



# The Romero Catholic Academy

# Newsletter

Summer 2016



CARDINAL WISEMAN  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



## Welcome,

It gives me great pleasure and pride to be able to welcome you all to the first Romero newsletter. Much has been done over the past few months towards building a strong Romero Academy. We have successfully built a Board of Directors and Academy team who are dedicated to helping our schools provide fantastic education, jobs and futures for all in lively, vibrant and stimulating schools.

As a board we recognise the level of change within the education sector and understand this can be unsettling to all. However we will work with all staff to ensure we maximise the benefits that change can bring and look to exploit the opportunities that will arise over the coming years.

The board and Academy team look forward to building relationships with all school staff and your involvement with the board will be crucial over the coming months and years. If you have any thoughts or feedback for the board on our first newsletter please contact Heather O'Sullivan at [h.o'sullivan@romero.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:h.o'sullivan@romero.coventry.sch.uk).

Kind Regards,

Patrick Taggart

Chair of the Board of Directors

## Our Vision

“A Beacon of Excellence for Catholic Education”

## Our Mission

“We are a **Christ-centred Community** dedicated to **faith formation, academic excellence and individual growth** for all of our young people, all rooted in the **Gospel message of Jesus Christ.**”

## As an Academy..

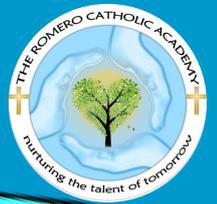
One of the advantages of being an academy that the Board is looking to optimise is around our expenditure. All of our schools spend a significant sum of money when put together and we're working very hard to achieve economies of scale and subsequent savings to ensure that we can put as much money as possible into our schools for teaching and learning. The Romero MAC Board of Directors is committed to ensuring we get the best possible return for the Education funding that we receive. Via our centralised Hub team, we're looking to provide HR, Finance, Data Analysis and lots more support to reduce the overall costs to school but also ensure that our provision is better than that previously provided. Early indication suggests that we've done this but we have so much more we can and will do to support all of our schools. It's equally important of course to understand that these efficiency gains should also help to create better working environments for our staff, who are a fundamental cornerstone for our Academy.

We've come a long way since converting to an Academy in August and in reality are only 2 terms into this new and exciting journey. As a result, there are still a huge number of opportunities for us to make further improvements to support the schools and ensure that we give our children the best possible education and an infrastructure around it that supports our Vision as an organisation, without impacting on the individual identities of our schools. We will of course update you all on progress as these items develop.

Should you wish to find out more about the above, please don't hesitate to contact Heather in our Hub Team.



# Our Board of Directors



## Dean Kavanagh—Vice Chair

Dean is Programme Director for Geotech, an international company based in Leamington Spa. Dean is also Chair of Trustees for the Positive Youth Foundation and also secretary of the West Midlands Young Institute of Directors.



Dean is also the Link Director for Good Shepherd.



## Patrick Taggart—Chair

With 20 years' experience in HR working in large organisations, Patrick now runs his own consultancy. Patrick is a keen supporter of Catholic education, having served as Chair of Governors of what is now a Catholic Teaching school.



## Jane Marron—Foundation Director

Jane is a versatile and commercially focused HR Practitioner who has developed and implemented a range of people strategies to support business growth working with the widest employee base from and in partnership with the relevant Trade Unions and European Works Councils. Jane is also the Link Director for Sacred Heart.



## Andrew Bowen—Parent Director

Andrew is an Engineering Manager at Jaguar Land Rover. As Parent Director he is particularly excited about strengthening the transition from primary through to secondary and the many opportunities this provides in the children's growth and transition towards adult life. Andrew is also the Link Director for Cardinal Wiseman.



## Eleanor Barry—Foundation Director

Eleanor Barry is a retired Senior Education Adviser with more than thirty years experience of working in the education sector as a teacher, deputy, head teacher and with primary and secondary schools in the Catholic and the State sector. Eleanor is also the Chair of the LAC and Link Director of St Patrick's.



## Sarah McCann—Foundation Director

In her current role as Assistant Company Secretary of Orbit Group Limited, Sarah is involved in every aspect of corporate governance, regulation, legislation, recruitment, servicing the boards, maintenance of registers, processing legal documents etc. Sarah is also the Link Director for Corpus Christi.



## Grainne Griffiths—Principal Director

Grainne started her teaching career in Liverpool in 1993 and has taught in both KS1 and KS2. Grainne was appointed as Head at St. Patrick's from September 2012 when an RI school. Grainne has successfully lead the school to a Good Judgement in the recent Ofsted Inspection (February 2015).



## Julie Fulea—Parent Director

Julie is a parent of 3 Children who attend St John Fisher School and Cardinal Wiseman. She is also an ex-pupil of Sacred Heart primary and Cardinal Wiseman School. Julie is currently a Modern Matron within the NHS. working with older people with mental health problems. Julie is also the Link Director for SS Peter & Paul.



## Brendan Fawcett—Foundation Director

Brendan Fawcett heads up Strategic Planning for the University of Leicester. He manages a team that provides strategic advice, management information and insight. He has responsibility for the planning processes used across the University. Brendan is also the Link Director for St John Fisher.



## Fr Bob Wright—Foundation Director

Fr Bob Wright is a well-respected parish priest of a large Coventry parish which forms part of the catchment area for the Romero multi-academy. He is Chair of LAC at St John Fisher and Vice Chair at St Gregory's. He is also Link Director of St Gregory's.



## Colin Beesley—Staff Director

Colin is Head of Religious Education at Cardinal Wiseman School as well as Head of Camino House. He is also responsible for the Catholic Life of The School. Prior to his career in teaching Colin had roles in marketing as well as in general management.



## Margaret McNally—Staff Director

Margaret is currently SEN & TA Link at St Gregory's School and has genuinely enjoyed serving on the St Gregory's LAC for many years, gaining knowledge and much experience in this role. She previously held posts in the NHS before becoming involved in education.

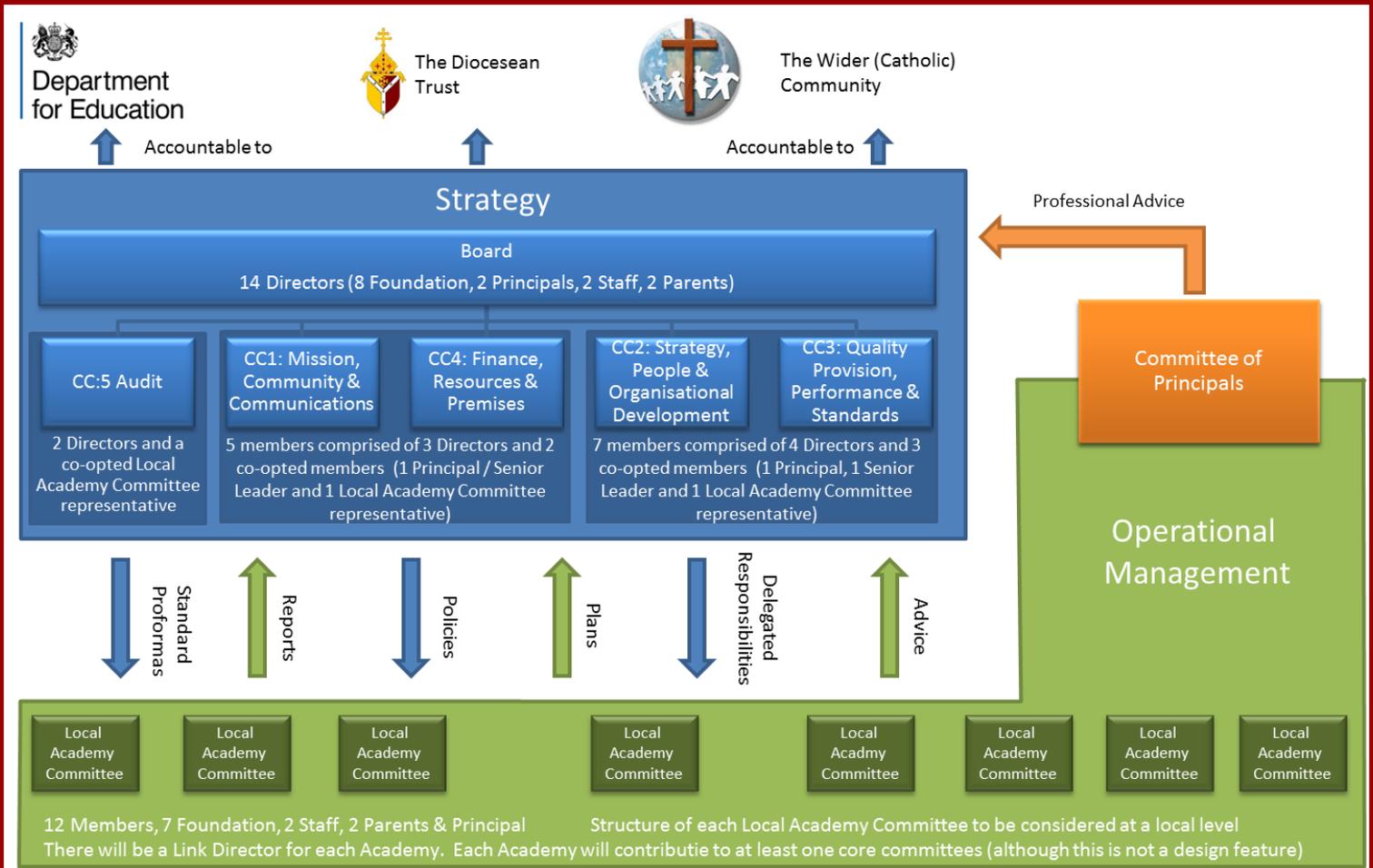


## Helen Quinn —Principal Director

Following a number of years teaching in all year groups and various posts, Helen was appointed to Principal at Sacred Heart in January 2005. Helen has led the school successfully through three Ofsted Inspections, to the most recent in September 2013 as Outstanding. Helen is a National Leader of Education, an Additional Inspector for Serco (Ofsted) and has gained an Ofsted Contract to inspect both Primary and Secondary.



# Our Structure..



## Cardinal Wiseman Maths Challenge!

Cardinal Wiseman were delighted to welcome six of our Romero Primaries to participate in our Maths Challenge morning on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Each of the schools entered a team of children who show great ability as mathematicians.

They were learning about equivalent fractions, improper fractions and mixed numbers – also collaborating to solve a range of problems.

The schools that participated were: Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi, St Patrick's, Ss Peter and Paul, St Gregory's and St John Fisher.

Each child received a certificate to award them for the wonderful effort they showed on the day and their excellent teamwork skills.





## Chaplaincy Team

The Christian values of our school permeate the whole curriculum. This is supported by our Chaplaincy Team. The team work closely with and receive regular training from the Lay Chaplain at our feeder school, Cardinal Wiseman. They then use new innovations learnt during training and implement them into school. The Chaplaincy Team have enjoyed leading a number of prayer services so far this year. During October, the team ran a weekly Rosary Club for children in all year groups. This also included the organisation and management of an engaging craft based session where children used pipe cleaners and beads to make their own Rosary Beads. During Advent they planned and undertook a reflective prayer time where those who attended were encouraged to think of ways that they could prepare for the coming of Jesus.

As part of Chaplaincy there has also been opportunity for the children to go on trips. At the beginning of the academic year, some members of the team visited St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham for a special mass with the Archbishop. They have also visited Cardinal Wiseman's newly renovated Chapel. This provided an opportunity to network with the other Chaplaincy Teams in the Romero cluster and to share ideas for projects in school as each team did a short presentation to introduce themselves. During their time at Cardinal Wiseman the Chaplaincy Team also took responsibility for designing their own badge and thoroughly enjoyed having ownership of this. As the year progresses, the Chaplaincy Team hope to support Year 3 in making their first Holy Communion. They will also lead a whole school assembly in the Summer term.



# Busy Year..

“The School Council and Chaplaincy Team have been very busy this year. During the Autumn Term we enjoyed working alongside others within the Academy sharing good work. We managed to raise over £500 for CAFOD and Cardinal Wiseman’s Malawi Trust by organising a range of activities. Our most successful event was during the Christmas period; we brought the North Pole and Santa to SJF. Reception and KS1 children had a magical time in the Santa’s Grotto we prepared. We have led prayer services within each class and organised The Ash Wednesday Mass for the whole school. This term we are hoping to raise money for Birmingham Children’s Hospital.” **St John Fisher**



# Keep an eye out for...

The Chaplaincy team at SS Peter and Paul have a few things lined up this term:

- They will be leading the singing at the Lenten Retreat at Cardinal Wiseman on 24th February.
- They will be working closely with our School Council to help fundraise for Fr Hudson's.
- They will also be leading the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Watch this space....



# World Sick Day

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Corpus Christi Chaplaincy team lead a special assembly and the children offered their prayers for the sick and those in need.



# Sharing Ideas!



Our Chaplaincy team is a newly formed group of 6 year 6 pupils, Amara, Ellie, Elizabeth, Georgia, Jayze and Nicole. They enjoyed meeting up with all the other primary school teams at Cardinal Wiseman with Lauren Stundon when they designed their new badge and found out all about the work the other teams do. This gave them lots of ideas! So far the team have helped to raise money for the Malawi fund, lead the Rosary club during October and recently have made up prayer bags for each class to take home during Lent.

# Retreat Day for Y6

As part of their preparation for Confirmation the Year 6 children attended a 'Retreat Day' organized by the Cardinal Wiseman Chaplaincy Team. The day consisted of a series of workshops and games around the theme of 'loving one another as God loves us'. It was a very spiritual and enjoyable day and an ideal preparation for the children's next step in their journey of faith.



# Collection for the Calais Run..

This year the team have led the daily Rosary in October and are preparing to lead the Stations of the Cross each week in Lent. Following a meeting with CW lay chaplain, the team arranged a very successful collection of items for the Calais Run to support the refugees. Cleverly deciding to make the collection a competition between the classes, the team managed to collect an incredible amount of food and clothing which Lauren Stunden came to collect, and which the Team helped to cram into her car!



# Alton Retreat Day

All staff, teaching and support, admin and lunchtime supervisors, had a really lovely day of retreat at Alton Castle on Friday 12th Feb.

Some staff had never been to the castle before so the tour was really interesting and it was great to see the many new additions to the activities on offer. The fantastic staff at Alton had arranged a beautiful day of prayer and reflection on our vocations as staff of a catholic school. Although some activities were really moving, we all had a brilliant day and left feeling renewed and refreshed. Would recommend this to all!





# RFU 'All Schools' Programme

Cardinal Wiseman students in Year 8 took part in a 'Design Your Own Rugby Kit' workshop through the RFU 'All Schools' programme at Kidderminster RFC recently. Ben Mangan was then selected to represent the school at the England v Ireland fixture of the Six Nations Rugby Tournament at Twickenham in London on 27 February 2016. During the pre-match ceremony, Ben will be presented with the school shirt that he helped to design. He will be part of the 82,000 strong crowd cheering on the teams!

## Employability Skills Day



Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School held their Employability Skills Day on 28th January 2016 at the Techno Centre in Coventry.

The school has been running this day for the last 5 years and every year has a huge impact on the students, staff and employers who choose to support. It is a day that has been developed to offer our Year 11 students (15-16 year olds) experience of interviews with real and current employers, to develop their self-confidence and an understanding of interview and presentation techniques along with the opportunity to consider their future career pathways. Parents and guardians are also invited to attend giving them a rare opportunity to see their child as the adult they are becoming.

"The young people were a credit to themselves and to the School and I am sure that other employers who were present left with an equally impressive impression. I will certainly, in my dealing with other Schools across the Diocese, be mentioning the day as good practice."

*Deputy Director, Birmingham Diocesan Education Service*

"As a former pupil of the school, I was proud that this is an area that Cardinal Wiseman seems to be leading the way on."

*HR Manager, B&Q Coventry*

"I left the Techno Centre with a lightness in my spirit and a whole lot of pride of seeing the young people face their fears and thrive within a 20 minute period."

*Business Analyst, Coventry City Council*



# We are extremely proud...

Children from Corpus Christi have taken part in the Brilliant Club with St Patrick's and Sacred Heart, led by Blue Sky TSA. This was a programme of work whereby children visited Warwick University and were given assignments to write with workshops to support their studies.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February six children graduated (all with a 2:1 or First Class) taking part in a ceremony and celebrating their success with their families.



# Romero Film Launch

To launch the release of our 'Romero Film' each of our schools gathered for an assembly and film premiere during the same week. The children in all of our 8 schools enjoyed watching themselves on the big screen. Here are some of the comments from the children and staff...

"It was really good to find out about other schools in the Academy and the different activities they offer." **Kallum, St John Fisher**

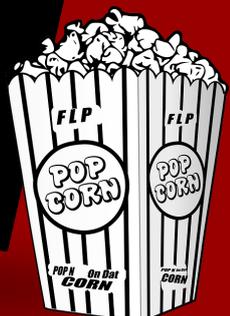
"We liked finding out about Cardinal Wiseman. Children in the primary schools can see what it is like before they go." **Alfie, St John Fisher**

"Even though we are all in one academy, each school has its own mission statement. It is good to know what they are." **Shannon, St John Fisher**

"There's Mr Shakespeare!" "There's me!" - **SS Peter & Paul**

"They used to come to our school!" (children recognised former pupils in Cardinal Wiseman clip) - **SS Peter & Paul**

"As well as a being a member of staff, a parent in two of the Romero schools and a Local Academy Committee member, watching the film makes me feel very proud to be a part of a large growing family within the Romero Catholic Academy." **Louise Hurley, Business Manager SS Peter & Paul**



# Young Voices Concert



Left: Good Shepherd children at Young Voice's rehearsal 14th January.



Members of Good Shepherd choir joined with over 6,000 children from around the area in a fantastic Young Voices concert at the Genting Arena in Birmingham on Thursday January 14th. This huge concert was an amazing experience for everyone and special thanks to Gareth, our choir and music teacher for preparing the children so well.

# We've Got Talent..

January can be a very dull month but Corpus Christi decided to hold their own Talent Show. Corpus Christi really has got talent. We enjoyed an afternoon full of song, dance, magic and fun. Our annual trophy was presented to joint winners Olivia and Summer. Well done to all who took part!



Sacred Heart also had a 'Sacred Heart's got Talent' evening. With loads of wonderful talented performances!



Even the Sacred Heart staff got involved ...



# Follow Us...

@Romero\_MAC\_



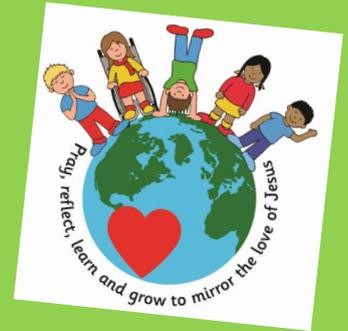
@OfficialWiseman

@StPatricksCov



@SSPP\_Coventry

@SacredHeartCov



@CorpusPrimary

@SJFCoventry



@StGregsPrimary

@GoodShepherdCOV



@BlueSkyTSA



# We're Growing!

Welcome to all our new staff...

We have a new Vice Principal at Corpus Christi!

**Charlotte Miller** has been appointed to a new role as Vice Principal and we look forward to working with her as a leader of learning as we take Corpus Christi on a continued journey of excellence.

## Julie Duggan – Teacher Year 1

Julie Duggan previously worked at Cardinal Wiseman school before training to teach EYFS

## Karen Weaver – Teacher Year 3

Karen Weaver has taught in America and in a variety of schools as supply but we are pleased to welcome her as a permanent member of staff.



## Hannah Thomson – Teacher Year 1

Natalie Stafford – Teacher Reception

Leanne Casey – Lead Practitioner & SLT

Sara Lawrence – TA/Social Media Apprentice

Laura Gibson – Teacher Year 4

Quote from Laura "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all'. This quote by Aristotle underpins the overall aim of my teaching, to educate the whole child, allowing them to grow both academically and spiritually and to fulfil their true potential in life. The mission statement of Sacred Heart mirrors the fundamentals of this quote and I can honestly say it has been such a wonderful and rewarding journey so far, everyday is faced with new challenges and amazing experiences for each child. I'm hoping this is the beginning of a long journey with Sacred Heart."



## Doug Collis—Head of Finance

"It is great pleasure to be chosen to lead the finance function of the Romero MAC. I am looking forward to the interesting and exciting journey"

## Dal Youssef—Head of HR

"I am really pleased to be part of a great team, joining the MAC at an exciting time of transition"

## 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: [www.romeromac.com/vacancies](http://www.romeromac.com/vacancies)



## Rebecca White—NQT/Year 1

In September we welcomed Miss Rebecca White as a NQT to our staff team. She is teaching full time in our year 1 class and has settled in really well. She is enjoying having the opportunity to work alongside other Y1 colleagues in our Romero Academy.





### Romero Vacancies

**Teacher—Full Time Permanent:** St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School

**Teacher— Part Time— Temporary:** St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School

**Teacher—Full Time Permanent:** SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School

**Teacher —Full Time Permanent:** Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School  
(for further info please see [www.romeromac.com/vacancies](http://www.romeromac.com/vacancies))

### **Mrs Yvonne Clarke—Principal of Good Shepherd**

“As a practising Catholic I believe that each unique child is at the centre of all we do. I believe in developing children not just academically but socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually, enabling them to develop a unique relationship with God, one which will stay with them as they discover what God is calling them to be. I hold dear the Gospel values of love, kindness, trust and respect which are the unchangeable foundation stones in this diverse and rapidly changing world. Over the coming months, I look forward to getting to know you all and working closely in partnership within the Academy, to secure the best possible outcomes for our Romero children.”

**Hannah Dixon – Teacher Reception**

**Mrs Bowerman – TA Year 3**

**Kala Williams – Teacher Year 6**



### **Mrs Dee Williams – Principal of Saint John Fisher**

‘As a past pupil of Saint John Fisher and Cardinal Wiseman I feel both privileged and proud to working within The Romero Catholic Academy; back to my roots. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few months; working with such amazing children, parents and a dedicated, hardworking team of staff.’

**Sarah Robinson—Early Years Leader**

**Dawn Hutt—Business Manager**

**Lucy Horner—Teaching Assistant**

**Marie Wallace & Laura Somers—Lunch Time Supervisors**



**Julie Fulea—Parent Director**

**Andy Bowen—Parent Director**

**Margaret McNally—Staff Director**

**Colin Beesley—Staff Director**



Sadly we had to say goodbye to **Mrs Suzanne Rollason**, our learning mentor of 9 years, who had to take ill health retirement. We had a farewell assembly for her in January where the classes presented her with cards and gifts to say thank you for all her hard work, love and care over the years.



## **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***

**Claire Morgan**  
(Art Technician)  
Cardinal Wiseman  
left 17 January 2016  
to go travelling.

