

Faith in Action

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy Company Newsletter



SPRING 2024



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Dream | Believe | Achieve



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

Welcome, everyone, to the first edition of 'Faith in Action', a brand new newsletter dedicated to keeping our vibrant school community informed and connected.

As CEO, I'm thrilled to launch this platform as a way to share the exciting happenings, achievements, and upcoming events that make our MAC such a special place.

'Faith in Action' will shine a light on all aspects of school life, from academic excellence and extracurricular activities to the very heart of our school communities – our Catholic faith. We'll share stories that showcase the dedication of our faculty, the talents of our students, and the commitment we share to fostering a nurturing and faith-filled environment.

Before we dive in, I want to take a moment to wish everyone a joyous Easter holiday. May this special time bring you peace, reflection, and the joy of renewal.

As we prepare for the upcoming term, I look forward to using 'Faith in Action' to keep you connected and engaged.

With warmest regards,

Professor Paul Ryan





MAC gets a rebrand!

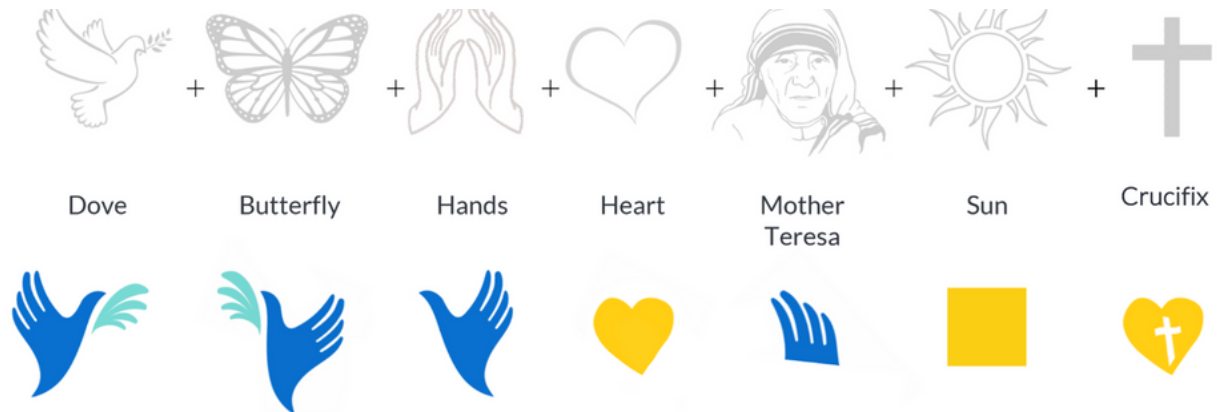
In April 2023, Happy Giraffe were approached by STOCMAC to work with us to develop the MAC brand and website.

They approached the task with care and creativity, crafting a new logo that reflected the values of St Teresa and the MAC's key values. As the journey continued, they moved on to create websites for St. Joseph's Primary and Archbishop Illesley School (launching soon!), contributing to a harmonious MAC identity.

Happy Giraffe are now moving on to build the next school sites with the aim to have a full set of websites in the near future.

St Teresa of Calcutta - Our new logo explained

The logo of the St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Multi Academy is a powerful symbol with multiple elements, each representing distinct values and principles.



The Sun

The sun represents divine light, enlightenment, hope, universal truth, resilience, unity, and harmony, reflecting our dedication to spiritual enrichment and comprehensive education.

Heart

The heart signifies love, compassion, spiritual love, empathy, sacrifice, integrity, and emotional well-being, creating a caring and supportive educational environment.

The Cross

The Unity Cross embodies God's love, compassion, hope, strength, sacrifice, victory over death, and unity, echoing Saint Teresa's devotion to serving the marginalised and promoting love for all.

Butterfly

The butterfly symbolises transformation, resurrection, spiritual growth, freedom, and personal growth, nurturing our student's holistic development.

Dove

The dove in the logo embodies peace, harmony, divine guidance, compassion, purity, universal love, and hope, reflecting our commitment to these values

Mother Teresa

The wavy blue ribbon is renowned symbol of Mother Teresa and of her order

Hands

The hands in prayer convey devotion, unity, compassion, humility, and peace, emphasising religious values and a harmonious community.

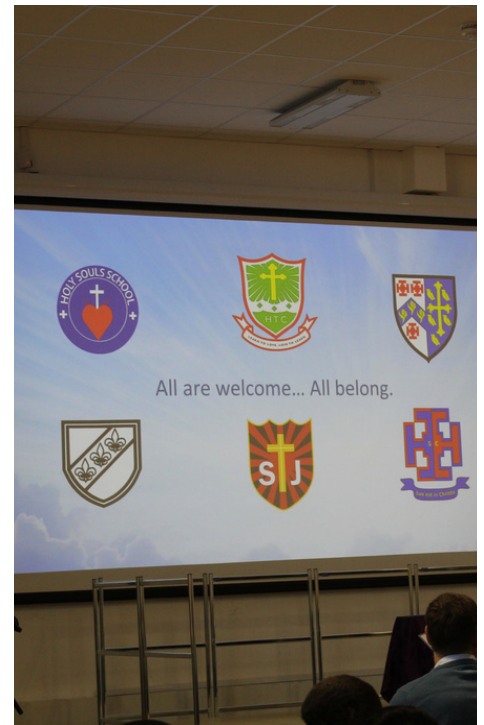
A Day of Rejuvenation: The MAC Inset Day

The spirit of collaboration filled the air as all our MAC schools converged for a recent Inset Day. Stepping away from the daily routines, teachers and staff were welcomed by the inspiring presence of Cannon Dolman and the uplifting melodies of Joe Boyce Music.

This day wasn't about lesson plans or marking, but about nurturing the very core of our purpose: formation and spirituality. Through insightful talks by Cannon Dolman, we delved deeper into the importance of fostering these values within ourselves and, ultimately, within our students.

Joe Boyce Music provided a vibrant backdrop, weaving moments of reflection with joyful energy. The shared experience of music became a powerful force, reminding us of the unifying power of the MAC community.

Throughout the day, there was a palpable sense of renewal. It was testament to the strength we find in unity, a day that will undoubtedly have a ripple effect throughout the MAC community, enriching the educational and spiritual journeys of both teachers and students.



"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." ~ St Teresa



Spring Term at St Joseph's

This half term, Year 6 are learning about the Amazon Rainforest in Geography.

Children presented their reports to try and answer the question: is deforestation right? They chose to present their findings using differing styles, such as debate or a newspaper report.



Go forth and pray this Lent 🙏



Well done to our Year 5 and 6 basketball team for achieving bronze medals in KESSPB annual basketball tournament.

During week 5 of Lent, Year 6 children led a beautiful prayer and liturgy all about the importance of prayer in Lent.

The children reminded us to always make time to speak to God and to stay humble in our words, thoughts and actions.



Severn Trent Water Visit: Educating Students on Water Conservation and Recycling

At the beginning of March we had a visit from Severn Trent Water.

The children found out all about how we can save water and our planet.

They learnt about how water is filtered, cleaned and put back into rivers for us to reuse, saving water and how to prevent our sewers from being blocked. It was lots of fun and educational.



The Rosary

CAFOD 'Big Lent Walk'

Pupils have been taking part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk over the last few weeks. Sponsor money is still being collected but its looking like we have smashed our target of £200.

Well done to everyone that has taken part.

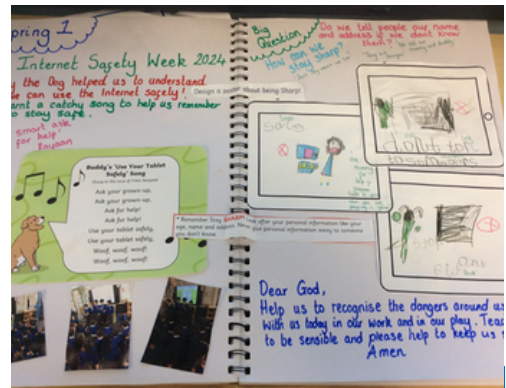


Spotlight on E-Safety Week

E-Safety week was a busy time at The Rosary, each year had a separate theme.

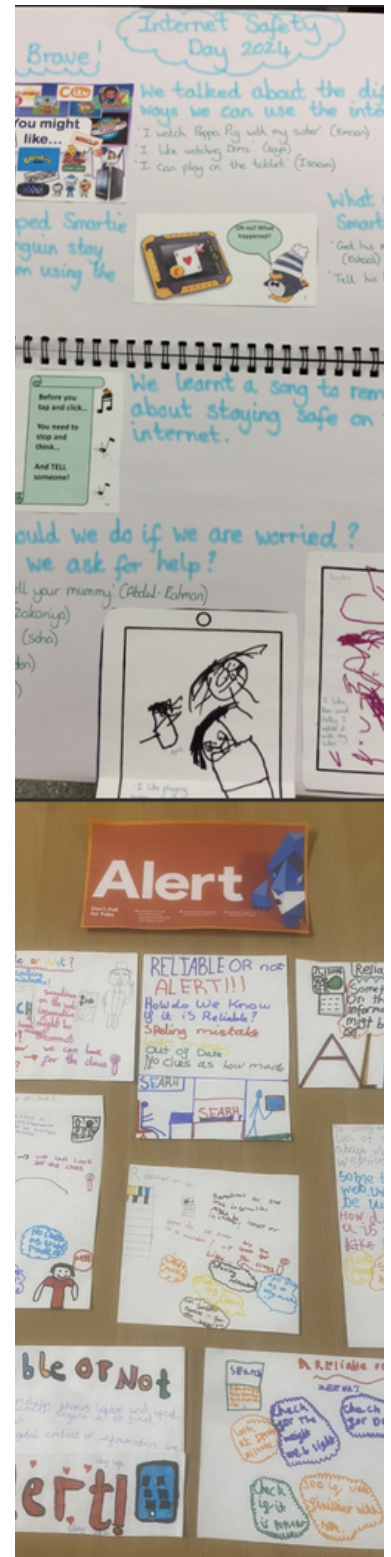
Brave - The children in Nursery have been thinking about the different ways they use the internet at home and in Nursery. We spent time thinking about what we need to do if something comes up on our devices that we don't recognise! They learnt a song to remind us of how to be 'Brave' & talked about who we can tell & ask for help in Nursery and at home!

Reception's theme was 'sharp'. They had fun learning about how to look after their personal information with help from Buddy the Dog. The children learnt a new school to help them remember how to stay safe when online.



Year 4 have been focusing on being alert, exploring reliable and non-reliable webpages.

The theme in Year 6 was 'kind'. They have been looking at ways to stand up to others online.





Year 6 Turns Science into Sweet Success, Raising £120 for the Vulnerable

As part of our Catholic Social Teaching for this term - options for the poor and vulnerable. Pupils have been learning that this doesn't require grand gestures; even the fun of science can be used to make a difference!

Recently, a group of young learners explored the fascinating world of chocolate. They experimented with different ingredients, temperatures, and techniques, all in the name of creating the perfect treat. But the learning didn't stop there! Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, they decided to put their leftover chocolate to good use.

By hosting a bake sale featuring their delicious creations, they raised an impressive £120! This money will be donated to a local charity supporting those in need.



St Chads - Spotlight on Year 6

St Chad's Celebrates Year 6's Journey of Faith

On Saturday 2nd March, the feast Day of St Chad, Year 6 children received the sacrament of confirmation, celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley.

Congratulations to you all.



Your paragraph text



NewsWise! Workshop

In partnership with the Guardian we have had reporters in school working with the children. This is part of the NewsWise programme, their core mission is to teach children aged 7-11 how to critically analyze news and become informed citizens.

The Year 6 children were definitely inspired, and who knows, we may have some budding journalists in our midst!



Sports update!

Year 8 Boy's Football Team have had continued success in their league games by beating Waverley (2-0) and Starbank School (2-0). They also came second in the Central Birmingham 7-a-side tournament at the end of November, only getting beat in the final on penalties.



Year 9 Netball Team have upheld their winning streak and beat Bordesley Green Girls School 14-5

Year 10 Netball Team won their first game against Bordesley Green Girls School

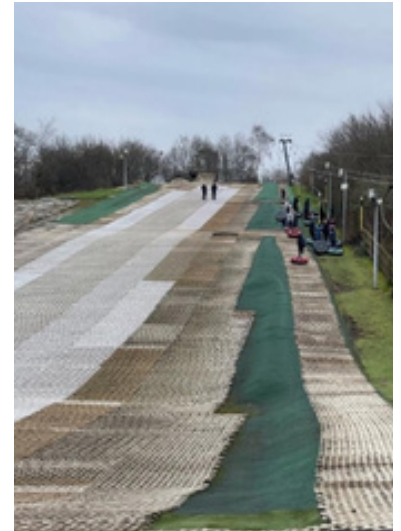


Holy Trinity Students earn Ackers Adventure Trip

This term we have had the pleasure of rewarding 240 students across Year 7-10 with a free trip to Ackers adventure.

All students took part in orienteering and tubing and had a fantastic time. Students returned excited, happy and all commented on how much fun they had! As always the students were a credit to the school and it was a joy to spend the day with them.

We are looking forward to next term and continuing to reward those students who are consistently demonstrating positive behaviours!



Holy Trinity organises its latest 'Primary School Games' event

On Wednesday 24th April, Holy Trinity will be hosting their third Primary School Games Event. At least 6 Primary Schools will be competing in a 'Handball Competition' with medals being handed out to the top three positions and the winning school getting to take back the 'Holy Trinity Cup'!



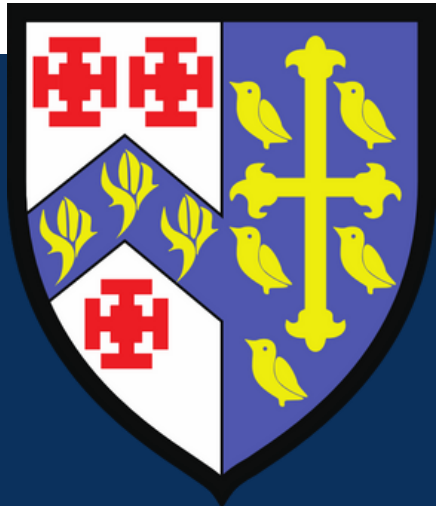
Extra-curriculum & Enrichment

'Positively You' returned and delivered motivational workshops and sessions looking at study skills to Key Stage 3 and we hosted (and won!) the Birmingham Catholic Secondary Schools Public Speaking Competition!

A big well done to Envision cohort 1 the 'Anti-Racism Ambassadors' for their excellence and dedication to the programme. We hope pupils enjoyed working alongside the Envision team and business mentors at Atkins Realis, in Birmingham City Centre.

Year 7 and Year 8 attend a Spiritual Retreat at either The Briars in Derbyshire or Alton Castle in Staffordshire. Relationships were strengthened and pupils left knowing just what makes them so amazing and special in the eyes of God.

The group performed exceptionally well demonstrating a great team effort, grit and determination. We are all very proud of their achievements.



Lent Appeal

This Lent, ABI have been supporting St Chads Sanctuary.

As a whole school we have collected toiletries, clothes and food.

A team of our Catholic Life reps attended a tour of St Chads Sanctuary and then launched the campaign. The response has been humbling, we have filled two mini buses with donations from pupils and staff. St Chads Sanctuary led a live assembly with all students on March 8th and talked about where the first mini bus load of donations would be going. This is Catholic Social Teaching in action, so a big thank you to all for your generous donations.

Archbishop Ilsley pupils meet the parish



As a Catholic MAC, Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School are aware of the importance of forging and maintaining positive relationships with the parishes they serve.

Mr Clinton had the pleasure of visiting the Bereavement Group at Holy Souls Church which is led by Sister Angela. He was accompanied by four lovely pupils from Year 8: Morgan, Sarah, Dominic and Liam and this is what they had to say about the event:

Morgan: today I went to the parish hall where I met parishioners, had a nice talk to each individual and had a cup of tea with some biscuits. It was fantastic. I really enjoyed speaking to the different people.

Sarah: the parishioners were very nice and welcoming. We had a very nice time talking to each other. We were also celebrating Neena's 90th birthday! We all sang Happy Birthday to her!

Dominic: I talked to many of the people at the parish hall and many of them loved talking about their past school experiences. Many of them liked comparing their past experiences with modern school life.

Liam: I went to the parish hall today and talked to many people who were very nice. They all had something to say about Archbishop Ilsley and all were positive. They were all very nice and would love to go back as really enjoyed it.



'Envision' success for Year 9's

Yr 9 pupils have been partaking in the Envision programme.

Envision empowers young people who are to develop essential skills and confidence through making positive change in their community. Working towards their project goals and key milestones, young people build the essential skills and confidence proven to support their education, employment and well-being.

We have had two cohorts taking part this year. Our teams are partnered with an Envision Programme Coordinator and a team of mentors from a local business

including HS2 and Atkins-Realis who support them to design and deliver an in-school, social action project that will make a positive change at Archbishop Ilsley.

Our first team, who coined themselves 'We see it, we sort it' championed an anti-bullying campaign to support newly arrived Year 7 pupils as they adjusted to their new environment.

Culminating in a final cross-school event at St Andrew's @ Knighthead Park, teams from various schools came together to showcase their skills development and project

achievements to their peers, mentors, and a panel of judges. 'We see it, we sort it' demonstrated amazing teamwork, determination, resilience and communication as they delivered their pitch to a packed room of people. The development in their skills over the 12 week programme was wonderful to witness. 'We see it, we sort it' were declared winners, taking home a trophy and certificate which now proudly stand in the school's reception.



Lent at Holy Souls

Minnie Vinnie's supporting 'Lift the Ban'

Our Minnie Vinnie group were invited to a 'Lift the Ban' workshop at Archbishop Ilsley led by the Columban Missions. They listened to the experiences shared by some Asylum Seekers.

Our team of Mini Vinnies were ready to raise awareness of asylum seekers not being able to work and then went into Acocks Green to collect signatures which will be presented to our local MP to lift the ban on paid work for Asylum Seekers.



During Lent our staff and children have been Walking with Jesus. The children have made individual promises and Class promises. They received a Lenten Bag with Lenten Challenges, Lenten bunting, Lenten Chatterboxes and Tear the cross meditation.

They followed the Lenten Calendar each day, they have fasted from unkindness and they made a 'Lenten in a bag'.

Our Catholic Social Teaching theme this half term is 'Option for the Poor' and the children have shared their pennies by collecting money for Father Hudson's Good Shepherd Appeal.

Our Young Disciples planned a Lenten Celebrating the Word of God to lead in their class. There has been a EYFS/KS1 Lenten Assembly and a KS 2 Lenten Assembly. The children have been challenged to take part in Sacred Silence each day. Year 3 have made their First Confession and Years 4,5,6 have been to Confession. Year 5 led our school in a special Lenten Mass.



A visitor for School Council

Earlier this term, the school council had a special visitor to their meeting

Professor Ryan, CSEL of our MAC joined the students to discuss issues and concerns.

The subject of the threatened closure of the Acocks Green Library was discussed at length.

The pupils had some great ideas on how they can help and support Acocks Green Library.

Watch this space!

World Book Day 2024 across STOC MAC





Events coming soon:-

9th July

**STOC MAC Choirs trip to Royal
Albert Hall**

<https://www.armonico.org.uk/w-hats-on/ac-academy-does-the-royal-albert-hall/>

18th - 20th November

Year 6 STOC MAC Residential
Trip to Whitemoor Lakes Activity
Centre

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