



**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

PENTECOST 2024 NEWSLETTER



It is hard to believe that we will soon be approaching the final half-term of this academic year, which is always a busy one for staff and students alike, with exams, sports days

and end of year events.

We are keeping students taking exams in our prayers, along with the staff in our schools who work so hard to support them. This period can be an incredibly stressful time for all involved, including families at home, but it is important to keep perspective and remember that exams are not the sole measure by which students should be judged. Our schools have a strong focus on developing the whole child and

ensuring that they have the necessary life skills to enable them to move on to the next stage of their lives, whether that is the move to secondary school or the transition to further education, apprenticeships or university.

There has been so much to celebrate so far this year, in terms of all the fantastic work going on across all of our schools. Staff and children alike are really living out our mission statement and transforming our world, whether that be through fundraising, visiting care homes or supporting their local communities. With that in mind we are hoping to bring our Pupil Parliament back together very soon as there is so much that we can achieve collectively with 25 schools in our Trust, across a wide geographical area. I am looking forward to meeting

with Pupil Parliament representatives in the near future and hearing all of their fantastic ideas. The meeting is always such a positive event and serves as a reminder of how caring and driven our children are.

We would like to congratulate Mike Kays on his permanent appointment as Headteacher at St Philip Howard in Glossop. Mike has been at the school for over 20 years and he is a fantastic leader. Congratulations also to St Mary's in Marple Bridge on the result of their latest Ofsted inspection. Enjoy the May half-term break when it arrives.

**Kevin Gritton**  
Chief Executive

# School creates eco-memorial garden for much loved pupil

Children and staff at a Derbyshire primary school have created an eco-garden in memory of their friend who died. Daniel Rigley (pictured bottom left) was eight years old when he sadly passed away in 2021, after being diagnosed with leukaemia when he was 39 months old.

Pupils and staff at St Thomas' Catholic Voluntary Academy, where Daniel was a pupil, raised over £6,000 to create the memorial eco-garden at the school in Church View, Ilkeston.



Funding from East Midlands Airport to create an eco-garden at St Thomas' has also been used. Originally Daniel's parents had approached St Thomas' to ask if a bench could be installed in his memory. But staff wanted to do more and asked pupils to come up with designs for a garden in the school grounds.

A fundraising campaign was launched which has received donations from the school's PTA

and families.

Andy Gotheridge, Deputy Headteacher at St Thomas', said: "We had a design a garden lesson with Year 5 pupils in Daniel's class

and we looked at the basic elements that could be included.

We also spoke to Daniel's parents and they were keen for a bench to be included and strawberry plants as Daniel liked strawberries. We gave the pupils the basic shape of the garden and they had a go at designing it. We showed Daniel's mum and dad the designs and they chose their favourite."

The successful designer was Harper Barber, 10, and elements of her drawing have been included such as a water feature and beds for plants and flowers. Her design has been incorporated into the EMA eco-garden which was already being planned.





## New Headteacher

A new Headteacher has been appointed at St Philip Howard Catholic Voluntary Academy in Glossop. Mike Kays has been Acting Headteacher since the departure of Louisa Morris in September 2023 and has now been appointed to the post of Headteacher permanently. Mr Kays has a long history with St Philip Howard having joined the school in 2003 as a PE teacher and has held various roles since then. Mr Kays said: "Our pupils and families are fantastic and they are so supportive of our school. We've got a lot to look forward to at St Philip Howard, especially as we are part of the Government's school rebuilding programme and we are all excited to see what that brings."

## Student with remarkable talent to take GCSE two years early

A 14-year-old student at St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy who has a 'remarkable talent' is studying for a GCSE in Music two years early.

Ben Giliker, who is in Year 9, will be joining Year 11 students on GCSE results day in August to find out his grade.

The teenager plays violin and has just achieved a Distinction in his Grade 8 ABRSM exam

- a qualification usually achieved by students at least two years older than him - scoring 145 out of a possible 150 marks.

Ben started playing the violin when he was six years old and aspires to be a soloist or join an orchestra when he is older. He said: "I listened to lots of different types of music from a very young age. My mum

played trumpet and my dad played the violin when he was younger. I practice for an hour a day and I have lessons once a week. I also go to a local orchestra once a week. I love playing the violin as I think it's a way of expressing yourself. I'm studying for my GCSE in Music which I'm taking two years early. I would like to get a grade 8 if I can. My lessons are with Year 11 students and I really enjoy them."



## New school build wins award



A school that was rebuilt after being destroyed by fire is celebrating after winning the New Full Build Award at the Brighter City of Derby Awards.

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, in Broadway, received the Derby Civic Society award from the Mayor of Derby, Councillor Alan Graves.

Amanda Greaves, Executive

Headteacher at St Mary's, accepted the award at Derby's Council House.

She was joined for the presentation by Ian Naylor, architect for the build from the Department for Education (pictured left), and Andrew Muldoon, Estates Manager at the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust (pictured right).



Reflection from our Lead Lay Chaplain, Jamie Agius.

We are now in the season of Eastertide which lasts from now until the feast of Pentecost. The focus of most Christian celebrations is on the build up to the key feast (Advent or Lent) and the main day itself (Christmas or Easter) but not often on the time afterwards.

So, how should we live our lives in this season after experiencing the joy of Easter Sunday? The Resurrection is ultimately an event of hope that should change the way we see the world, where we are reminded of God's unconditional love for all people. However, it should not only change the way we see the world, but the way we act within it. The way we treat ourselves and others should reflect that divine love shared with us through Jesus. If we are given new life in Jesus, a second chance let's say, then we should be ready to give the same opportunities

to others. We should support all people as we are guided to in the Parable of the Sheep and Goats, regardless of who they are and the situation they find themselves in. This means we might need to walk alongside someone suffering with a personal issue, an issue created by social injustice, or one caused by the effects of climate change. Whatever the suffering experienced may be, we need to find the courage to be there for all those in need and to do so in a joyful manner.



# St Mary's CVA is a 'nurturing, welcoming and caring school'

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Marple Bridge is a 'welcoming and nurturing school which cares about its pupils', according to the school's latest Ofsted report. The school has been rated Good overall, with Outstanding features, following a two-day inspection by Ofsted in December 2023.

The quality of education, leadership and management and early years provision were rated Good and behaviour and attitudes and personal development were graded Outstanding.

In their report, inspectors said: "Pupils are polite and well mannered. They are articulate and have a thirst for learning. "Pupils learn the 'St Mary's Way'. This helps them to understand how to behave in lessons and around school. Pupils behave very well and are a credit to the school. Pupils are well supported to develop valuable skills for life. They understand that their three 'pocket principles' help



to guide their behaviour. As a result, the school is a place of calm." The school has high expectations of pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, the report said.

## Traffic free zone gets thumbs up



Pupils and parents are feeling the benefit of a ban on traffic near their school at peak times so that they can get there more safely. Motorists cannot use Oakleigh Avenue and Ismay Road, and some surrounding roads, near St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy, in Chaddesden, between 8.30am and 9am and from 2.45pm to 3.45pm during term time.

The Safe Haven zones are put in place for around 18 months to try to relieve parking problems around schools and improve safety and air quality for pupils and parents. A decision is then made on whether the scheme will become permanent depending on its success and community feedback. Headteacher Tim Brogan said that the scheme had been a year in the planning and although it was early days, he could already see the benefits.



## School offers free breakfast

Free breakfast is being offered to every child at Saint Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Matlock.

The school is working in partnership with children's charity, Magic Breakfast, to provide a free, healthy breakfast to all pupils.

A range of cereals, bagels, toast and beans are on the menu and children can arrive at school between 8.20am and 8.45am to eat. Stacey Carr, Headteacher at Saint Joseph's, said: "We are extremely excited to announce our partnership with Magic Breakfast to provide free healthy breakfasts to all our pupils, ensuring they start their day fuelled and ready to learn. We are so proud to be the only school in the local area who work with Magic Breakfast."



# OUR MISSION IN ACTION

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

Pupils at St Anne's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Buxton have been inspired to take on a series of charity challenges by their friend who went on an incredible fundraising journey with her dad.

Eleven-year-old Lily Heywood, pictured bottom left, completed 60 miles of hiking, 60 miles of running, 60 miles of cycling, swam 60 lengths, ran the Media city 5k in Manchester and climbed Mount Snowdon at 3,560ft.

She helped to raise over £8,500 for The Christie Hospital, in Manchester, last year with her dad Matt who was treated at the hospital for melanoma skin cancer.

Now 15 pupils in Year 6 at St Anne's, in Buxton, are following in Lily's footsteps and taking on their own challenges with the target of raising £1,000 for The Christie Hospital. You can donate here <https://bit.ly/3xmm411>



## School wins award for supporting pupils' development

### Youth Mayor role for Sam

A Year 11 student at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy has been appointed as Derby's new Youth Mayor.

Sam Thiruvathilil, 16, said he was thrilled to win the vote and hopes to make a real difference during his one-year tenure.

The teenager heard about the opportunity to become Derby's Youth Mayor at school and decided to submit an application. He had to outline three areas in which he wanted to make an impact and



he said they were mental health, job opportunities and advocating for the rights of young people. Sam was invited to give a speech in front of Derby's Youth Council and councillors and this was recorded and sent to schools across Derby, along with three other candidates. Students across the city were then asked to vote and Sam came out on top.

Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy has achieved a Gold Award in recognition of its provision for pupils'

spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The award came following a visit from a verifier from the National SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) Quality Mark, who reviews and validates the school's self-assessment. In the report that followed the visit, the school, in New Mills, was praised for its energy, determination and commitment in ensuring that the children in its care



are able to become 'the next generation of world leaders'. "Your focus on striving to continually improve 'excellence of education' is inspiring. I know that you are, quite rightly, proud of all that the school offers its pupils and the wider community," the report said. Verifier Meg Marshall said in her report that she was overwhelmed by the children's confidence to talk about social action projects that they had initiated.

