



Newsletter

Issue 1
March 2019

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust:



Welcome to the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust Newsletter. We are now half way through the academic year – the first of OLoL. On 1st September 2018, 21 Catholic schools from Nottingham City and the County of Nottingham joined together as the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust. These schools range from St Joseph’s, Shirebrook in the North to Blessed Robert Widmerpool, Clifton, in the South and from Holy Trinity Newark, in the East and The Trinity School, Aspley in the West.

This is an exciting partnership of 4 secondary and 17 primary schools and

aims to share what we all do well so that we can achieve our vision of ‘Outstanding Catholic Education for All’. We are part of the Catholic Church’s wider mission of helping to make Christ known to all, supporting parents as primary educators of their children and of being of service to the diocese, local parish and wider society.

Together our Heads and members of the Trust Executive Team have written a Trust Mission Statement and Trust Prayer .

In this newsletter we hope to share with you some of the wonderful things which are happening in our schools.

OLoL Mission Statement:

We are a partnership of Catholic schools and our aim is to provide the very best Catholic education for all in our community and so improve life chances through spiritual, academic and social development.

We will achieve this by:

- Placing the life and teachings of Jesus Christ at the centre of all that we do
- Following the example of Our Lady of Lourdes by nurturing everyone so that we can all make the most of our God given talents
- Working together so that we can all achieve our full potential, deepen our faith and know that God loves us
- Being an example of healing, compassion and support for the most vulnerable in our society

OLoL Trust Prayer:

God Our Father,
Give us strength so that, guided by Our Lady’s example,
we can have the courage to say yes to you.
Help us to love like she loved, have faith like she had and follow Jesus’ example in all that we do.

Inspire in all of us a sense of togetherness, so that we can use the gifts you have given us for the good of all in our community and bring support and healing to those less fortunate than ourselves.

We ask Our Lady to guide us, just as she guided St Bernadette,
as we seek to bring Jesus’ message of love and forgiveness to others.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, Our Lord.

Amen

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Meet the CEO - James McGeachie:

What does the CEO do?

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring the very best Catholic education for everyone in our schools. I work with a Board of Directors to set a vision and strategic plan to achieve the vision. Everything I do is linked to helping everyone to know that God loves them and improving the life chances of our young people. That includes ensuring that there are opportunities for young people to encounter God and to bear witness to their faith through their prayers, thoughts and actions. Another important part of our schools and the Trust is ensuring that our staff are able to share best practice and learn from each other; I also work with our finance teams to make sure we can spend as much money as we can on what happens in the classroom. I am also looking forward to anticipating and being ready for changes which may be coming our way.

Where did you work before becoming CEO?

I was Headteacher at The Becket School for 6 years and prior to that Deputy Head at Christ the King School.



What do you enjoy most about being CEO?

I really enjoy visiting our schools and seeing all the amazing things that are happening in schools. I've been to masses, liturgies, shows, nativity plays, pantos, reward lunches, meetings with pupil councils and chaplaincy teams. I've seen wonderful work produced by children and young people of all ages and met inspirational teachers, TAs and support staff who work hard to help our pupils.

What was your subject when you taught?

I taught French and German, both to GCSE and A-Level. I loved teaching languages because they open up the world and communicating in another language is a wonderful experience.

What other Languages do you speak?

I also speak some Spanish and have O-Level (GCSE) Italian. I'm pretty fluent in Dutch as my wife is from The Netherlands.

What are your hobbies?

I'm a sports fan. I played a lot of football, cricket and rugby when I was younger. I still manage a game of 5-a-side every now and again and manage an U12 football team in Nottingham. I've supported Tottenham Hotspur for over 40 years!



OLoL Trust-wide Launch Event:





OLoL Trust-wide Launch Event (Continued from page 2):

On Tuesday 16th October staff and students from each of the 21 schools of the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust gathered together at Newark Showground to launch our new Trust!

Our CEO James McGeachie started our day by welcoming us all and we began by praying together as a community. Our Trust Chaplains explained 'Who is Our Lady of Lourdes?' with the help of a video prepared by The Briars Team which you can view on the Be Inspirational YouTube Channel!

During the morning Bishop Patrick blessed the Our Lady of Lourdes statues (which had been brought back from the Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage in July) and presented each school with their own statue to take away in exchange for a beautiful postcard that they had created to represent their school

Bishop Patrick then commissioned the Chaplaincy Teams of our schools and before lunch we heard from both our Lead Lay Chaplain, Marsha and from Tom (Director of the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service) who shared some of the opportunities and resources that the Our Lady of Lourdes Trust can be involved in.

The day finished with Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick and some of the priests who serve our Trust. There was joyful singing to accompany the music led by The Briars Team and each school was able to take away a postcard from a different school so that we start to get to know one another (see postcards below).

For videos, pictures and some of the prayers and blessings used on the day please visit the Trust Chaplaincy website: www.beinspirational.co.uk





The Trinity School: Prize Giving Evening



Inspirational speeches were given by Mr Shenton, Headteacher; Mrs Greatrix, Chair of Governors; Mr Ian Curryer and the Headteacher's Prize winner gave a heartfelt vote of thanks to all who had supported and participated in the event.



The Trinity School celebrated its annual prize giving evening; the school's 25th and a highlight in the school's busy calendar. Mr Ian Curryer, Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council attended as the guest of honour.

The evening concluded with a musical concert showcasing the talents and enthusiasm of so many of the school's students. Performances were given by the

Chamber Orchestra, the Swing Band, the Concert Band and the choir of over 200 pupils sang

The evening celebrated the achievements and success of 84 students with many special prizes being awarded for academic excellence, effort, sport, perseverance, contribution to the life of the school and the community.



This is Me from The Greatest Showman. The evening also included a very special piece played by Jeneba Kanneh-Mason on a grand piano. The evening finished with a bang as confetti showered the stage and all the performers were bathed in the rapturous applause of the audience.



Blessed Robert Widmerpool: International Evening

This year's celebration was an incredible evening. Everyone came together to celebrate the diverse, rich cultures that make up the BRW school community.

The atmosphere was wonderful and those in attendance were treated to so many varied, delicious dishes from around the globe. There was something for everyone to enjoy. Each nationality represented at the event gave a presentation about their country and culture, it was truly lovely to share all of the

backgrounds with the school community. A huge thank you to the wonderful parents, children and staff for their amazing efforts and generosity.





Christ the King: Arts & Culture Event

Christ the King CVA hosted an Arts and Culture Event, celebrating the achievements of students within the arts and active-based subjects. Parental support and support from the community was exceptional with more than 160 visitors in attendance to explore an exhibition of art work across all three Key Stages which included a whole school photography competition exhibition, performances from the KS3 Drama Academy and GCSE Drama students (self-written, maturely dealing with issues concerning mental health



and the refugee crisis). The music department celebrated its successes with performances from Glee, the Band and a beautifully performed duet. The audience witnessed the incredible talents of dancers and media productions and also listened to an inspirational speech from Year 11 student Floran Steeples who plays Handball for Great Britain.

The event was a roaring success. A huge thank you to CTK students, staff, parents and the wider community for making this such a special occasion.



St Philip Neri: Former Polish Fighter Pilot Visitor



Mr Zdzislaw Rustecki, a former fighter pilot in the Second World War, paid a recent visit to St Philip Neri Primary Academy.

Mr Rustecki flew P-51 Mustangs - over 2,500 hours in total. The pupils were captivated by the pilot and the stories he told of his own childhood, growing up in Poland.

On 11-11-2018, Polish Nationals celebrated 100 years of the establishment of the Polish State. It really was a momentous occasion.



Holy Cross: Red Day

Help the Persecuted Faithful

Currently, 200 million of the world's Christians are unable to freely live out their faith. They suffer from oppression or persecution – The Chaplaincy team of Holy Cross Primary CVA think that this fact is shocking and not right in modern day life. The pupils wanted to make this plight known to others and decided to lead the whole school in RED WEDNESDAY along with thousands of others, both in our own Parishes and Diocese and those in Italy, France and the Philippines. Every pupil and staff member wore red to stand with those who cannot practice their own faith.

The pupils all took part in a Collective Worship and learnt about the conversion of Paul, reflected on their own experiences and prayed that others would see the light and change their ways too – just like Saint Paul. To take the message to others as part of our children's own Missionary Discipleship.



All Saints' Staff Pantomime: Scrooged

For the second year running and the second time in All Saints' history, staff took to the stage in the staff school pantomime.

Members of the All Saints' Staff have worked very hard every Tuesday evening rehearsing for their pantomime (oh yes they have!!!!!!) with the 4th Wall team. This opened to the public on Thursday 31st of January to rave reviews from students, staff and the public, this led to a complete sell out for Friday performance on the 1st of February.

Many familiar faces were seen on stage with Mr Hardy, the music teacher, taking on the role of Scrooge. Mrs Novell (The English Department) took on the role of Marley while our very own Head of School, Mrs Farrall, played the role of the ghost of Christmas future. It really was a whole-school production with Staff from Music, Maths, Art, Geography, P.E., Learning support, I.T., Human Resources, Canteen, Chaplain and Members of the



Senior Leadership Team taking part.

Quote from a member of staff
"What a fantastic night! Definitely needed this, I haven't laughed so much in ages!!!! Well done to all the staff".

Quote from a member of the public
"better tonic than any doctor, laughed so much my ribs ache".

Quote from a student "Miss Grainger nailed her role as Mrs Cratchit you can tell she teaches us it. Amazing".

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