

# Faith in Action

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy Company Newsletter



Spring 2025

**Dream | Believe | Achieve**



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**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 - Spring Edition

As we embrace the arrival of spring and the Easter half-term, I extend my warmest greetings to you all. This season is a time of renewal and hope, and as a Catholic Multi-Academy Company, we reflect deeply on the profound significance of Easter. The resurrection of Christ reminds us of the power of faith, love, and new beginnings, values that underpin everything we do within our schools.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce a significant expansion within our STOC MAC family. In September, we will be warmly welcoming six new schools: St Vincent's, St Clare's, St Ambrose Barlow, St Augustine's, St Teresa's, and St Francis. This is a momentous occasion for our MAC, and we are excited to work alongside these schools, sharing our commitment to providing exceptional Catholic education and fostering a strong community. We look forward to the enriching contributions they will bring.



I hope you and your families enjoy a restful and joyful Easter break, filled with moments of togetherness and reflection. May this time provide an opportunity to recharge and return refreshed for the final term.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication.

With warmest regards,

**Professor Paul Ryan**



# STOC MAC Staff Embark on a "Pilgrimage of Hope" at Formation Day

On a day traditionally dedicated to love, February 14th, the STOC MAC staff gathered for its annual Formation Day, marking the beginning of our Jubilee year with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Adding to the day's spirit of community and action, Year 12 ABI pupils held a bake sale, raising crucial funds for their upcoming 'Global Links' trip to Peru.

The Formation Day itself proved to be a deeply moving experience, leaving attendees feeling inspired and united in their shared mission.

Following Mass at Holy Souls Church, we were privileged to welcome Charlie Fogarty, whose incredible story of resilience and determination was truly inspirational. His personal journey, filled with challenges overcome, served as a powerful reminder of the strength of the human spirit and the possibility of hope even in the face of adversity.



Adding another layer of depth to the day, Helen Dos Santos from Horizons Coaching introduced us to "Havening techniques."

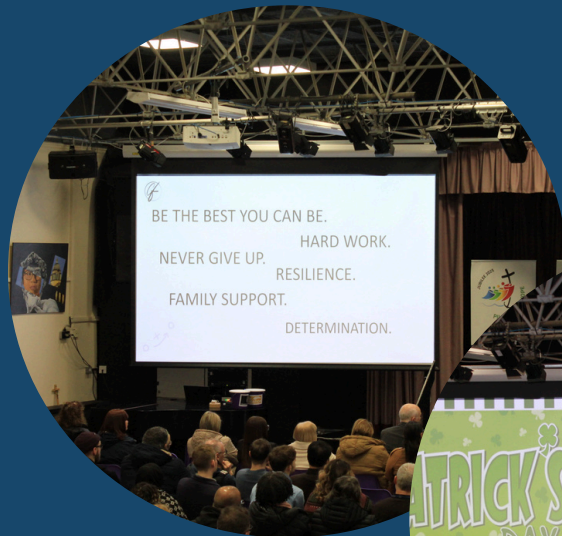
This insightful presentation provided practical tools and strategies for managing stress and promoting well-being, equipping us with valuable skills for both our professional and personal lives.

We also welcomed The Mizen Foundation, whose poignant message resonated deeply with everyone present. Their work, rooted in compassion and forgiveness, illuminated the importance of empathy and understanding in our daily interactions.





The staff left at the end of the day feeling equipped to handle life's little curveballs, armed with strategies for a calmer, happier existence. And it's safe to say, our spirits were lifted in more ways than one, thanks to both the insightful speakers and the irresistible Year 12 bake sale. A lovely reminder that we're a community that cares, in every sense of the word (and taste bud!)





# A Shared Journey: Lent, Ramadan, & Community Spirit

This year, the holy seasons of Lent and Ramadan coincided. Our school communities embraced this special time of spiritual renewal, coming together in a powerful display of unity and faith.

The Rosary and Archbishop Ilsley both hosted a Grand Iftar, an evening filled with reflection, fellowship, and generosity. The atmosphere was truly special, as we shared a meal and broke the fast together, guided by the thoughtful reflections of our children. At The Rosary a particularly moving moment was when one of our Year 6 pupils led us in prayer, connecting hearts across different traditions.

Beyond the shared meal, these evenings served a vital purpose: to raise funds for a local charity dedicated to serving the most vulnerable communities in Birmingham. We are delighted to announce that through the generosity of our community, we raised a fantastic £245! This contribution will make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most.

The Grand Iftar also provided an opportunity to reflect on the message of the Jubilee Year, reminding us that we are all called to be pilgrims of hope. Our children, in their presentations and reflections, eloquently conveyed the essence of both Lent and Ramadan, emphasising the importance of compassion, empathy, and service to others.

This event was a testament to the strength of our communities and the power of shared faith. It highlighted the importance of understanding and respecting different traditions, and demonstrated how we can come together to make a positive impact.

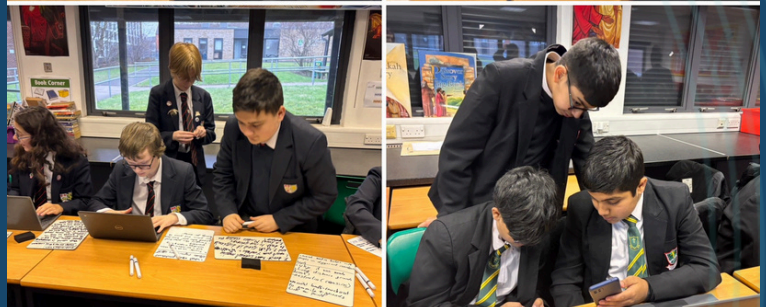
We are incredibly proud of our children for their contributions and grateful to everyone who participated in making this evening a success.





# Holy Trinity Triumphs in Thrilling Debate Showdown!

The 2025 MAC Interschool Debate competition witnessed a captivating clash of intellect and eloquence as Holy Trinity and Archbishop Ilsley's debating clubs went head-to-head. In a nail-biting encounter, Holy Trinity emerged victorious, clinching the coveted title.



The competition was a testament to the exceptional talent and dedication of both teams. Students from both schools delivered compelling arguments and showcasing remarkable public speaking skills. The debate was intense, with both sides presenting their points with passion and conviction. The final decision was incredibly close, highlighting the high calibre of debate from both schools.

Massive congratulations to Holy Trinity Debate Club for their hard-earned win! .

Commiserations to the Archbishop Ilsley team, who also demonstrated exceptional skill and contributed to a truly memorable debate.







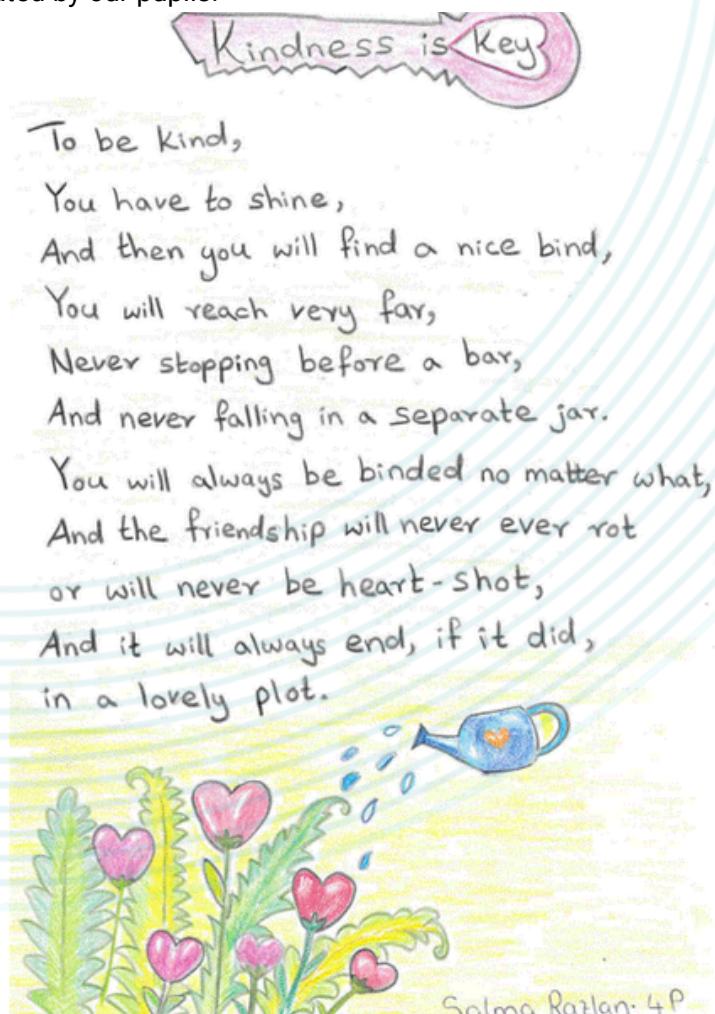
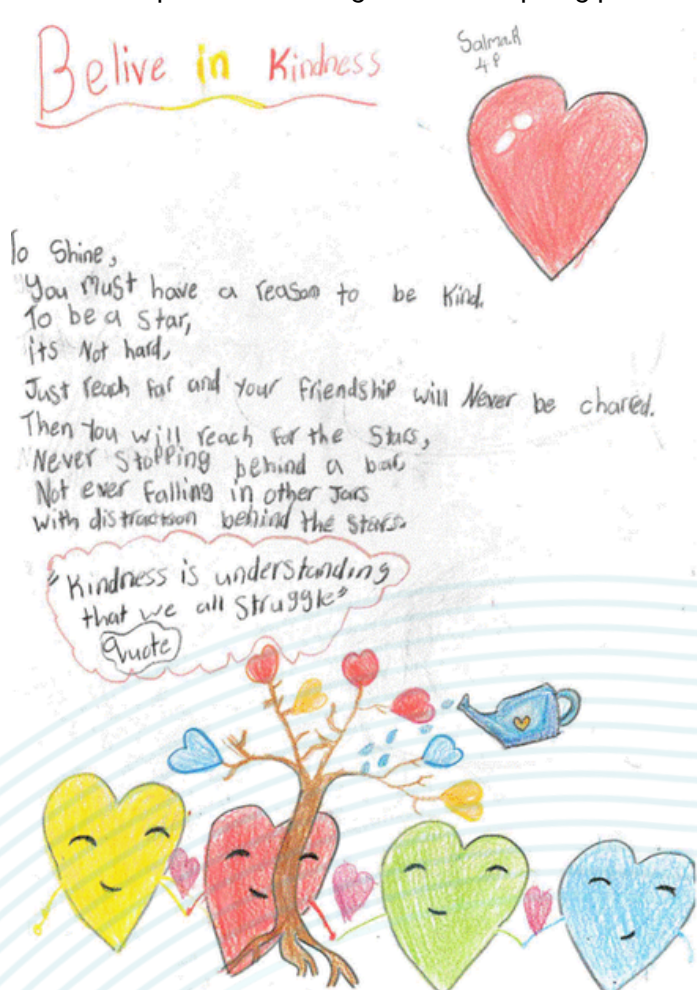
# A Year of Hope and Action

This year marks a special time for Catholics worldwide as we celebrate a Jubilee Year, with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Historically, a Jubilee Year is a time of pilgrimage, penance, reconciliation, and celebration, offering opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal. Throughout this year, various events and activities will be taking place within STOC MAC, and we look forward to sharing more details in upcoming newsletters and on our social media channels.

At The Rosary School, they are embracing this theme of hope through action. They are participating in the Social Impact Schools Award, a wonderful initiative to formally recognise and celebrate the incredible social actions undertaken by our pupils in their daily work, both within the school and the wider community. All acts of kindness performed by our pupils are diligently logged and shared with the dedicated Kindness Ambassadors. They play a vital role in exploring how we can further spread this message of love and compassion throughout our school community.

Social action is deeply ingrained in the ethos of STOC MAC. We believe that by actively engaging in volunteering, campaigning, and fundraising, our children not only develop as compassionate individuals but also make a tangible positive impact on the world around them.

This half-term, their focus is on exploring this theme through the power of poetry. We are incredibly proud to share some examples of the thoughtful and inspiring poems created by our pupils.





# High-Flying Success for ABI Pupil Isaac Ridge!

From childhood airport visits to the cockpit, the sky's the limit for determined ABI pupil, Isaac Ridge! Fuelled by a lifelong passion for aviation, Isaac has triumphantly earned his Light Aircraft Pilot's License (LAPL).

Isaac's journey took flight after lockdown, leading to his first exhilarating helicopter ride and a decisive switch to fixed-wing aircraft. Undeterred by a broken leg, he joined the Air Cadets, seizing incredible opportunities like flying a Grob Tutor and also as a passenger in a Chinook helicopter. His dedication saw him explore offshore helicopter operations with Bristow Helicopters and connect with industry leaders at the British Helicopter Association Safety Day. Even a school trip to Cambodia became a chance to network with numerous pilots and experience an in-flight A380 tour and cockpit visit. Work experience with NHV Helicopters further solidified his aspirations.



Undeterred by the significant costs of flight training, Isaac demonstrated remarkable commitment. For the past four and a half years, he diligently completed a daily paper round, waking at 5 am. For the last two years, he has also worked at Hatton Country World, all to fuel his dream of taking to the skies.

After rigorous study and practical training, culminating in a demanding skills test on 18th March 2025, Isaac's perseverance paid off and he achieved LAPL.

Isaac's achievement is a testament to his dedication and a shining example of how passion, coupled with hard work, can truly make dreams take flight. Congratulations, Isaac!





## Year 4's Daring PGL Adventure



Our Year 4 & 5 adventurers returned from a thrilling trip to Boreatton Park Residential PGL Camp in Shrewsbury, buzzing with tales of daring feats! They tackled orienteering courses with impressive navigation skills, faced their fears abseiling down towering walls, scaled the climbing wall with determination, and soared through the air on the giant swing. A fantastic time was had by all, developing teamwork and building confidence.

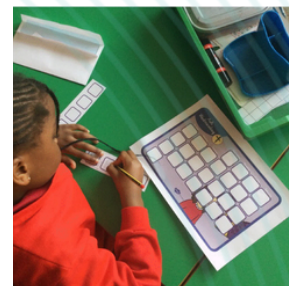


# This Term at St Joseph's

## Lent Begins with Little Acts of Love!

Year One students have embraced the spirit of Lent by crafting their very own calendars, each day marked with a promise of kindness and helpfulness.

From "I am going to be kind to my brother" to "I am going to help my mum cook" and "I will tidy my room by myself," these little ones are filling their Lent with big hearts. What a beautiful way to begin this reflective season!



### Navigating the Net: St. Joseph's Students Become Cyber Savvy

In February, students engaged in crucial online safety workshops. Key stage 2 spent the afternoon reflecting on responsible internet use, participating in interactive sessions that addressed key issues like online bullying and scam emails. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and gained valuable insights into navigating the digital world safely.

Meanwhile, Key Stage 1 had "Wizard Safety Workshops" where they learned about protecting their personal information when using different devices. They also explored the importance of trusted adults and knowing who to ask for help when encountering online issues. These workshops highlight the school's commitment to equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to stay safe online at all ages.





# The Rosary Roundup: A Term Full of Fun & Learning

## LiveSimply Award Success!



### New Friends, Warm Hearts: Café Visit a Success!

Big smiles and handmade gifts brightened the day at St Ambrose Barlow Dementia Café, thanks to our wonderful Faith Councillors.

The children poured their hearts into creating thoughtful gift bags filled with treats and messages of hope, which they then shared with the café's visitors. New friendships blossomed, and the warmth was palpable. The children were so moved by the experience that they're already buzzing with ideas for their next visit.



As a school, we've proudly achieved the CAFOD LiveSimply award, demonstrating our deep commitment to caring for our common home and standing in solidarity with our global community. Over the past two years, our school community has woven a "golden thread" of love through small actions, culminating in this wonderful achievement.

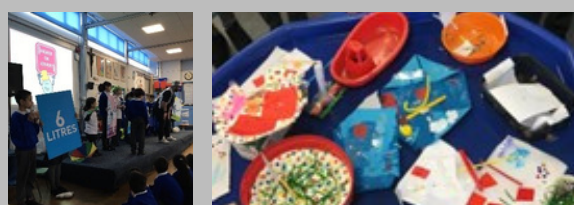
Assessor Mr. Haddon praised the eloquence of our pupils, stating Rosary School is "a lovely example of the LiveSimply family." Students shared highlights, including leading Season of Creation prayers, local canal clean-ups, and participation in the Biffa Lent Walk, confidently articulating their understanding of living simply. We are thrilled to celebrate this significant milestone!

### From Water to Rafts: Science Week Explodes

British Science Week was a flurry of discovery and innovation! Pupils were busy thinking about adaptation and change. We were thrilled to welcome Severn Trent Water, who enlightened us on the intricacies of the water cycle and the vital importance of water conservation. Bonanza Creative added another dimension, shedding light on the dangers of carbon monoxide through engaging workshops.



The Three Billy Goats Gruff faced a bridge catastrophe! Our resourceful Reception children stepped up, designing and building ingenious boats and rafts to ferry the goats to safety. Year 3, meanwhile, delved into the exciting world of chemical reactions, observing transformations firsthand. It was a week packed with hands-on learning, demonstrating that science is both captivating and essential!





# Shining a light on St. Chad's



## Flipping Fun!

Year 3 flipped into Shrove Tuesday with gusto, learning all about its history and traditions! Their delicious reward? A stack of pancakes that vanished in a flash!

## Building Happy Minds: A Positive Start to the Year!

January marked the successful launch of the myHappymind program, with enthusiastic parent engagement! The parent meeting generated positive discussions, and many families using the myHappymind app.

This program teaches children about mental wellbeing through engaging activities and resilience-building techniques. For example, our Year 3 students explored positive actions and practiced 'happy breathing' exercises.

We're incredibly excited to see the positive impact myHappymind will have on our students and families throughout the year. Stay tuned for more updates and resources!



## School Choir's Heartfelt Performance for Holy Land Charity

In March, our school choir lent their voices to the Friends of the Holy Land charity concert. The children's performance was a true highlight of the evening, filled with heartfelt singing and unwavering support for a worthy cause. They were wonderful ambassadors for our school, bringing joy to all who attended.

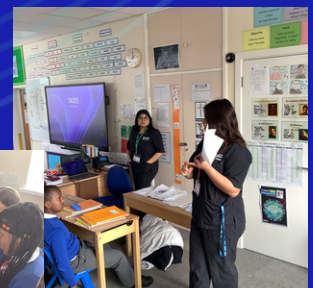
## Year 5 Wild About Wildlife!



Year 5 students were thrilled to get a visit from "Animal Man," getting hands-on experience with fascinating creatures, from scaly reptiles to furry mammals.

## Future NHS Heroes in Action!

Year 5 and 6 have been diving deep into the diverse world of the NHS! From surgeons to scientists, paramedics to pharmacists, they've discovered the incredible range of careers that keep our health service running. Who knows, we might just have future doctors, nurses, and innovators in our midst! Keep an eye out for these budding healthcare professionals – the future of the NHS is bright!







### 11R Wins Academic Olympics Glory!

Early March saw a burst of energy and intellect as our Year 11 students participated in the Academic Olympics! The morning was filled with exciting challenges, showcasing the incredible enthusiasm and teamwork of our students. It was truly inspiring to see everyone fully engaged and giving their all. We are immensely proud of each and every participant!

A huge congratulations to the victorious team, 11R, and a special shout-out to the staff team for their fantastic performance! Well done to all for making it a memorable and successful event.

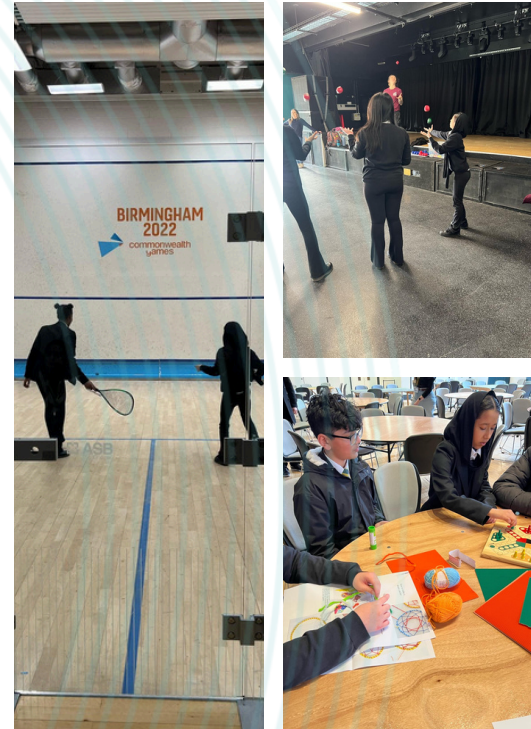


## Whats happening at Holy Trinity?

### Year 9s Inspired at University of Birmingham

Our Year 9 students embarked on an exciting adventure at the University of Birmingham's Forward Thinking University Experience Day! The day was packed with exploration, as they delved into the vibrant campus life, discovering the diverse facilities and learning environments.

They participated in a range of engaging sports and activities, fostering teamwork and building new friendships. The experience provided a valuable glimpse into the world of higher education, igniting their curiosity and broadening their horizons.



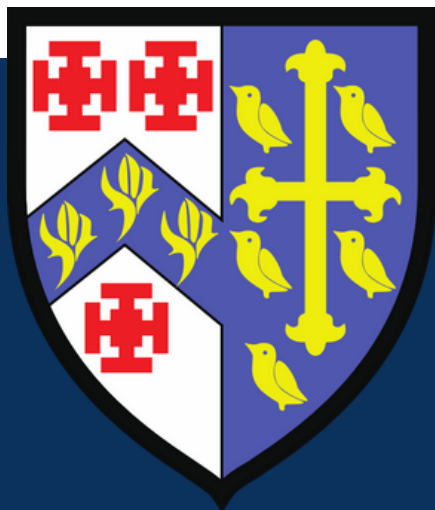
'Elevate' have been in school working with 70 Year 7 & 8 pupils. This was a very successful workshop where students mastered Dynamic Reading, mind mapping, and memory techniques, these sessions aim to further develop essential study skills and revision techniques, setting a strong foundation for future GCSE success!

### Year 9s Triumph at Public Speaking Showdown!

At the end of March, our talented Year 9 students won the Catholic Partnership KS3 Public Speaking competition, held at St Paul's Girls' School. Their exceptional talent, unwavering confidence, and diligent hard work truly shone through, captivating the audience and judges alike. We are immensely proud of their achievement and commend them on their remarkable success. Congratulations to all involved!







## MFL Day a Huge Success!

February saw another fantastic Modern Foreign Language Day! Our Year 9 students enjoyed a brilliant session exploring the fascinating link between language and culture, inspired by their recent studies of festivals in French and Spanish-speaking countries. The day kicked off with an engaging assembly highlighting the importance and benefits of language learning, followed by a hotly contested and delicious MFL Bake Off organised by the department. A truly enriching day for all involved!



# Inside Archbishop Ilsley

## Pupil Generosity Floods St. Chad's Sanctuary with Hope

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible pupils and families for their overwhelming generosity during our Lenten appeal for CAFOD and St. Chad's Sanctuary. The first wave of donations, delivered by our dedicated Catholic Life Representatives and students from each year group, has made a significant impact on the vital work being done at the Sanctuary.



St. Chad's Sanctuary provides essential support to refugees and asylum seekers in our community. Our students witnessed firsthand the dedication of the staff and volunteers, and the tangible difference our contributions will make. Alongside the St Chad's collection, Heads of Year organised various activities for CAFOD, including a scavenger hunt for younger students and a sponsored penalty shootout with the headteacher for Year 11.

Your willingness to give reflects the true spirit of Lent and embodies the values we strive to instill in our students. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those seeking sanctuary. Thank you again for your remarkable generosity!

## Year 12 Launch Archangel Gabriel Initiative



Our school community celebrated the launch of the Archangel Gabriel Initiative on April 4th, a fantastic program that sees our Year 12 students mentoring Year 7s across their lessons.

The launch was marked by a beautiful service led by Deacon Martin, Mrs. Grant, and Father Marco. Symbolically, Year 12 students lit candles from the MAC Jubilee Candle, representing their commitment to helping younger students' "lights shine."

Father Marco highlighted Archangel Gabriel as a role model of humble service, encouraging the older students in their mission to support the Year 7s' development and talents. This initiative promises to be a valuable experience for both year groups.







### Holy Souls Joins 2041 Antarctic Mission

Children at Holy Souls School are taking on a cool challenge! As part of their Geography studies, they've joined the 2041 Champions of Antarctica program. This initiative, by the 2041 School charity, aims to educate children about the importance of protecting Antarctica's unique environment.

Pupils have been busy creating ice spinners and drawing the amazing wildlife and weather of the frozen continent, becoming true ambassadors for this vital wilderness.



## Holy Souls Highlights!

### 6,000 Voices, One Incredible Night!

On an unforgettable day in February, 28 children from Holy Souls School had the incredible opportunity to take part in the Young Voices concert at Resorts World, joining a spectacular 6,000-strong children's choir.

The atmosphere was electric as they sang a fantastic range of songs and medleys, filling the arena with music and joy. It was a long day, but every moment was worth it, as excitement and energy kept them going.

Parents in the audience couldn't resist getting involved, singing and dancing along, making the night even more special.

Many of the children described it as the best day of their lives, and it's an experience we will all treasure forever!



### Hampton Court Conquered: Year Six's Royal History Hunt

Step back in time! Year Six stormed Hampton Court Palace on March 6th, diving headfirst into the world of Henry VIII. Imagine bustling Tudor kitchens, the grand apartments where a king once walked, and the sheer scale of history! We tackled big questions: Was Henry a tyrant or just misunderstood? Did he truly love Hampton Court? Armed with real historical clues, we became detectives, piecing together the past. And yes, the sun shone! We even conquered the maze (no one got lost...just a little turned around!). A day of royal adventure, history brought to life!





The collage consists of 12 photographs arranged in a grid-like fashion, showcasing various activities and costumes from a 'Book Week' event. The photos include:

- A large group of children in costumes (Mario, Star Wars, etc.) holding books.
- A teacher reading to a class.
- A child holding a 'The Hobbit' book.
- A classroom with children at desks.
- A group of adults and children on a stage.
- Children in costumes (Sonic, etc.) sitting on a stage.
- Two girls holding a book.
- A boy in a 'SuperTato' costume.
- A large group of children in costumes (Mario, etc.) on a stage.
- A girl in a 'SuperTato' costume.





### Events coming soon:-

MAC Sports Day - Alexander  
Stadium - 13th June 2025

MAC Year 6 Residential -  
Whitemoor Lakes  
24-26th November 2025

MAC Christmas Carol Concert -  
TBC - December 2025

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