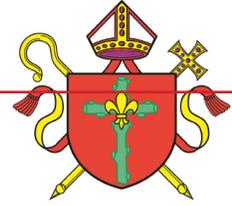




St Ralph Sherwin

Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Our Journey Together

- news from across the St Ralph Sherwin Trust

DECEMBER 2020

ISSUE 13



Welcome to the last newsletter of the year 2020. It is certainly not the year any of us would have wished for, however we

did finish it with two very special events.

Our SRS Awards evening recognised the huge array of talent we have within our Trust. It was an honour and a privilege to meet and announce to the winners

that they had won - their reactions said it all. Each one of them was quick to praise the colleagues they work with, acknowledging the teams that they are part of within their schools. This 'culture of gratitude' is something that I love to see and I feel we are developing within our Trust.

The second event is our Feast Day. Again, not the Feast Day we had originally planned: however thanks to the work of a small team of chaplains (Will Cruddace and Helen McElhone) together with

Fionuala Boucher we managed to run a 'virtual' event, which I hope staff enjoyed and took comfort from.

We are all so looking forward to our Christmas break. Can I wish you and your families every blessing during the festive season.

Sean McClafferty
Chief Executive

STAFF CELEBRATED AT TRUST VIRTUAL AWARDS NIGHT



Saint Benedict Creative and Performing Arts department

Top left to right, Mrs Ball, Mrs O'Brien, Ms Raiseborough, Mrs Vause. Bottom l-r Miss Drayton, Mr Tabb, Rachel Rose, Miss Boddey

The first ever St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust virtual awards event saw the tremendous work of staff from 25 schools celebrated.

More than 250 nominations were received from staff across the Trust for their peers and there were 33 finalists including 11 winners. The event was held virtually after a planned event at Pride Park had to be cancelled because of Covid restrictions.

Sean McClafferty, Trust Chief

Executive, hosted the event along with speaker David Wells and Trust Chair Jacqueline Rodden.

Sean congratulated all of the staff involved.

He said: "This is an evening when we came together virtually and celebrated and recognised the tremendous work carried out by all our colleagues who work across the Trust."

"We had over 250 nominations, nominations for site managers, TAs, cleaners, catering staff,

technicians, admin staff, teachers, head teachers governors, Trust central team staff, in fact probably for every role that is carried out within the Trust.

"Eleven of those colleagues who were nominated received an award. The task of selecting the 11 from 250 was undertaken by our Trust Board and me, and it was really tough, simply because we have so many wonderful people working within the Trust...cont'd on page two.

cont'd from page one.

...it was both humbling and a privilege to read through the nominations. Every one of the 250 deserve an award."

The event sponsor was Teaching Personnel and the Trust's two charities, Rainbows Hospice in Loughborough and Bluebell Wood children's hospice in Sheffield, were supported throughout the evening.



Mr Miller



Miss O'Leary

The 11 winners were:

Primary Teacher of the Year – Miss Drayton (St Mary's Derby)

Achievement Award – Mr Miller (Holy Rosary, Burton-on-Trent)

New Teacher of the Year – Mrs O'Brien (St George's Derby)

Staff Member of the Year (academic and pastoral) - Mrs Ball (St Thomas, Ilkeston)

Staff Member of the Year (academic support teams/central business services) - Ms Raiseborough (English Martyrs', Long Eaton)

Team of the Year – Creative and Performing Arts (Saint Benedict, Derby)

Teacher of the Year (secondary) - Mrs Vause (Saint Benedict, Derby)

Governance Award – Reg Tabb (All Saints/St Margaret's, Glossop)

Leadership and Management (primary/secondary) - Miss O'Leary (Blessed Robert Sutton, Burton-on-Trent)

Outstanding Contribution to Catholic Life – Rachel Rose (Saint John Houghton, Ilkeston)

Inspirational Member of Staff – Jacquie Boddey (St Joseph's, Derby)



MUMS RESCUE TEDDIES FROM ST MARY'S DEMOLITION

A group of determined mums mounted a successful campaign to save two doomed teddy bears from the demolition of St Mary's CVA in Derby. The bears were first spotted several weeks ago by mums, in a window of the nursery classroom and a group of mums who saw them visited the site and urged builders to rescue them. One of the mums, Ruth Sellers, said: "I know some people will think it's a bit silly but these bears are so symbolic. These two little bears stuck together through something really terrible and survived and I just think that's a really good lesson for the pupils and a really good example of the St Mary's spirit that has shone throughout this horrible time."

Ruth washed the bears and, along with the other mums involved, returned them to nursery teachers at the school.



Picture captions:

Top left - teddies in the window at St Mary's

Top right - teddies after the rescue

Pic above - teddies washed and ready to be returned to St Mary's

LAUNCH OF TRUST-WIDE STRONGER TOGETHER ARTS PROJECT

In June 2020 a core group of staff from across the CMAT met to begin the planning process for the 'Stronger Together Project'. During these key meetings, discussions took place around how the Project could develop and more importantly how schools, staff and students could work collaboratively.

Since September 2020, all schools in the Trust have been contacted and a designated 'Arts link' nominated for each school.

Each school organised for a group of students to meet three other schools in the Trust in an online meeting.

Students discussed the title 'Stronger Together', what that meant for them as a school community, as a local community and as a national community, considering the impact on them during lockdown and the changes in their school environment and the current worldwide media focus on black lives following the death of George Floyd in America earlier this year.

The first task has been to create a Trust song that reflects us, not only as a Catholic community, but also the diversity that exists within our Trust. In the online meetings students discussed ideas for what a CMAT song should sound like and what lyrics and messages were important to include. The sense of collaboration and community has developed further as the project has developed. We have been so fortunate in creating a partnership with Derby Theatre which has supported us with funding and partnership with 'Baby People', a music and arts development organisation.

The Company will write, produce and record the song based on the students' ideas and feedback. They will record the students singing and the aim



is to make the song available for the school and wider community to purchase as a download and/ or CD. The students will be involved in the creation of this song at all stages and an acoustic version will be sent to schools so that students can begin learning the song. Over the half-term, students across the CMAT were given the challenge of creating art work based on the 'Stronger Together' title, to feature as promotion for the CMAT song. The work so far has been wonderful, and the creativity that our students have shown has been uplifting at this difficult period in time.

Anna West, Project Lead

Students were asked to create artwork on the theme 'Stronger Together'. Pictured above is an image created by a Year 7 student. Pictured right are images from an incredible book created by a young pupil from Christ the King CVA.



Here at St George's, as a whole staff, we are very pleased and proud to celebrate our School Mental Health Bronze Award.

As a school, we presented a detailed profile of evidence, demonstrating how we are embedding all eight competencies of the School Mental Health Award.

St George's is welcoming to all. Leaders, and a wide range of staff, welcome the children on a daily basis. All our staff are engaged in teams which are both supportive of the adults and effective in supporting our pupils and parents. Visitors to our school comment on how welcoming we are. The Vulnerable Children's Team (pictured top right) is a key aspect of our school's provision for supporting the good mental health and wellbeing of our pupils. The structure is organised into age stage areas and any concerns about our children are filtered through that structure.

Our staff are encouraged to talk about their own mental health on a regular basis. In weekly staff meetings, time is

given over to professional development around mental health and wellbeing. This has enabled school leaders to better understand the anxieties and concerns that staff have had, particularly during the current pandemic. By listening to our staff, small changes have been made which have made significant differences, e.g. through timetable tweaks. Using the School Mental Health Award framework has enabled the school to reflect on our practice and to quality assure what was in place and has shown us what actions needed to be taken.



Shereen Davis
Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead at St George's



PUPILS THANK MARCUS RASHFORD FOR FOOD CAMPAIGN

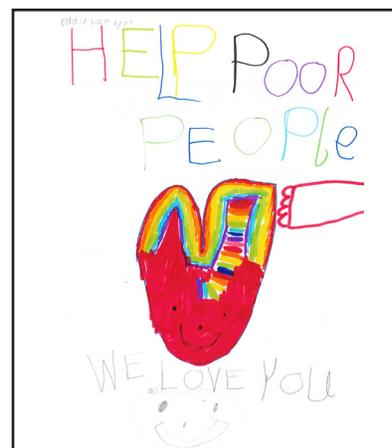
Pupils in Classes Three and Four at St Mary's CVA in New Mills wrote to footballer Marcus Rashford to thank him for his Free School Meals campaign. Teacher Eileen Reynolds also wrote a letter of thanks. "I am writing on behalf of Class Three and Four children, who wanted to express their gratitude, appreciation and support of your successful Free School Meals campaign and how by signing your petition we are "stronger together" and how we can all make a difference. "They have been learning how to be good global citizens through our CAFOD Global Learning topic. Part of this topic has been identifying inspirational people, such as Martin Luther King,

Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Gandhi and Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. They wanted you to know that you are now displayed on our "Inspirational People" board.

"One of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which was set up by The United Nations, to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, is zero hunger. By your contribution, you are helping to fulfil the goal that no child should go hungry. You have demonstrated, that by working together, as children or as celebrities, we all have an important role to play to make changes.

"Thank you again for being such an excellent role model and the children are looking forward to seeing you as a supply teacher again soon!

Furthermore, we wish you the best of luck with your new initiative, which will focus on making books



more accessible to children from under-privileged backgrounds. As a school, we know only too well how important it is, and how it can stimulate their imagination and expand their understanding of the world."



St. Margaret's staff team challenged themselves to complete 400,000 steps a day for Breast Cancer throughout October. Chloe Sammarco, from the school, said: "It's been such fun for all of us although very wet walking. We needed to walk 3,200,000 steps between us and we completed an amazing 3,211,485 steps!! One member of staff completely out walked the rest of us, Sue Harrison completed 511,700 steps on her own! Thanks to everyone for supporting us and without you we couldn't have raised £1,010."



A moving monument featuring a cascade of over 100 poppies was created outside St Anne's CVA in Buxton to mark Remembrance Day. Beside the poppies sits a cutout of two soldiers and a Union Flag in the background - while two doves represent the peace that came with the armistice. Ex-pupil Joe Delli-Colli, who helped build the display, said it would serve as a memorial not just to the First World War fallen, but to those who served in every conflict since. Joe's wife Christine is a higher level teaching assistant at the school and has worked there for 28 years.



Send your good news stories to nallen@srsrsmat.co.uk