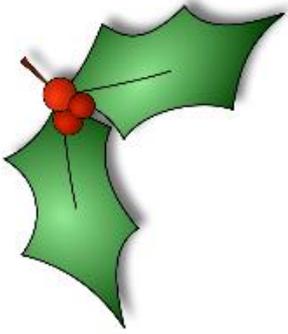


Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company

Christmas Newsletter 2022



**HAND IN HAND WE LISTEN TO GOD'S CALL  
WE LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD AND WE  
SHARE GOD'S LOVE THROUGH SERVICE**



**KNOWLEDGE  
THROUGH THE  
LIGHT OF FAITH**

**LEARNING & GROWING  
AS GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE**



**ACHIEVING  
TOGETHER  
IN FAITH**



**LEARNING, GROWING  
& PRAYING TOGETHER  
WITH CHRIST OUR KING**



**LOVE ONE ANOTHER  
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU**



**ACHIEVING OUR BEST UNLOCKING OUR POTENTIAL  
REVEALING WHO GOD WANTS US TO BE**



# Breaking News

## Christmas comes early for Bishop Ullathorne!

Staff and students at Bishop Ullathorne Catholic Secondary school are both delighted and very excited about the announcement from the Department for Education that Bishop Ullathorne is one of the next 50 schools to be rebuilt as part of the Government's School Rebuilding Programme.

The MAC and school had identified the need for a new build and submitted an application with compelling justification to be included in the next stage of the process.

Headteacher Mr Billings said "It is fantastic news! This school benefits from such fantastic students and staff whose commitment to the community is outstanding. To be able to serve the parents and students in a state of the art, purpose-built school is something everyone deserves but we feel very lucky to be included in the programme."

Although Bishop Ullathorne and Holy Cross Catholic MAC have worked hard to make the school buildings a positive learning environment, with limited school budgets it has not been possible to make all the improvements to the school buildings that we would have liked. The announcement from the DfE is very welcome news for our school and the local community.

As a popular and oversubscribed school Bishop Ullathorne are already benefiting from a £3 million investment in a new sports hall funded by the Coventry Local Authority to support the future pupil placement planning.

The DfE rebuilding and refurbishment programmes are planned to create modern education environments, with brand new facilities. The schools are also planned to be much greener, with a zero carbon emissions target. We are so pleased that in the future our students and staff will be taught in modern purpose-built facilities.

The next phase will involve further surveys to establish if any of our current buildings are worth retaining and how much of a complete rebuild we will be entitled to. We expect to retain our new sports hall due to be completed in summer 2023, but very little else. The new buildings will be located on another part of the existing site and shouldn't interfere with the smooth running of our existing school during the construction phase. We will also be very mindful of the impact on our neighbours and careful planning will ensure that the new buildings will be an improvement for everyone in the local community.

## St John Vianney is judged an Outstanding Catholic School!

From September 2022, all denominational inspections within the Archdiocese of Birmingham will be undertaken by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate. In addition to Ofsted Inspections all Catholic schools are subject to Catholic Schools Inspections which judge the standard of Catholic life and mission of the school, religious education and collective worship in schools. This term we welcomed two inspectors to St John Vianney Catholic School to complete their Catholic Schools Inspection over two days - Mrs Basia McLaughlin (Lead inspector) and Mrs Sarah Rathbone.

As part of the process the inspectors interviewed pupils, staff and parents, visited lessons and assemblies and reviewed the standards of work in exercise books.

We are delighted that the inspectors were impressed with the very high standards observed across all areas of school life and judged the school to be outstanding across all areas.

The report is available on school websites for you to [read here](#).





**To all Parents, Carers, Staff,  
Governors and Directors**

**At Holy Cross Catholic Multi  
Academy Company Schools**

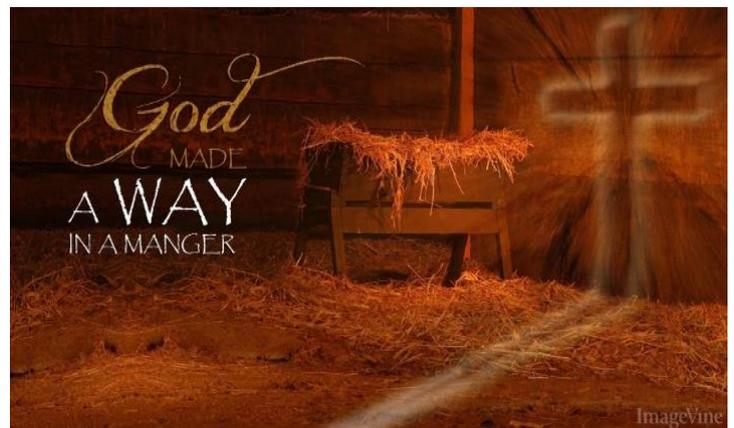


It is that time of year when your inbox, TV or internet searches are full of adverts, sales discounts, flyers and newsletters all offering sales and discounts for Christmas. This however is not one of them!

Instead, I want to wish you some well-deserved time off to rest and enjoy the festive spirit celebrating the birth of Christ our saviour with your family, friends and local community. Jesus is the reason for the season.

I especially want to thank all the pupils, staff, volunteers, Governors, parents, clergy and Directors within the Holy Cross MAC for all your hard work.

However you spend the break, whether it is overeating, watching dreadful movies, playing board games, computer games, reading, spending quality time with family or any other activity, have an amazing holiday, a happy and holy Christmas and a New Year full of hope.



At this time we think particularly of our loved ones and remember all those who have died and pray for them and their families.

I look forward to seeing you in the new year and that you find this newsletter informative.

Holy Cross of Jesus, be our hope.

John Teahan

Chair, Holy Cross Catholic MAC Board of Directors.





**To all Parents, Carers, Staff,  
Governors and Directors**

**At Holy Cross Catholic Multi  
Academy Company Schools**

At the end of the Autumn Term 2022 we give thanks for the many successes and achievements over the last term from across all our school communities and MAC Central Team. It has been another successful term for all our schools and there is much to celebrate. This year more, than ever, we look forward to our Christmas break and the opportunity to enjoy the Christmas season with all our families and loved ones in more normal circumstances.

As always, our children and young people have given us much to celebrate and we are incredibly proud of them and all that they do on a daily basis to live out their school mission as well as the mission of Holy Cross Catholic MAC. We are incredibly proud of the care they show for others and all their wonderful achievements and successes. We are also very grateful to all our staff who work tirelessly to ensure that our children and school communities are places of love, hope and joy.

We hope and pray that this Christmas there will be opportunities to be with our family, friends and loved ones and for everyone to get plenty of rest and relaxation. The joy and hopefulness of the Christmas season and the gifts of peace, love and goodwill to all people that it brings are so important and we look forward with hope to the new year.

We particularly pray for all those for whom Christmas will be a sad and lonely time particularly those who have recently lost loved ones or who face difficult challenges in their lives.

On behalf of everyone at the Holy Cross Catholic MAC, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a peaceful, holy, and relaxing Christmas and we pray that the New Year brings you all good health and happiness and an end to the pandemic.

*Holy Cross of Jesus be our hope.*

Marina Kelly

Catholic Senior Executive Leader

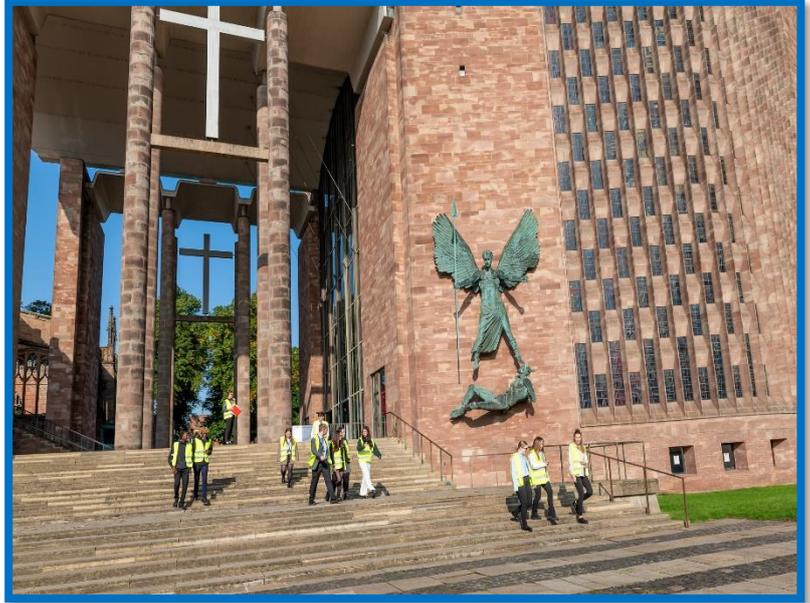


# Holy Cross Catholic MAC

## Feast Day – 14 September 2022

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September is the Feast day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and for the first time since academising in September 2019 we were able to celebrate the Feast day together as a whole MAC community.

Our Year 3, Year 6, Year 12 and 13 students all gathered at Coventry Cathedral to celebrate mass with Canon Tom Farrell, Fr Pat Brennan, Fr Simon Baker, supported by Deacons Joe Pattison and Leo Poole.



It was a particularly special occasion as the country was in a period of national mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022 and it was an opportunity for our school communities to pray for the Queen and her family and give thanks for the tremendous life of service she gave for over 70 years.

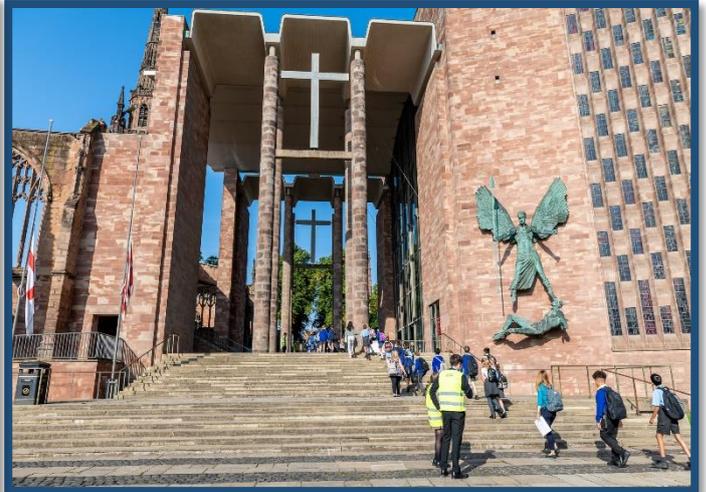
At the end of mass pupils processed out of the Cathedral with their school and Holy Cross MAC banners and laid a wreath in honour of the Queen at the altar of the Old Cathedral ruins. Whenever we visit the old Cathedral ruins and see the charred cross and the altar inscribed with the moving words of Pastor Richard Howard of “Father Forgive” we are reminded of the power of peace and reconciliation in our world.

Following mass pupils had the opportunity to complete a variety of activities at the Cathedral. Year 3 completed the Coventry Peace Trail, Year 6 had preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation led by our secondary school RE teams and Lay Chaplain and Year 12 and 13 had the opportunity to find out more about the Cathedral and its history as well as attend a Peace and Justice Workshop led by the Cathedral Education Team.

In the evening Canon Tom led a second mass for our school Governors and Directors and we were delighted that the singing for mass was provided by the Cathedral Choir.

Next year we are looking forward to welcoming Archbishop Bernard Longley who is going to lead the celebration of our Feast day mass at Coventry Cathedral.

# Celebrating Holy Cross Catholic MAC Feast Day at Coventry Cathedral – 14 September 2022



# Our Tribute to Our Queen

At the end of our Feast Day mass Canon Tom blessed a wreath for Queen Elizabeth and we prayed for the happy repose of her soul. Our students processed to the Cathedral ruins Alter and placed the wreath on the alter with all the other flowers.

During the period of national mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II students from Holy Cross Catholic MAC all signed a Memorial Book.



Eternal rest grant unto her,  
O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine  
upon her.  
May she rest in peace.

May her soul and the souls of all  
the faithful departed rest in peace.  
Amen

# Schools' Building Programme Update

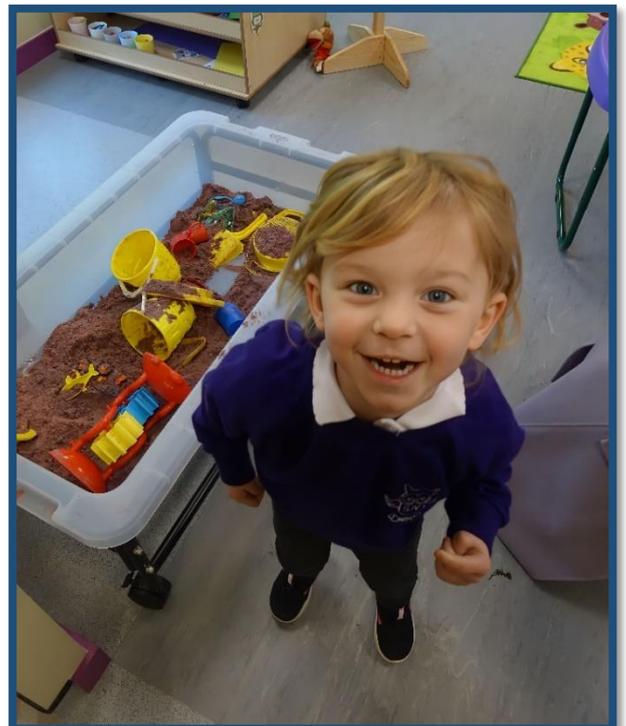
## St John Vianney's New Nursery is Open!

The new nursery at St John Vianney Catholic Primary School opened its doors in September to its first pupils. The £500,000 purpose-built building features wonderful facilities including a large nursery classroom, dedicated soft play area and sensory room.

To enquire about availability for September 2023 please contact the school.



St John Vianney Nursery is off to a fabulous start working closely with their Reception class. The children have risen to the challenge of joining school and have had several opportunities to share their learning.



## Bishop Ullathorne Sports Hall

Construction of the new Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School Sports Hall began in October.

The new £4m facility is being built as part of the pupil places planning initiative which is allowing Bishop Ullathorne to take an extra form of entry for 3 years.

It's the first time this heavily oversubscribed and popular secondary school will have its own dedicated sports building since it was opened over 50 years ago!



The '4-badminton court' sized Sports Hall will have badminton, basketball and five-a-side football facilities as well as cricket nets and trampolines. As well as the sport areas itself there are brand new changing and toilet facilities as well as office space and ample storage. The Sports Hall is due to open in July 2023.

## New Music Suite and Changing Rooms at Bishop Ullathorne

September saw the opening of a £800,000 project following the refurbishment of Bishop Ullathorne's existing changing rooms. The new changing rooms have been welcomed by staff and students and include 2 brand new changing rooms, two sets of new showers and toilets and a PE office and work room.

In addition the old girls changing room was converted into a brand new Music Suite and practice rooms.



## Cardinal Newman School Playground Refurbishment

Whilst work goes on behind the scenes towards the new build school, the schools Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) which houses tennis and basketball courts has been given a £100,000 facelift.

This area will be unaffected by the building of the new school and the time was right to fully re-lay the surface and mark out new courts as well as install new fixed equipment.



## Security Enhancements across Holy Cross MAC Estate!

In order to optimise pupil and staff safety, security enhancements have been implemented at all schools which have included new vehicle gates and access control at Bishop Ullathorne, Christ the King, St Augustine's and St John Vianney schools. At Christ the King's Scots Lane site the front car park has also been totally re-laid and a new pedestrian entrance opened.



# GCSE and A Level 2022 Results Days

Congratulations to all our Year 11 and 13 Students! Following a very challenging time during Covid our students were able to celebrate excellent results and fantastic achievements. We are so proud of you and all of your amazing results and we wish you every success and happiness on the next stage of your education or employment. Well done everyone!



# News from across our Schools



*Achieving together in faith*



# Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

## Language Success

This term Bishop Ullathorne entered two teams into the ESU Public Speaking competition's regional heats where they competed with teams from other Coventry schools. Both teams performed extremely well and were successful in progressing to the regional finals in February. Team A's speaker, Evie's speech was titled: 'Film has lost originality' while Team B's speaker, Sharon argued that: 'Artistic expression should not be censored.'

They really were a credit to our school showing such eloquence and gratitude towards the other participants throughout. We wish them well for the next stage of the competition.



## MAC Chaplaincy Day

Bishop Ullathorne hosted the MAC Chaplaincy Training day. Chaplaincy teams met to begin preparations for Advent services in schools and across the MAC. Thank you to Lauren for planning and leading the day. Thank you to everyone for their contribution.



## Christmas Community Party

Bishop Ullathorne were delighted to welcome their guests to their annual Christmas Community party which was hosted by sixth form students. Everyone had a wonderful afternoon of quizzes, bingo entertainment, carols and lots of fun and laughter.

It was wonderful to welcome back many familiar faces and we look forward to seeing them all again very soon.



# Cardinal Newman Catholic School

## Remembrance Day Service

Cardinal Newman held their annual Remembrance Service on Friday 11th November 2022. They were delighted to welcome some special guests to school and remember their loved ones and pray for all those who have died and their families.

Mr Wells read the poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae and Site Services Manager, Mr Grieve read "For the Fallen" dedicated to all those that have lost their lives in conflict. As a former soldier this reflection was very special to Mr Grieve.



## Welcome to Taiwo Owatemi – MP for Coventry North West

We welcomed our local MP for Coventry North West, Taiwo Owatemi, in November to meet with our newly elected Student Council Representatives. Taiwo led a Question & Answer session with students and congratulated them on being elected by their peers to represent their interests. Taiwo also talked about her role as an MP and what it involves.

The event was organised by Year 11 student Jessica Davies who expressed an interest in learning more about politics and how it relates to other issues. The questions asked by the pupils were fantastic and the pupils were a credit to the school.

Taiwo Owatemi has been a Member of Parliament (MP) for Coventry North West since 2019. A member of the Labour Party, she was Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities from September 2021 to September 2022.



# Christ the King Catholic Primary School

## Christmas Bazaar

Christ the King Parents and Teachers Association hosted their annual Christmas Bazaar at the end of November. The year 6 Vice House Captains & House Captains helped by running their own stalls.



## Enrichment Programme



Throughout the autumn term pupils from Reception to Year 6 have enjoyed participating in Enrichment days. These have exciting Forest School sessions with Mr Hadlum, cooking up a range of delicious food with their Class Teacher and creating their own masterpieces in art with their Teaching Assistant.

## Sports Crazy

This term pupils in Key Stage 2 have been busy participating in lots of Sporting events including girls and boys football.



# St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

## Football Fun

St Augustine's were delighted to welcome Coventry United Football Club players Katy Morris and Anna Wilcox on Tuesday 1 November. They visited school to talk to pupils about their journey to becoming Championship footballers. They really inspired all pupils to follow their dreams and to dream big!



In addition Year 6 were lucky enough to have a football lesson with Katy Morris from Coventry United Women FC. A huge thank you to Katy for continuing to inspire and motivate our young people.

## Alton Castle



Pupils from St Augustine's were recently very excited to go to Alton Castle and they had a wonderful time enjoying lots of different activities and also had a lovely Christmas dinner.



# St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

## Trips for the Children

Throughout the Autumn Term children at St Elizabeth's have enjoyed a variety of trips, visitors and experiences to enrich their school week and learning.

This term, children in Year 1 enjoyed a fabulous visit to Warwick Arts Centre to take part in The Children's Book Show with author Jo Empson. Jo then visited school to run a workshop for the children where our children created their own paper bag octopus and a moving fish. Jo read to the children and talked about what inspired her to be a writer and author, inspiring our writers of the future!



Year 5 made links with the Warwick University Bright Stars Programme as part of their autumn term science learning on space. The children completed project work focusing on the removal of space junk and the reduction of pollution around the earth and had the chance to present their work to delegates at the Global Network for Space and Sustainability annual conference. The children had a wonderful day at the university touring the campus, partaking in workshops run by Warwick's Astrophysics Department and visiting a planetarium!



# St John Vianney Primary School

## Charity Work

Pupils at St John Vianney have been busy this term raising funds for a variety of charities. Catherine Carr from St John Vianney parish came to talk to the children about the work of Mary's Meals. The children have raised £210 which will be doubled by the government to support Mary's Meals. Pupils and staff have also had two Food Bank collections one at Harvest festival and one at Christmas and the amount brought into school was overwhelming. In addition the school had a non-uniform day to raise money for CAFOD and before Christmas the children are bringing in Chocs or socks for the Cyrenians appeal for those in need.

Supporting others doesn't always have to be about raising money but is sometimes about giving our time to others and pupils are making extra Christmas cards for parishioners, St Jude's care home, and school neighbours.

St John Vianney choir are singing at Coventry University Hospital to bring cheer to others and raise funds.

The children have taken this opportunity during Advent to teach each other about the meaning of Christmas through Nativities, Assemblies and Collective Worship. They have been fortunate to work with Bishop Ullathorne to develop prayer and worship and their chaplaincy team brought back some great ideas from the MAC Chaplaincy meeting.



# St Thomas More Primary School

## St Bernadette Relics Prayer Service

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October children from Reception to Year 6 joined with Archbishop Bernard Longley and schools from across the Archdiocese of Birmingham and beyond, for a time of prayer and reflection in the presence of the relics of St. Bernadette.

A Year 6 pupil said: For me I really felt close to Mary, especially during the Rosary. I felt like Mary was listening to me and I was really close to Mary. I felt like I was in heaven - forgetting about my earthly troubles. It was like me, Mary and God were alone together. We enjoyed the hymns - they were full of grace. It helps!



## Meet Our Pupil Leaders

We are very proud to introduce our Pupil Leaders for this academic year. Pupils in Year 6 were invited to apply for roles as Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Head Boy and Girl; House Captains and School Council. After their initial application, pupils were invited to interviews that took place individually and in groups. We were overwhelmed with the quality of application and the excellent interviews and were very happy to appoint children to the roles.

Our Head Pupil Team have already offered tours of the school to parents and other visitors and have been called upon to give certificates out in assembly. The House Captain Teams have been supporting younger members of their houses in showing exemplary behaviour and monitoring housepoints and the School Council have met to discuss the Behaviour Policy and how they would like to develop it over the coming months. We are very lucky to have such a strong team of proactive leaders!



# Walk with Me Advent Prayer

The following prayer is taken from the Advent 2022 edition of Walk with Me.

We wish all our young people and staff and all their families a very happy, peaceful and relaxing Christmas season and good health and happiness in 2023.

*Lord God, our light and our salvation,  
We praise you for your gifts of life and faith.*

*We thank you for the desire  
That you have planted in our hearts,  
Our yearning to see your face.*

*Help us to meet you in prayer,  
To walk in your ways,  
And to speak to others of our joy  
And consolation in your presence.*

*Give us faithfulness in this present life  
So that we may come to know  
And praise your beauty,  
With all our brothers and sisters,  
In the life to come.*

*We make this prayer through Christ our Lord*