



Romero Mass at St Patrick's Catholic Church

On September 20th 2018 we held our annual Romero mass. The mass was held at St Patrick's Catholic Church and welcomed our eight schools. We were also delighted to hear the schools sing their very own Romero song, which the children sang beautifully. Thank you to all that helped on the day and to the parish priests of our Romero schools.

Message from the Chair

Dear All in our Romero Family,

As the year 2018 draws to a close, we thank all teachers and staff who work so tirelessly in our schools supporting our children. We particularly thank you for the additional time and effort that goes in to planning, preparing for, and taking part in Christmas events. Your time, skill, patience and dedication have created moments that capture and spread happiness, joy, a sense of togetherness and wonder.

Many of the events have at their heart sharing, worshiping and celebrating with others: parents and carers, friends, grandparents, other schools, and groups from the local community. Over the last month we have witnessed Nativities, Christmas Celebrations, Advent Fairs, Christmas Carol Services, Award evenings, Christmas Discos, visits to hospitals and homes for the elderly and even a Christmas Jumper Day across our schools. These activities are active demonstrations of our faith and how we are living Romero's words to 'aspire not to have more, but to be more'.

One significant event that stands out this term, is the canonisation of Saint Oscar Romero. We felt very honoured to be asked to host the event at Cardinal Wiseman. Over two hundred people gathered in the school hall for Mass. During the service, the principal celebrant, Archbishop Longley took time to reflect on the life of Oscar Romero and how he can be a 'guiding light' in our lives.

Our schools were well represented in the Mass which was concelebrated by Bishops David McGough and Robert Byrne and Fathers Eddie Clare and Dominic Cosslett.

In 2019 we will continue to follow St Oscar's example as we progress as an organisation. We will remain focussed on improving outcomes for our young people and we will continue to work effectively with our staff and wider communities for the greater good across all our schools and parishes.

I'd like close by again thanking our staff but also by saying thank you to our parents, parishes, volunteers and indeed our young people for all their efforts in this calendar year. I hope that the hard work that continues to take place across our MAC is reflected in outcomes and achievement later in the academic year.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May you all enjoy the peace and joy of Christmas with family and friends during this season and I wish you every blessing for 2019.



Brendan Fawcett, Chair of The Board



Working Smarter Together

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

Romero Excels

We held our third annual staff conference on Friday 2nd November at the Welcome Centre in Coventry. The morning was dedicated to excellence in the workplace and we were delighted to have Kirston Nelson, Director of Education speaking about Coventry's successes and long term plans. Darrell Woodman from The Art of Being Brilliant provided an inspirational talk on how to enjoy work and thrive in today's challenging times. The afternoon focused on well-being and spiritual development and was led by the inspirational Jo Boyce. A big thank you to all our sponsors Carwood, Media Collective, Metalman, Alto Digital, Advent Communications, Meraki Yoga, Amore Upholstery, Muse HR and Universal Windows for making the day possible.

RE Inspections

We have welcomed significant scrutiny from Birmingham Diocesan Education Service during the last two months. Brendan Fawcett, Colin Beesley (Cardinal Wiseman) and Helen Quinn attended a meeting with key BDES leaders to evaluate Catholic life, Leadership and outcomes across Romero.

In addition, both SS Peter and Paul and St John Fisher Primary schools have welcomed Maureen O'Leary for a monitoring visit in November. Both schools have received excellent feedback showing that they are on a strong trajectory in the new Section 48 framework for their next full inspection.

Both Cardinal Wiseman and Sacred Heart have undergone a full two-day Section 48 inspection by the Diocesan Inspectors. Both inspections have gone extremely well and whilst reports have not been received at the time of going to print, we are very pleased with outcome and the commentary detailing the very strong provision in our schools. Well done to both schools!

Romero Writing Competition

Throughout December, alongside their fantastic Nativity performances and wonderful Christmas Carol services our Romero children have been busy composing amazing pieces of writing for our Romero Christmas Writing Competition. The author Pie Corbett will be judging the entries over Christmas and winners will be announced early January. We are so proud of the amazing work our young writers have already produced. Our author will be spoilt for choice!

KS2 Playground Gym

We recently surveyed the Primary school playgrounds to establish the PE and Wellbeing provision and were advised that the strength and conditioning equipment at KS2 needed developing. We commissioned Red Monkey to install new gym equipment across the schools and this has been a huge success. Our pupils, who are effectively led by our PE apprentices now use the equipment regularly for fitness and conditioning sessions and are delighted with the new facilities. We are thrilled to see our playgrounds developing in this way and appreciate the additional sugar tax money which has financed the project.



The Romero Catholic Academy

Christmas writing competition



- ❄️ A winner to be chosen from each year group
- ❄️ Prizes to be won
- ❄️ Have your story published on our website

Winners will be chosen by author and story teller Pie Corbett!



Romero News

OneLife Music

We welcomed Onelife Music to hold spiritual retreat days in our schools, giving children the chance to reflect, pray and learn more about their faith. The primary school retreats were named 'His goodness never fails'. Cardinal Wiseman's retreat was named 'I belong' which was held for pupils in Year 8 and focused on being part of a school community and a family of faiths while also exploring the Catholic faith. The retreats were funded by grants from The 29th May 1961 Charity and Park House Charitable Trust.



Romero Inter-School Competition

On 4th October we held an Inter-Romero Rounders tournament. All schools were invited to enter a team into the tournament held at Cardinal Wiseman. Staff had lots of competitive fun and we gave a huge congratulations to Ss Peter & Paul, who were crowned the champions. We are working hard at getting our schools together every term for these events and it is helping us to build relationships and a one company concept across the eight schools. Thank you to Rhye Parry, PE and Wellbeing Co-ordinator for organising the event.



Year 3 Festival

As we work to improve transition arrangements from Primary to secondary, we continue to provide our children with activities to experience life at Cardinal Wiseman. This term we ran an indoor athletics Festival held at Cardinal Wiseman on 6th December. The children really enjoyed the event and mixing with their peers from other Romero schools. Staff praised the children for their incredible athletics skills. Congratulations to St Gregory's who came in 1st place.



Cardinal Wiseman 60th Anniversary

On Sunday 14th October 2018, we were welcomed by Archbishop Bernard Longely and his two Bishops Robert and David to commence the 60th Anniversary celebrations at Cardinal Wiseman. Archbishop Bernard Longley paid thanks to Cardinal Wiseman School and it's staff for hosting, and praised the Academy for its display of faith in having both staff and students here in attendance at the Diocesan day of celebration.



Cardinal Wiseman Sixth Form Evening

Previous student, Ashling Mulvaney, delivered an inspirational speech at the school's sixth-form open evening. Ashling works for AstraZeneca pharmaceuticals and leads a programme supporting 10 million hypertensive patients across Africa. "The school gave me the confidence to go out into the world and be successful. Richard Kingshott, Head of Sixth Form at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, said: "Ashling is a real inspiration who has come through the school and gone on to achieve at the highest level."



The Romero Catholic MAC
Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow

News from our schools

World Skills Event

On Friday 16th November, Year 10 students at Cardinal Wiseman had a fascinating and enjoyable afternoon at the World Skills event in Birmingham on Friday. #beincredible



Advent

Year 6 have been reflecting on the symbolism of the Advent Wreath. They even had a go at creating their own using oil pastels. Their work looked amazing and they were so proud of their beautiful work



Year 6 Trip to St Chad's

In preparation for their Sacrament of Confirmation on 6th December, Year 6 took a trip to St Chad's Cathedral in partnership with St Elizabeth's. The children had a very enjoyable trip!



Kenilworth Castle

On Tuesday 2nd October, Year 2 went to visit Kenilworth Castle as part of their thematic curriculum. The children used maps to explore and learned lots of history about the castle as well as identifying features of a castle. A great day was had by all!



Wolf Run

Ss Peter & Paul held their very own Wolf Run on 4th December. The children took part in the wolf run and gained sponsors to raise money for the school. It was great fun and a great success!



Sleeping Beauty

On 11th December Year 6 pupils continued the festive season and attended the Belgrade Theatre to watch Sleeping Beauty. The performance was mesmerising, such an incredible day!



Winter Wonderland

On 23rd of November, children and parents at Sacred Heart experienced their very own Winter Wonderland. Children had the opportunity to take part in lots of festive fun, with ice skating and visits with Father Christmas to name a few.



OneLifeRetreat

St Patrick's enjoyed a fun filled retreat day in October from One Life Music. The children had a wonderful day. A big thank you to One Life Music for supporting all of our schools in liturgies and retreat days! The staff and children thoroughly enjoyed it!



Girls Football

Congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 girls who qualified to represent Coventry East at the school games football early next year. Great performances all round.



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