



The Romero Catholic Academy Newsletter

Summer 2016 Issue 2



Dear all in our Romero family,

It gives me great pleasure and pride to be writing to you to mark the end of our first academic year as The Romero Catholic Academy.

Those of you that have been involved either directly or indirectly with the conversion process and indeed the establishment of the MAC will understand the “massive” effort that has been needed across so many different functions to get us into an established position. For this, I must thank all of those that have been critical in helping this to happen – there are simply too many to mention but I do want to specifically mention our pupils, Principals & staff and our Local Academy Committees. Change is something that happens to us all but the scale of the change undergone in the last 12 months is very large. We’ve faced a number of significant challenges this year and indeed it is the guiding words of the Blessed Oscar Romero that have helped us to work through these challenges and help position ourselves for future success – “Aspire not to have more – but to be more.”

Having recently been appointed to the Chair position for the board, I wanted to confirm that the Directors will continue to work very hard to support all of our staff and pupils in the achievement of excellence in our education provision and striving to become that Beacon of Catholic education that we aspire to be. As I write this message, it is an unprecedented period in terms of the political landscape and we wait to see what impact, if any, this will have on Education within the UK. As Directors, our role will be to ensure any impact is not felt at the schools or minimised where possible. Whilst our work may not always be visible to you all, I can assure you that there is a great deal of work that goes into keeping our MAC running effectively.

It’s at this time of year that we regrettably say goodbye to some of our members of staff and inside you’ll see those people who are moving on. We thank them all for their tireless work in their schools and wish them the very best for their futures, wherever that may be. In September, we will also be welcoming new staff into our MAC and I’m looking forward to working with all of our staff, supporters, parents and of course our children, who rightly remain at the centre of what we do.

We also wish our Cardinal Wiseman Yr. 11 and Yr. 13 students the very best with their exam results in August and for Children moving on from our schools to further education, Cardinal Wiseman or other secondary schools, we hope that the experiences you’ve gained and the skills/knowledge you’ve learned provide a great foundation for your futures.

I hope that the information inside the newsletter is useful as we’re continually looking at ways to improve our communication and indeed this is something we will actively be working on as we move into the next academic year – if you have any feedback in this regard, please relay this either through your respective school or to office@romero.coventry.org.uk Feedback is always welcome!

All that remains for me to say is that, on behalf of the Romero Board of Directors and the Diocesan Education Service, I would like to wish you a very safe, happy and holy Summer holiday break and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Dean Kavanagh

Chairman

The Romero Catholic Academy

Romero Sports Festival



A huge thank you to Cardinal Wiseman students for hosting and supporting our Year 4 Romero Sports Festival this year. Also a thank you to Mr Kevin Shakespeare and staff at Cardinal Wiseman for organising the day. The children enjoyed watching the opening dance show from Cardinal Wiseman dancers and taking part in a number of sports including tag rugby, rounders, athletics and netball. Despite the recent weather, the day was fabulous and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

"It was lovely to see the children and staff from all Romero schools coming together through sport. Olympic spirits were high and there was a huge sense of Romero unity throughout the entire day"

Kevin Shakespeare—Principal SS Peter & Paul

"The Romero sports festival was so fun. It was educational because we learnt of the Olympic values. Getting this opportunity was once in a lifetime. Thank you to the staff and the students." **Benita Y4**

"The Romero sports festival was fun. I met lots of new friends and tried out some new sports!" **Ethan y4**

"I thought the dance was really good. They were like Diversity and it has inspired me to be a dancer. The whole day was really fun and I made many new friends. It felt like a mini Olympics." **Newton Y4**

"I loved every part of it! It was really fun to be there and I hope we can do it again!" **Shricoh Y4**

Sky Blue Sam even turned up for the day! (and coincidentally Mr Kevin Shakespeare disappeared)





Above from Left: Mike McKinnon (Cardinal Wiseman), Dawn Hutt (St John Fisher), Maureen Matthews (Sacred Heart), Louise Hurley (SS Peter & Paul), Phyl Duckett (St Patricks), Gerardine Biddlecombe (St Gregory's), Katy Dunnion (Corpus Christi) and Doug Collis (Romero MAC—Head of Finance), Angela Bakewell (Good Shepherd—Not in the photo)

Our Business Managers

Q Best bits about your job?

A The variety within my role is the best part of the job. Each day is unique and brings a different challenge and I thrive on that diversity. I work with a great team of colleagues who are both supportive and fun.

Maureen Matthews

Q What makes your school special?

A Our well behaved children, the teaching on offer and our skilled staff, both in teaching and non teaching roles. Our uniform identifies ourselves as a family and it proves a sense of pride in the school, a feeling of community and belonging.

Louise Hurley

Q Your hobbies and interests?

A I'm trying to get back into golf but I'm rusty after many years of neglect. I am a big fan of American Football (go Giants!), and like to read and watch good books & films.

Mike McKinnon

Q Challenges faced within your job?

A Managing and meeting deadlines can sometimes be challenging but always very satisfying.

Gerardine Biddlecombe

Q The difference Romero has made to you in your role?

A My network of work colleagues and friends has grown enabling me to share information and overcome problems.

Phyl Duckett

Finance & Economies of Scale

As an academy and through economies of scale, our Business Managers, Core Committee 4 and our Head of Finance have been working hard to make a number of savings across the below areas:

- Broadband
- Utilities—Gas & Electric
- IT Admin Support

Bring on September when we can work to save even more!



Cardinal Wiseman at Godiva Festival



“Cardinal Wiseman boys dance group were asked to perform at the Godiva festival on Sunday 3rd July following the huge success of their contribution to the 'Underdogs' at Warwick Arts Centre in May.

They boys performed alongside professional companies such as Motionhouse which are currently on the GCSE and A Level dance syllabus.

In total the boys performed 6 times throughout the day in what can only be described as challenging conditions but they rose to the challenge admirably.

They boys were also interviewed live on radio Coventry and Warwickshire.

Although it started as a very stressful day I am so happy to have spent a Sunday with such a talented and committed group of young people and I hope the experience is one that will stay with them for many years.”

Miss Greenway—Cardinal Wiseman

Degas Dancers get local students spinning through the galleries

In an exclusive display, Edgar Degas' world renowned painting, Two Dancers on a Stage has been exhibited at the Herbert, Coventry, alongside three of his related works. Using these works as inspiration, Cardinal Wiseman School students from years 7-9 have been working with Birmingham Royal Ballet to create their own dance performance at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry.

The project included two full-day workshops at the Herbert. Working in small groups the students created sequences of moments directly inspired by the movements of Degas work. After a day of creation and rehearsal, a special afternoon performance took place throughout the galleries, leading an audience of staff, public and parents through the finale performed in front of the Degas exhibition itself.

A huge well done to all involved!





Welcome to our new Academy Business Director

*We welcome **Patrick Taggart** as the new Academy Business Director for The Romero Catholic Academy, starting with us on August 15th 2016. Patrick answered a couple of questions in preparation for the start of his new role...*



What appealed to you about the Academy Business Director role?

I have spent over 12 years as a governor and board member at Schools in the Romero MAC and have always had a strong belief in the education provided by Catholic schools. I had three children study at Sacred Heart and Cardinal Wiseman and this added to my views on what a good Catholic education can do for children. The time felt right to seize an opportunity that would allow me to help our staff, children and schools to develop and grow and become something very special in their role of educating Coventry's Catholic children.

How do you feel now you have been appointed to the role?

I feel very privileged and I cannot wait to start on the 15th August 2016. The role offers huge scope to affect the lives of our 500 staff and 3000 children and I am looking forward to helping The Romero MAC achieve its mission of becoming a Beacon of Excellence in Catholic Education.

What would success in the job look like for you?

Staff who tell me that it's the best working environment and place they have ever worked
Children who tell me that no other education system could have offered them more or taken them further
Families who trust us with their child's education from 4 to 19 and promote the Romero MAC across the City and beyond
Stakeholders and partners who promote us as a beacon of excellence in all we do
A strong financial base that allows us to attract and retain the best staff with world class facilities to develop our children

What do you see as your immediate priorities?

Over the last twelve months an awful lot has been accomplished to put in place the foundations that our schools needed given the legal changes to their status. For example there is now a central infrastructure within the company to support all of the schools, there are common policies and savings have been created for all of our schools through our reviews of utilities costs and our greater buying power.

However there is more that we now need to do to achieve the success I've outlined above. From my perspective I think we can be even more efficient and so ensure that as much of our funding as possible is being spent on supporting high quality teaching and learning in our schools. We also need to be able to tell everyone about the fabulous work that's going on in our schools. I'll be working closely with the Board of Directors, Principals, Local Academy Committees, staff, children, families and all stakeholders to understand their priorities and how we can improve further.



We're Growing!

Welcome to all our new staff...

Jenny Spires

Class Teacher



Romero Vacancies

(for further info please see

www.romeromac.com/vacancies)

Michael Coyle

Class Teacher

Catherine Varney



Ann Evans

Class Teacher

Matthew Goggin

Class Teacher



Martin Conway

Class Teacher

Mandy Stephens

Class Teacher

Laura Watts

HLTA

Joanne Hall

HLTA

Michelle James

IT & Admin Assistant



Debbie Newman

Interim Executive Principal

Andrea Sherratt

Interim Head of School St Patrick's

Debbie Enstone

Interim Principal St Gregory's

Danielle Kingham

Interim Vice-Principal St Gregory's

Angela Whelan

Interim Principal Cardinal Wiseman



Maria Parry

Class Teacher

Robyn Kennedy

Class Teacher



Hannah Price

Pastoral Support Worker

Claire McElroy

Family Support Worker



Do you know someone interested in making a positive impact on our Catholic young people in Coventry?

The Romero Catholic Academy's Board of Directors are currently looking for volunteers in relation to the following roles:

- **Foundation Director**
- **Local Academy Committee Representative**

For further information regarding these vacancies please visit our website

Amy Jenkinson (Miss)

Teach First Student - English

Rose Davis (Miss)

School Direct Student - Science



Miss Vimbayinashé Chinembiri

Class Teacher

James Civil

Trainee Teacher



Lucy McGuinness

Sports Apprentice

Jack Banfield

TA Apprentice

Jammie Williams

Class Teacher



Howard Abramson

Head of Science Faculty

Stephen Hermitage

Deputy Head of Science

Karar Haidari

Teacher of Maths & ICT

Will Bushill

Teacher of Humanities (NQT)

Richard Wilkinson

Teacher of English (P/T)

Jonathan Ridge

Teacher of Music (NQT)

Dorothy Makin (Dr)

Teach First Student - English

Farewell...

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.. Jeremiah 29:11

Leanne Casey

Lead Practitioner

Sara O'Shea

Class Teacher



Jenny Bullock

Cleaner

Claire Antczak

Class Teacher



Ina Murphy—Principal St Gregory's

Giving 30 years of loyal service to St Gregory's, Ina Murphy has made her vocation to serve the community as teacher, Phase Leader, Deputy and Principal. Becoming Principal in 2008, Ina has worked tirelessly for the children teaching generation after generation over the years forming strong relationships with all those connected with the school. The school has gone from strength to strength under Ina's leadership and was judged as Outstanding in the recent RE inspection.

Ina, we give thanks for your service to the community of St Gregory's, your leadership to this faith community and your passion for Catholic Education. We wish you every happiness on your retirement.

Helen Knight—Principal Cardinal Wiseman Coventry

Serving the communities of St Paul's in Birmingham, St George in Southampton and more recently, the last eleven years at Cardinal Wiseman, Helen has dedicated her vocation to Catholic Education.

Cardinal Wiseman was firmly put on the map by Helen, with the visit of the Prince of Wales on 22nd April 2008. The establishment of Malawi Trust, under Helen's leadership, has enabled the school to provide a sustainable community for the children in Malawi. Each year V1th formers travel to experience this project, working first hand with the community and raising much needed funds. This legacy will live on in the continuation of such a valuable and worthwhile project.

Helen's drive to create an environment in which each area had a Catholic focus, led to the central hall block and offices being named after Oscar Romero and his inspirational quotes and prayers that are at the heart of Cardinal Wiseman's mission. It was a unanimous decision by all stakeholders, to take this forward as Blessed Oscar Romero being the name, inspiration and focus of vision for our MAC.

Helen, we give thanks for your passion for justice, your leadership to the faith community of Cardinal Wiseman and your dedication to Catholic Education.



Grainne Griffiths

Principal St Patrick's

Serving Sacred Heart (KS1 Leader) Corpus Christi (Vice Principal) and more recently St Patrick's as Principal, Grainne has gained great insight into our Romero Primary schools! Moving onto become Headteacher at Holy Family, we wish you every success in your vocation and we give thanks for your service to Romero schools and the Board as Principal Director.



Cherelle Harding

HLTA

Nathan Hopkins

TA



Fran Swan

Class Teacher

Julie Maund

Class Teacher

Rebecca Palmer Ward

TA



Karen Weaver

Class Teacher

Chloe Wilford

Class Teacher



Jordan Newell

TA

Ian Caldwell

Teacher

Jason Cortese

HLTA

Richard Cosby

Teacher

Libby Foster

Teacher



Kala Williams

Class Teacher

Hannah Dixon

Class Teacher

Dawn Cornish

HLTA

Claire Woolaston

Class Teacher

Karen Cairns

Lunchtime Supervisor



Helen Perdue

Learning Mentor

Colette Reeves

Teaching Assistant

Sharon Widdows

Cleaner

Roy Flannery

Finance Assistant



A Prayer of St Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556)

*Teach us, good Lord,
to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do your will.*

Vanessa Gaskin

Teacher

Jenny Hancock

Teacher

Adrian Hillyer

Teacher

Rebecca Kilcoyne

Teacher

Olivia le Poidevin

Teacher



Kerry McDermott

Teacher

Jamie Megson

Teacher

Margaret Mulligan

Teacher

Ed Noel

Teacher

Daniel Stevenson

Teacher



Bip Sud

Teacher

Chris Titmus

Teacher

Anni Zhang

Teacher



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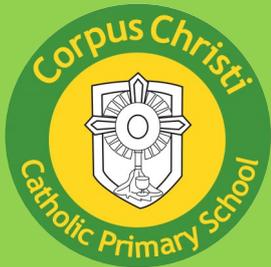
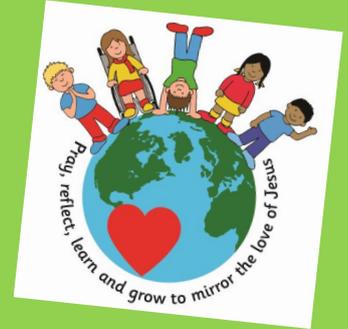
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@SJFCoventry



@StGregsPrimary

@GoodShepherdCOV



@BlueSkyTSA