



# The Romero Catholic Academy Newsletter

Spring 2017 Issue 4



**CARDINAL WISEMAN**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Dear all in our Romero family,

Firstly, it's hard to think that it's a whole term since our last newsletter – time is flying.

There has been plenty going on in all of our schools and we've tried to ensure we raise the profile of these events both within school newsletters but also in some wider press coverage that has supported some of the great achievements, including the fantastic sum raised for Zoe's Place by our children across the MAC.

I'm pleased to be able to announce an update in relation to the leadership at Cardinal Wiseman. As most of you will be aware, Angela Whelan has been assisting us on an interim basis and her kind secondment from the DES completes this week. We thank Angela for her kind offer to assist a school close to her heart, as well as the DES for supporting this engagement.

The board have been working hard to secure the right leadership model for the school and we are delighted to welcome Tony Quinn as Executive Head Teacher at Cardinal Wiseman. Tony is currently the Executive Head Teacher at St Augustine's (Redditch) and St John Wall (Birmingham). He will support from Easter until Summer 2019 for a couple of days per week based at Cardinal Wiseman. As well as leading a successful high performing school in St Augustine's, he has a proven track record in rapid school improvement and accelerated outcomes at St John Wall after being seconded there by the Diocese. We are confident Tony will bring the much needed experience in driving the standards in our Secondary School and he has had tremendous success in both his current schools.

This is an exciting time for our journey as a MAC and we look forward to embracing a new chapter in the life of Cardinal Wiseman. To support this, Mrs Morris has been appointed as our Interim Head of School for the Summer term, to work alongside Tony and others from the MAC and simultaneously recruitment for a Head of School post for September goes live nationally from 7<sup>th</sup> April.

As Directors, our work continues to focus on improving outcomes for our children, supporting our Principals and staff in delivering these and working with all of our other volunteers. All of this is hopefully supported by you as parents and through engagement with your schools. One of our continuing desires is to see our overall engagement increase, especially during these challenging economic times, which I highlighted in my recent letter to you. For those of you who are parents, your support is invaluable to the schools so please do continue to support in whatever way(s) you can.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all those children undertaking exams and assessment in the Summer Term the very best of luck and that they apply themselves in the best way possible.

Finally, and very importantly – I'm sure you can all sympathise with the demands of the modern digital age. Easter offers us a chance for reflection in a busy world. I hope that all of you have a very Happy and Holy Easter and we look forward to welcoming you back for what is going to be a busy Summer Term.

With very best regards,

Dean Kavanagh  
Chair

## Romero Raises £4790 for Zoe's Place!

**Below:** Children from all Romero schools receiving their award for 'Outstanding Fundraising' from the Lord Mayor.





# Called to be Saints..

On Friday 17th February children from SS Peter & Paul, St Patrick's and Cardinal Wiseman joined Catholic schools across Coventry to begin the Andrew Robinson Winter Camp 2017! Alton Castle was their base and they did lots of fun, challenging and exciting activities. The theme for the camp was 'Called to be Saints' this was thought about throughout the whole trip in morning and night prayers, in Mass as well as in everyday conversations.

The work of the trust enabled 47 Coventry young people to really enjoy and make lots of memories in the first part of their half term.

They went to laser quest, conkers, where they did high ropes and zip wires, West Midlands Safari Park, Snowdome for swimming, ice skating and tobogganing to name but a few!



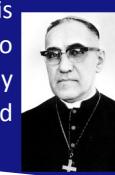
## Chaplaincy

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March the chaplaincy teams from St. Patricks, Ss. Peter and Pauls, Good Shepherd, St. Gregory's, Corpus Christi and St. John Fisher came to Cardinal Wiseman for chaplaincy team training.

This year we are celebrating the centenary of Blessed Oscar Romero's birth. As the Romero academy we wanted to do some special things to celebrate this occasion. Along with social action projects in the summer term and Romero day in September we have come up with some activities which can be led by school chaplaincy teams to help their peers think and reflect on the life and works of Blessed Oscar Romero.

The teams took part in the two activities, "we plant seeds that one day will grow" and "Aspire not to have more but to be more".

The afternoon was great success and it was so wonderful to have the chaplaincy teams all together in one place and working together so well.



## Coventry Transport Museum

Children at Good Shepherd had a brilliant day visiting the Coventry Transport Museum on 10th February. Children were able to see a number of exciting displays and they left feeling extremely inspired.



## Learning in 4D

Corpus Christi's 4D room was the topic of conversation this term when BBC Midlands today came in to check it out. The investment into the 4D room at Corpus Christi means that children across our academy will have the unique opportunity to discover learning in another dimension. Hogwarts here we come!



## Lenten Charity Stalls at SJF

St John Fisher's Year 4 children held a number of Lenten Charity stalls on March 24th during their playtime. Well done to everyone involved. #proud





Above: Even our teachers at Sacred Heart got involved.

## Mr Motivator!!

Sacred Heart welcomed Mr Motivator into school on Wednesday 29th March. ITV Central and other media were there to capture the sessions. Children and staff couldn't resist wearing their bright colours, in true Mr Motivator fashion. They enjoyed two fitness sessions with the man himself, reminding us of the importance to keep moving! A huge thank you to Mr Motivator for taking the time to visit Sacred Heart all the way from Jamaica.

We are looking for sports teams and clubs to work with us to help improve the PE and well-being provision that we offer to our children across the academy. If you know of anyone that would be interested in working with us, please contact Patrick Taggart on 02476 451888

## Heart of England Co-operative Concert Orchestra



Children at SSPeter & Paul performed at the Heart of England Co-operative Concert orchestra on 25th March. Well done to all, it was a wonderful evening #proud



## St Gregory's Got Talent

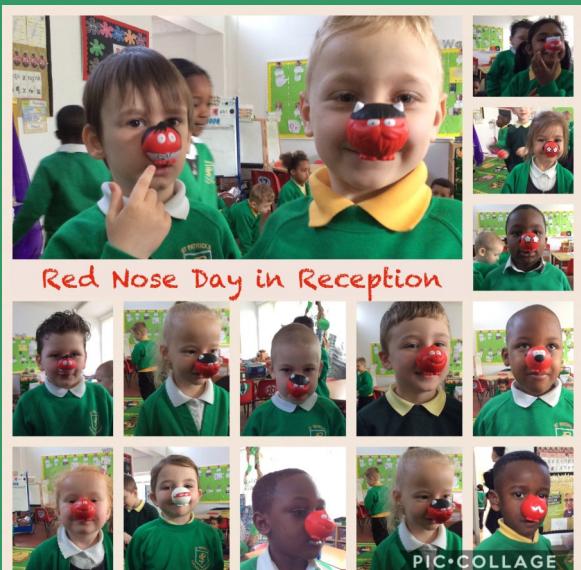
On Wednesday 29th March, the judges of the St Gregory's got talent competition were truly blown away! They were luckily enough to see some fabulous performances of signing, dancing and even stand up comedy.

St Gregory's really has got talent, even the staff performed (below left)



## Red Nose Day

A big thank you to children and parents at St Patrick's who bought a Red Nose on Friday 24th March in support of Red Nose day. Reception class at St Patrick's tried and tested theirs, and didn't they look cute.



# Romero Corporate Induction

On February 14th we held our first Romero Corporate Induction sessions led by our Head of HR, Dal Youssef. All Romero staff were invited to attend the sessions, held at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School.

The induction covered an overview of the MAC, an understanding of how each individuals role helps us to reach our vision and presentations from other key figures within the MAC. The sessions were extremely successful and staff feedback was very positive.

A huge thank you to Cardinal Wiseman staff and pupils for making everyone so welcome on the day. Also thank you to Dee Williams (Principal at St John Fisher), Charlotte Miller (Vice Principal at Corpus Christi and Staff Director of the Board) and Brendan Fawcett (Vice Chair of Board) for presenting on the day.

We will be confirming a date for the next sessions soon so watch this space!



## What did you enjoy most?

- Meeting other staff
- Sharing ideas for improvement
- Asking questions
- Group discussions
- Thinking about ways to strengthen links between the schools
- Discussions with Vice Chair
- Opportunity to meet the Vice Chair and ask him questions



## School Funding

You may already be aware that the government is planning to introduce cuts to school funding from April next year. This change comes via a new “National Funding Formula” that you may have seen covered in the national press over recent months. Regrettably, should the planned changes go ahead, the impact would be a significant reduction in the funding available to our schools. A formal consultation period ended on the 22nd March 2017, but we ask that you to contact the hub team via [office@romero.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:office@romero.coventry.sch.uk) with any comments or suggestions on this topic. The Board are committed to securing the best outcomes for all of our children, staff and parents and therefore we will continue to communicate as relevant both directly and through the schools.

## Local Academy Committee Representatives

Do you know someone interested in making a positive impact on our Catholic young people in Coventry? We 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 [www.romeromac.com/vacancies](http://www.romeromac.com/vacancies)

## Best Value Team

The Best Value Team have been working to introduce a cashless system across the MAC. The contract was successfully awarded to ParentMail and will mean better efficiencies within the schools. The Academy Business Director and Finance Manager have negotiated a 25% reduction on the contract based on all 8 schools buying in. The cost of this contract will be met centrally to help with the financial constraints within the schools.

ParentMail is a fantastic system that will provide parents access to all payments, absence notifications and two way communications through an app and other options.



## Website/Branding/Logo's

We are delighted to confirm that all ten Romero websites will be rebuilt this academic year and will have a Romero look and feel.

Work is being undertaken with the schools and Image+ to ensure a smooth transition to the new websites.

Work will also be undertaken on a new Romero logo and branding to implement along side the new website.



## Staff survey

An action plan is being developed to focus on the following areas :

Pay and Benefits—Research has been commissioned into potential options and will be communicated in the Summer term

Work-life balance—new practices are ongoing in schools and schools have been invited to a conference and to form a work group of champions

Skills development—support staff have been offered development opportunities to commence in the summer term

Managing change—work to review this is underway with Principals and the leadership team.

*"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**

## Farewell...

Farewell to all our staff leaving for pastures new. We thank you for your support within the academy and wish you all the best for the future.

MR J BANFIELD  
MISS L SIMMONS

MISS N DENOUSSE  
MISS LM SOMERS

MISS R HYDE  
MR A REDDAN  
MRS RS TAIWO  
MISS S VIRDY  
MR JGG WARD  
MR PJJ WILSON

CARDINAL WISEMAN  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

MR M COYLE

MISS R WHITE

MRS ASHBY



## Welcome

Welcome to all our new starters. We are excited for you to join us on our journey to reach our vision as a '**'Beacon of Excellence for Catholic Education'**

### St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

MRS M POWER  
MRS G MARSHALL  
MRS J EYDEN



### Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

MISS J KILKOYNE  
MISS A LAMBERT  
MISS S HALTON



### Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

MRS J DEVLIN  
MR R YOGENDRAN



### SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School

MR D ROACH  
MR MT HINDMARSH  
MRS LN WEST  
MS A DAVILA-FABREGAS



### Cardinal Wiseman

MRS J KERTESZ-GRUBER  
MRS N SALEM  
MISS LM WILSON  
MISS AC HARKIN  
MRS AA NAAS



## A Message....

With Jesus, true God and true man, we are brought into a new way of existence as sons and daughters of the Eternal Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus and so brothers and sisters of one another. This astonishing truth means that the Christ in us always needs to meet the Christ in others and every person is united by an unbreakable bond made in heaven.

And so it is that when we reach out to those who are in any way disadvantaged: spiritually, physically, emotionally, materially, we are not doing so simply because we want to be 'better members of society' but, rather, because we must: we must encounter the Christ in others and bring into their situations the Christ in us. As Blessed Oscar Romero said: *It is entering into the reality of a child, of the poor, of those wearing rags, of the sick, of a hovel, of a shack. It is going to share with them. And from the very heart of misery..to transcend it, ..and to say.. "You are valuable."* We are created in the image and likeness of God and whatever we do, or fail to do, for the least of our brothers or sisters we have done, or failed to do, for Christ himself.



# Follow Us...



Romero MAC @Romero\_MAC · Jan 3

"Dear Young People, do not bury your talents, the gifts that god gave you. Do not be afraid to dream of great things" – Pope Francis #romero



GoodShepherdCOV @GoodShepherdCOV · 18h

A great afternoon at 'Good Shepherd's got talent! Well done to all the performers you were all wonderful.



GoodShepherdCOV @GoodShepherdCOV · Mar 23

Teachers come as students and students come as teachers day at Good Shepherd today #nonschooluniform



Blue Sky TSA @BlueSkyTSA · Mar 23

Congratulations to all newly appointed SLEs for Blue Sky TSA, Inclusive TSA and Griffin Alliance.



St Gregory's Primary @StGregsPrimary · 21h

Year 6 at 'Sing out for Joy' and celebrating their faith with other schools across Coventry.

St Gregory's Primary @StGregsPrimary · Apr 3

Year 5 & 6 visit The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum to develop their understanding of the topic Coventry and the Blitz.



St Patrick's Primary @StPatricksCov · 4h

Year 4 have celebrated the end of their topic, 'Sweet Like Chocolate', by designing and making their own chocolates with packaging. Yummy!



St Patrick's Primary @StPatricksCov · 3h

Little Patrick's have been reading The Tiger Who Came To Tea, and are now off for tea in the City Mission cafe, just like Sophie & her mum!



Cardinal Wiseman @OfficialWiseman · Feb 13

Well done to @Romero\_Mac\_ who raised £4,790 for @ZoesPlaceCov



Cardinal Wiseman @OfficialWiseman · Mar 6

Well done to Karolina Drozd 7H for becoming an Accelerated Reader Millionaire



Sacred Heart School @SacredHeartCov · Mar 21

Year 1 on their Mathletics and Reading Eggs scavenger hunt!



Sacred Heart School @SacredHeartCov · Mar 24

Today we have our feast day for Oscar Romero, the chosen blessed patron for our Academy. Happy Romero day to you all!



Saint John Fisher @SJFCoventry · Mar 6

2nd place in the swimming gala! Well done Children 🏊‍♂️🏆



Saint John Fisher @SJFCoventry · 18h

Years 2 - 6 enjoyed a great day of dancing with Ricky today 💃



SS Peter and Paul @SSPP\_Coventry · Mar 27

As part of Shakespeare Week, Year 5 wrote and performed their own class soliloquy today. #Shakespeare #hamlet

#tobearnottobe 🎬❤️



SS Peter and Paul @SSPP\_Coventry · Mar 29

Thank you to all the parents and parish members who came to celebrate mass today 🙏❤️

## We are also on Facebook..

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/SacredHeartCov/>

<https://www.facebook.com/blueskytsa/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Corpus-Christi-Primary-School-Coventry-277889925714103/>

<https://www.facebook.com/RomeroAcademy/>



## Social Media

Want to keep up to date with news from our schools and pupils? Follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook!

## Key Dates

14th July 4pm Romero Staff Social @ Cardinal Wiseman