



We are

BISHOP HOGARTH

Catholic Education Trust

NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2023

Christ at the centre, Children at the heart

Wishing you a
Happy and Holy Christmas



From the Staff and Students of
Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust

Welcome



Dear parents /carers,

Welcome to the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust newsletter. No one expected the term to start with the national Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) problems. We are pleased that the work of our Headteachers and Central Team, as well as the DfE, has led to a clear project plan where our two Trust schools are able to deliver their excellent education safely and effectively whilst the RAAC removal takes place.

As a Trust where we hold Christ at the centre and Children at the heart, this time leading up to Advent is always a very special period. Schools are gearing up to retell the story of the Nativity, of Christ made present among us. A period of time when we reflect and look at ourselves, and how we make Christ present in the everyday. We hope and pray that our schools are places where both children and adults treat each other with more than just respect and tolerance, but also with a genuine welcome and celebration of differences.

With the current turmoil and conflict nationally and internationally, we pray that the decision makers consider the impact on the families and children in all that they do.

We are really pleased that the extensive hard work across our schools has been recognised by all the Ofsted and Diocesan inspections we have had this term; these are exciting times with so much to look forward to. We are proud that we have flourishing schools that provide excellent learning and are always aiming to improve.

As you read through Our Trust newsletter, we hope you will enjoy finding out about the many exciting events that have taken place across our family of schools.



Mr Mike Shorten
Chief Executive Officer

'Christ Lives in Our Trust' Event



On Wednesday 18th October, staff and students from Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust gathered together for our "Christ Lives in Our Trust" event. It was wonderful to welcome newly appointed Bishop Stephen Wright, into our Trust community.

Bishop Stephen shared his personal faith journey, which left attendees inspired and deeply moved, and the students thoroughly enjoyed asking him insightful questions. Bishop Stephen was gifted a piece of original artwork, created by the students at St Michael's Catholic Academy in Billingham. The artwork celebrates the North East of England, of which he is now the Shepherd.

The event included students from our Trust primary and secondary schools, and they assisted us in worship, singing and dancing. A special moment during our time of prayer was when students led the Hail Mary through choreographed dance. The event coincided with the Feast of St. Luke, and the Gospel message for the day, "Peace to this House," resonated deeply with the attendees. The Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust community closed the celebration by uniting in prayer and thanks.



Mike Shorten, CEO, added, *'It was a joy to see all the Bishop Hogarth Trust schools, singing, dancing and celebrating all the great catholic social teaching work that goes on across the Trust. A real opportunity to celebrate and encounter Christ in so many ways, and it was made all the more special for the children to meet Bishop Stephen.'*



Whole Trust News

CPD Day Friday 20th October



On Friday 20th October, over 1,600 staff from our family of 35 schools gathered together for a transformative INSET Day.

The day was centred around the fundamental principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Dr. Ann Marie Mealey, Director of Catholic Mission at Leeds Trinity University and a widely respected Catholic Moral Theologian and Ethicist, delivered the keynote address.

Our staff exchanged ideas and celebrated how our schools already live out the values of Catholic Social Teaching - as champions of the common good who prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable, and stand in solidarity with all their communities.

The INSET Day not only served as a valuable opportunity for professional development, but also reinforced our Trust's commitment to fostering a holistic education that nurtures both the intellect and the spirit.



Inspection Spotlight

Ofsted



We are delighted to share that **St Teresa's Catholic Primary School** in Hartlepool have been rated GOOD by Ofsted once again!

Mrs Bruton, Headteacher said *"We are absolutely delighted to achieve a good grading! This reflects the hard work of our staff to ensure that our children are given the best education that we can provide."*



Our Lady & St Thomas Catholic Primary School have been rated GOOD by Ofsted, with their behaviour and attitudes rated as Outstanding!

Ofsted stated that *"Pupils' behaviour is excellent both in lessons and around school. They demonstrate consistently positive attitudes to their learning."*



St Chad's Catholic Primary School have been rated GOOD by Ofsted once again with praise given to the embodiment of the school's mission statement!

Ofsted stated that *"This school is a calm, happy and welcoming learning community. The school's values and mission statement, 'come as you are and walk with us', are*

Catholic Schools Inspectorate



Blessed John Duckett Catholic Primary School has been rated OUTSTANDING by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate!

Headteacher Miss Ellison said *"We are delighted to announce that we were graded OUTSTANDING in our latest Diocesan Inspection! A huge thank you to everyone that was involved, but especially the children of BJD who we are so very proud of."*

We are so proud of our primary schools for their amazing inspection results achieved this term.

Congratulations!

With a handful of our schools currently undergoing inspection, we look forward to sharing their results with you in the Spring 2024 edition of the Newsletter. We wish all of our schools the best of luck!

Secondaries & Sixth Forms

Carmel College



Stronger Communities Awards

Four Student Ambassadors attended the awards ceremony at the Dolphin Centre, representing our School of Sanctuary group. The awards recognise individuals and organisations who are dedicated to supporting their community. Our students won Exceptional Young Volunteer and the overall Young Citizen of the Year award.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

What a sweet success! Our Macmillan Coffee Morning was a delicious blend of community spirit and delectable treats. Huge thanks to our bakers, students-turned-baristas, raffle ticket sellers, and cake enthusiasts for making this morning so special! Your efforts truly raised the bar! A round of applause for our very own Maureen Dulston, the mastermind behind the "Rainbow Cake of the Day!" A special thank you to Mrs. Frank for her dedication and impeccable co-ordination. This event wouldn't have been the same without your guiding hand.



Sporting Success

Carmel students have achieved several wins and successes this term in a wide range of sporting activities! Highlights include:



- Our Year 10 & 11 girls displayed remarkable skill and determination in the second round of the County Cup against Castle View Enterprise Academy.



- Hats off to our phenomenal Year 8 football team for an outstanding victory, securing their spot in the last 16 of the County Cup.

- The Football Association has chosen George from Year 9 to join the England Under 15 Football Training Camp. George has received a special letter from Peter Gibson MP, personally congratulating him!

- Thomas in Year 9 has been chosen for the DPP Newcastle Falcons Rugby Development Player Programme.

- An incredible performance by Francesca at the Classic Challenge Gold regional qualifier secures her a well-deserved spot in the National Classic Challenge Gold competition in December.



- Huge cheers for the 28 unstoppable students from Year 7, 8, 9, and 10 who gave it their all at the county round of the English Schools Cross Country! Ollie (Year 7) dominated the U13 junior race, clinching victory and leading the team to qualification for the regional round on November 9th.

- Charlie (Year 11) conquered the East Midlands champion in the National Quarter final of the England Development Championship securing him a coveted spot in the National Semi Final.

Secondaries & Sixth Forms

The English Martyrs



Artsmark Award

Students and staff at The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Artsmark Award in a momentous year for the programme as it celebrates 20 years of arts, culture and creativity in schools.

The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. In order to achieve their Gold Artsmark Award, the secondary school and sixth form college had to develop their arts and culture provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school.

EMS was supported by Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums (Culture Bridge North East) in planning and developing their objectives. Culture Bridge worked alongside the school at various stages to support their Gold Artsmark Award achievement.



Oliver

Students and staff from The English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College are celebrating the success of their latest musical performance of 'Oliver!'

Performed to nearly eight hundred spectators over a three-night run at Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre, the cast and crew put on a production that left audiences full of praise for the young talent on show, with many messages of support being left on the school's social media channels. The annual musical at English Martyrs is a long-served tradition of the school and thousands of students have trodden the boards in various musicals across the past fifty years.

'Oliver!' is the first production from EMS since the success of 'Sister Act' in February 2020, a week before the pandemic, which meant this was the first musical for a large number of the cast.



Book Vending Machine

We held a grand opening of our new book vending machine. Tokens were given to the top readers for November in Year 7, 8 and 9 along with a representative from the top tutor group 7AL1 and our student librarian of the month.



Year 9 Barcelona Trip

A group of Year 9 students went on a trip to Barcelona, Spain. They embarked on a fantastic Dali & Picasso tour through the city, visiting various sites of art & architecture and learning about Catalonian culture. They also climbed Montjuic to enjoy many amazing views of the city. A visit to the Parc Guell where they saw many of Gaudi's beautiful designs followed by a guided tour of the magnificent Sagrada Familia were highlights of this fantastic trip.

Secondaries & Sixth Forms

Our Lady & St Bede



Rewards, Rewards and more Rewards...

At OLSB, we've cultivated a supportive environment centered on acknowledging and rewarding the diligence of our students. In October, we introduced a Fab Friday Show and Tell event, giving students a platform to showcase their achievements to our leadership team, staff, and their peers. This weekly event has seen an increasing number of participants week-by-week, with students coming together to present their work from various subjects throughout the school and experience a sense of pride in their accomplishments. In the latest event, 231 students attended and were treated to hot chocolate and toast as a token of appreciation for their hard work.

In addition to this, students have been working hard in lessons and achieving lots of house points for their efforts. These house points have led to certificates, postcards, sweets and treats, with the highest performers entered in a rewards draw and a place on one of the reward trips! Students have also had afternoon tea with Mrs Wilkinson – SLTea - where they were served tea, cakes, sandwiches and sweet treats.



Academic Enrichment

Our fantastic Academic Enrichment programme is underway for Year 11 students. Students have one half hour session for every subject they study, which is either on a lunch time or after school. Year 11 have responded to these extra sessions brilliantly and in a very mature manner. The sessions are short, sharp and supportive and offer students that extra opportunity to aspire to be as successful as possible in the summer. Well done Year 11 and keep up the brilliant work!



Enrichment

This year, over 80 activities are being offered to students each week. These activities range from sport, music and history, to Pokemon, SVP and Debate Club. Each department is offering at least one club to help enrich their curriculum areas and students have responded very well to the offer of clubs this year. The clubs last between 30 minutes to 1hr on a morning, at lunchtime and afterschool. Students are extremely thankful to our staff for giving up their time to ensure that their experience of school life is broad, balanced and exciting.



Careers and Aspiration

40 Year 9 students and 4 staff went on an exciting visit to the British Army Albemarle Barracks near Newcastle on Monday 9th October for the British Army Supercamp. After being issued with their Camouflage Gear and PPE, they took part in team building and military fieldcraft activities. Students were also able to find out about all of the different careers available in the British Army. A fantastic time was had by all and Sophia was awarded the title "Student of the day". To remember the day, all of the pupils and staff came away with a "Be the Best" British Army T-shirt and water bottle.

Secondaries & Sixth Forms

St John's



Dan Smith Author Visit

We were lucky enough to have a visit from author Dan Smith, who gave an inspiring talk to Year 7 about his life, career and new book, 'The Wall Between Us'. Almost the entire year group brought their previously gifted copies of Dan's book in to be signed, meaning Dan signed over 220 books that morning! Year 7 were a real credit to St John's in their behaviour, engagement and manners, and a special mention and thank you to Miss Heads who organised this event and continues to develop our students' passion for reading.

One Day More!

Following the success of last year's production of The Addams Family, we were delighted to announce that we are heading back to the 19th century for this year's summer production of Les Miserables. Over 80 students came along to our launch session to learn all about the show and how to be involved, and we are looking forward to our upcoming auditions in November. The show itself will take place on the 10th and 11th July and promises to be another superb production which is not to be missed!



Year 12 Retreat

Our Year 12 students took part in a retreat day focusing on the theme of 'No Limits'. Stuart explained how he defied the odds and achieved great things both professionally and personally by using the catchphrase 'Give it a go'. Students were then led through a reflection with our Chaplain, Emma, who focused the session on a quote from Usain Bolt: "The sky has no limits, neither should you." The retreat day ended with a visit to Hamsterley Forest, developing relationships and taking time out to reflect on the message of the day. They also used the visit to complete a sponsored walk to raise money for a charity close to our hearts at St John's, Teenage Cancer Trust.



Music Maestros!

We are extremely proud of two of our Year 13 students, Jak and Chloe, who are members of the Spennymoor Town Band. They won the Third Section Champions at the Bolsover Festival of Brass at the end of September alongside their fellow band members, one of whom is our very own Peripatetic Music Teacher, Fiona Casewell. Jak was also awarded best soloist prize in this section, a superb achievement! Both Chloe and Jak are huge contributors to the musical life of the school, so it is wonderful to see them achieving so highly in their music outside of school too.



Secondaries & Sixth Forms

St Michael's



Iceland Trip

In October half term, some Year 9 and 10 students travelled to Iceland with the geography department. They visited the Natthagi Valley to see the lava flow from the 2021 volcanic eruption. Students enjoyed a morning glacier climb on Solheimajokull. On the final night of the trip, students experienced a once in a lifetime opportunity of seeing the northern lights over Reykjavik.



Culture of Excellence

We are encouraging students to be proud of their work and to always try their best. Students have gained confidence in discussing their learning whilst celebrating their achievements on social media with parents and carers. 'What Went Well Wednesday' has captivated the attention of students with more than 150 students coming to show their work on a Wednesday lunchtime. We have also introduced Curriculum Champions, who are students picked weekly by each subject department that have excelled in that subject area. The students chosen are rewarded with a hot chocolate and cookies with Mrs Humble. Additionally, we are rewarding students who showcase one of the eight trust virtues. Virtue awards are given out every lesson by class teachers to reward students who show excellence in their learning.



Army Careers Day

Students from Year 10 and 11 visited Albemarle Barracks, Newcastle, to experience the career opportunities within the army. The students were transformed into the army issue uniforms and given a briefing of the expectations of the day. There were several activities for students to experience throughout the day, each highlighting different area of careers within the army.



Year 7 Author Visit

In November, Year 7 students travelled to SRC Bede Sixth Form, where they met author Cath Howe as part of the 40th annual Northern Children's Book Festival. Cath is an award winning author and has won prizes for stories, poems and monologues, and has even written a musical. She spoke to students about her book 'My Life on Fire'. It was a great session where students could ask questions about writing and publishing a book, as well as the author's intent behind the writing.



Future Lioness!

Emily (Year 7) has been picked to be in a Regional Emerging Talent Centre for girls aged 10 to 16 years who have been recognised by the Football Association as potential future Women's England Lionesses players. Emily is one of 2,000 players in the whole of the Country who were trialed and picked for this very special opportunity. Emily is also contracted with the University of Teesside, who are one of the Emerging Talent Centres across the Country. As part of the Talent Centres, Emily trains two nights a week with UEFA Coaches and she has also been signed by Middlesbrough Football Girls in the Premier League. We are thrilled with Emily's success. She has also been representing the academy in the Year 7 football teams - for boys and girls! She is the highest scorer on the St Michael's Under 14 Girls Team following their 10-3 win in October.

Primaries

Blessed John Duckett



Local Foodbank

Our students, along with students from St Chad's, visited a local foodbank. We learnt all about what happens to our donations and how vital the work of the foodbank is in our local community. We helped sort and prepare the food for distribution and had a great time chatting to the volunteers who give up their time to help others.

Remembrance Service

Two students represented Blessed John Duckett at the Remembrance service in Tow Law.

Youth Village

Year 6 had a fantastic few days at the Youth Village! They had an amazing time working with other schools and making new friends. The theme of the retreat was 'Lost and Found' and we explored the idea that we are never lost to Jesus - He is always waiting to help us when we ask him to.

Holy Family



Nursery Opening

On 11th September, Holy Family opened their doors to Nursery pupils for the first time. Work had gone on over the Summer to create a nursery space from part of the parish centre, which adjoined school. We were so fortunate that Bishop Stephen Wright was visiting our Trust and agreed to come along and bless our new nursery rooms with the help of some of the students.



Primaries

Holy Rosary

Billingham Food Bank

During the month of October, we collected items for Billingham Food Bank. Our Mini Vinnies worked hard to sort through all of our donations and bag them up, ready to be loaded into a van. All of the donations will go to help local families in our area. Thank you to the kind and generous families of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary.



Our Lady & St Thomas



Emmaus Youth Village

Year 6 had a fantastic time at the Emmaus Youth Village! They enjoyed an evening of walking, scavenger hunts and presentations about the virtues God gives us. Everyone had a lovely time, our friendships and teamwork have strengthened and we wish we could stay a little longer. The final morning was filled with art, drama and dance. Ms Graham and Mrs Arrowsmith are so proud of our amazing students, they have been fantastic!

Beamish Visit

Class 2 have had a fantastic day at Beamish looking at the Toys Through Time and exploring what life looked like in the past.

Sporting Success

An amazing achievement for our netball team getting to the final! They played a fantastic game and we are so proud of them.

Primaries

Sacred Heart



Feast of the Most Holy Sacred Heart

We have had a lovely day celebrating our Feast Day. All the classes were given a scripture reading to study and produced some wonderful art work that will be used as prayer stations around the school.

Cricket Success

Well done to our Year 6 girls cricket team. They won their cluster event and are now through to the final after half term.



Coronation Celebrations

Our Coronation celebrations were enjoyed by all the students and staff alike. We had the world famous bubble man, who amazed us with his tricks, all involving bubbles. We had a Punch and Judy show in school and everyone had an ice cream for breakfast! A wonderful day had by all!



St Augustine's



Sporting Success

Another term and another celebration of sporting success, with our students being great ambassadors and our shining stars! Our Year 5 and Year 6 students put their basketball skills on show in the town's Basketball Cup.

Our boys football team finished as runners up in the Darlington FC Foundation Football Tournament – the boys played some excellent football and thoroughly deserved their place in the final.



Lots of determination, self-belief and resilience was shown by our students at Darlington Primary Cross-Country Competition. The students were all amazing, with special recognition given to the 8 students who finished top ten in their races and then went on to represent Darlington at the Tees Valley Competition.



Darlington Diwali parade

Our Year 5 class had an amazing time creating lanterns for Diwali. The students showed fantastic focus and effort to complete them. The lanterns were then included in the Darlington Diwali parade.

Fundraising Events

Our School community has worked hard supporting many fundraising events this term. We have worn pyjamas for Children in Need, enjoyed hot chocolate and marshmallows on our 'Festive Friday's to raise money for school funds and have danced and sung at our seasonal disco, raising invaluable funds for the students here at St Augustine's.

Primaries

St Bede's (Darlington)



Care Home Visit

Students from Year 3 visited Springfield Care Home.

We spent time chatting to the residents, reading stories, doing word searches and colouring. The staff kindly treated us to juice and biscuits. We finished the morning singing nursery rhymes and dancing to 'Baby Shark' and the 'Hokey Cokey'.



Students filled the residents with such joy. It was a beautiful example of Catholic Social Teaching in action.

Children in Need

Students had a wonderful day celebrating Children in Need. We explored how we can develop positive relationships at school and at home. We decorated biscuits, gave bear hunt massages, explored stories from the bible, created wonderful drawings for Springfield care home and practiced taking turns. What a great day!

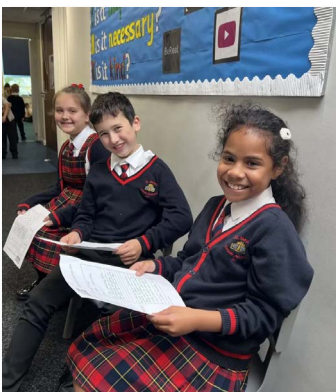


St Bede's (Stockton)

Power of Women (PoW) ambassadors

This term we have selected our Year 5 Power of Women (PoW) ambassadors. PoW's mission is to elevate aspirations and ensure equal access to opportunities for ALL students by empowering young minds through a series of engaging activities, experiences and workshops with links to local businesses. The goal is to boost the ambassadors' confidence, nurture their ambitions, and challenge traditional gender roles.

The students had to apply for the role and were invited for a formal interview process with Mrs Herlingshaw (PoW), Liza (Active Financial) and Mrs Duffield (Head of School). We faced an extremely challenging decision of selecting four ambassadors due to the exceptional quality of the students' application forms and their confident interviews on the day!



Primaries

St Bega's



New School Houses

Students at St Bega's have enjoyed joining one of four new pastoral groups, named after four northern saints. All students now belong to either St Aidan, St Bede, St Cuthbert, or St Wilfrid's house along with their brothers and sisters.

Pastoral groups meet with staff leaders each Friday and have enjoyed working together on creating a house prayer and mission, designing a house badge, and learning about themes to do with Catholic Social Teaching and Virtues. This has enhanced the Catholic life of our school.

Older students in Year 6 have been appointed as prefects and are taking a lead around school, acting as great role models for younger students. Students can earn house points in their classes and each week, the school gathers together with pride to celebrate students' achievements, hard work, and contribution to the life of St Bega's.



St Chad's



Local Foodbank

Our students, along with students from Blessed John Duckett, visited a local foodbank. We learnt all about what happens to our donations and how vital the work of the foodbank is in our local community. We will be working hard in Advent to collect as much as we can to help over the busy Christmas time.



Wear Rivers Trust

Class 4 have been very busy! We have completed a conservation and biodiversity project with the help from Wear Rivers Trust. We would like to say a huge thank you to Philip and the lovely ladies from Daisy Arts for being brilliant advocates for environmental protection. As a result, we have achieved the John Muir award!

Primaries

St Charles'



St Charles' is 150!

In November, the students and staff at St Charles' celebrated the school's 150th birthday. The original school was opened in 1873 as a result of the rapidly increasing generation of the parish. The 1870 Education Act together with population increases in the area prompted religious bodies to provide the necessary educational facilities for the young. By the early 1870's there were approximately 500 students in the parish and so the provision of a Catholic School was essential. Records show that in 1873, the 513 students were divided into only five classes!

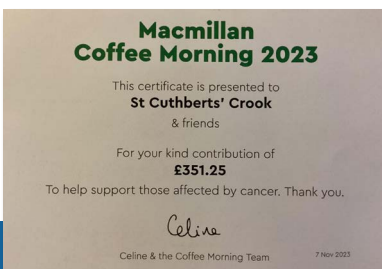


Our celebrations took place with the students and staff, both past and present, celebrating a special Mass with Father Anthony on All Saints Day, followed by further celebrations for the Feast Day of St Charles of Borromeo a few days later. The students enjoyed learning about the history of St Charles and ended the week with delicious ice creams.

St Cuthbert's (Crook)

MacMillan Coffee Morning

WOW! Look what we have received. As a school we raised £351.25 at our MacMillan coffee morning. Many thanks to you for your kindness, generosity and support. We know this donation will be used to support others.



Commendation Certificate

St Cuthbert's has been awarded a Commendation certificate for the students' language competition entries! In the message that accompanied the certificate, the judges said that they "enjoyed the entries greatly" and they wanted to "congratulate all students", and that they "hope they will continue to enjoy using their languages for many years to come".

To celebrate European Day of Languages, students from KS2 took part in a competition run by the Association for Language Learning North East. The students had to fill a treasure chest with pictures and words of things which are important and precious to them. They could write their treasures in any language they chose.

This was a wonderful opportunity for students to practise their French skills from their weekly MFL lessons, as well as celebrating the languages of students who belong to our St Cuthbert's family, such as Polish, Ukrainian, Dutch, German, Italian and so much more!



Primaries

St Cuthbert's (Hartlepool)



STEM project

St Cuthbert's Hartlepool have taken part in a STEM project with a local construction firm enabling children to be inspired at a young age to pursue careers in construction - especially females! Lisa Molloy, Construction and Commercial Manager at Tees Valley-based Seymour Civil Engineering, visited St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School to promote a career in industry.



It all comes as part of a push to upskill the region's workforce and bridge the skills gap as game-changing major projects are developed over the next 15 to 20 years. Promoting construction to primary school youngsters, parents and teachers was at the heart of the visit, which focussed on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Year 6 got the chance to hear what Lisa did for a living, learn more about construction, and plan and build a costed project as part of an exercise. Lisa said: "The construction industry currently faces an unprecedented skills shortage which is only predicted to become worse. Molly in Construction is aimed specifically at primary school students to inform students, parents and teachers about the great careers in construction available to all."



Year 6 students looked at a range of careers for all skill levels and had the chance to work in teams to build bridges to hold a particular weight. They had a rewarding day which provided further aspiration, a better understanding of the range of careers available to them in Hartlepool and a desire to achieve goals set.

St Cuthbert's (Stockton)



Arlo Allotment Project

A group of KS2 are enjoying participating in the 'Arlo Allotment' Project which is run by the Corner House Youth Project. This exciting initiative aims to connect students with the natural outdoor environment, through working on the allotment and also through creative workshops. The weekly sessions follow different topics each week with an ongoing emphasis on supporting students with their social and emotional development.



Marrie Wiczorek Visit

In October, our students had the opportunity to meet Marrie Wiczorek - an ex England football player. She delivered an inspirational assembly to promote high aspirations and celebrate the success of women in football.



Sports Leader Training

A group of students from Year 5 and 6 enjoyed taking part in Sports Leader Training this term, hosted by Stockton School Sport Partnership. Students explored what makes a good leader, as well as gaining ideas for how they can put sports leadership into action in their own schools. Following training, our leaders now meet weekly and plan exciting opportunities for students at break and lunchtimes. They are currently hosting a House Christmas challenge, which students are very excited about.

Primaries

St Gregory's



Cross Country

A top team represented St Gregory's as we ran around Preston Park. Excellent behaviour and an even better performance with 3 of our students going through to the next round of competition!



Cards for Ukrainian Soldiers

Our Mini Vinnies, School Council and Pupil Chaplains have been busy making cards to send to the soldiers on the front line in Ukraine. The students wrote beautiful messages of hope and faith inside the cards. The cards will be given to the Rotary club, who will then put them in shoeboxes that they are sending out to the soldiers.



CAFOD Volunteer Visit

We had the pleasure of welcoming Steve Dent, a CAFOD volunteer, into our wonderful school. He worked with our KS2 students, teaching them the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and how to live these out in their daily lives. He was very impressed with the thoughtful and detailed answers the students gave him.



Wellbeing Ambassadors

Well done to these students who have successfully completed their 8 week course with Alliance and are now qualified Wellbeing Ambassadors.

St John The Evangelist



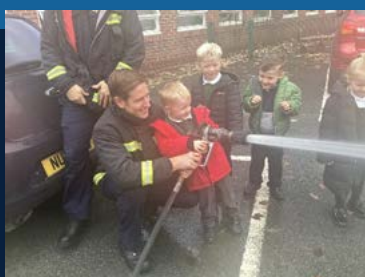
School Kitchen

St John the Evangelist now have their own school kitchen! They are able to prepare, cook and serve delicious hot meals with the new chef, Mr Shaun McKerr.



National Poetry Day and World Mental Health Day

St John's celebrated National Poetry Day and World Mental Health Day. All the work on this day was around the poetry book, 'Being You'. The students were involved in numerous activities based on a poem from the book and they presented to the whole school, at the end of the day.



Eden Camp

The Year 5 and Year 6 students had a wonderful day at Eden Camp, which linked perfectly with their history topic of World War II.

Public Services Visits

Eric Barrett, our local police officer, visited the school and led online safety workshops with Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students as well as the Year 5 and 6 parents.

The fire brigade have been into school to visit our Nursery and Reception students to talk about how they keep us safe.

St John Vianney



Remembrance Day

Our Year 5 students appreciated our visitors, representing the Royal British Legion, as we remembered the fallen in our Remembrance Liturgy.

We thank everyone in our extended school family for attending, and for being part of this important liturgy. We will never forget.

St Joseph's (Billingham)



Sporting Successes

This term, St Joseph's have achieved many sporting successes. We have newly trained Year 5 Sports Leaders and we have taken part in the Year 4 Rugby Festival and Year 6 Tag Rugby Competition.

Our Year 5 and 6 Girls Football Team are through to the Stockton Finals in February after winning all but 2 matches.



This year we took part in a local cross country for the first time, with students from Year 3-6 racing against lots of local schools. Two of our Year 6 girls were placed in the top 3 Year 6 girls for Stockton Schools, and represented us in the Tees Valley Cross Country Finals.

Isabel reports, *"Hannah and I have really enjoyed every sports event we have both been too! We really enjoyed the cross country first round where we came 1st and 3rd out of Year 6 girls, and then coming 8th and 16th at the Tees Valley Finals. We are very proud of ourselves and we had a lot of fun."*



We also played in the Girl's Football Team with some very talented footballers. We played well and lots of other schools complimented us on our matches. Our Year 6 class are also through to the Indoor Sports Hall Athletics Final and this is something we are excited for. Hannah and I are really looking forward to future sports that we will take part in and represent the school."

**Reported by Isabel and Hannah (Sports Leaders)
with Mrs McGough (PE Lead)**

Primaries

St Joseph's (Coundon)



CAFOD Volunteer Visit

A super visit from Tricia at CAFOD teaching us all about Catholic Social Teaching today. She worked with all KS1 and KS2 classes in sessions where we got to look at different characters and what CST Principle they stood for. We then listened to the amazing work CAFOD do.

Our Mini Vinnies met at Lunchtime and we put our heads together for some ideas to raise money... watch this space!



Planetarium Life Science Centre

What an amazing opportunity to step inside the Planetarium with the Life Science Centre - we heard a Greek myth about two of the constellations, had a close up of Mars, and saw the Northern Lights!

St Joseph's (Hartlepool)



Black History Month

Students from St Joseph's Hartlepool were invited to participate in a special celebration at the end of Black History Month. Transformers HLP, a group who work to raise cultural awareness in Hartlepool, came into school to work with the students in sessions that included the history and meaning of their names, as well as African Drumming. During the day, some of our students were given the opportunity to share their own African heritage.

The members of Transformers HLP were so impressed with the students' attitude and involvement that they invited the school to create a choir to sing at the celebratory event at the end of October. The staff, students and their parents attended an evening of song, poetry, music and a meal of traditional African foods. Our choir performed, 'We are the World' for the esteemed guests, which include the Mayor of Hartlepool and Zimbabwean Chief, Nhlanhlayaman.



Pennies for CAFOD

Our Mini Vinnies have been hard at work looking at fundraising projects. The 'Pennies for CAFOD' campaign was relaunched with students happily putting their change, after buying treats at the disco tuckshop, in our new CAFOD tin. They want to save for a larger gift from the CAFOD World Gift Booklet after allocating money from the previous tin to purchase 'Chirpy Chickens' and covers to protect crops.

Primaries

St Joseph's (Newton Aycliffe)



Eco-Schools Green Flag

Students have earned an international accreditation this academic year, recognising their amazing work in making their school more environmentally friendly and raising eco-awareness in fellow students. Students first formed an Eco-Committee and named themselves the eco warriors. They then conducted an environmental review, assessing how eco-friendly their school is. They reviewed everything from biodiversity within their school grounds to how students and staff members travel to school. Building on their findings, the students planned a year of action, designed to advance their school's green credentials, improve their local environment, and protect our planet.

LiveSimply Success

Students and staff have achieved the LiveSimply Award after taking action to demonstrate they are living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the world's poorest communities. The projects included holding an afternoon tea for parishioners, raising £605 for CAFOD through completing a sponsored walk, litter picking in the local area and creating a 'grow our own' garden in the school grounds. The students' litter picking efforts were spotted in the Newton News by Aycliffe Radio's presenters (Phil and Andy) and they were invited to talk on the radio show 'Around Town, Around The World'.

St Joseph's (Norton)



The Power of Women

This term, our Year 5 students have participated in the Power of Women Programme, provided by Spark Tees Valley. Through a series of workshops, the aim of the programme is to 'shift and lift' the aspirations of the young people across the Tees Valley region. The sessions actively demonstrate that when we all work together, ensuring all voices are heard, all talents recognised - regardless of gender - we can make a real difference to society. The students compared gender salary statistics, comparing the Lionesses to the England male squad, and learnt about future careers they can enter in the Tees Valley region.



Students were invited to apply for the position of St Joseph's Power of Women Ambassadors. They completed an application form, were shortlisted for an interview and answered a range of questions in a one to one interview. Four students were successful and offered the role! The programme was a wonderful experience for all those who participated, and we look forward to seeing the impact our new ambassadors have on our school.

Primaries

St Mary's (Barnard Castle)



Mini Medics at St Mary's

This term some of our students and their parents took part in some Mini Medics First Aid training. Mini medics training is a basic introduction to First Aid and Defibrillation aimed at students between the ages of 7 and 11, but it can suit students of any age.

The course showed complete respect for the ability of students. Student voice and parental feedback was that it was really useful, fun, practical and of course instilled the importance of helping someone who is poorly or injured. We are looking forward to Spring term, when we are inviting students and parents to take part in the Mini Medics Mental Health Training. Well done everybody, it was lovely to see the students learning such an important lesson and skills with their parents in school.

St Mary's (Newton Aycliffe)



Charity Fashion Show

St Mary's students will be strutting their stuff on the catwalk in order to raise funds for charity this term. The School Council, in partnership with the Eco Team, are organising a fashion show to raise funds for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and to highlight the dangers of Fast Fashion and the impact it is having on our climate. All clothes modelled by the students will either be on loan from charity shops or donated by our parish community. Once the fashion show has concluded, all clothes will then be re-donated to the SVP in addition to a portion of the profits from ticket sales.



Rocksteady Music Bring The House Down!

This term we had an assembly with a difference when Rocksteady Music came to introduce themselves.

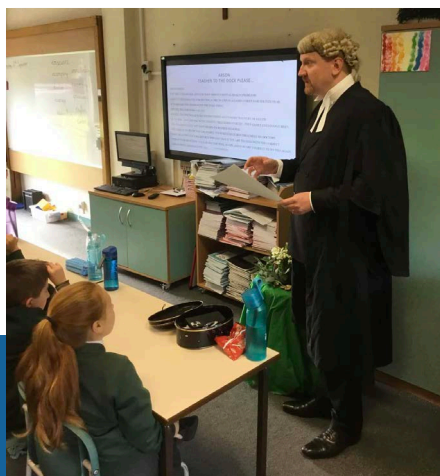
Students were treated to a mini rock concert, with music from Queen to AC-DC. Staff and students were rocking in the aisles to celebrate the introduction of a new way of learning about music.



The Rocksteady programme is proven to progress musicianship, confidence and teamwork skills, and with termly concerts at school assemblies, our students will be able to show off their progress to friends, teachers and parents with the rest of their band.

Primaries

St Patrick's



Past Student Visit

As part of our aim to raise the aspirations of all of our students, Year 6 were fortunate to have a visit from a previous student of St Patrick's, who is now working as a Barrister. He spoke to them about his journey from St Pat's into the workplace, discussed the legal system and even put Mrs Dagleish and Mr Williams in the dock! He then worked with our debate club on improving their skills. The students loved it and were truly inspired by the visit.

Catholic Social Teaching

Year 1 lived out the Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Participation and ran a soup kitchen for our church and school community. We picked our own vegetables, made the soup and served it to the community. We sold the soup for a small donation, which we are using to buy books for Christmas for the children in North Tees Hospital to help our wider community.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came and took part in this very special day.



St Paul's

Reading Champion

We are absolutely delighted that one of our hardworking students has been made a 'Reading Champion' by our Reading Plus programme provider. As well as receiving a book-token, books, a reading journal, pens and gold stars for her submitted book reviews, the prize includes many opportunities including author interviews and reviewing new material before it is published! What a fantastic achievement!



Maths Week 2023: A Week of Mathematical Marvels and Fun!

Maths Week 2023 took place from the 13th-17th of November. The week was a spectacular celebration of mathematics, filled with engaging activities that left our students buzzing with enthusiasm.

Throughout the week, students engaged in a myriad of problem-solving and reasoning activities. These challenges were designed not just to find solutions but to develop critical thinking skills, encouraging students to approach problems with confidence and creativity.

Maths Week was a resounding success, thanks to the active participation and enthusiasm of our students. We witnessed a transformation in the way mathematics is perceived — from a subject of numbers to a realm of endless possibilities and excitement. We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to make mathematics an engaging and enjoyable experience for all.



Primaries

St Teresa's (Darlington)



Life long wellbeing for St Teresa's students!

St Teresa's have embarked on a whole school project with 'Team Up Kids'. Devised by Hannah Bell (Hannah Bell Clarity) in partnership with Go Well CIC, students learn through the 'Brainy Bunch'; a family of brain parts and chemicals, which help us to understand our brain and how it is linked to our body and emotions. All of our students are learning how to work with their brain chemicals and use the tools that they are developing to maintain good wellbeing. From the age of 5, our students are benefitting from the programme which blends the positive powers of physical activity and mental wellbeing to support students to be ready to learn and succeed in life.



The RAAC Monster

"St Teresa's School was visited by a monster named RAAC!" The fantastic starting point for one of the graphic stories produced by our students in lower KS2 as they settled into their new pop up school. St Teresa's students and staff have perfectly demonstrated our Trust virtue of resilience this term! They have navigated their way through losing 3 of their classrooms the day before term started! Thankfully, close links with their local community centre meant that Firthmoor Community Centre became St Teresa's Pop Up School and all students were back to face-to-face learning within a week!

St Teresa's (Hartlepool)



Timestable Rockstars Day

We launched timestable rockstars in school - the students held battles with each other and across classes; we all dressed as Rockstars and we had a rock concert from Rocksteady! It was an awesome day.

Black History Month

We celebrated black history month with a story telling workshop for KS1 and african drumming workshop for the whole school.



Letter from King Charles

Last year, our Year 2 students wrote letters to King Charles and Queen Camilla congratulating them on the Coronation. This week, we received a letter back from them - the students and staff were so excited.

Mental Health Awareness

Our choir supported the Hartlepool mental health awareness day and performed at the county hall. We also held a competition to design posters to promote good mental health and 3 students were the lucky winners. They were presented with a prize from Zoe and Steven, who work to support mental health across Hartlepool.



Football Kit

Congratulations and thank you to Eliza who entered a competition to win a football kit for school. Her design was the winner and we are looking forward to our new kits.

Primaries

St Wilfrid's



First Aid Training

For two days, Debra (a first aid worker from Mini First Aid Durham) provided every class with education of how to help yourself and others in dangerous situations. We think we have learnt a lot of crucial things to keep ourselves safe. Overall, we had a lot of fun while learning these important safety instructions. We Thank Deborah for a wonderful time.



Richard O'Neil Visit

We had a wonderful time with an amazing author called Richard O'Neil. He showed us that if you want to be an author and you're from St Wilfrid's you certainly can, because he also received an education in the old St Wilfrid's building. He showed us you don't have to be rich, you only have to follow your dreams to become what you desire.



Children in Need

As well as having an excellent day, we raised an outstanding £169 for Children in Need. We all thank parents and carers for donating for Pudsey bear day!

YMT

Year 6 recently visited the youth village. The staff welcomed us and inspired us to be ourselves. We did numerous activities such as: a nature walk to appreciate God's creation, making bracelets for people we love, a treasure hunt to co-operate with each other, building a paper tower, which helped us to develop teamwork skills, and an evening prayer every day. We really enjoyed it and hope to return again.

All reports written by School Captains Ali and Emilia!

St William's



Go Well Football League

Congratulations to our super football team for their team work and talent displayed over the last four weeks in the Go Well football league. We were undefeated over the four weeks with one draw and 8 wins! A well-deserved first place!



Times Tables Rockstars Day

Our classrooms have been rocking and rolling all day, blasting out our different tables through games, songs and TTRS. The students have had a great day dressing up and learning different ways to remember their multiplication facts.



Zak Hull Visit

Students in KS2 enjoyed a visit from Zak Hull this afternoon. As well as singing some great songs, Zack also spoke to the students about cyber bullying, e-safety, mental health and following your dream! Thanks for the visit Zak!

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Christ at the centre, Children at the heart