



Summer Term 2022 Newsletter

As we approach the end of our first year, I would like to thank all our Local Governors, Headteachers, Trust Directors and colleagues for their efforts in processing such a big change in creating 1 organisation out of what was 8 separate schools.

It is true to say that whilst the Easter Newsletter showcased some wonderful examples of the benefits for children as a result of our conversion, much of the work this year has been focussed on setting up systems, processes and organisational change 'behind the scenes' in order to lay firm foundations for future years of Trust work together. That said, we have managed to realise a number of positives even from our first year together, a copy of which can be found [here](#).



I won't represent all the detail from that document here, but I would like to highlight the pupil-focused projects around Early Years, Curriculum, Catholic Life and Chaplaincy (and there is a short update on these projects overleaf) as well as all our Trust work on: providing support for school financial planning; school finance workshops; dedicated Headteacher support on a range of issues; Health and Safety compliance work; Safeguarding Reviews; creating a new Headteacher Report; sharing best practice in a number of areas; regular Headteacher planning meetings; supporting local governors with various formal processes; centralising almost 20 policies and procedures; ensuring financial benefits returned from conversion in 2021/22 match the average Trust membership fee for a one form entry primary school, and much more.

Our plans for 2022/23 are being finalised, and I look forward to being in touch at the end of the Autumn Term to update you on progress then. Meanwhile, I would like to wish you all a restful summer. May God bless you, your families and your loved ones in the weeks ahead. As Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 says, there is a time and season for everything, and I pray that this is your time and season for rest and a holiday.

Andrew Celano CEO

New Trust Chair

Fr Peter Harris, Parish Priest of St. Joseph and the English Matrys, and current Dean of the Lea Valley Deanery has been appointed as our new Trust Chair. Fr Peter takes over from Mr Gaspare Nicolini who stood down towards the end of this first year. Mr Nicolini has worked on the formation of our Trust for many months leading up to our conversion. On behalf of the Trust we thank him for his service, expertise and dedication.

Fr Peter takes up his post as Chair immediately, and we are very blessed to have such a skilled and experienced Chair.



Update on Paired Projects

Curriculum Project, co-ordinated by Sacred Heart (Mrs Fusi) and St. Joseph's Bishop's Stortford (Mr Coldwell)

The aim of this project is to set up cross-school Subject Leader groups to develop our curriculum planning. Following on from the first Subject Leaders' meetings in January, the groups met again in May. All staff are positive about the outcomes of the meetings, in which leaders continue to share current schemes used across the schools. The groups are now focussing on 'deep dives' which monitor progression, subject intent and how the curriculum is implemented. This has involved a lot of work discussing pupil voice and how we involve the children in our planning. More work is planned for next year and will almost certainly expand to include peer to peer reviews in foundation subjects.

Early Years Project, co-ordinated by St Joseph's Waltham Cross (Mrs O'Connor) and St Thomas of Canterbury (Mrs Keating)

During the summer term Primary Schools across the CAT have worked together to discuss Early Years transition and how to best support new children starting school and moving into Year 1. Jennifer Ferguson (Herts for Learning Early Years Advisor) has led the sessions and brought current Early Years updates to upskill staff.

Most recently Early Years staff focused on Outdoor provision, this included exploring St Thomas of Canterbury Forest School approach. It has been wonderful to work with such enthusiastic staff across the CAT, who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with everyone. All 6 sessions this academic year have truly enhanced provision across Trust schools in various ways.

We are looking forward to building upon the success of the Early Years cluster into next academic year, with a package of HFL support and EYFS Leads leading the development work.

Chaplaincy Project, co-ordinated by St Joseph's Hertford (Mr Maloney) and St Cross (Mrs Walsh)

Mr Maloney and Mrs Walsh have carried on building cohesion between the Chaplaincy teams amongst the family of schools as the main objective for 2021-22. They have been successful in making sure the children in Chaplaincy teams across the different schools saw themselves as part of a collective group of Chaplaincy team members. Following the Trust-wide badge competition last term they have decided on their winner and have now had the designs made into actual badges for the Chaplaincy teams to wear with pride.



Catholic Life Project, co-ordinated by St Mary's (Miss McHugh) & St Augustine's (Mrs Napier)

Next year will be the start of a beautiful tradition for our Academy shown through our **4 Franciscan Values Awards**: Creating a caring community; Sharing Compassion for Others; Reverence for Creation and Peacemaking. These are the values which underpin our Academy vision and the ethos we wish to create for *everyone within our Academy* - in all that we do.

We will have 4 awards which our children will aim for through their schooling. EYFS & KS1 (Infant Award) will be KINDNESS; KS2 (Junior Award) will be GRATITUDE; the KS3 (Intermediate Award) will be ZEST (with confidence) and the KS4-KS5 (Senior Award) will be LEADERSHIP.

We are all very much looking forward to merging our love and Catholic identity, through the inspiration of St. Francis, by living these values.