

# Newsletter

Christmas Edition



## CEO Message

Dear families, staff and governors,

We have come to the end of another term and have together again faced many challenges as a community. We all hoped that the disruption from COVID was behind us but it seems that this will remain with us for the near future. The challenges that this brought to many has been significant so I thank you for your continued support this year.

Despite this, we have enjoyed many great moments across our schools throughout the autumn term.

The staff across the trust have worked incredibly hard to give our young people the best experiences possible and the impact of this has been clear to see. Despite the restrictions that COVID has brought, the children have taken part in clubs and trips and enjoyed much more time together across our school communities. I would like to thank them for all they have given in what has been a difficult year for everyone.

It has been wonderful to see our young people come together across the schools in a range of activities. In October, children across primary and secondary schools took part in Chester Zoo's 'Takeover Day' where they presented their work around conservation themes, central to the Zoo's work. Year 7 pupils from across SJP & SMCC performed an original song - 'There's no planet B,' and others shared their talents through dance performed for the public. This is now an annual event in our partnership with friends at Chester Zoo and supports the Pope's appeal to 'protect our common home'. We look forward to our new Y7 pupils joining us next year as part of this work.



November saw the first of our Friday Night Live events at SJP, where students from our secondary schools performed brilliantly for the trust community. This will be a regular feature across the year where pupils, past pupils and staff come together to sing, perform and share their talents on stage. The next event will be next March and hosted in Wallasey so look out for details after Christmas. It promises to be a very special event.



November also saw the start of our schools hosting the Music Hubs for Wirral. The Wirral Concert band, youth choir and a wide range of instrumental tuition is now hosted across both SJP & St Mary's. This offer has been extended to all young people in our schools so I look forward to seeing the music that will be made as a result of this.

In December, our 'What if' Nativity was created to celebrate this important time in our year. As a Catholic community, this celebration of faith is something important to us and in it our young people remind us what the season is all about.

I hope you all take the time to watch 'What if' over the holiday and enjoy the talents of all of our children as they come together as one community at this time. Thanks to all the staff who worked so hard to make this happen.

There will be many more opportunities for our young people to come together in the new year, including joining our Junior Leadership Teams and School Councils. I look forward to sharing the collective voices of our young people with you in 2022.

This term, we are delighted to have welcomed new members into our trust family including Mr Maddocks, who joined us at half term as the new Headteacher of St Mary's. Further staff are due to join in January and I am sure that you will make them feel welcome. For those staff leaving us this Christmas, we thank you for all you have given and wish you well on your next steps. Despite what comes our way through COVID, 2022 will be an exciting time for our trust family and we look forward to sharing all that comes with you.

I hope that you will have a peaceful and happy Christmas and thank you for your support over this last term.

# All the news from across our Trust



Congratulations to Lakeisha in Year 10 who won the under 16s Cheshire Tumbling Competition. You can watch her winning performance here: <https://www.facebook.com/SJPHeadTeacher/videos/624064838721524>



Congratulations to Kayden in Year 9 who won the bronze medal for his weight in an in-house kickboxing competition at the Bebington Kickboxing Club.



During September, Lily took part in the Tall Ships Programme. She sailed from Portsmouth via the Isle of Man and then returned to Liverpool



Our Year 7 students were treated to amazing performances from Bronnie, along with key messages around mental health and well-being, equality, body image, and anti-bullying.



A huge congratulations to SJP student Chloe who competed with her dance team representing 'Complete Works Performance School', at the "That's Showbiz" competition.



30 members of our netball extra curricular club were rewarded for their attendance and participation this term with a well-deserved trip to the bowling alley followed by pizza!



As part of our Personal Development Programme, all year groups and staff have been participating in workshops led by Show Racism The Red Card. The workshops will provide all members of our college community with invaluable opportunities to learn about the causes and the consequences of racism.



Rehearsals for our school production of Little Shop of Horrors are well underway and it's looking great! Keep your eyes peeled for information about how to get a ticket - you won't want to miss this!

# All the news from across our Trust



Congratulations to Alex who is one of 10 selected artists in this year's LIMF Academy talent development programme. Alex will benefit from a year-long programme which includes masterclasses, showcases, bursaries, life-coaching and advice.



Well done to our Year 13 students who recently won their 5-a-side league at the soccer dome. Three of the team also won individual awards for: top goal scorer, golden gloves and man of the match!



Legally Blonde rehearsals are underway. Congratulations to our cast of 120! We are so impressed with the talent we have at SMCC. This is going to be amazing!! We can't wait for you to see it early in 2022.



Wow! What an amazing photo of Connall from Year 9, who recently secured a silver medal at the National Junior Boxing Championships. He is now ranked number two in England for his weight category!



Well done to two of our Year 7 students - Beya who achieved first place in a figure skating competition and Grace who got through to the finals on DMT and placed 6th in a British Gymnastics trampolining competition. Well done!



During the recent Alton Castle experience, Year 7 got to explore the castle, have a mountain biking adventure, build dens, hike through the countryside and cook marshmallows!



'We need these young minds to fix our planet.' It was great to see students from SMCC with Michaela Strachan on Good Morning Britain during the schools climate action conference.



Wow!!! What an evening of dance. Our dance teachers are extremely proud of every student who performed in this year's Dance Show.

# All the news from across our Trust



Teams 3, 4 and 5 were lucky enough to take part in an Action Transport Theatre workshop. Students had a great morning helping to review a new play.



A huge thank you to all the families who created shoeboxes or donated items to go in them. Our shoeboxes will be going to Moldova, Ukraine, Romania and Belarus. We are so happy to put a smile on children's faces this Christmas.



Our Ministers for Charity were proud to hand over our food bank donations to our Parish.



Students at St Bernard's had a great time at the Mental Health Champions training led by the brilliant world champion inline skater Jenna Downing.



A huge congratulations to our amazing hockey players who came 3rd in the Ellesmere Port School Sport Partnership competition.



St Bernard's RC Primary School and Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust were chosen to take part in the Creativity Collaboratives project funded by the Arts Council and Freelands Foundation.

# All the news from across our Trust



Year 1 were very excited to get a very special visitor Friday afternoon!



Pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 attended their first cross country meet of the new academic year. Our pupils behaved exceptionally well, and were awarded numerous medals for fair play and sportsman-ship, truly showing 'Joy through Respect' in action.



For Black History Month, Merseyside Police held a competition to create a design to feature on police vehicles. Reception children were lucky enough to see first hand the police vehicle with the wonderful winning artwork from an OLOP pupil! Find out more [here](#).



Well done Yr3! Thank you to all of the parents for sharing Prayer and Liturgy with us today. It was lovely to welcome you back into our school again!



Year 6 created some amazing sculptures. As part of our history and art topics we have been thinking about the impact of war. The children looked at a number of sculptures from around the world before designing and making their own.



Y5 chess lessons have reached an exciting point, playing their first full games! Next step is in-class competitions...

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We had a great time filming our nativity this week! Our children have impressed us, as always, with their great performances. Details about how to see the performance will be released soon.



We had a wonderful day wearing our Christmas hats! Thanks to the community's generous donations we raised a total of £135 in for Claire House.



A bumper crowd was in attendance to see our choir perform at the Oxtan Society Christmas lights switch-on this evening. Well done to Mrs Lester, Miss Barrie and all the children for their superb performance!



Year 6 have been studying deforestation and the need for sustainable palm oil in our everyday items. Our research culminated in a group being invited to deliver a presentation at Chester Zoo.



Year 6 enjoyed a tremendous day in Manchester at the Imperial War Museum North. They learnt about the causes and effects of war and created their own video documentaries for the Imperial War Museum.



In October we saw the return of the Wirral Primary Cross Country events. Over 500 children from schools all over the Wirral were in attendance, including our Year 4, 5 and 6 teams from St. Joseph's. Well done everyone!

# Remembrance Day

Staff and pupils across our trust gathered in an Act of Remembrance, followed by a period of silence during which we remembered those who gave their lives for their country.





## Our HFCMAT Nativity

This week, we share a MAT-wide nativity that has been prepared and presented by children and clergy across our Trust. We hope that you will watch with the family and join us in preparing for the birth of Jesus. You can find this on our YouTube channel here. [https://youtu.be/PsjDjwjaf\\_Q](https://youtu.be/PsjDjwjaf_Q)

The Wirral Foodbank Volunteers are working tirelessly to ensure that everyone who needs it, has food this Christmas. You can download the tracks from our Nativity at [hfcmat.bandcamp.com](https://hfcmat.bandcamp.com). All proceeds raised will go directly to the Wirral Foodbank to support their amazing work!





Inspire  
Learning  
TSH NW

## Inspire Learning TSH NW

After being designated as one of just 87 Teaching School Hubs across the country, Inspire Learning TSH NW are pleased to be able to announce that with a lot of hard work, collaboration and innovation we are now up and running and providing training to teachers and leaders across Wirral and Liverpool. 260 new teachers starting their careers in more than 150 local schools have received their Early Career Framework training through the hub, and over 100 leaders from all over the area are participating in leadership training. This is a fantastic opportunity for MAT staff to work with enthusiastic and talented professionals from other schools collaborating with us to deliver training. It also puts us at the forefront of changes and innovations. All this learning and experience means our teachers and leaders can continue to make the classrooms and the academies in the MAT the very best places to learn.

## Maths Hub Update



The Cheshire and Wirral Maths Hub, now in its third year, is going from strength to strength. Despite not having a single year without Covid as a hub, we have been able to increase the number of schools we work with each year and we are now supporting 319 schools in the development of Teaching for Mastery. Our work ranges from supporting Reception teachers in ensuring our youngest pupils get the best possible start to school life, all the way through to supporting teachers at post-16 with A Level and Core Maths. Our vision is to improve the mathematics experiences of pupils by working closely with teachers to help them implement and embed a research informed Teaching for Mastery approach.

Within Holy Family MAT, I am pleased to say that all schools are now working within the Maths Hub - this will help to ensure that the mathematics education our pupils get is of the highest quality. If you are keen to learn more about the Maths Hub, you can visit our website (<https://cheshireandwirralmathshub.co.uk/>), or contact Andy Ash at [andyash@hfcmat.com](mailto:andyash@hfcmat.com).



## We are delighted to share that HFCMAT has been chosen to lead one of only eight Creativity Collaboratives across the country and the only one in the North West!

Based on the findings of the Durham Commission and led by Arts Council England, the Creativity Collaboratives programme aims to build networks of schools that will test a range of innovative methods of teaching that help children and young people to develop their creative capabilities and evaluate their effectiveness. The programme will run until July 2024, testing out teaching approaches and curriculum development which can then be applied more widely.

As part of their involvement, schools across the trust will be working with 7 other schools across the region to develop creative practices and engage in research around improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

The first aims of the collaborative are:

The creative capacity of young people is nurtured, and personal, social and physical wellbeing and academic development is greatly enriched.

Career pathways are supported by skills developed through creative learning and thinking.

Teachers and school leaders are skilled and confident to teach with creativity and advocate for teaching for creativity pedagogies and practice across their networks.

This is an amazing opportunity for all our schools in our school family. We look forward to working with teachers, children, parents and the whole school community exploring this important area over the coming years.

Dear God,  
At this holy time  
We remember the great mystery of the incarnation,  
That you loved the world so much you sent us your Son  
To be one of us, born not in a palace  
Or even in a comfortable home, but in the place  
In the house where they kept the animals downstairs.  
This humble beginning tells us  
That you are not a God of power the way that we think about power,  
Not a God of pretence, but a quiet God  
Who enters history with no ceremony.

There were a few visitors: in Luke's Gospel  
The lowly ones, the Shepherds, in Matthew's Gospel  
The wise men with their gifts.  
They can stand for all of us, the human race  
Gathered around the manger, with our hopes and our fears,  
With our heartfelt prayers for peace:  
Peace in our hearts, in our homes, in the places on earth  
Destroyed by war and violence.

As we kneel before the God of the universe  
Held tightly in the arms of Mary, his mother and ours,  
We pray for the fragile world,  
That in this vulnerable child we will find our joy,  
Our light in the darkness,  
Our dignity as human beings,  
Our common cause,  
Our hope.

