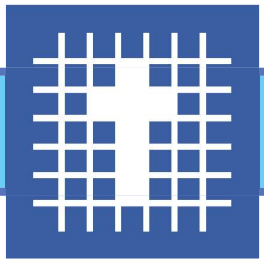
Pilgrims of Hope

On Thursday 13th March, children from Reception to Year 6, the Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Etheldreda in Newmarket, families and friends processed around the town centre to walk in witness together. Children made and carried posters and banners displaying their hopes for peace in the world, an end to wars and their many other prayer-filled hopes for our Jubilee 2025.

Bishop Alan Opens the Sisters of St Louis Wellbeing Hub

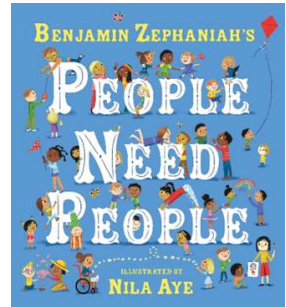
St Louis children, staff and families welcomed Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes to celebrate Mass in our parish church, followed by the blessing and officially opening of the Sisters of St Louis Wellbeing Hub. This was made possible by the Sisters of St Louis' £100,000 gift to school for the purpose of better supporting children with social and emotional needs, their families and the support teams working with them. The multi-purpose space provides a confidential area for counselling, a sensory space for calming, a quiet retreat to hold specialist support meetings and an area for small group therapies. Sister Blathnaid flew over from Dublin to represent her Order in handing over the building to the school and to see this wonderful facility blessed by our Bishop. Governors Bethan Byrne and Marc Walker are excited to add this pastoral offer to the 'Ofsted Outstanding' Personal Development provided to children in school.





Equalities Week

It was Equalities Week, in St. Laurence, from 14th March. We started the week with our pupils coming to school in their national dress or the colours of their flag. To support their understanding of equality, each class read a beautiful book by Benjamin Zephaniah - People Need People. We finished the week by having 'bread day'. The children were encouraged to share the bread which is common to their culture.



Here is an account from Y5 teacher, Mrs. Prokop:

It was an amazing opportunity for the children to celebrate our diverse school community, and they truly enjoyed the experience.

The bread tasting sparked fantastic conversations! The children spoke confidently about the origins and flavours of the different types of bread, and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning in such a hands-on way.



Report on Michael Rosen

On February 13th, 59 excited KS1 children and (7 equally excited adults) set off to join Michael Rosen for a poetry reading at Castle Manor. The children are familiar with Rosen's work, particularly Chocolate Cake as this forms part of the English curriculum for Year 1.

A fabulous time was had. Michael Rosen was engaging and accessible with his skilful performance of some of the children's favourite poems. He spoke about how he was inspired to write and how poetry is a living breathing activity not something old and dusty in a book. He had great advice for his young fans – stories don't have to be hard work. A great story can be short with the right choice of words.

There were plenty of opportunities for audience participation with No Breathing in Class and the Hand on the Bridge. After the reading and questions, some children had books signed by Rosen and were delighted to see their own names in his distinctive hand.

They gave the event a keen review

"He made me laugh. I liked the poem about the dog when he couldn't open the bag."

"It was good because we watched a show and I hadn't seen a show before. He let us ask questions."

"He was tall and he made me happy rather than making me laugh."

"He told funny stories about chocolate cake and a dog like an onion."

"I liked No Breathing in Class because it was about a school and when he said "Mmm" during Chocolate Cake. He was really friendly and my book was signed."

Children's Mental Health Week

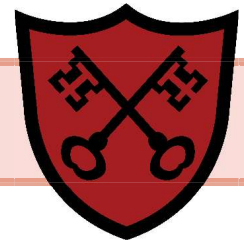
The mental health of our pupils is really important to us. Pupils taking responsibility for supporting their own wellbeing is an important step to having a mentally healthy community. For this reason, our activities for the week were led by our Peer Mentor Team.

This team of year 6 pupils are selected each year to receive additional training through Anna Freud organisation resources. They support pupils in lower year groups as a positive friend both outside at lunchtime and by running craft-based clubs in the autumn term.



The theme for the week this year was Know Yourself, Grow Yourself and so the Peer Mentors began the week with an assembly to encourage pupils to think about themselves as a plant. Are you a prickly cactus or sunflower looking for the sun's rays? They ran clubs for Y1-3 across the week and encouraged pupils to contribute the art they made to our display board.

This important pupil led contribution is part of the St Felix safeguarding culture within which pupils monitor and support alongside the adults.



St Alban's Primary, Cambridge

Beth Tweddle Visits St Alban's

We had the privilege of welcoming Beth Tweddle MBE to our school. Beth is a multiple time world champion gymnast and an Olympic medallist. We were so pleased to welcome her to St Alban's. She led a whole school assembly on the importance of physical activity as well as sharing some of her personal highlights with the children. The children found it so inspiring, and it was a wonderful opportunity for our school.



"It was really nice that us children got the chance to meet Beth and feel inspired by her." Gisele year 5

Friendship Games



Our Year 5 children participated in the Cambridge Friendship Games Festival. This was a non-competitive event which allowed the children an opportunity to try out a range of different sports to help develop their skills and confidence. This year the children took part in 8 activities including curling, indoor athletics and rowing.

World Book Day

Everyone had a fantastic time on World Book Day dressing up as their favourite book characters!

As well as the exciting activities of Reading we were delighted to welcome Andy Day from Cbeebies. Andy read from his latest book and was a great inspiration to our children.



Thank you to Father Bienn for leading us in our Ash Wednesday mass. It was good to see so many parents join us as we start the season of Lent. During Lent, the children will be learning about the Sorrowful Mysteries and are encouraged to use their Rosary Beads for praying.

Believe, Achieve, Succeed





St Alban's High School, Ipswich

Opening of the Jubilee Year of Hope

On Friday 24th January, the Jubilee year of Hope was launched in Catholic Schools across the country. As part of this national celebration, St Alban's Catholic High School in Ipswich produced a novel way of marking this event – 'Words of Hope.'

Throughout the day, over 900 entries were made by staff and students on their hopes and aspirations for the Jubilee Year on the letters that would form hope. Mr Jon Hicks, Head of RE organised this with the support of the school chaplain and the Art department.



Mr Hicks commented "It was a fantastic way to get the students involved with the opening of the Jubilee in schools. It worked very well as this was the first time we have tried something like this. It was great seeing the student's reactions to comments on affecting the world and to reflect on they see as being important both on a local, national and international level".

It was a cross-community event that brought everyone together for reflecting on the need of Hope and reflecting on how the face of Christ can be made known through thoughts, words and actions which can truly form a community of hope.

Seeding Hope Greener Ventures

On Thursday 23rd January representatives from the student chaplaincy team visited Elm Tree Primary School in Lowestoft. St Alban's Catholic High School raised the funds through 'Discover the World' to plant 1000 new trees. The conditions were that these new tree saplings needed to be planted in Suffolk. After much discussion it was decided the trees would be planted at Elm Tree Primary school due to their land availability.



The school is just shy of having 15 acres of field space! Our students had a fantastic day, and they proudly planted approximately 50 trees. The day was in partnership with 'Seeding Hope Greener Ventures'. We were also invited into the school to enjoy a hot chocolate and learn more about the company and greener futures. The local mayor and a team of local press were there on the day and captured the brilliant work that was taking place. It was a special day that raised awareness of the importance of afforestation and supports the work of Pope Francis, caring for our environment and our planet.

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



www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk

Cambridge University Lectures

This year we have been lucky enough to attend a series of Physics lectures at the Cavendish Laboratories which is part of the University of Cambridge. The lectures start at 6pm which gives us plenty of time to drive up in the school minibus after school. Beginning in October and running until March the talks are aimed at enthusiastic science students. The topics covered this year have been wonderfully varied: the biomechanics of the foot, the formation of planets around other stars, the use of AI in medicine, the Higgs boson, room acoustics and satellite imaging. We have tended to arrive with a bit of time to spare and students have been able to explore the Cavendish museum, try their hand at some Isaac Physics problems or simply eat biscuits and drink squash. There is always something in each talk to stretch young minds and enthuse students with the application of science to the real world.

Sixth Form Delves into Democracy

Our Sixth Form students recently embarked on an enriching trip to the heart of British politics, attending a prestigious politics conference held within the historic walls of Westminster Hall. The day was a whirlwind of insightful talks, lively debate, and a firsthand glimpse into the workings of our government.



The conference boasted an impressive lineup of speakers, representing a diverse spectrum of political viewpoints. Students had the unique opportunity to hear from prominent figures such as Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, offering insights into conservative perspectives, and Lord Dubs, who shared his powerful experiences and advocacy on refugee rights. Daisy Cooper MP provided a perspective from the Liberal Democrats, and Alastair Campbell gave a fascinating look into the world of political communication and strategy.

The real highlight of the day was the interactive Q&A sessions. Our students were encouraged to engage directly with the speakers, posing thoughtful and challenging questions. We were particularly thrilled to see our very own Abinaya Kirupakaran make her mark, as her question for Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg was selected and read out first! This was a testament to the students' preparation and their keen interest in political discourse.

Beyond the conference itself, the trip provided invaluable context through guided walks around the iconic buildings associated with UK politics. Students explored the grandeur of the Houses of Parliament, witnessing the very chambers where laws are made and debated. A stroll past Downing Street offered a tangible connection to the seat of government, bringing the political landscape to life.

This trip was more than just a day out; it was a chance for our students to witness democracy in action, to hear from those shaping our political landscape, and to develop their own critical thinking skills. The experience has undoubtedly sparked a deeper understanding of the complexities of politics and inspired a new generation of engaged citizens. We are incredibly proud of our Sixth Form for their enthusiastic participation and insightful contributions.

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





St Benedict's High School, Bury St Edmunds

MFL Debating

In February, two of our Year 13 students represented St Benedict's Sixth Form in the regional heat of the 'Joutes Oratoires', the national MFL debating competition organised by l'Institut Français. Jagoda Napieraj and Bea Price had to prepare three motions -

- Les anciennes puissances coloniales ont le devoir de restituer les artefacts culturels aux pays africains francophones (Former colonial powers have a duty to return cultural artifacts to French-speaking African countries).
- Le bénévolat est essentiel pour maintenir la cohésion sociale aujourd'hui. (Volunteering is essential to maintaining social cohesion today).
- Les plateformes comme TikTok ont un rôle positif à jouer dans la démocratie en renforçant la participation des jeunes. (Platforms like TikTok have a positive role to play in democracy by strengthening youth participation).

Students had to prepare two minute presentations both for and against each of the motions as they didn't know until the last minute which side of the motion they had to defend. Immediately afterwards, they conduct a four minute 'strife' against each of their opponents where arguments go back and forth between the competitors, and then finally a conclusion is presented to the adjudicators. All this in French. Bea and Jagoda did very well, beating Framlingham College but losing out to Hills Road, but only by two points. Both were commended for their fluency, quality of language and ideas. Bravo!

Reading Week At St Benedict's

This week has been the latest Reading Week at St Benedict's, which has seen students taking part in a variety of reading-related activities. The highlight of the week was World Book Day on Thursday 7th March, which saw staff and students dressing up as their favourite book characters. Some teachers even stayed in costume for the Year 10 Parents' Evening, which may have raised a few eyebrows. During the day, storytellers visited all students in Years 7-10 to read a short story. At lunchtime, students took part in a Reading Quest in the library, with Owais Isswiasi and David Olugbemi from 8A emerging the winners of the £10 book token.



*I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full*





St Benedict's Sixth Form, Bury St Edmunds

Trip to Paris

On Friday 14th February 25 sixth formers and three teachers set off for four days in Paris. An early 3.30am start and 6.00am Eurostar from London meant we greeted the French capital avec des petits yeux that were nevertheless full of wonder and excitement. Our first day included a gentle jaunt along the Seine with a quick stop in the Shakespeare & Co. bookshop before continuing to the musée d'Orsay where we had our first art fix of the trip. After a meal altogether and a good night's rest, the second day started with coffees and pains au chocolats and a quick metro ride to the Eiffel Tower then a walk to les Galleries LaFayette taking in les Invalides and l'Opéra Garnier before stopping at the musée Rodin. Sunday started with a visit to the Sainte-Chapelle and continued in the hills of Montmartre where we made basecamp on the steps of the Sacré-Cœur for our session of en plein air painting. Our artistic efforts paid off when Bea Price (Year 13) managed to sell her painting of the green kiosk to the kiosk vendor! Later, not to feel outdone, Carl Conway (Year 12) spoke to a metro carriage full of Parisiens to try and sell Zuzanna Zabojszcz's (Year 12) painting.



His powers of persuasion might have not worked, but his excellent command of French drew applause from the commuters. Our Sunday drew to a close with a visit to place Beaubourg and the Pompidou Centre, with a short night walk to see the Eiffel Tower twinkle on the hour. Monday was our final day in Paris and no trip to la ville lumière would be complete without seeing the Louvre and its artworks. Hôtel Familia in the Latin quarter, under the majesty of the Pantheon was our lovely base for the four days. Karine, Fatima and the team were so attentive and kind to us throughout our stay. Thank you to Mrs Coldwell who accompanied us on the trip and un grand merci to all the students whose company and joie de vivre makes these trips so worthwhile. Whether it was strolling through saint Louis-en-l'île, dining around la place de la Contrescarpe or queuing for croissants, all our students were a constant delight and represented all the best of Bennies. As Edith Piaf sang, « Sous le ciel de Paris / coule un fleuve joyeux » .

*I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full*



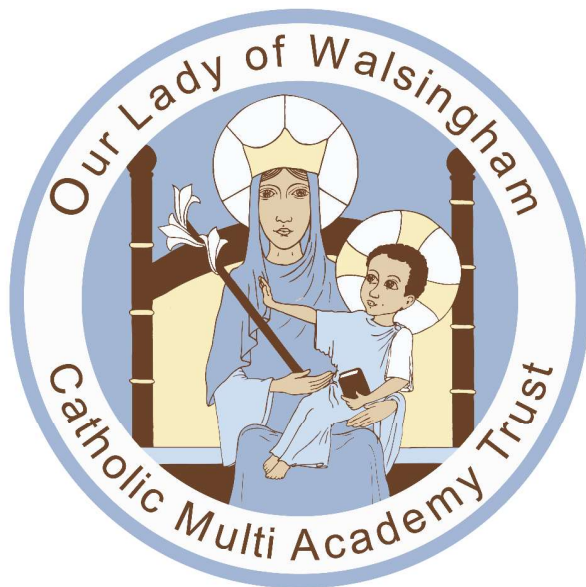
Foundation Governor Recruitment

If you are interested in becoming a school governor or would like to find out more about the fantastic impact that you could make within our Trust schools then please visit the Trust website by scanning the following QR code.



Please share with anyone who is interested in learning more about the positive impact of good governance on pupils' life chances and might be interested in joining one of our school boards.

www.ourladyofwalsingham.co.uk/governorrecruitment



*Christ at the Centre,
Children at the Heart*



www.ourladyofwalsingham.co.uk