



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Our Journey Together
- news from across the St Ralph Sherwin Trust

Special Edition - Highlights of 2020/21

ISSUE 16

We are Stronger Together!





The title of this edition really says it all. If we have learned anything over these last 18 months, it is that we are

'Stronger Together'.

There is no doubt that this last year has challenged us in so many ways like no other. However, as a result we have seen an amazing response from our school communities, our children, the staff in our schools, our governors, our volunteers and of course our families.

Social media has been lit up by the wonderful work coming out of our school communities. One of many examples I could share is the 'Stronger Together' Performing Arts project. Throughout COVID we have been working with our pupils. Specialist music, drama and dance artists have been working in our schools, supporting them with the 'Stronger Together' week and, of course, the day at Derby Theatre where groups of pupils from our schools gathered to perform on stage. The level of excitement from all involved was incredible and the young people involved were an absolute credit to their schools and

families.

I look forward to next year with a real sense of anticipation and excitement. We want to build on our successes from the last year and take every opportunity we can to bring our young people together to celebrate their uniqueness and rejoice in being part of our Trust. Can I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Sean McClafferty

Chief Executive



In April 2021, the St Mary's CVA community in Derby was reunited for the first time just over six months after a fire destroyed their school.

Pupils and staff moved into St James' House in the city after being split across two sites since the fire at the school's Broadway site on October 3rd 2020.

In November 2020, 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.



St Charles' Catholic Voluntary Academy was awarded the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Bronze Award last year and is now going for Gold. The status was granted by UNICEF in recognition that the school is embedding children's rights in its policies, practice and ethos. The Bronze award means that St Charles' Senior Leadership Team



understands what is involved in the award and is committed to embarking on the UNICEF UK rights respecting journey.



Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in New Mills received official recognition of the way in which it is working to protect the world. The school achieved the Live Simply award, which is presented to Catholic communities who have responded to Pope Francis' invitation in Laudato Si'.



In July 2021, more than 200 pupils took part in a live performance at Derby Theatre as part of a project to unite 25 schools across the Trust. The Covid secure Stronger Together event saw pupils arrive at the theatre on a carousel basis, performing in their school bubbles and taking part in workshops with professional artists. Footage from each performance will be part of a film which will be shared across the Trust to celebrate the culmination of the

Stronger Together project. In the lead up to the event, pupils and staff across the Trust worked together online and considered what it means to be stronger together. Students created artwork and participated in online meetings with their peers in other Trust schools and discussed ideas for a song that could be created for the Trust. Staff in schools worked with music production company Baby People to create an original song based on the children's ideas.

This has been made available to download to raise money for a fund created by the Trust to support families in need. The download is available here: <https://srsstrongertogether.bandcamp.com/track/isaiah-flow-hallelujah>



Staff and pupils at Christ the King CVA in Alfreton donned their creative thinking caps and worked together to recycle household items into amazing collaborative art projects.

Year 6 created a London skyline using cardboard boxes;

Year 5 created a button mosaic linking to a Golden

Thread of 'Freedom'; Year 4 created the CTK badge using plastic bottles and colourful water; Year 3 used plastic bottle tops and created a 'Save our Oceans' themed piece; Year 2 created Sam the Sustainable Scarecrow; Year 1 used kilner jam jar lids to make wind chimes around an outdoor 'Chill Tree'; Reception raised awareness of plastic in the oceans and Nursery recycled a range of materials to make a fantastic robot!



This year saw the launch of the Trust Pupil Parliament. The first meeting saw two pupils from each of our schools join together online with CEO Sean and Trust Chair Jacqueline Rodden, along with other Trust staff.

The Pupil Parliament promotes pupil leadership opportunities, enabling children to develop valuable communication, organisation and debating skills through key roles of responsibility and new experiences.

This new structure is an ideal opportunity for pupils from across the Trust to be actively involved in the way their schools and the Trust are run – their actions can impact on more than 8,000 of their peers.



A teacher at St George's Catholic Voluntary Academy walked from Derby to Nottingham to raise money for a

pupil who is battling leukaemia. Shazad Hanif took on the 16-mile challenge, walking from the Royal Derby Hospital to Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham in May. When he tackled the walk, Mr Hanif was unable to take on any food or drink as he was fasting during Ramadan.





Our new PRIDE Awards are proving popular, with 90 nominations received since the launch earlier this year. Everyone who was nominated was presented with a certificate and badge. The awards will operate on a rolling basis and anyone can nominate a colleague at any time.



Anna, from Saint Benedict CVA in Derby, was celebrating after winning the Schools Public Speaking Competition in Derby.

St Philip Howard Catholic Voluntary Academy in Glossop received an award in recognition of the work it is doing to improve outcomes for disadvantaged students. The school was awarded the Pupil Premium Award from the Achievement for All organisation.

St Philip Howard has been working with Achievement for All for two years to narrow the gap in education between Pupil Premium (PP) - disadvantaged students - and non-Pupil Premium pupils.

A curriculum has been designed to meet the needs of PP pupils, meetings have been held with families to engage parents at home and bring them into school and one member of staff is responsible for overseeing the work done with PP pupils.



More than 40 pupils at St Elizabeth's CVA in Belper took part in a lockdown 'Performathon' and helped to raise £1,800.

The event was organised by Hettie Beetham, a governor and parent at the school in Belper who also runs a speech and drama club there. Children performed a poem to as many people as they could, either online or in person.



Daniel Rigley, who is in Year Three at St Thomas' CVA in Ilkeston, returned to school after missing nearly two years due to being treated in hospital for leukaemia. At one point, Daniel's parents were told he might never walk or talk again but he is making good progress and was welcomed back to St Thomas' by staff and fellow pupils.

