



### Romero pupils raise £3,500 to support Coventry's most vulnerable

Romero children presented £3,640 as well as items of clothing, food and toiletries to a number of charities across Coventry. The children organised everything from bake off events and coffee mornings to movie nights and discos to raise the funds, and also co-ordinated appeals for donations. Charities were, the Cyrenians, YMCA Coventry and Warwickshire, Grub 'n' Gab, Coventry Jesus Centre and the Walsgrave Baptist Church.

## Message from the Chair

Dear All in our Romero Family,

Let me start by drawing your attention to a truly remarkable development since my last communication and that is the news that Pope Francis has confirmed that the inspiration behind our MAC, the Blessed Oscar Romero, is to be made a Saint. There is further information inside but it's fantastic news and all involved in our MAC are delighted.

The timing of the announcement above also coincided with a more contrasting experience for the MAC, with the inspection of all of our schools by Ofsted followed by a MAC review, again by Ofsted. I'm sure the schools will share their outcomes and communications in due course with all of their respective school and parish families. I am pleased to confirm that the process, whilst highly intensive, was embraced fully by our staff, pupils, supporters and stakeholders, something, I, on behalf of the board, would like to relay my express thanks for – it was certainly a new experience for me!

As a Board, we have also been working hard with our centralised team over the recent months to continue our drive to work smarter and not harder as one organisation. This is particularly true for finance, given the turbulent time we are in currently with one example being the change in political landscape with a new Secretary of State for Education since our last newsletter. We need to work smarter with our finances to ensure we continue to meet our fiduciary requirements but also with the intention of providing the "best value" through improved procurement, management and that this can be used to support our fundamental provision of education. The work to improve finances has seen significant traction over the last 12 months and this remains vitally important in our ability to combat reducing education funding in the short and medium term. In addition to this, the

collaboration across the MAC has been very evident in the aforementioned inspections and this is something we are looking to build upon, ensuring that our school's work together to help raise the standards at both a Primary and Secondary level.

Next term sees us opening two new Nurseries at both Sacred Heart and St. Gregory's schools, supporting the increased demand for Early Years provision in the area. Two custom built facilities will be erected in mid-late April. I am sure pictures and further news can be provided for our Summer Newsletter. It will also see new Vice Principals starting their roles in two of our primary schools and the retirement of Debbie Newman, the Principal at Corpus Christi.

Looking forward, our thoughts and prayers are extended to all of our pupils undergoing exams and assessments next term. We are committed to improving outcomes for all of our young people and we trust that the results later in the year reflect the hard work and commitment being expended across all of our Key Stages. In addition to this, I wanted to reiterate my firm belief that our young people's success is helped massively through parental engagement, something we are always looking to increase. Please discuss with your schools how this can be improved and for those already doing so, please continue to provide that invaluable support where you can.

Finally, and very importantly, Easter presents a very timely opportunity to reflect and I hope that you all take time to spend it with family and friends (hopefully with better weather to enjoy). I wish you all a very Happy and Holy Easter and we look forward to welcoming you back for what is inevitably a very busy Summer Term.

With very best regards,

Dean Kavanagh, Chair of The Board



# Working Smarter Together

The items highlighted below are examples of our strength working collaboratively as a MAC.

## Advent Communications

Our schools continue to be supported by Advent Communications and this academic year have managed to get coverage for 93 press releases. This level of coverage is helping to raise the profile of our schools in the local area and within the region via the Catholic press. It is showing the outstanding community, sporting and engagement work that our schools do and how we are very focused on supporting others who need help.

## OneLife Music

We were very fortunate to receive £5100 in funding from The Park House Charitable Trust and Blakemore Foundation and really appreciate their support. We have commissioned OneLife Music to run 8 workshops across our schools in September from this funding and this will provide a very uplifting and spiritual experience for our pupils and will also include a CPD session for our staff at the end of the day. See <http://www.onelifemusic.co.uk/about-us/> for more information on how the sessions will look like.

## SCA Funding

We are now in our third year of receiving funding for our schools and are very fortunate to have our Facilities Manager in post to ensure the schools receive maximum value and impact from the investment. We have identified a number of projects from a new alarm system at Cardinal Wiseman, to new and safer playgrounds at St John Fisher and Sacred Heart, which are due for completion by September 2018. This investment enables us to maintain the quality of our schools to provide safe, secure and stimulating environments for our pupils and staff. We are really pleased with the improvements at Cardinal Wiseman where we have installed brand new low energy lighting across the school, improved the grounds, developed the school swimming pool, which many of our primary schools now use and the pupil dining facilities.

## Head of HR

This term we welcome our new Head of HR who has been appointed to the vacancy of Head of HR within the Academy, "I'm excited to hold the post of Head of HR for our 8 schools. My remit is to ensure that we recruit, develop, manage and retain the staff we need to deliver our strategy. By providing timely strategic and operational HR advice and support across our schools we will develop consistency and ensure our leaders are free to concentrate on teaching and learning. I look forward to working collaboratively on all our people issues."

## Head of Finance - Terrie Kenyon

We also welcome Terrie Kenyon, who fills the role as Head of Finance. "As Head of Finance my main purpose is to provide financial support to the Academy in helping schools manage their budgets and in meeting our Statutory and ESFA reporting requirements. In doing so I will be providing regular financial updates to relevant parties and managing finance systems, our banking arrangements and the Audit process. Schools are facing challenging financial times and my aim is to help our schools manager their resources as effectively as possible to minimise the impact of this on our pupils and staff."



# Romero Event News

## Romero Minibuses

We have now received 6 of our 8 minibuses and these are proving incredibly positive with our pupils and staff. This new resource will help us to reduce our costs in hiring coaches but will also give us greater flexibility in transporting our pupils and staff to an increased number of events in the future. The impressive branding will also help us to raise our profile across the City and show families our commitment to enhancing the opportunities for our pupils.



## Swimming Gala

Pupils from Year 4, 5 and 6 across Romero took part in the Coventry Catholic Sports Association Swimming Gala at the Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre. The children were cheered on by fellow classmates, staff and parents. St John Fisher swimmers took first place, with Ss Peter & Paul coming in second place. Both schools were awarded with a shield. Alongside staff attending the event was Rhye Parry, PE and Wellbeing Co-ordinator for the Academy. Rhye Parry said "The swimming competition is a historic event in the Catholic schools calendar and always proves popular. The children from all of our schools did incredibly well at showing off their swimming talents on the day. The team spirit was amazing, with all of the children raising the roof to cheer on their fellow classmates. I'd like to congratulate the children from St John Fisher Primary for winning the competition and thank the children for all their hard work."



## Mousike Ensemble

Mousike Ensemble has been specially written for all the Catholic Schools in the city. After writing music and producing "Morning of Music" since 2002, Chris Smith and Paul Madia joined forces to launch a new musical experience for the children across our schools. The theme was written around the History National Curriculum and was titled Throughout Time. The children learnt a series of songs; learnt tuned and untuned instrumental parts and also brought a School Showcase to share. Four schools hosted the events over two weeks with four to six schools visiting each school for the morning to share in this amazing musical journey.



Nurturing the Talents of Tomorrow ...

## Year 6 Collaboration

Our Romero Year 6 pupils have been working together with our Leading Practitioner, Mrs Scullion. On 28th February, 36 of our Year 6 pupils, came together at Cardinal Wiseman for an afternoon where they were challenged with arithmetic problems and had to become reading detectives to uncover the answers to a series of complex questions. The children worked with resilience to ensure they completed the tasks in hand, and also worked collaboratively with one another to ensure that an equal understanding was had by all. We look forward to future collaborations that allow our children to network and experience different styles of learning.



The Romero Academy 

## Blessed Oscar Romero to be a Saint

The Romero Catholic Academy takes its name from Oscar Romero, a priest and bishop in El Salvador. His love for his people who were suffering violence and oppression led him to take their side and to denounce their oppressors. We are therefore delighted to announce that on the 7th March 2018 The Vatican announced that Pope Francis had approved a miracle attributed to Romero, meaning that the former Archbishop of San Salvador could be canonised early next year. Pope Francis began the process of declaring Romero a saint soon after becoming Pope. About 250,000 people attended Romero's beatification ceremony in San Salvador in May 2015.



**The Romero Catholic MAC**  
Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow

# News from our schools

## Wasps Netball

On January 10th, Year 9a and 10a netball teams were lucky enough to be able to spend the afternoon at the Wasps Netball community day. A huge thank you to Wasps Netball team for the experience.



## Winter Wonderland at Corpus

Nursery and Year 1 had an exciting afternoon in the 4D room, carrying on the wintery weather with a winter wonderland theme.



## Year 6 Trip to Dol-y-moch

Year 6 arrived at Dol-y-Moch on the 31st January for their adventure week. They had a great week with activities including mountain walking and litter picking.



## Lent at St John Fisher

Reception and Year 6 worked together at St John Fisher, walking in the footsteps of Jesus marking the beginning of Lent. A wonderful collaboration between the two year groups.



## World Book Day at SsPP

Children at SsPP put great effort into their world book day costumes this year. Year 6 even braved the cold to have a photograph in the snow. All the costumes were amazing. Well done to all!



## Lord Mayor Visit

Pupils at St Gregorys were very lucky when the Lord Mayor visited the school to launch the medieval colouring book. Thank you to the Lord Mayor for taking the time to visit the school.



## Year 2 at Coombe Abbey

On 9th March, Year 2 pupils at Sacred Heart spent the day at Coombe Abbey. They had a lovely day pond dipping, mini beast hunting and exploring new signs of plant life.



## Chinese New Year

To celebrate Chinese New Year, St Patricks children from Nursery and Reception had a visit from Shuai Zhao to learn a special lion dance. It was fantastic and a great time was had by all.



## Fundraising for Zoe's Place

Sixth Form students at Cardinal Wiseman have been collecting Easter eggs for Zoe's Place charity. The students managed to collect a total of 160 easter eggs. Well done all!



Follow us on twitter  
@Romero\_MAC\_



**Starters**

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'

Corpus Christi	<b>MR</b>	<b>JAMES HAMPSHIRE</b>
Corpus Christi	<b>MISS</b>	<b>SYDNE BELLAMY</b>
Corpus Christi	<b>MRS</b>	<b>LOUISE JOHNSON</b>
Corpus Christi	<b>MISS</b>	<b>JESSICA OBRIEN</b>
Cardinal Wiseman	<b>MRS</b>	<b>ANGELA WOODS</b>
Cardinal Wiseman	<b>MISS</b>	<b>STACEY ARNETT</b>
Cardinal Wiseman	<b>MR</b>	<b>MICHAEL DOWLING</b>
St John Fisher	<b>MISS</b>	<b>KIRSTY MACDONALD</b>
St John Fisher	<b>MISS</b>	<b>MICHELLE BAYLISS</b>
St John Fisher	<b>MISS</b>	<b>PAYTON LITTLE</b>
St John Fisher	<b>MISS</b>	<b>SELENA WISE</b>
Ss Peter & Paul	<b>MR</b>	<b>PATRICK YOUSSEF</b>
Romero	<b>MRS</b>	<b>TERRIE KENYON</b>
Romero	<b>MRS</b>	<b>AMI BENNING</b>
St Gregory's	<b>MRS</b>	<b>CHARLENE ELLIS</b>
St Gregory's	<b>MISS</b>	<b>GEMMA GRAY</b>
Sacred Heart	<b>MRS</b>	<b>PAULA SMITH</b>

**Leavers**

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

Corpus Christi	<b>MISS H MEARNS</b>
Corpus Christi	<b>MISS S GUMMERY</b>
Corpus Christi	<b>MISS K DONOHOE</b>
Corpus Christi	<b>MISS J KILCOYNE</b>
Cardinal Wiseman	<b>MRS S O'GORMAN</b>
Cardinal Wiseman	<b>MRS J FORSYTHE</b>
Cardinal Wiseman	<b>MRS C BUTLER</b>
Cardinal Wiseman	<b>MS M MANSFIELD</b>
Cardinal Wiseman	<b>MR KJ LICKORISH</b>
Cardinal Wiseman	<b>MISS LM WILSON</b>
Cardinal Wiseman	<b>MISS AA CHIS</b>
Cardinal Wiseman	<b>MISS MK KARIR</b>
Cardinal Wiseman	<b>MRS FJ EMMS</b>
Good Shepherd	<b>MRS A EVANS</b>
Good Shepherd	<b>MRS S WHITEHEAD</b>
St John Fisher	<b>MRS J KVIECINSKAS</b>
Ss Peter & Paul	<b>MS A DAVILA-FABREGAS</b>
Romero	<b>MRS D YOUSSEF</b>
St Gregory's	<b>MRS D PETCH</b>
St Gregory's	<b>MRS S DEEPROSE</b>
St Gregory's	<b>MISS C VERNEY</b>

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

