



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



## OUR MISSION

*'Growing in faith, serving with love, transforming our world; together in Christ.'*

Serving 25 schools in the Nottingham Diocese

ADVENT 2022 NEWSLETTER



Reflecting on a very busy but successful term, we look back on an enjoyable Feast Day, where we were all able to remind ourselves of 'Why' we do

what we do as a group of 25 Catholic schools, educating over 8,000 children. Following the meeting of our Pupil Parliament, we re-established our Mission statement, which is now **'Growing in faith, serving with love, transforming our world; together in Christ'**.

We also established the Virtues which will underpin 'How' we work together, which are **Trust, Togetherness** and **Kindness**. So, as we move into the next era of the Trust's development we have a very clear sense of purpose and an

understanding of how we should all live and work together.

We can also look back on several very successful Ofsted inspections and many other wonderful successes across our schools. I have made it a priority to create space for dialogue with Headteachers to ensure that, as we move forward as a Trust, we are able to take on board the different contexts of our schools and work together, very much as a team.

It's been a real honour to visit all of our schools and spend time getting to know staff and pupils, seeing the wonderful work being done around the formation of our young people, which really is transforming our world.

In every school I visit I'm always struck by the quality of education our children are receiving and the way in which they live out the Mission and the Virtues of their school. From the children who

give me a warm welcome, to those who take me on a tour of their school, to the multitude who just want to talk to me about the wonderful work they are doing and what they are learning, it is a real privilege to be able to share in this, and to ensure we focus on striving to always make the education for every child as good as we possibly can.

I am very grateful for all of your support and everything you do, not just to support your own children but to support the schools and the staff who work there. This really is a team effort.

**Kevin Gritton**  
Chief Executive

# Mission, Vision and Virtues relaunched at Feast Day celebrations

Almost 1,000 members of staff from our 25 schools and Central Team gathered for our Trust Feast Day celebrations, where CEO, Kevin Gritton, launched our new Mission, Vision and Virtues. We also heard from inspirational keynote speaker Sister Judith Russi and celebrated Mass with Father Simon Gillespie. Our new **Mission** was created at our Trust Pupil Parliament, with input from staff and students from all 25 schools in the Trust. It is: **'Growing in faith, serving with love, transforming our world; together in Christ'**.

Our **Vision** is that we will:

- Ensure the best possible education for every child.
- Provide Catholic formation which inspires all of us to live a life of service modelled on the Gospels.
- Continue to build sustainable and caring communities in which the most vulnerable can flourish.
- Recognise that every member of our community has a vital role to play.

Our **Virtues** were created with input from our Headteachers and our Central Team. They are **Trust, Togetherness** and **Kindness**.



Our Trust Pupil Parliament gathered at the beginning of the academic year to work on our new Mission, Vision and Virtues. Pupils and staff from all 25 schools, along with members of our Central Team, were involved in the day.



## St Edward's celebrates launch of new science lab

A primary school teacher's dream of creating a science laboratory for her pupils has come true.

Nashim Prabatani has always wanted to provide pupils at St Edward's Catholic Voluntary Academy, in Swadlincote, with a space dedicated to science to enhance their learning.

Her vision has finally become a reality as the school has opened its own 'Phiz Lab', with help from local businesses and the Ogden Trust, which works with schools to promote physics.

The school received £2,500 from the Ogden Trust, support from electronics company Integrex and logistics company Clipper as well as Acorn Home and Garden Services, all based in Swadlincote.



Together, they transformed an under utilised area of school into a 'Phiz Lab', complete with an area for children to carry out their investigations using dedicated science equipment.



## Pupils go back in time for 50th anniversary celebrations

Classroom slippers, the dreaded 'black seat' and building igloos on snow days were just some of the memories shared during 50th anniversary celebrations at St Anne's Catholic Voluntary Academy. Families, staff and pupils came together to commemorate 50 years of the school being at its current Lightwood Road site in Buxton. Each school year group performed songs and dressed up in outfits from one of the last 5 decades, from the 1970s to the present day. Long serving members of staff talked about their time at St Anne's and there were video contributions from ex-pupils at the event, which was led by Headteacher Julia Wiggins and organised by Assistant Headteacher Frankie Dodd.

Mrs Wiggins said she was exceptionally proud to be the current Headteacher of St Anne's.





Reflection from our  
**Lead Lay Chaplain,**  
Jamie Agius.

As we move into the season of Advent, we find ourselves once again contemplating the coming of Jesus. The belief that God became human as one of us is as relevant and powerful as it was over 2,000 years ago.

*If we reflect on Mary and Joseph's journey, the way that they were rejected by the innkeepers and the place in which Jesus was born, we find so many parallels between these events and the plight of refugees and asylum seekers in today's world.*

*The struggle of making the long and arduous journey, whilst pregnant, to an unfamiliar part of the country, only to be told that they weren't welcome, is so similar to that of those escaping persecution, famine and war who find*

*themselves on the borders of our own country.*

*If we take anything from the story of Advent and Christmas, it is that we should never turn anyone away. Regardless of the situation we find ourselves in, or how awkward we feel, we must try to remember the impact a kind and loving welcome can have on a person. I read the other day that God is the Includer, and we are the included; if that is the case then we should do the same for all people, always.*

# 'Good' Ofsted inspections for two Trust schools

*St Charles' and St Joseph's in Derby were inspected.*

Two Trust schools are celebrating 'Good' ratings following Ofsted inspections.

A full inspection was carried out at St Charles', in Glossop, which was judged to be 'Good' in all areas.

An ungraded inspection took place at St Joseph's, in Derby, and the inspector said that it continued to be a 'Good' school.

Inspectors at St Charles' said that staff did their utmost to ensure that pupils 'Belong, Believe and Blossom.'

They said: "This ethos and vision shine through many aspects of school life. Pupils say they are happy and safe.

"One pupil said: 'It is a pleasure to be here. I am proud to be part of this school.'"

Praise was given to staff who "have high expectations for pupils", according to the report, which also said that pupils worked hard and were enthusiastic learners who contributed well to lessons.

"They (pupils) behave well and are polite to each other, staff and to visitors," inspectors said.

The report noted that staff provided a wide range of popular activities that helped to stretch pupils' talents and interests.

***"This ethos and vision shine through many aspects of school life. Pupils say they are happy and safe."***

The lead inspector at St Joseph's said the school was a happy, safe place where staff and pupils treated each other with respect.

The report noted that pupils worked hard, were kind to each other and were proud ambassadors of the school's values.

Pupils told the inspector that the school was 'like a whole entire family under one roof'.

"All staff have high expectations for all pupils. Pupils are supported well to meet these expectations. They are keen



to do their best," the inspector's report said.

The wide range of opportunities that the school offers were noted in the report, including Irish dancing, Gaelic football and residential trips.

School leaders were praised for a well structured curriculum that reflects the diverse population of the school community with reading described as "fundamental to the school's curriculum."

The inspector said: "Each topic is enriched with books from a variety of interesting authors and genres. Pupils love talking to visiting authors. They are inspired to become readers and writers."

Children in Reception class learn the routines and behaviours that enable them to be successful in school, according to the report.



***"All staff have high expectations for all pupils. Pupils are supported well to meet these expectations. They are keen to do their best."***



## OUR MISSION IN ACTION

- how pupils across our Trust are living out our Mission and transforming our world



Pupils at St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby have signed up to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. Children in Years 3 to 6 were given the opportunity to volunteer for the new roles and they were asked to write a letter to Headteacher, Tim Brogan, saying why they should be selected.

The pupils who were chosen went on a one-day anti-bullying training session, run by The Diana Award, at Trent College in Long Eaton.

Children from a number of schools worked together and acquired vital skills to enable them to raise awareness of bullying and bullying behaviour, and to change the attitudes and behaviours in their school by building their skills and confidence to address different situations, both online and off.

Pupils at St Mary's in Glossop raised over £125 by holding a chocolate tombola. The money has helped the St Mary's parish raise over £1,200, which will be used for the upkeep of parish churches. Parishioners commented how delighted they were to be supported by St Mary's.



Blessed Robert Sutton student Keari abseiled down Derby Cathedral and raised £590 for Rainbow's Children's Hospice. Well done Keari!



A student at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby, who was once told he would never walk or talk, is celebrating after winning an award.

Noah Gash scooped the Inspirational Young Person Award at the Derby Youth Awards run by Derby City Council.

The Award recognises a young person who has overcome a great barrier, or has shown great courage, becoming an inspirational role model to other young people within their community, or the city. Noah was seriously ill from birth and spent a significant amount of time in hospital, where he was told he wouldn't be able to walk or talk.

Now he attends mainstream school at Saint Benedict, is a sports leader and has completed his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Due to his passion for the environment, he also volunteers on local litter picks.

## 12 Days of Kindness Challenge launched across the Trust

Schools across the Trust have been invited to take part in a 12 days of kindness challenge in December.

Trust Performing Arts Lead, Anna West, is co-ordinating the initiative and has asked schools to consider sharing simple activities and reflections with pupils and staff.

These include being kind to local communities, families, the environment and learning poetry off by heart, during the first 12 days of December.

An Act of Worship on the theme of kindness has also been shared with schools.

Anna said: "There is so much kindness and love that happens in our school communities all year but especially at Christmas, and this project aims to unite us as a Trust to celebrate this."

Schools are being encouraged to share their acts of kindness on social media with the #SRSBEKIND.

