



# Bishop Hogarth

## Catholic Education Trust

### Newsletter



**SPRING 2022**

# Welcome



Dear parents, colleagues, families, and friends,

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter which I hope you will find informative and enjoyable to read. I have decided to retire from the role of CEO at the end of this academic year. As I sit at my desk to write this letter to you it is the 24th March: the feast day of St Oscar Romero. As you know, Oscar Romero stands with idealistic humanitarians such as Martin Luther King and Maximilian Kolbe as one of the ten modern martyrs who gave up their lives for their beliefs.

I am mindful of the words below which are attributed to him and now famously known as the 'Romero Prayer'. This moving prayer composed by the late Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, USA has been a compass for me, providing direction, inspiration, and affirmation throughout every aspect of my vocation as a teacher and never more so than during my tenure as CEO of both the Carmel Education Trust and the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust.

As you can imagine this has not been an easy decision given that I have been a teacher for 43 years and have worked for Carmel and then the Trust for 38 of those years, but time and tide waits for no one and I will be 65 in July, so it seems the right time. As I approach my final term as CEO of our Trust, I find myself reflecting on this prayer, indulging in 'the long view', to imagine what may manifest, beyond the vision. I am proud to say we will soon be a family of thirty-five schools. Simultaneously, I look back with gratitude, humility, and pride to our beginnings in 2011 as a single Academy Trust; we are indeed 'prophets of a future not our own'.

From a personal perspective, when contemplating the end of a long career as an educator it is tempting to think about one's impact, one's successes, to dwell upon the countless students inspired to reach their potential and realise their dreams; indeed, after so many years in education I have many such memories. However, on deeper reflection I am profoundly aware that it is I, who has without doubt learned the most, from each student I have encountered, from colleagues' friends and families both in the present and in the past. I have been supported to live out my vocation and for that I am humbled and so deeply grateful. We are now a Trust of over 12,000 pupils and 1,500 staff and I want to thank you for all that you do for our young people.

My final thoughts echo those of one of our patrons St Bede, when he says: it is time once again

'To unfurl the sails and let God steer us where He will'.

God Bless you

**Dame Maura Regan DBE, DL., M.Ed., B. Ed, FCIEA, CEA**



# Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust News

## The Romero Prayer:

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No programme accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers not master builders, ministers not messiahs,

We are prophets of a future not our own.

## Dame Maura Regan DBE OBE DL

Directors of Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust marked the outstanding honour bestowed on Dame Maura Regan in the Queen's birthday honours by presenting her with a unique and stunning work of art.

The beautiful tribute is the work of Judy Hurst, a renowned fine art illustrator. Judy's painting is rich in symbolism: at its heart St Cuthbert's Cross and Lindisfarne, seat of faith, learning and teaching. This was the perfect acknowledgement of Maura's achievements in education and leadership.

Her work has always gone above and beyond: innovative, creative, challenging. Just as the work begun on Lindisfarne spread out from this small island, so has Maura played her part in 'shaping futures, fulfilling dreams'. We are all very proud of the honour bestowed on her: it touches us all.

**Maria Matthews**  
**Chair of Directors**



## Parent Governors

A parent governor is a volunteer, usually a parent of a child who is currently attending the school, who has the relevant skills, commitment and enthusiasm to contribute towards the effective governance and overall success of the school.

Parent governors are in the best position to understand the views of parents, making them a valuable asset to any governing committee as they can facilitate effective communication with the parent community and help the committee understand how certain issues can impact parents and their children.

Although an integral component of the role is informing the committee about parent-focussed issues, parent governors are not there to represent the views of other parents in the community.

Parent governors are an independent governor, who should act as a part of the committee, working towards the committee's objectives, and voting and contributing as an individual and not a delegate for parents.

All governors share equal responsibility for the execution of the functions of the committee, and the unique position of parent governors to relate to parents should not result in unfair expectations or an unfair distribution of workload or responsibilities.

Some responsibilities as Parent Governor include:

- Attend all full governing committee meetings and relevant committee meetings.
- Represent the school in a positive and approachable manner.
- Have a strong commitment to the school and its pupils, working in a way that reflects the vision and ethos of the school.
- Ensure that the committee maintains effective and appropriate accountability to parents.
- Act as a 'critical friend' to the headteacher, offering challenge, support, advice, and encouragement, as required, whilst maintaining a professional relationship.

We have a number of vacancies available at some schools within the Trust. If you are interested in applying, please contact the Trust, or the school your child attends for more information.



## Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant Opens new sixth form study centre at English Martyrs

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, Sue Snowden, visited English Martyrs Sixth Form College to open their newly re-furbished sixth form study area. The study area of the sixth form building has been re-designed to give students a dedicated space to work in their time between lessons.

Mrs Crawshaw, headteacher of the large Hartlepool secondary school and sixth form college said: "We were overjoyed that Mrs Snowden could visit us to see, and open, our wonderful new learning space." The Lord Lieutenant spoke about how vibrant the space was, and as a former teacher herself, spoke passionately about the opportunities it would give them.



## New Study Centre for Carmel Sixth Form

Carmel College's new build Sixth Form Study Centre is now complete. Students are able to access a more dedicated Sixth Form space to complete homework and coursework.

The building includes a classroom as well as several study areas for students to access, a new gymnasium and a viewing gallery to the Sports Hall.



## Investing in Reading in the Early Years

This term the Trust has continued to invest in the reading stock for our primary schools. We want our pupils to have access to the very best reading diet and there is an expectation that children have the opportunity to read from a range of genres. These include texts which have complex narratives, archaic texts and texts which celebrate diversity. Schools have been supported by the Trust to ensure libraries and class reading areas are inclusive, attractive well stocked and promote a positive reading culture.

Proficient reading begins with our youngest pupils in the Early Years. Our schools teach pupils in Early Years and Year 1 through one of two systematic, synthetic schemes for phonics either Sounds Write or Read Write Inc. For these very young pupils reading books are very closely matched to their developing phonetic knowledge. Our teachers are trained regularly in the pedagogy linked to both schemes.

Children learn ONE thing at a time and practise it until it becomes second nature. Interactive practice keeps children focused, and their capacity to learn develops exponentially.

Planned new training for nursery practitioners in our Sounds Write schools aims to get our children off to an even stronger start with their literacy development. This new training will demonstrate how children can develop literacy skills through play, active learning, games, stories and the development of fine motor skills.



Once children become proficient in decoding words they can then improve in fluency, develop comprehension skills and are ready to take off!!

## Curriculum Update

Our Trust Curriculum continues to grow and develop and this term we have launched the curriculum for Design and Technology and Modern Foreign Languages. All schools attended the curriculum launch event on Teams, and heard from members of the curriculum writing teams, who presented their material and talked through its implementation. The MFL team have provided units of work in both French and Spanish, with accompanying resources, created by our own subject specialists. The MFL roll out will continue over the next three terms.

Schools are now delivering the Trust curriculum in History, Geography, Science, Art, DT and MFL. We are already seeing the positive impact of our curriculum, endorsed by Ofsted in recent inspections, as a high-quality product.

Each subject has consistent and recognisable components to the curriculum, which set out to remove teaching content overlap between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, and includes:

- A clear and cohesive curriculum rationale covering intent, implementation, and measurable impact.
- Sequenced components of learning to build on prior learning and connect to future learning, especially at the KS2/3 interface.
- Defined end points of the core and powerful knowledge for pupils to know and remember at the end of a lesson, a sequence, and a topic.
- Golden threads and concepts interwoven throughout each subject. These themes and concepts are the foundations to a subject, and again, are consistent and recognisable components for staff across all schools.
- Topic misconceptions to address with pupils.
- Assessment strands, in a world without levels, built into the curriculum, using writing skills, retrieval practice and short sharp tasks, to enable pupils to know more and remember more.



## The BHCET family supporting the Ukraine crisis

Wednesday 9th March was set aside so that all BHCET schools would come together at three points throughout the day to unite ourselves in prayer for all those suffering as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. A short piece of scripture was meditated on and a prayer shared by all members of the community. There was the option to pray a decade of the rosary following each of the three reflections. Our intentions were:

### 9am The problem

- Pray that the fighting will cease; for a de-escalation of the crisis
- Invite God's peace to reign across Ukraine; to bring an end to war
- Ask for God's protection for all people

### 12 noon The People

For God's safety, shelter and protection for those who are living in Ukraine, those who are being or are displaced, and for refugees as they seek safe passage to other nations.

- Pray for God's healing for those wounded by attacks, and comfort for those who are mourning the loss of those they love
- Pray for those living in Russia who have also been plunged into the reality of war, who are now facing uncertainty, financial insecurity and hardship

### 3pm The Politicians and Peacemakers

- Inviting the Holy Spirit that a peaceful solution will be proposed and accepted
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for world leaders as they try to find peaceful and long-term solutions to this crisis



On CAFOD Family Fast Day this term Sacred Heart, Hartlepool teamed up with a local business, Hogg Logistics. Children donated items for the people of Ukraine, which will be sent to where it is most needed.



### Holy Rosary comes together to support Ukraine



On the 9th of March we gathered together as a school and as a trust to join in prayer for the people of Ukraine. Our Mini Vinnies and Pupil Chaplains led us in prayer so beautifully this morning, before lunch and at home time to show solidarity with all those suffering due to the current situation in Ukraine. Georgia, one of our Year Six pupils wrote a wonderful poem titled 'Maybe One Day' which shares all of our hopes for a brighter and more peaceful future for all of those that are caught up in this turmoil. Our children and staff were invited to wear blue and yellow, the colours of the Ukrainian flag, in exchange for £1. This money, along with all of the extremely generous donations that we received earlier in the week, will hopefully bring some help to those suffering at this time.

## Catholic Life



### John Paul II awards

On Sunday 13th March five sixth form students received their JP II Award from the Diocese at a special ceremony at the Hilton Hotel, Gateshead.

This award recognises the students' parish work and social involvement. Kiera Williams and James Howdle have completed the Bronze award while Harriet Trewitt, Irin Louis and Theresa Miller completed enough hours to achieve the Gold award. The students should be extremely proud of their efforts, particularly considering they have completed the award during periods of COVID restrictions. Some of the activities the students have completed include leading SVP groups, providing support at parish coffee mornings, singing in parish choirs and Altar Serving.

### School Retreats

Many schools from across the Trust including; St Cuthbert's (Crook), Holy Rosary (Billingham), St Joseph's (Billingham), St Joseph's (Newton Aycliffe), St Bede's (Darlington), St Charles (Tudhoe), St Williams (Trimdon), Carmel College (Darlington), St Michael's (Billingham) and Our Lady and St Bede (Stockton) were among the schools to enjoy a residential trip this year.

Led by the Youth Ministry Team at The Emmaus Village, all students enjoyed engaging with their peers and Team Leaders in a wide range of activities and moments of reflection.

Following the story of The Road to Emmaus, students reflected on times when we need help as well as times when we can help others. Through worship, small group activities and shared testimony of young people who make up the YMT, students gained an insight into how Christ reveals himself in the Eucharist.

There were also special moments of prayer for peace in Ukraine and students showed their virtues of compassion and justice in their actions whilst on their first retreat.



### Minnie Vinnies underwear mission

Our four Darlington primaries worked with The Host Apostolate to support the Daughters of Divine Love in their appeal for underwear to support the Street Children in Nigeria. Mini Vinnies from each school requested the support of their school families to donate underwear to the appeal. We were overwhelmed with the response, as were Halina and Bernadette who came to collect the mountain of underwear provided. Thank you to St Augustine's, St Bede's, Holy Family and St Teresa's for responding to the request.



# School Spotlight

## St Bede's Catholic Academy Awarded Breakfast Grant By Kellogg's

St Bede's Catholic Academy has been successfully granted a bid of £1000 from Kellogg's Breakfast Club Grants Programme to support the running and sustainability of their breakfast club.

St Bede's was selected to receive this boost as Kellogg's announced it is donating more money to support breakfast clubs than ever before, as more and more schools struggle to find the budget to fund this service for their pupils.

Breakfast clubs help with everything from attendance and attainment to alleviating hunger and providing pre-school care.

Bernedette Rizzi-Allan, Headteacher said: "We are so grateful to receive this generous donation. The school is planning to purchase new games, resources, storage and a fruit bar with the funding.

"These resources will help us to continue to provide our breakfast club services for our children and their families thanks to the support from Kellogg's."

Kate Prince, corporate social responsibility manager at Kellogg's, said "We're proud to have spent over 20 years supporting so many schools across the UK. We believe all children should have the opportunity to start the day with breakfast and we know that equipment and resources are just as important to clubs as the food itself."

Kellogg's has supported 4,000 school breakfast clubs with funds, food and training over the last 23 years – that's 70 million bowls of cereal to children all over the UK since 1998.

# Kellogg's

## ST. BEDE'S



### CATHOLIC ACADEMY



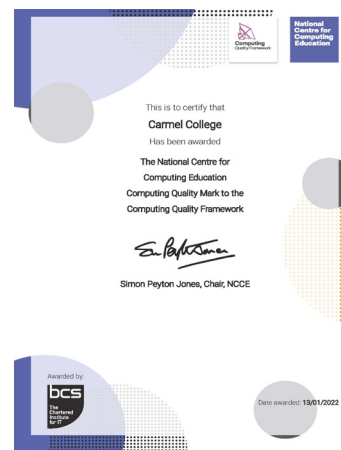
At St Bede's breakfast club, we offer a variety of cereals, toast and crumpets, fresh fruit and yoghurts. Activities include football in the spring and summer terms, playdough modelling to help with fine motor skills, board games, arts and crafts and a cosy reading area.

Breakfast club opens at 8am and finishes at 8:45am the price of breakfast club is £2. The breakfast club is well established at St Bede's, we will use the funding we have received to improve what we offer our children by providing new activities and more breakfast options.

## Carmel College

Carmel has been awarded the NCCE Quality Computing Mark. The Quality Computing Mark (QCM) is a recognition of a schools journey towards excellence in computing education and that specific criteria have been met in relation to the schools computing provision.

The Quality Computing Framework (QCF) is based around seven dimensions. Each of these dimensions is rated using a range of specific criteria. Schools make progress by demonstrating they are committed to the improvement of their computing provision. Once more of the criteria have been 'ticked off' and evidence has been shown, they can move on to the next level. Finally, once each of the dimensions has been signed off as being at level 4 out of 5, on balance, the 'Quality Computing Mark' can be awarded. Carmel is one of the first ten schools across the country to achieve the award and will be encouraging as many other schools across the region to take part and show their commitment to the newest of the National Curriculum subjects.



## Careers Fair - Weds 16th March 2022 – 5-7.30pm



This term we relaunched our very own Careers Fair and welcomed almost 400 students from years 9-13. The event was a huge success with many employers, universities, colleges and training providers attending. Students were able to explore their post 16 and 18 options, were able to attend various University and Apprenticeship talks and engaged with employers from a wide range of industries including engineering, pharmaceuticals, aviation, medicine, law, IT, construction, telecommunications, hair and beauty and charity.

The feedback we received from organisations was heart warming as they praised the professionalism of our students and were impressed with their preparations, knowledge and the interest they have in their future careers.



Joshua Connor (Year 12), really impressed Vianet, a digital company. Having prepared for the careers event, Joshua asked excellent questions, showed a keen interest in their organisation and has been offered a work experience placement with them! Joshua is studying maths, further maths and computer science at A level and he also has a keen interest in playing the drums and the cello. Joshua found the careers event extremely useful for networking. He said "It's so easy to just research companies using the internet but the careers event was a great way to network with employers and get contacts." He asked questions and showed a keen interest in Vianet, sold his skills and asked them directly if they have any work experience opportunities. Vianet were really impressed with his professionalism and we see a great future for Josh!



Jacobs solutions provider handed out application forms for The Big Project coming up! This is a fantastic opportunity to be part of an innovative project, developing skills in all areas of project management.



Katie Rotherham, a former Carmel student and now an apprentice at Jacobs, will be involved with running the Big Project and is looking forward to working with our students.

## International level roller hockey for St Michael's student



Ethan O'Riordan has represented Middlesbrough in Roller Hockey against International teams from England, Austria and Switzerland and he has also coached the younger U15 and U13 England Academy teams. Although his team didn't make it into the final rounds, it developed his sports skills, teamwork and most importantly, his confidence. We are very proud of his achievements. As well as representing Middlesbrough Roller Hockey Club against International teams, he had his first try in goal supporting U11s, and spoke with Andy Preston, Middlesbrough Mayor about the enjoyment roller hockey has brought him. It was a great experience for him!

## English Martyrs School

The English Martyrs Year 10 Football team have reached the ESFA Boys Elite Schools Cup Final. This extremely talented group of young men fought a tough match in the semi final of the tournament against Sandwell. Previous winners of the last two tournaments, and a team full of West Brom Academy players plus an England international proved to be difficult opponents to play against, however, the boys dug deep to grind out a 4-3 victory. A phenomenal achievement. Well done and good luck for the final.



## Our Lady and St Bede



### Big Big Project - Winners

We had a fabulous evening celebrating the amazing talents and achievements of our pupils who participated in the Big Big Project last year. During a difficult time of lock down they all worked tremendously hard, with one team winning and the other team who were runners up of the project.

Thank you to Tees Valley Combined Authority Careers Service for running the project and AECOM for mentoring our pupils. We are extremely proud of all pupils, staff and mentors involved.

### Sporting Success (Ice Skating, Gymnastics, Cross Country)

We are extremely proud of one of our Year 7 pupils Faith F who has secured a place at the British Ice Skating Qualifier in Sheffield and competed on Monday 21st March 2022.

A huge congratulations to one of our super talented Year 9 pupils, Lani. After trials last summer and a competition in October, Lani has been selected for the England Tumbling squad 2022. This involves attending training camps in both the UK and France and the potential of international competitions.



Hopefully 2022 will be a great year for Lani, and Our Lady and St Bede will be supporting her all the way!

Congratulations to both Jessica and Jennifer on their achievements placing 4th and 6th for Cleveland County for Cross Country. They have qualified for the English Schools Cross Country Final in March, where the top placed runners from across the country are competing. We are so proud to have two exceptionally talented pupils representing Our Lady and St Bede. We are so proud of you both and your achievements. Good luck in the finals!



### Computer Science

On Saturday the 5th of February, the Computer Science department took the 'USBees' team to the semi-final of the Cyberfirst competition at Teesside University. The team included Lucy A, Isobel W, Penny O and Rosie R from Year 8. The team came second in the North East, which means they came in the top 20 out of 1800 teams around the country. It's an absolutely fantastic achievement, they learnt a lot and had a really great day!



## St John's, Bishop Auckland



TWO students from the same school have won a prestigious international writing competition after putting themselves in the place of pilgrims on an arduous Jacobean walk.

A special delegation from Spain visited St John's Catholic School and Sixth Form, Bishop Auckland, to present prizes to Year 10 student Lucy Scott and Year 9 student Effie Hughes. While they were there, as a surprise to the Spanish officials, a commemorative plaque was unveiled cementing relations between the school and the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrimage.



Every year hundreds of students from the school take part in a competition to write a formal letter from the point of view of a pilgrim making the historic journey of faith. Around 200 entered in 2021 and 100 have already completed their stories for this year ahead of the competition even being launched in Europe.

The Camino de Santiago is a network of pilgrims' ways leading to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great, in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, in Galicia, north western Spain, where tradition holds that the remains of the apostle are buried.

The competition attracts tens of thousands of entries from all over the world which are judged on the quality of language and creativity of writing.

Lucy said: *"I am overwhelmed. It is amazing to receive a prize when so many people enter. I never thought I would win. I am taking Spanish at GCSE and I'm going to see where that takes me. That is the exciting part about it, that you can visit the country and speak their language."*

*"I tried to imagine myself in the situation of an ancient pilgrim and the hardships and suffering they would have had to endure. I love writing and it is an option I'm considering. I love the fact you can be sitting at your desk at home but can be transport in my mind to different parts of the world."*

Effie added: *"I feel so happy to win from so many entries, particularly as I take French rather than Spanish."*

Spanish deputy Antonio Leira said: *"I'd like to congratulate the school and the students for participating and the teachers for ensuring they have this opportunity every year. I'd also like to recognise the quality and the number of entries submitted by St John's."*

*"What you are doing is even more important this year because you are promoting culture against a backdrop of a pandemic and war in Europe, which we must always keep in our minds. You are amazing students and I thank you from the bottom of my heart."*

Phill Robertson Curriculum Research and Development Lead said: *"The number of entries was unbelievable and the competition offered a different aspect to their studies during the pandemic lockdown."*

Head teacher Lisa Byron added: *"It's a great experience for the students because it promotes cultural links with the country and extends the children's knowledge beyond the usual tourist areas of Spain. We are delighted to welcome our visitors and we look forward to working together on more projects in the future."*

## Our Lady and St Thomas Cross Country Champions!



In the week where we celebrated International Women's Day, we are delighted to announce our Girls Cross Country team from Years 5 and 6 were crowned the overall champions out of the whole of County Durham.

To reach the finals was an excellent achievement but to go on and win the competition was epic indeed!

A huge well done to Daisy, Emily, Erin, Niamh and our twins Nell and Kitty who had a photo finish and had to share joint first place! Attending an event once again following the constraints of the pandemic and the ecstatic faces of our girls was joyous indeed.

## St Augustine's celebrates World Book Day

Every year group in St Augustine's celebrated World Book Day by designing 'Book Boxes'. The school family was amazed at the quality of boxes on display, some parents even commented that we should have charged entry.

Our exhibition was viewed by a very special visitor, The Worshipful the Mayor of Darlington. Mayor Cyndi Hughes was delighted to spend time with the children discussing their inspirations for their boxes. She left with a long list of suggested reading!



## Sporting success at St William's



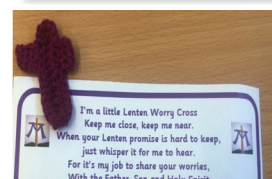
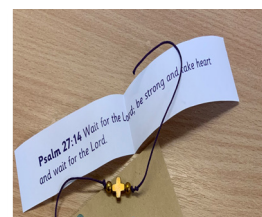
Children from Year 5 & 6 from St William's have achieved sporting success in recent Sports Hall Athletic tournaments.

Not only did they finish in first place in both of the heats they competed in, but they also eventually achieved first place in the regional finals and will now go on to compete in national finals. As well as a fantastic group effort, two children from Year 6 smashed currently held records for the triple jump and standing high jump events.

## St Teresa's Hartlepool Lent activities

The celebrate Lent this year St Teresa's has multiple activities happening. Our RE Coordinator, Mrs Ward, has set up 'seek and find' scripture verses for each day and has hidden them around the school with prayer bracelets. The child who finds them gets to keep the prayer bracelet - there will be a few to find each day! She has also, incredibly, crocheted little worry crosses for every child in reception, Year 1 and Year 2!

For the four weeks of Lent we are having cake sales, with each team taking responsibility for a week. All the money raised will go to the CAFOD appeal. Our Lent celebration Mass will be held this Thursday in the school hall for years 2 - 6.



## Forest School for Blessed John Duckett



During Spring Term, Years 2 & 3 at Blessed John Duckett have taken part in Forest School. Throughout the term they have learnt to build dens by practising knot tying and they have been learning about fire safety. The children also took part in activities about identify different kinds of leaves and making leaf mobiles. They told stories around the campfire with Cedrick the dragon. Finally, they finished off their sessions with making toast on the fire. All the children thoroughly enjoyed their time at Forest School.



## Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's, Coundon



Our children decided to focus on what we can do to spread positivity and kindness in our community this Lent.

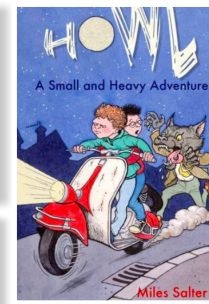
This week, Year 1 and 2 created some bouquets of kindness, which they shared with our local parishioners when learning the traditions of the Stations of the Cross.

## A storytelling workshop at St Wilfrid's

On the last day of half term, Miles Salter (author, poet, storyteller and musician) visited St Wilfrid's. He has written lots of books, including the book – *Howl: A Small and Heavy Adventure*. Which was the first children's book he wrote. He kindly gave copies of his book to children as prizes and some more copies for our classes reading for pleasure corners.

During his visit, he worked with every child in school, giving us tips for writing, bringing stories to life with role play and getting us all singing along with his guitar.

The day was a great success, and children and teachers said that they had lots of ideas for creating and bringing stories to life thanks to Miles' workshop.



## Introducing career path workshop at St Teresa's, Darlington



During the spring term, the children of St Teresa's had the opportunity to understand how they can widen their horizons by participating in interactive workshops delivered by Sunderland University. Children experienced three engaging workshops relating to possible career paths and introduced them to 'what a university is?' and 'what university life would be like'.

In the first session, the children designed their own university linked to their interests. This involved designing their own logo, building and society. During the second workshop they built a representation of their life now and a model of their future aspirations out of Lego, e.g., a football club (now) and a dentist (future). In the final workshop, the children learnt about the medical profession by using a range of medical equipment in a role play scenario.

This inspired discussions about possible careers within medicine. Throughout the workshops the children were fully engaged. Participation and enjoyment were extremely high and the children talked enthusiastically about their aspirations and future career options.

## 'Fairtrade Fortnight' at the forefront

During 'Fairtrade Fortnight' the whole of St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Stockton completed a range of interesting activities. The students learnt more about Fairtrade and studied the effect the climate crisis is having on farmers. In each class we made placards with a message to show MPs, businesses and the wider community that we support farmers. We are asking them to think about, 'Choosing the World they want'. The Fairtrade Club also held quizzes and a tuck shop to raise funds for this worthwhile cause. The whole event was a great success.



## St Paul's Primary School, Billingham



### Hearing Dogs for Deaf People:

One of our pupils took part in "28 Acts of Kindness" challenge during February.

Penny raised funds for the charity "Hearing Dogs for Deaf People" by being sponsored for her charitable acts of kindness.

Penny helped organise a visit to St Paul's from Jez, a trainee Hearing Dog and his trainer.

We were so lucky to learn more about this wonderful charity and the positive impact a Hearing Dog can make to someone's life. Penny raised nearly £2000 for the charity.

### Primary Maths Challenge:

We are extremely proud of the children in Year 6 who have taken part in the National Primary Mathematics Challenge. This challenge encourages enthusiasm, boosts confidence in mathematics and aims to develop children's problem solving and reasoning skills. The children have successfully made it through the first two rounds of challenges and in February they completed the final round after answering some very tricky word problems and reasoning challenges.



Of the nine Year 6 children who took part, eight were awarded a gold medal and one received a silver.

## A love of books at Sacred Heart



Sacred Heart has managed, through fundraising, to buy a book vending machine, so that children's accomplishments can be celebrated and they will get a vending token to choose a new book for themselves. On World Book Day we decided to do something different and instead of dress as a character from a book, we would dress as a 'word'. This idea all centred around the book, *The Word Collector* by Peter Reynolds, which we have been studying. We also held competitions to guess what 'word' children and staff had dressed as. We ended the day with a huge book swap! Children brought in a book, they no longer read, and swapped it for another book. All activities were coordinated by our Eco-Warrior Group.

## St Chad's feast day

The 2nd of March is St. Chad's Feast Day. To celebrate St Chad, the first Bishop of Mercia, on his special day, every child in the school planted a flower (in our school colours) within the school grounds. As the spring and summer arrives we look forward to watching them grow and bloom to remind us of the magnificent man that our school is named after.



## St John Vianney Stations of the Cross

During Lent at St. John Vianney School, our children gathered for Liturgical Prayer each day in their 'family at school', made up of children from each class, led by a Year 6 child, their Hoofy (head of our family). During the first four weeks, each family thought about one station. They considered if the story of the station was recorded in a Gospel and if not, then they suggested reasons why the story arose. They went on to choose a way to represent the station making use of the talents available in the family: the artists helped to explain the station as a picture; the readers enjoyed finding different passages of scripture that spoke to them about the sentiment of that station; while the story tellers composed different ways of describing what happened to Jesus on this horrifying journey. Together the family thought about what their chosen station said to them before considering what 'we' should be thankful for at this station and devised a liturgical action to support reflection at that station.

During the fifth week of Lent, families led community Liturgical Prayer daily presenting their stations – three each day. As a community, we have learnt from these reflections that scripture and tradition are both important and inform Christian devotion and that revelation continues to unfold in our school today. We have recognised the suffering that continues to trouble our World, as we have focused on Ukraine, the continuing pandemic and the effects of increasing poverty. At the end of each reflection we have seen the hope that comes from Jesus accompanying us in all aspects of our lives, especially those times when we feel least able to bear the load ourselves.



## St Gregory's celebrated World Book Day with all things reading

St Gregory's celebrated World Book Day with all things reading. The children started the morning with a whole school assembly where they took part in a reading quiz. Throughout the day, there were many activities for the children to enjoy including, listening to famous authors read, sharing a book with their friends and with our younger children, creating their own bookmarks and group discussions about their favourite books and authors. The children were also invited to dress up as their favourite book character and you can see many of these in our photos. Everyone had a great day learning more about BOOKS!



St Gregory's  
World Book Day 2022



## Parent student maths evening at St Cuthbert's, Hartlepool



The Year 6 children at St Cuthberts, Hartlepool held a parents maths evening to teach their parents maths strategies. The children loved turning the tables and being the teachers for once! A great amount of fun was had by all and now the parents are better equipped to help their children at home with their homework.

## Harry Potter Day at St Charles



The children and adults at St Charles love to read. So, to celebrate the 25th anniversary celebrations of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone first published 1997, the staff at St Charles organised a Harry Potter theme day. The children flew into school dressed as wizards and witches and began the day using the 'Sorting Hat' placing them into one of the four houses: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin. There were many exciting activities planned across the day including the opportunity to showcase sketching skills as the children took part in a virtual art lesson with Jonny Duddle, the illustrator of some of the Harry Potter books. There were lots of fantastic sketches of Hagrid, and the progressions of skills was clear from our youngest children through to our oldest. Towards the end of the day, the children gathered on the playground for a picture when a Golden Snitch suddenly appeared soaring across sky, the children were ecstatic. It was a magical day!

## Wellbeing improvement for St Partick's

St Patrick's were pleased to receive the Well-being Award for School's from AwardsPlace. This award focuses on improving the long-term culture of the whole school, using an evidence-based framework to drive positive change. This demonstrates the commitment that our mental health and well-being team have made by providing the best education and support for staff, pupils and the whole school community.



2022-2025

## When I grow up... Dame Maura Regan visits St Joseph's Norton



During National Careers Week, all of our pupils at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Norton, took part in exploring what careers they would like to have when they grow up. To inspire the children, raise their aspirations and give them an insight into a wide range of careers, they had many special visitors who came to talk about their jobs. The Dogs Trust, an entomologist, a local vet, doctor, nurse, a university professor, PSCO, two Middlesbrough football club coaches, the CEO of a building firm and our very own BHCET CEO, Dame Maura Regan, came to share stories and information about their chosen careers.

Dame Maura Regan told us all about her career journey from studying at St. Mary's Twickenham, to becoming a teacher in London and then Carmel College, before becoming the CEO of an ever-growing Catholic Education Trust.



St. Joseph's is currently taking part in a Careers Pilot with Tees Valley Combined Authority which has also led onto a successful funding application to become a 'Skills Builder' school. The aim of the pilot is to ensure careers education is taught early, whilst raising aspirations and broadening children's horizons. It supports the development of non-academic skills such as enterprise, financial awareness, behaviours, and life skills. The skills builder framework supports children to develop their essential life skills.

At St. Joseph's we linked these skills to our Trust Virtues and throughout the year the children have been taking part in many different PSHE careers themed lessons and activities that allow them to build skills through experiences and learn about careers education.

## St Bede's Darlington Mayor's Song Contest

On Friday 4th March, fifteen of our Y6 children represented St Bede's at this year's Mayor's Song Contest. The whole choir absolutely blew us away with their amazing performance of The Greatest Showman's Million Dreams. We had some incredible soloists, who showed exceptional talent and confidence in front of hundreds of parents from schools across Darlington, as well as a select team of judges which included the mayor, Cllr. Cyndy Hughes. The children also led everyone in a moment of reflection for Ukraine, which set the scene for a wonderful celebration of community, talent and team spirit. Following the contest, the choir received a special message of thanks from the mayor, and was also recognised especially for their kindness and encouragement towards other groups of children backstage! A huge well done to this year's choir.



## Holy Family working toward Faith In Action



Year 6 at Holy Family have been singing for The Mayor of Darlington, The Worshipful the Mayor Cyndi Hughes. The Year 6 class have been working towards their Faith In Action pin award and have been working all year to do just that: put their faith into action by doing good works for others.

They have sent pants to Uganda and Christmas parcels to a partner school in Malawi among many other things. Their class teacher Mrs Mary Mustard has written a hymn about their journey and has taught it to the class. She contacted Carmel College who set the hymn to music and the Year 6's performed the hymn for the mayor when she visited school.



# Bishop Hogarth

## Catholic Education Trust

Carmel College, The Headlands  
Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 8RW

**[www.bhcet.org.uk](http://www.bhcet.org.uk)**

**01325 254525**

**[admin@bhcet.org.uk](mailto:admin@bhcet.org.uk)**

