

# Faith in Action

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy Company Newsletter



Autumn 2024

**Dream | Believe | Achieve**



## Inside this issue:

**Page 3: Year 6 visit to Whitemoor Lakes**

**Page 6: STOC Christmas Carol Service**

**Page 7: Poetry Competition Winners**

**Page 15: Christmas across STOC MAC**





**Archbishop Ilsley**  
Secondary Catholic  
School



**Holy Souls**  
Catholic Primary  
School



**Holy Trinity**  
Secondary Catholic  
School



**St Chad's**  
Catholic Primary  
School



**St Joseph's**  
Catholic Primary  
School



**The Rosary**  
Catholic Primary  
School

# Welcome to Faith in Action - Autumn Edition

As we approach the festive season and the joy of Christmas, I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to all our dedicated pupils and staff for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Your passion for learning and your unwavering support for each other have created a truly special environment within our school community.

I am incredibly proud of the achievements of our pupils, both academically and in their personal development. Your enthusiasm and eagerness to learn inspire us all.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, directors and local governing bodies whose tireless efforts and expertise create a nurturing and stimulating learning environment for our pupils.

As we look ahead to the new year, I am confident that our schools will continue to thrive and flourish. We are committed to providing our pupils with an exceptional education that fosters their intellectual, spiritual, and personal growth.

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas filled with joy and love.

May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, hope, and goodwill.

With warmest regards,

**Professor Paul Ryan**





# Year 6 Pupils Soar to New Heights at Whitemoor Lakes

St Teresa's Multi Academy Company recently treated Year 6 pupils from its four primary schools – St Joseph's, St Chad's, The Rosary, and Holy Souls Catholic Primary – to an unforgettable residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes in Lichfield. This fully-funded adventure provided students with the opportunity to challenge themselves, build confidence, and create lasting memories.

Whitemoor Lakes, a renowned outdoor activity center, offered a diverse range of thrilling activities. Year 6 pupils had the chance to conquer their fears and push their limits with exhilarating experiences like abseiling, climbing walls, and the leap of faith. These activities not only encouraged physical fitness but also fostered mental resilience and problem-solving skills.



By participating in these challenging endeavors, students were able to develop essential life skills such as teamwork, perseverance, and self-belief. The supportive environment at Whitemoor Lakes allowed pupils to step outside of their comfort zones and embrace new challenges, empowering them to face future obstacles with confidence.

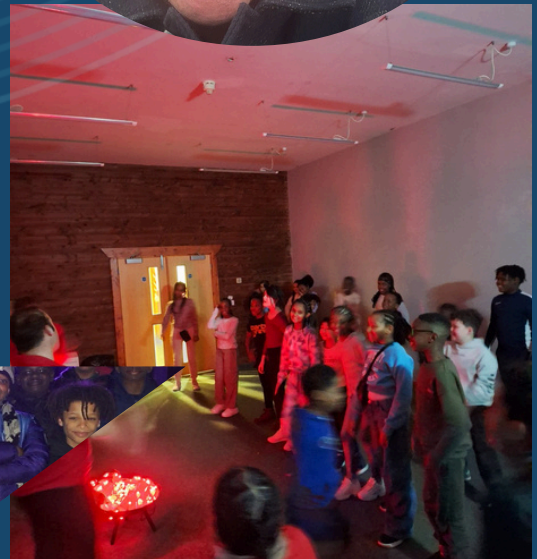


To make the trip even more special, Year 10 pupils from Archbishop Ilsey volunteered to lead some of the activities. This experience allowed students to learn from each other and foster a sense of community within the MAC.

The trip also received a special visit from the MAC's CEO, who was impressed by the students' enthusiasm and dedication. This visit reinforced the MAC's commitment to providing exceptional educational experiences for all its pupils.



The residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes was a resounding success, providing invaluable opportunities for personal growth and development. The MAC is committed to providing enriching experiences for its students, and this trip exemplifies its dedication to fostering well-rounded individuals (whilst having lots of fun too!) Well done to all the pupils and staff who took part. You're all amazing!





# A Trip to Remember: A Thank You from Year 6

Dear Mac,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to go on the 3-day residential at Whitemoor Lakes and kindly paying for it. We all enjoyed it and are very thankful. All of us loved the dorms - we were able to have a good night's sleep as the beds were extremely comfortable. The food was delicious (there were many things we chose from) and the salad bar was very appetising. Everyone thought the activities were great fun. Some of our favourite <sup>the</sup> activities were:

- the Nightline Course,
- the Leap of Faith  
and
- the Gladiator climbing frame.

The instructors were kind and helpful and made it a fun and active atmosphere, even though it might of have been odd, dark or rainy. Thank you again for giving us the best 3 days of our lives and all for free too! THANK YOU!

Yours sincerely,  
Year Six at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School





# STOC MAC Christmas Carol Service

On Tuesday December 10th, the Holy Family Church in Small Heath was filled with the joyous sounds of Christmas as the STOC MAC schools came together for the annual Christmas Carol Concert. The event featured beautiful singing from all the schools, as well as dramatic performances and readings from the Christmas Poetry competition winners (Pg 7).



The concert was a wonderful celebration of the Christmas season, and it was clear that the students had put a lot of hard work and effort into their performances. The audience was treated to a variety of songs, poems, and plays, all of which were performed with great enthusiasm and talent.



The Christmas Carol Concert is always a highlight of the STOC MAC calendar, and this year's event was no exception. It was a truly magical afternoon that brought together students, parents, and staff from all the schools in our MAC. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the concert, Holy Trinity for organising, and the Parish of Holy Family for their warm welcome.





# Christmas Poetry Competition winners announced!

We're delighted to announce the winners of our inaugural MAC Christmas Poetry Competition!

We received many wonderful entries from talented young poets across our family of schools. The judges were impressed by the creativity, imagination, and festive spirit shown in all the submissions. The top three poems were selected and read aloud at the MAC Christmas Carol Service, earlier this month.

Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to everyone who entered!

## The winners are:

### The True Meaning of Christmas

The presents I love, but I am not really sure  
why we have Christmas, what is it for?  
Christmas is way more than I ever knew,  
The story behind it, is really true!

God as a baby before, like you and me,  
came to be born again, so we can see,  
how much we're loved and how precious we are,  
He sent baby Jesus down from afar,  
When Herod found out, he was really jealous,  
but the wise men stayed zealous.  
Herod wanted to kill all baby boys,  
he didn't give them any choice.

A star rose in the place,  
as Mary touched his radiant face.  
Mary and Joseph had fled,  
Jesus was born, just as the prophets said.

**3rd Place - Yostina Aweke - Year 5  
- St Josephs Catholic Primary School**

### WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS

Christmas isn't just the tree,  
Or presents wrapped for all to see.  
It's not about the food we share,  
Or snowflakes dancing in the air.

It's something more, it's something real,  
A warmth inside that we all feel.  
It's giving love, it's showing care,  
A time to let the world repair.

It's lending hands to those in need,  
It's choosing kindness over greed.  
It's family close and friends held tight,  
It's hope that shines through winter's night.

So while the bells and carols play,  
Remember why we mark this day.  
It's not the stuff, the glam, the show—  
It's love that sets the world aglow.

**2nd Place - Inayah Khan- Year 10  
- Holy Trinity Catholic School**





## What Christmas is about



Angel Gabriel came to Earth  
And asked Mary to give birth  
Along with Joseph they made their  
way  
to a place called Bethlehem in a  
stable they stayed

Three wise men followed a star  
That guided them to a light of the heart



With gifts and gold and plenty to  
spare

They showered Christ with love and  
care.

Christmas a time that comes every year

Where we remember the birth of our Saviour  
Surrounded by family and friends that  
we love

As Christ watches from up above



1st Place - Humayma Said- Year 6 - The Rosary Catholic Primary School





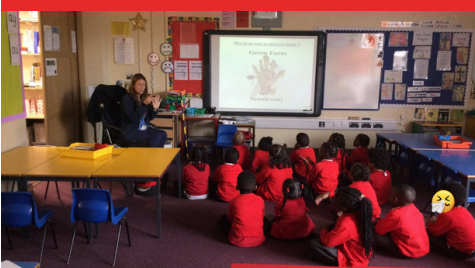
### A Healthy Visit: Nurse Ruth at School

We are always delighted to welcome Nurse Ruth to our school.

This term, Nurse Ruth taught us all about the importance of washing our hands properly. She showed us how to use soap and water effectively to keep ourselves healthy.

In another visit, Nurse Ruth talked to us about road safety. She reminded us of important rules like looking both ways before crossing the road and wearing reflective clothing in the dark.

We all had a lot of fun learning from Nurse Ruth, and we thank her for her time and valuable lessons.



# This Term at St Joseph's

## Young Chefs at St Joseph's

Our budding chefs have been busy in the kitchen! Reception pupils have been captivated by the tale of the Gingerbread Man. They've not only listened to the story with great enthusiasm but also had the opportunity to decorate their very own gingerbread creations, a sweet and creative experience.



The older pupils have been honing their skills, growing their own carrots and courgettes before transforming them into delicious tartlets. They also worked in teams to create their own Viking Soda Bread, a true testament to their teamwork and culinary abilities.

### A Bountiful Harvest: Thanks to Your Generosity!

In October, we were overwhelmed by the incredible generosity of our community! We collected a bountiful harvest of food donations, which we were delighted to deliver to the Aston and Nechells Food Bank.



Your kind contributions will make a significant difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity. We are truly grateful for your support and look forward to continuing our partnership with the Food Bank to make a positive impact in our community.

Thank you once again for your generosity!





# Shining a light on The Rosary

## Inspiring Futures: Vocations Week at The Rosary

Last week, The Rosary School was buzzing with excitement as we hosted our annual Vocations Week! This special event aims to inspire our students to explore the countless career paths available to them and consider who God called them to be .

We were thrilled to welcome a variety of speakers who shared their experiences and insights with our pupils. From the high-tech world of Jaguar Land Rover to the vital work of the Police force, our students were exposed to a diverse range of professions.



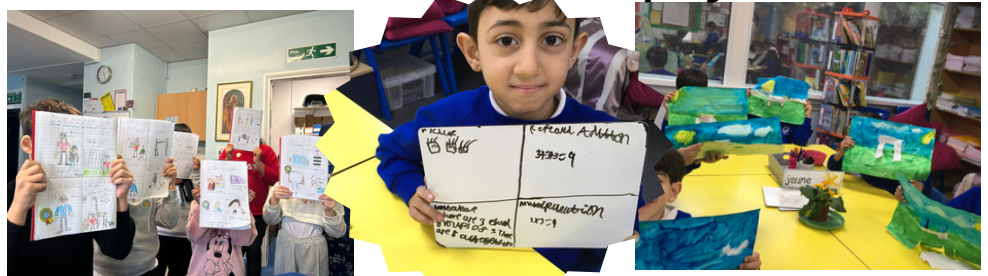
A BBC camera operator gave us a glimpse into the exciting world of television, while the CEO of STOC MAC provided valuable insights into his role at our MAC. These inspiring talks sparked curiosity and ignited a passion for learning in our young minds.

We are grateful to all our speakers for taking the time to share their knowledge and expertise. Vocations Week was a resounding success, and we look forward to continuing to inspire future generations.

As the festive season approaches, The Rosary School is filled with anticipation and creativity. Our students have been hard at work, crafting beautiful Advent displays that reflect the spirit of the season. Well done everyone.



## Beautiful Work on Display



This term has been a real showcase of talent and dedication from our students. We've been so impressed by the beautiful pieces of work produced, from neat and precise handwriting to imaginative and colourful artwork.

The pride and care that has gone into each piece of work is evident, and we're delighted to see such a high standard of presentation across the board. Well done to everyone involved!



## St Chad's Celebrates a Decade as a School of Sanctuary



St Chad's School marked a significant milestone in September by celebrating its 10-year anniversary as a School of Sanctuary. As the first school in Birmingham to achieve this recognition, St Chad's has been at the forefront of welcoming and supporting refugee and asylum-seeking children.

The school hosted a special celebration assembly to commemorate this achievement, highlighting its commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all students, regardless of their background. There was a great turnout including Former Headteacher, Headteacher from linked Carita schools, Directors from the MAC and asylum-seekers.

That's ten years of ensuring every child through their doors feel safe, welcomed and supported.



Our Yr6 choir recently performed at the QE Hospital raising money for UHB Charity whilst bringing some festive joy to patients and staff alike. A big thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful cause.

### Blast Off to STEM!

In October, our Year 5 and 6 pupils embarked on an exciting journey to RAF Cosford. This immersive experience ignited their passion for STEM subjects as they engaged in a variety of hands-on activities.

From designing and building Mars rovers to constructing and launching their own rockets, our young engineers were challenged to think creatively and problem-solve. They even got to make their own asteroid-moving machines and control a real robot!

We hope this unforgettable trip has inspired our pupils to consider careers in STEM or the RAF. It certainly highlighted the importance of teamwork and collaboration, skills that will be invaluable in their future endeavors.



We recently visited St Chad's Sanctuary in Birmingham, a place offering support to asylum seekers and refugees. As part of our Harvest food collections, we were able to donate much-needed supplies to this important organization.

St Chads provide practical support, including food, clothing, and English classes, as well as a warm welcome and a sense of community. We encourage you to learn more about St Chad's Sanctuary and consider how you can support their work. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those seeking refuge.







### Holy Trinity School Shines with UNICEF Gold Award

We are thrilled to announce that Holy Trinity School has been awarded the prestigious Gold Rights Respecting School Award by UNICEF! This incredible achievement underscores our school's unwavering commitment to fostering an environment where children's rights are not just learned, but deeply understood and respected.

This success wouldn't be possible without their remarkable students. Their dedication to promoting kindness, fairness, and respect for others truly embodies the spirit of the award. From student-led assemblies on equality to ongoing charity projects championing children's rights worldwide, our students have consistently demonstrated an inspiring level of responsibility and empathy.

Congratulations to everyone involved in making this happen!



## Whats happening at Holy Trinity?

### No Pens Day Success at Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity School enjoyed a fantastic No Pens Day on November 27th! This initiative encouraged students to embrace oracy and step out of their comfort zones. By ditching the pens and pencils, students were able to engage in creative discussions, presentations, and debates.

Not only was it a fun and engaging experience, but it also contributed to a worthy cause. The school raised money for Speech and Language UK, demonstrating their commitment to communication and language skills. Well done to all involved!



### HSBC Inspires Future Leaders

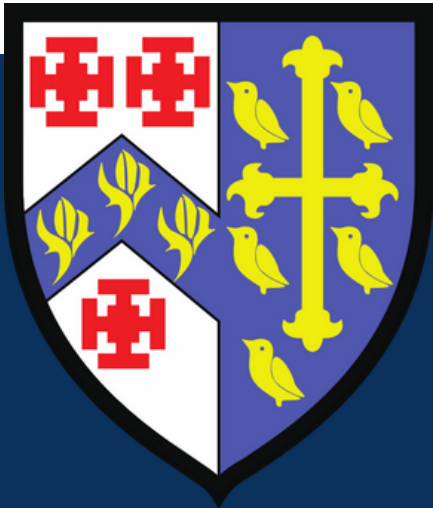
Last month, our Year 9 and 10 pupils had the opportunity to visit the HSBC offices in Centenary Square. The students attended engaging workshops that provided invaluable insights into a variety of careers and opportunities within the global financial institution.

This enriching experience helped our young learners develop essential life skills and set their sights on future goals. We're grateful to HSBC for hosting us and providing such a valuable learning opportunity.





## Alton Adventure: A Spiritual Retreat for Year 13



In September, our Year 7 chaplaincy team enjoyed a fascinating trip to Oscott College, organised by Deacon Martin. This historic college, located in Sutton Coldfield, is renowned for training future priests.

A highlight of the visit was exploring the stunning chapel, designed by the Catholic architect Pugin, who also created the Houses of Parliament. The team also had the privilege of meeting Father Michael Dolman, the College Rector.



ABI are excited to continue our strong partnership with the Kenelm Youth Trust. On December 9th, a group of ten dedicated Year 13 students, accompanied by Deacon Tim and Father Marco, embarked on a transformative three-day residential retreat at Alton Castle. This spiritual journey provides our students with a unique opportunity to reflect on their faith, deepen their spiritual connection, and engage in meaningful discussions with other Sixth Formers from across the Diocese.

We're truly grateful for our ongoing collaboration with the Kenelm Youth Team. Looks like year 13 have had an amazing time!

### Christmas Spirit Shines Bright at ABI

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our staff, students, and families for their generous contributions to our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal and Operation Christmas Child. Your kind donations of shoeboxes filled with gifts will bring joy to children in need around the world. The hampers collected will be distributed to those in need across the Midlands, thanks to the efforts of the Holy Souls Saint Vincent De Paul group.

We invite all parents and carers to join us for the Hamper Masses at Holy Souls Catholic Church:

- 18th December at 9.15am: Years 7 and 8
- 18th December at 2.15pm: Year 11 and Sixth Form
- 19th December at 9.15am: Years 9 and 10

Thank you for your continued support of our school's charitable endeavors.







### Remembrance Day Reflections

This November, our school community united to commemorate Remembrance Day. Year 6 students delved into history, researching Birmingham soldiers who lost their lives in WW2 and crafting heartfelt prayer cards. Inspired by Brian Moses' poem 'What are we fighting for?', they penned their own hopes for the future.

Year 2 students explored the significance of Remembrance, offering prayers for those in need and observing a poignant two-minute silence. Our youngest learners, Reception, created poppy crafts and dedicated a special prayer focus to honor the fallen.



# Do Something Different Day: Spreading Kindness and Advent Spirit

Holy Souls School has been celebrating a unique 'Do Something Different' Advent Day. Year groups have embraced the spirit of the season with creative and compassionate initiatives.

Reception class kicked off their day by dressing in purple, a symbolic color for Advent. They also dedicated their prayers to purple-themed intentions and made Advent Wreath hats.

Meanwhile, Year 5 and Year 6 students got crafty and kind-hearted. They constructed an Advent Kindness Tree, a visual representation of their commitment to spreading kindness throughout the Advent season. Each ornament on the tree symbolizes a different act of kindness, inspiring their classmates to follow suit.

These heartwarming initiatives highlight the power of small acts of kindness and the importance of fostering a sense of community and compassion, especially during the Advent season.



## Mini Vinnies Christmas Card Competition Winners



Well done to Filip and Rohan, who have won the Holy Souls Mini Vinnies Christmas Card Competition! Their creative designs have been professionally produced by Archbishop IIsley, with the help from the winners themselves, and have been sold, with all proceeds going to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

A huge congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all our young artists that entered.



# MAC in Action: Christmas across our schools







Events coming soon:-

MAC Inset Day - 14th February  
2025

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy Company  
1157 Warwick Road  
Acocks Green  
Birmingham  
B27 6RG  
[info@stocmac.org.uk](mailto:info@stocmac.org.uk)