



Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Academy Trust

Providing an inspirational, outstanding Catholic education for all the children and young people in our schools.

July 2024

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students

Welcome

Welcome to the summer newsletter from the Trust of Our Lady Help of Christians.

As another successful year draws to a close I write to offer my thanks and appreciation to all the schools within our Trust. I am a regular visitor to our schools and I am continually amazed by the hard work and dedication of all the staff in ensuring all our young people continue to receive excellent experiences. It is a particular pleasure to visit at the end of the school year and I have enjoyed many shows, celebrations and masses over the last few weeks, showcasing the many talents we have in our schools.

On my visits, I always take time to speak to the children and young people, ensuring they feel safe and happy in school and the vast majority of responses I receive are overwhelmingly positive. In addition, wherever possible, I have engaged with families and parents informally. From September I will be holding more formal parent consultations in all areas. Please register your interest here, enquiries@olhoc.org.uk and we will be in touch in the new academic year.

Below are just a snapshot of some examples and I hope you take the time to read about some of their achievements. In addition there are many more examples on the school's websites and social media platforms.

Shrewsbury Cathedral Primary School & St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

On February 1st 2024, we were delighted to welcome our eighth and ninth schools into the Trust. Shrewsbury Cathedral School and St Patrick's in Telford are the first schools in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin to join us. We look forward to working closely with them and all our current schools as we continually work to improve life chances and outcomes for all our children and young people.

Registered Address: All Hallows Catholic College
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www.olhoc.org.uk



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Over the course of the next year and beyond we will continue with the vision of Bishop Mark in welcoming all the the Roman Catholic schools in, Cheshire East and West, Chester, Ellesmere Port, Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire.

[Our Schools](#)

As of July 2024 we are; All Hallows Catholic College, Christ the King Primary, Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, St Albans Primary, St Joseph's, Saint Mary's, St Patrick's, St Paul's and Shrewsbury Cathedral Primary schools.

[School News](#)

The staff in all our schools continually amaze us all with the opportunities they provide for all our children and young people. I have included just a small snapshot here of some examples of the great work they have done this year – please see our website www.olhoc.org.uk for more information about all our schools.

[All Hallows Catholic College](#)

Liverpool Hope University Experience

In June we took next year's new intake of Year 7 students away to Liverpool Hope University, where they had the opportunity to make new friends, spend time with their Form Tutors, and reflect on our College values. Thank you to all the staff, including those from our partner Primary schools, who gave their time & energy to organise & lead this fantastic residential experience, as well as the Sixth Form students, who were the very best examples of what it means to be an All Hallows student. The Year 6 children really were a delight – respectful, well-mannered, enthusiastic & engaged – well done to them all.



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Christ the King Primary

We were very proud parents of 10 chicks this term. Once hatched, we all took turns to look after them. We all said prayers for our chicks safe return to the farm; we thanked God for our wonderful world. Our chicks gave us opportunity to practice some of our core values this year :

Perseverance - waiting for the eggs to hatch

Hope - that they would all be born safely

Responsibility - looking after their basic needs once born

Respect - looking after God's creations

Service - helping other living things

Courage - letting the chicks go back to their farm, doing the right thing.



Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

We are delighted to announce that we, Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2023/24 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the [Youth Sport Trust](#) to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.





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St Alban's Primary School



To celebrate the end of seven fabulous years at school, St. Alban's has marked the end of the school year with a spectacular Year 6 production of 'The Pirates of the Curry Bean'.

Our pupils amazed us with their fabulous singing, dancing and acting. The whole show was a joy to behold.



St Joseph's Primary School

St. Joseph's Catholic RC Primary has recently been re-awarded IQM Status for Inclusion which they were first awarded in 2018.

'During the assessment visit, it was clear that the school's commitment to inclusion and meeting community needs is strong. The importance of relationships is emphasised, with a high value placed on building connections and supporting transitions. Parents expressed deep appreciation for the comprehensive support their children receive. They spoke passionately about the inclusive environment and praised the school's efforts to ensure no child feels left out. One parent highlighted the caring attitude of teachers, describing them as not only educators but also surrogate parents who always have their children's best interests at heart.'





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Saint Mary's Primary



Saint Mary's eco council successfully renewed their international Green Flag award from Keep Britain Tidy in July 2023, with distinction, making it eight consecutive green flags!

This academic year they have been busy working on their eco topics, meeting weekly, getting ready to apply for their ninth green flag this summer. Eco-schools encourages pupils to lead on sustainability issues, with input from teachers during selected lessons learning more about climate change, reducing energy and water use and sustainability.

St Patrick's Primary

St Patrick's Catholic Primary Year 6 went to London in June. They spent the morning at the British Museum looking at artefacts that they have studied in their history curriculum in Key Stage 2. There were plenty of 'wow' moments from the children: 'The Sutton Hoo mask was my favourite', said Noah. 'It was magnificent to see it up close'. Snighda remarked: 'I remembered the Mayan mask from Year 5. It was amazing to see it for real'

This is the second year we have planned this visit, having adapted our curriculum around an end of year visit to summarise our learning and to see first-hand the artefacts and artwork that we have been studying. Our children said that the day was 'fascinating', 'interesting' and an 'experience to remember'.





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St Paul's Primary

In Nature Connection – Phenology and Hapa Zomes

During Forest School this half term, children in Year 5 have been learning about phenology, (the study of events in biological life cycles and how these are influenced by seasonal variations in climate, as well as habitat factors), bashing leaves to make a hapa zome, enjoying free play and learning to tie a lark's head knot. Reception children have been having a great time making a hapa zome.

Hapa zome, literally meaning “leaf dye”, is a Japanese printmaking technique that uses the natural pigments in leaves and flowers to produce surprisingly detailed prints.



Shrewsbury Cathedral Primary

Our living library has officially opened having completed the woodland walk to enable year round access. Half of the Polytunnel is now a new and exciting space based on children's designs; a functioning, working room that can be used during the school day for a variety of purposes; Liturgical Prayer, Reception Story Time and Guided Reading so far. It will be called the Living Library because we have organised our range of fiction books (Rainbow Reads) and topic book selections for each class, relevant to each term, into black storage boxes to hold our transportable book collections – from classroom to living library.





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Finally, I would like to thank everyone involved in making this another fantastic year in all our schools. Our staff, young people, parents, families and governors. It is such a major team effort from everyone to ensure our schools do all they can for our children. I would also like to thank the central team and all who work in the background to ensure our school run smoothly – we have a great team.

God of endless love, We thank you for this school year and for all we have shared.

We place our students and their families; our staff and all who support our communities into your grace and ask your blessing.

Jesus said:

'I give you a new commandment: love one another;

you must love one another just as I have loved you.

It is by your love for one another, that everyone will recognise you as my disciples.'

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely summer break and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school in September.

Yours sincerely

M Mountcastle
CEO