



# News

# Romero

News and events from across  
The Romero Catholic Multi-Academy Company

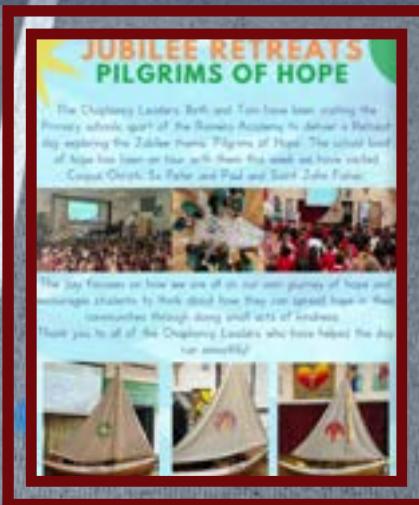


## Romero Champions again!

Saint John Fisher crowned champions at the recent Coventry Catholic Schools' Sports Athletic event at Warwick University. Good Shepherd, winners from last year handed over the trophy.

## Boat of Hope sails to all schools

Each of our schools is visited by our Boat of Hope coupled with a retreat day.



SUMMER 2025

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# Welcome

A Year of Jubilee.

Two terms into our year of Jubilee, we have been very busy with lots of celebrations across our schools. Our infamous boat (which was mentioned in the BDES Leadership conference!) has been sailing from one school to another on a pilgrimage of hope, with each school taking part in a retreat day led by Tom Scott-Machin, Beth Mitchell, and a group of students from Cardinal Wiseman.

We thank all our pupils from Nursery to Year 13 for aiming high this year in their journey of faith and learning.

To those receiving GCSE and A Level results this summer, we wish you every success.

May each one of you continue to discern your path and “be who God calls you to be.”

Finally, we extend a warm farewell to those leaving their post, especially Michelle Garvey and Matt Everett at SS Peter and Paul and Cardinal Wiseman respectively; wishing you all the very best for the future.

To all our staff and governors, may your summer be restful and joyful—and may the new academic year bring fresh opportunities, renewed energy, and continued blessings.

Bless all those in our community of faith, as we take our holidays.

May our time together leave us with memories to cherish.

Pour out your love on us that we may return renewed and refreshed to continue our journey together.

Amen



Coventry Catholic Schools' Athletic event

June 2025

Brendan Fawcett

Chair

# Cardinal Wiseman CSI

## Good with Outstanding features

**Cardinal Wiseman** is thrilled to share the outcome of our recent Catholic Schools Inspection, which took place on 3rd and 4th July 2025. The report celebrates the incredible work happening every day at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, and we are so proud to share this success with you—our valued families and community.

The inspectors recognised the school's strengths across the board:

- Overall Effectiveness: **Good**
- Catholic Life and Mission: **Outstanding**
- Religious Education: **Good**
- Collective Worship: **Good**

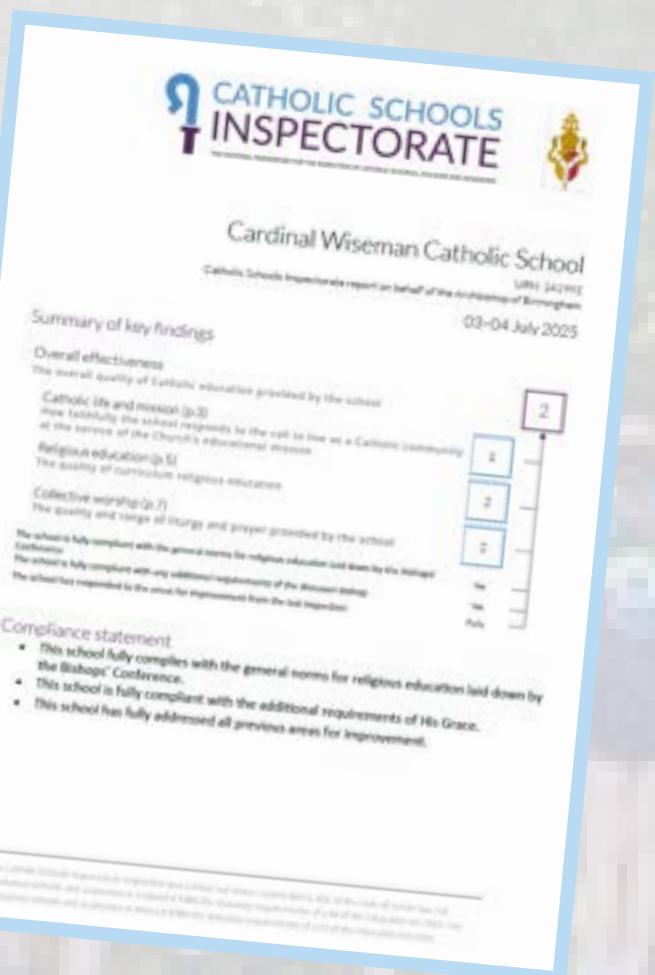
These results reflect the dedication of our valued colleagues, the enthusiasm of our pupils, and the support from our parents.

**CLICK HERE**



Of course, we are always striving to improve, and the report also provides helpful guidance on how to do so. These are already part of our ongoing development plans. We invite you to read the full report and we thank you everyone in our school and MAC community for being such an important part of our journey. Your continued support helps to make Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School the special place it is. The report can be found [here](#).

**Laura Burtonwood, Interim Principal, Cardinal Wiseman**



# VE Day -



# We Will Remember

A group of Romero primary school pupils were among the first to get to grips with a major exhibition encouraging people across the country to discover and share stories of those who served and died in the Second World War.

Children from SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School and Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School, were among the first to visit an interactive VE Day exhibition – with a pupil's code-breaking relative one of those remembered.

The exhibition, which kicked off at Coventry Cathedral and will travel across the UK to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day and ensure these stories live on, is part of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)'s For Evermore Tour.

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School pupil Bonnie Whyte paid tribute to her great-great aunt, who worked as a code breaker during the Second World War, by pinning a note to the exhibition.

Speaking to a national journalist, she said: **"I'm really proud of what she did in the war. I've really enjoyed coming to this exhibition and learning about what brave people did in the war."**

The CWGC cares for 23,000 war memorials and war cemeteries around the world commemorating 1.7 million Commonwealth casualties.

Coventry Cathedral was chosen as the first site for the tour due to its historical importance and poignancy, as it was heavily bombed by the Luftwaffe during the Blitz and stands today as a powerful symbol of peace and reconciliation.

Helen Quinn, CEO of the Romero Catholic Academy, said: **"It was profoundly moving for our pupils to witness this exhibition, deeply honouring the sacrifices whilst recognising the significance of VE Day."**

**"It's important younger generations have these opportunities to share stories from their own families and learn about the sacrifices of others, particularly as those with living memory number in the very few, so it was a real privilege to take part at the start of its journey across the country."**



# May Procession: Mary Our Mother



As a MAC, we began the month of May with processions across our primary schools to Our Lady, marked by an offering of flowers, representing our collective gratitude and reverence. All the primary schools within the Romero MAC, in their own individual way, organised a celebration, honouring Mary, the mother of Jesus and our mother too.

Children were invited to bring flowers and present them to Mary; parents, grandparents, and parishioners attended each school and participated in a respectful, silent procession. During this time, those present contemplated the sacrifice Mary made for her son and reflected on how we could use her example to live our lives with faith and love.

The flowers offered by each participant hold a deep significance. They symbolised purity, love, and devotion, reflecting the qualities that Mary embodies.

Each bloom represented a personal prayer and a token of gratitude for Mary's guidance and protection. The act of offering flowers was a way for the community to express gratitude through reverence and connect spiritually with Mary.

One participant shared, **"It was a beautiful service. I feel proud to be part of it."**

**I especially enjoyed the quiet and silence of all pupils during the procession."**





The crowning of Mary is a significant tradition that signifies her role as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. This act of crowning is a way to highlight Mary's unique position in the Church and her exemplary life of faith and obedience to God. It serves as a reminder of her intercessory power and her maternal care for all believers. By crowning Mary, we express our love and devotion, seeking her guidance and protection.

May holds special significance for us as Catholics as it is traditionally dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus. This tradition dates back centuries and is a time for Catholics to honour Mary through various devotions, including the May Crowning, processions, and the offering of flowers. These practices reflect our deep reverence for Mary and our desire to emulate her virtues of faith, humility, and love.

During May, as a faith community we feel united and guided by the shining light and message of Mary, our mother. Her teachings inspire us to support one another and live with kindness and courage. The celebration was not just a tribute to Mary but also a moment of unity and reflection for the entire Romero MAC community.

May her spirit continue to inspire us throughout this month and beyond.



**Claire Restell, Vice Principal Sacred Heart**



# Mud, Magic and a Wooden Spoon: Charity Boosts Outdoor Play at Saint John Fisher



Children at a Saint John Fisher have been given a breaktime boost ready for summer thanks to support from a national children's charity.

The school has proudly unveiled its new Outdoor Learning Environment created thanks to grant funding from UK charity Wooden Spoon – featuring a custom-built mud kitchen and welly rack for pupils to use at break and lunchtime.

Members from the charity's Warwickshire branch, including former St John Fisher pupil Patrick McKeown who attended the school on Kineton Road from 1962 to 1968, joined excited youngsters as they got to grips with the new facilities – which are designed to encourage creative outdoor play while the welly rack ensures all children can access it while keeping classrooms and corridors tidy.

Wooden Spoon supports children and young people with disabilities or facing disadvantage across the UK and Ireland, and has funded more than 1,500 projects impacting the lives of over 1.5 million children and young people.

The charity's Warwickshire branch has raised over £400,000 for children across the county and wider region, including Coventry, to support projects such as sensory rooms, counselling areas and outdoor classrooms.



It started fundraising in 1983 to leave a positive legacy after England's poor showing in that year's Five Nations competition.

Patrick said it was a privilege to return to his former school and see children enjoying the new facility.

**"Projects like this are what Wooden Spoon is all about. We help schools and organisations across the region and the country with funding for projects to support learning and provide children and young people with new experiences,"** he said.

**"To see the outcome of that in action – especially at a place which played a huge role in my childhood – is absolutely brilliant."**

Year 4 pupil Paisley said: **"The mud kitchen is like being at the beach during play time – like going on an adventure – and it's been so much fun playing together with my friends."**

Pauline Finn, Vice Principal at St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, said: **"It was a privilege to welcome Patrick back to the school alongside members of Wooden Spoon's Warwickshire branch for the official unveiling, with our pupils incredibly excited to use the new facility."**

**"It is a fantastic asset for the school as it gives our children the chance to use their imaginations, collaborate and create together during playtime, and we are incredibly grateful to Wooden Spoon for their support in bringing it to life."**

**PLMR  
ADVENT**



# Virtual Trip of a life time

This summer term, the Year 2 class at SS Peter and Paul went on the trip of a lifetime, all without leaving the classroom!

Using cutting-edge virtual reality headsets, the children explored the vibrant sights and sounds of India, including the breath-taking Taj Mahal, bustling cities, and rich cultural traditions. The immersive experience brought their geography learning to life like never before.

This exciting opportunity was made possible thanks to the MAC's involvement in the HP Brighter Futures programme – a sustainable initiative that rewards schools for recycling old IT equipment when purchasing new HP devices. By returning around 200 outdated devices, we unlocked thousands of pounds in funding, which went towards investing in this innovative VR technology – all at no additional cost.

Even better, the scheme supports the environment by keeping old tech out of landfill and extending the life cycle of IT equipment. It's a win-win: inspiring 21st-century learning while doing our part for the planet.

**Shaun Kamionowski, IT Technician and  
Max Tully, Head of IT**



# Leadership Conference 2025: Together on Our Journey - Catholic Education as a Path of Hope

On June 27, a bright summer morning, over 500 leaders from across our diocesan family gathered for the 2025 Leadership Conference, a day of inspiration, reflection, and unity under the theme: **“Together on our journey: Catholic education as a path of hope.”** Hosted by the Diocesan Education Service, the event brought together principals, governors, chaplains, and support staff from across our 233 schools and academies at the Coventry Building Society Arena.

The day began with a moving Celebration of the Word, led by OneLife Music and the children of St. Gerard's, Castle Vale. The choir of St. Thomas Aquinas, Kings Norton, set the tone with a beautiful musical offering, reminding us of the joy and hope that lies at the heart of our mission.

Steve Bell



Sir Martyn Oliver



## The 'Why?'

Forming Christ-centred  
pilgrims of hope  
with kind hearts,  
questioning minds,  
a thirst for knowledge  
and a hunger for justice

Steve Bell, Director of Education, opened the conference with a powerful address on our shared mission as **“Pilgrims of Hope.”** He reminded us that Catholic education is not just about academic excellence, but about forming young people with kind hearts, questioning minds, and a hunger for justice.

We were honoured to welcome Most Reverend Archbishop Bernard Longley, who delivered a keynote speech and celebrated Mass later in the day. His words encouraged us to remain steadfast in our mission, even amidst the challenges of modern education.

A highlight of the morning was the keynote from Sir Martyn Oliver, HMCI of Ofsted, who offered insights into the evolving educational landscape and the importance of values-led leadership in ensuring that every child in every school flourishes.

The conference also recognised outstanding contributions across our schools through the Diocesan Awards, including:

- The Light of Christ Award – for schools radiating Gospel values.
- Hands of Grace Award – honouring dedicated support staff.
- Anchor of Faith Award – celebrating the spiritual leadership of lay chaplains.
- Mission in Action Award – for those living out the Church's mission.
- Saint John Bosco Award – recognising exceptional headteachers.
- Flourishing Mission Award – for MACs enabling schools to thrive.
- Guardian of the Mission Award – for governors upholding Catholic identity.

We are delighted to confirm that **Donna Igoe** won the '**Mission in Action**' Award and can be seen top right receiving her certificate from Archbishop Longley and Steve Bell.

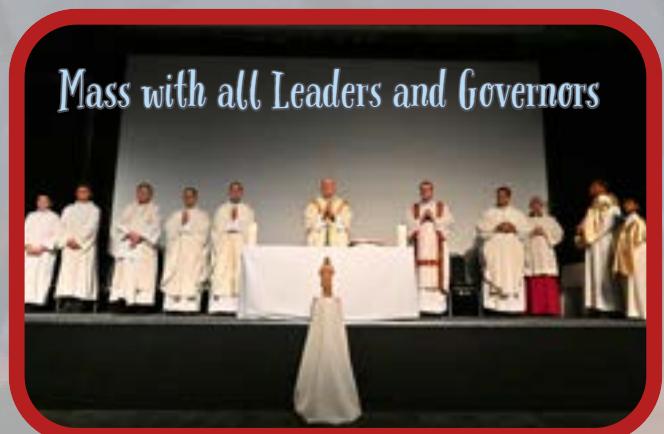
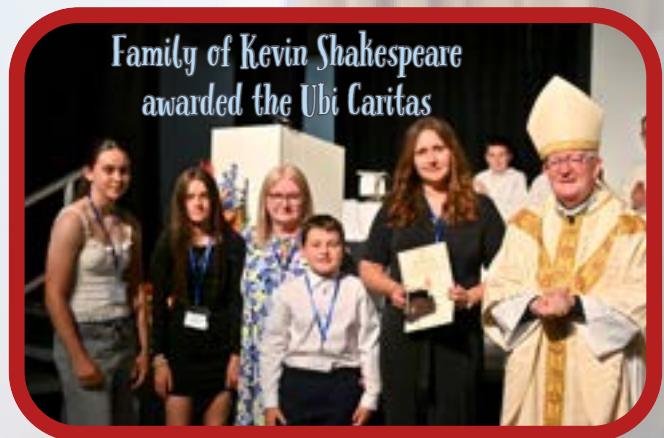
Sinead Smith, CEO of Holy Spirit MAC, shared the incredible impact of our collective fundraising efforts. Over £123,000 was raised this year for Fr. Hudson's Care, supporting refugees, the homeless, and those in need. From the Reverse Advent Calendar to community kitchens and emergency accommodation, our schools have truly lived out the Gospel call to serve. Social activities that have taken place across our schools have contributed to these efforts through LiveSimply.

The Mass in the afternoon concluded the day with **Kevin Shakespeare** receiving the **Ubi Caritas** in loving memory. The family received the award in his honour.

As we move forward as a Diocese, we do so with hope, courage, and a deep sense of shared purpose.

We are called to continue to walk together, as one diocesan family, on this path of hope.

**Helen Quinn, CEO**



# Teacher Training Spotlight: Bishop Challoner SCITT Partnership with Romero CMAC

We are proud to share the continued success of our partnership with Bishop Challoner SCITT, a nationally recognised Catholic teacher training provider. As part of our commitment to excellence in education and Catholic formation, Bishop Challoner SCITT has played a vital role in supporting the Romero MAC's 2024–2025 training programme.

This year, **Mike Bench** (Cardinal Wiseman) and **Lauren Robins** (Corpus Christi) have been instrumental in delivering high-quality training in **History** and **Early Years Education**. Their work has gone beyond classroom delivery—they have also contributed to the development and refinement of the curriculum for future teachers in the profession, ensuring it reflects both academic rigour and the values of Catholic education.

Through this collaboration, our staff benefit from:

- Expert-led sessions rooted in Catholic pedagogy.
- Practical support in curriculum design and implementation.
- A shared vision for nurturing future educators within our Romero community.

We are deeply grateful for the dedication of our trainers and the support of Bishop Challoner SCITT in helping us grow a strong, faith-filled teaching workforce.

**Congratulations to the following people who have completed their SCITT qualification and  
good luck for your future vocation!**

## Primary

Katie Everett - Corpus Christi  
Neha Kapoor - Saint John Fisher  
Shannon Walsh - Sacred Heart  
Rosie Jewell - Saint Gregory  
Katrine Pena-Vega - Saint Patrick's  
Chloe Wilcox - SS Peter and Paul  
Georgia Flubrey - Good Shepherd



## Secondary

Freya Scott-Machin (RE)  
Sean Evans (Music)  
Deborah Ibeh (Science)  
Joshua Iheanacho (Science)  
Gabriella Fernandes-Rios (Maths)  
Jordan Young (Maths)  
Matteo Saparosi (English)  
Eleanor Boot (History)

## Get Into Teaching

If you would like to know how **you** could get into teaching contact **Will Allen, Senior Strategic lead for School Improvement** via email [w.allen@romeromac.com](mailto:w.allen@romeromac.com) or **Alex Thomas, Head of HR** via [a.thomas@romeromac.com](mailto:a.thomas@romeromac.com) or go to:

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>



# Our bespoke adaptive provision curriculum launching soon!



This September, we are proud to be launching a brand-new curriculum—specially developed for our Key Stage One teacher-led Adaptive Provisions. The curriculum has been designed to complement the Romero Curriculum, which will enable pupils to engage with the learning alongside the peers in their cohort where appropriate, ensuring inclusivity and continuity.

The curriculum features a tailored assessment system that allows us to monitor small steps of progress and set ambitious, personalised targets for each pupil. With a cross-curricular, topic-based approach, it offers a wide range of meaningful enrichment opportunities both within the classroom and throughout the local community.

Developed collaboratively by our School Improvement SEND team, SENCos and teaching and leadership staff from across the MAC, this curriculum reflects our shared commitment to high-quality, inclusive education and we cannot wait to see it in action.

**Jo Bradley, SEN Advisor and Hannah Gibson, Strategic Lead for SEN both across Romero CMAC**





# Sacred Heart Pupils Embrace French Culture on Unforgettable Trip to Lisieux

Pupils from Sacred Heart recently returned from a remarkable residential trip to Lisieux, where they immersed themselves in French culture, history, and faith during a week filled with enriching experiences and unforgettable memories.

The Year 5 and 6 students embarked on the journey as part of the school's commitment to broadening horizons and deepening intercultural understanding. The trip offered a unique blend of educational, spiritual, and social opportunities that left a lasting impression on all who took part.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the visit was the time spent at a local French primary school. Over two mornings, Sacred Heart pupils joined their French peers in classroom activities, language games, and collaborative projects. These sessions not only helped improve their French language skills but also fostered genuine friendships and a deeper appreciation of life in a different school system.

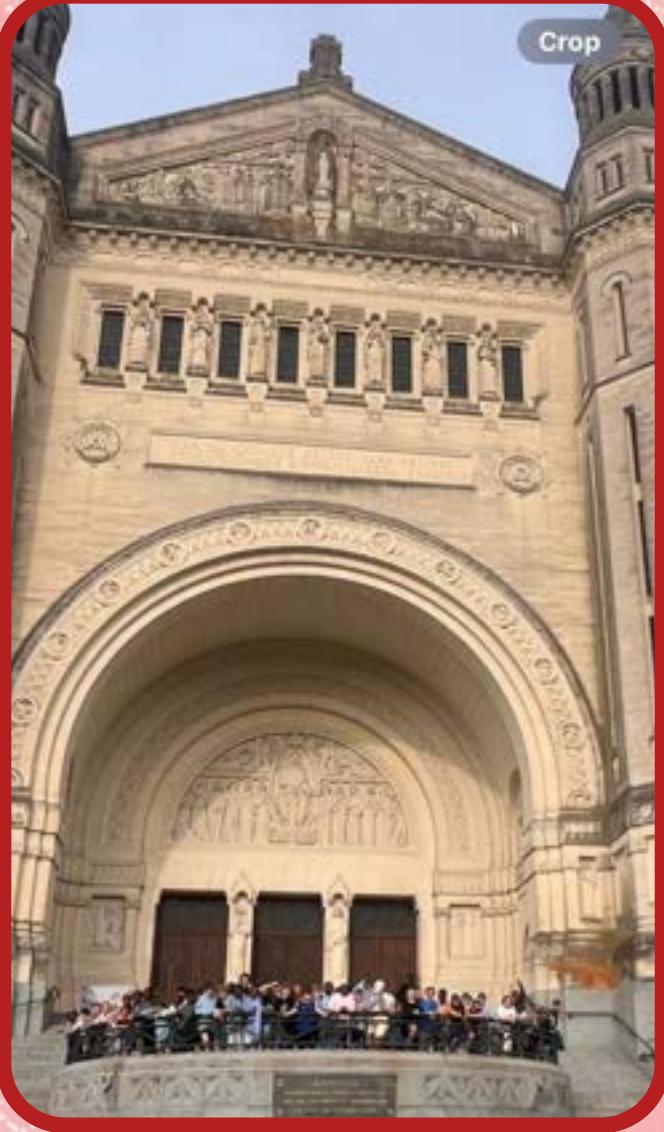
A standout highlight of the trip was the visit to William the Conqueror's Castle in Falaise. Here, pupils were transported back in time using cutting-edge virtual reality headsets, which allowed them to explore the medieval fortress as it would have appeared nearly a thousand years ago. The experience brought history to life in a vivid and interactive way, sparking curiosity and excitement among the young historians.



# Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

Saint Thérèse had a simple yet powerful message that still resonates in the hearts of millions today.

Her “Little Way” of allowing God to work through her life has become a guiding light for the faithful.



The group also made a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, one of the most significant Catholic sites in France. In the serene crypt of the basilica, the children participated in a beautiful Mass celebrated in French. They wrote heartfelt petitions and placed them before the relics of Saint Thérèse, reflecting on her message of love and simplicity. The climb up the basilica’s 177-step tower was rewarded with breath taking panoramic views of the church and the surrounding town.

No trip to Normandy would be complete without a taste of its culinary heritage. Pupils visited a traditional cheese factory, where they learned about the cheese-making process and sampled a variety of local cheeses. The experience was both educational and delicious, offering a sensory insight into regional traditions.

Evenings were spent dining together in a local restaurant, where pupils enjoyed French cuisine and shared stories from the day. These communal meals helped strengthen friendships and added to the sense of adventure and independence that the trip fostered.

Mrs O’ Malley (trip leader) praised the pupils for their enthusiasm, curiosity, and exemplary behaviour throughout the trip. **“This visit to Lisieux was more than just a school trip—it was a journey of discovery, faith, and friendship. Our pupils embraced every opportunity with open hearts and minds, and we are incredibly proud of them.”**

The Lisieux trip will undoubtedly remain a cherished memory for all involved, reinforcing Sacred Heart’s mission to nurture global citizens grounded in faith, compassion, and a love of learning.

**Mrs O’Malley, UKS2 Phase Leader, Sacred Heart**



# Walking Away from Violence: VR Workshop Empowers Coventry Youth

Coventry youngsters welcomed a special guest from Parliament as they took part in a powerful virtual reality workshop designed to raise awareness about the dangers of knife crime.

Year 6 pupils from St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, were joined by Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire Dame Diana Johnson MP for an immersive educational workshop led by their local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) as part of Knife Crime Awareness Week.

The interactive experience used VR headsets to show scenarios involving two young boys meeting for a fight, and asked pupils to make a series of decisions as the story unfolded which shaped its outcome, ranging from being searched by the police or getting arrested, to choosing to walk away from the situation and avoid the violence altogether.

The non-graphic simulation aimed to help young people understand the consequences of carrying a knife and think critically about their actions in real-life scenarios, offering insight into how their choices impact not just the individual, but families and communities as well.

Following the simulation, the PCSOs guided a reflective discussion with the children to explore the decisions they made and talk about the emotions and consequences involved.

Dame Diana, who is the MP for Kingston upon Hull North and Cottingham, also listened to the pupils' views on how to make local streets safer as part of the visit.



Year 6 pupil Evie said the session had made them think more carefully about the choices they might face in future, while her classmate Jayden said the experience helped him realise how important making the right decision is.

Schools officer, Matt Chater, who delivered the session said: **"We work with schools across the city to deliver sessions on knife crime, county lines, violence, and online safety. It was a pleasure to welcome the Policing Minister along to our VR headset session at St Gregory's Catholic School."**

**"We have really good interaction and questions from the pupils, we're glad the sessions having an impact. Helping to give young people a voice when talking about knife crime and violence is key to reducing serious youth violence in years to come."**

Kerry McCormick, KS2 Leader of Learning at St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, said: **"Workshops like this are a vital part of our wider PSHE curriculum, which aims to help pupils develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to make safe and informed decisions."**

**"Year 6 are preparing for their transition to secondary school, moving from a small, close-knit school community to a brand-new environment."**

**"The session builds on classroom discussions around personal safety, peer pressure, and making positive choices – key themes we regularly explore as part of our commitment to preparing children for life beyond primary school."**

**"We're very grateful to our PCSOs and to Dame Diana Johnson for their support and for spending time with our pupils to hear their questions and talk about this important topic with them."**





# From Vesuvius to Vintage Markets: Students Soak Up Culture and Curriculum in Naples

In July, the Humanities department took 28 students from three year groups to the city of Naples. Whilst there, we were able to see both History and Geography in action. With our hotel overlooking Mount Vesuvius, we had a perfect view of the volcano and the sea.

We visited a range of sites including Pompeii, the Herculaneum, the markets of Naples and even the Maradona mural!

The pupils had an amazing time. Here are just a few of their highlights:

**"The trip was great. My favourite part was going on a plane for the first time. It has opened my eyes to travelling and even the potential to study abroad".**

**"I loved going to Pompeii. Seeing the town preserved in ash really made me realise the strength of a volcanic eruption"**

**"My highlight was visiting the markets in Naples and buying souvenirs for my family. I liked having free time to explore the city."**

**"My favourite thing was trying new food. I loved the pizza and the pasta we had at the hotel".**

The students were incredible at every turn of this trip, and they really made their school proud with their behaviour. Sincere 'thank you' to

**Miss Garcha, Ms Duffy and Mr Kingshott**, who volunteered their time (and their weekend) to made the trip possible!

**Hannah Frank, Head of Geography**



# Pilgrims of Hope: Romero Students Set Sail on a Journey of Faith and Reflection

This year is one of Jubilee within the Church, it is a year to pause, reflect on our relationship with God and to renew that relationship.

Each Jubilee year is given a theme and this year's theme is "**Pilgrims of Hope**". We are called to reflect on how we as pilgrims, are journeying through life; we should be full of hope for what awaits us at the end of that journey, Heaven.

This term we have encouraged all pupils across our primary schools to reflect on this through a series of whole school retreat days. Focused on themes of **journeys** and **hope** the pupils spent a whole day reflecting on the Jubilee year and what it means for them. For three weeks in Summer 2, the Romero boat sailed from school to school spreading the joy of the jubilee to all pupils.





### Retreat timetable

The day began with a time of prayer and singing before the pupils worked through three activities.

**1** The first activity focused on journeys and in particular the journey of a student from Cardinal Wiseman who is a refugee fleeing the war in Ukraine. The pupils reflected on their own journeys and their hopes for their journeys through life.

**2** After this, pupils reflected on how they can become stars of hope in their community, inspired by **Saint Thérèse of Lisieux** and her 'little ways'; the idea that we can become a Saint by doing little things.

**3** The pupils then completed a mini pilgrimage to Rome exploring the Seven Churches of Rome and learning all about their importance. The day then ended with a time of adoration ensuring everything was focused on Christ.

Students from Cardinal Wiseman came along with Tom and Beth, to help organise the retreat for the day; everyone had a wonderful time. Throughout the year the boat will be a focus for prayer and a reminder of the journeys through life that we are all on as pilgrims of hope.

**Tom Scott-Machin, Senior Lay Chaplain and Beth Mitchell, Lay Chaplain**





# A Heartfelt Farewell: Sacred Heart Bids Beloved Caretaker Tony Henry a Musical Goodbye After 25 Years

Sacred Heart Catholic school has wished its long-serving caretaker a happy retirement after 25 years' service.

Tony Henry, 66, has retired after a quarter of a century at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, part of the Romero Catholic Academy, with staff and pupils pulling out all the stops with a musical send-off to show their gratitude.

Sacred Heart hosted a performance-packed morning assembly dedicated to Mr Henry, who was joined by close friends and family members as children performed songs and hymns – in addition to an Irish dance showcase from members of staff.

The lifelong Coventry resident, who also performed plumbing duties across the Romero Catholic Academy Schools in the city, said he would be spending more time with his grandchildren in his retirement.

He said: “**It’s been such a great place to work and a community to be part of over the years and it’s given me a really good life.**”

“**You couldn’t buy something like today. It’s been really special and I’d just like to say thank you to all the staff and pupils.**”

Paul Madia, Executive Principal at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, said: “**Mr Henry has been an integral part of our school community over the last 25 years.**”

“**We are incredibly grateful for his hard work and kindness throughout that time. He will be missed by all of us at Sacred Heart and we wish him the best in his retirement.**”

**PLMR  
ADVENT**



# Safe, Smart, and Pupil-Ready: Academy Unveils Summer Transformation

## Investing £660,000 in Learning, Safety, and Spaces

This summer marks another chapter across our academy schools as we embark on an ambitious programme of estate improvements, backed by a substantial £660,000 investment from the Academy. From modernised learning environments to enhanced security systems, the upgrades are set to benefit students, staff, and school communities for years to come.

At St Gregory has undergone further upgrades to its hall facilities, including the installation of a new heating and cooling system, designed to enhance comfort during both warmer and colder months. These enhancements will ensure that the space remains a versatile hub for school events, assemblies, and community use throughout the year.

## Cardinal Wiseman: A Fresh Look

One of the flagship projects is underway at Cardinal Wiseman, where exciting developments are transforming both the indoor and outdoor environments. Students will return to a completely redesigned and landscaped quad area — an inviting and functional space designed to promote wellbeing, relaxation, and social interaction.

In response to the increasing number of students and the need for flexible dining options, an additional external dining area is being constructed, providing a vibrant space for students to enjoy their meals in the fresh air.

Meanwhile, 10 classrooms are undergoing full refurbishment, ensuring that teaching spaces are inspiring, modern, and fit for future learning.

Additionally, the second phase of the heating system upgrade will take place over the summer, involving the replacement of the heating pipework. This essential work will ensure the building remains energy-efficient, warm, and comfortable during the colder months.

## Primary School Enhancements: Upgraded, Safe, and Ready for September

Across our primary schools, significant upgrades are in progress at Sacred Heart, Corpus Christi, Saint Patrick's, and Good Shepherd. Classrooms are being revitalised to offer improved functionality and comfort, aligning with our commitment to providing every child with the best possible learning environment.

At SS Peter and Paul's Primary School, the refurbishment of the Key Stage One toilets ensuring that our youngest pupils benefit from clean, modern, and age-appropriate facilities that support health, dignity, and comfort throughout the school

## Safety First: System Upgrades Across All Schools

Beyond aesthetics and comfort, safety remains a top priority. All schools within the academy are receiving enhanced security systems and fire panel upgrades to ensure continued compliance with safety regulations and to maintain secure, protected spaces for students and staff alike.

These upgrades form part of our routine maintenance and long-term strategic estate planning, reaffirming our dedication to excellence in education and care.

At Saint John Fisher, a significant focus has been on improving site security. The latest security upgrades not only enhance the safety of pupils and staff but also align with our trust-wide commitment to safeguarding and wellbeing across all Schools.

## Looking Ahead

As we invest in these exciting projects, our vision remains clear: to create environments that are not only safe and compliant but also inspiring and empowering for every learner. We look forward to welcoming pupils back in September to refreshed, revitalised spaces that support growth, creativity, and community.

**Tom O'Reilly, Head of Estates**

# Congratulations to our Star Employees!

Across the Spring term we have welcomed nominations from all of our schools and shared services team recognising our people going above and beyond whilst highlighting our values of:

Respect, Integrity, Service and Excellence.

We congratulate all winners and nominees and welcome future nominations from all school stakeholders.

Each winner was awarded a gift and certificate.

Entity	Name
Corpus Christi	Sue Poolton
Good Shepherd	Katie McClean
Sacred Heart	Mary Lindley
SS Peter and Paul	Anouska Early
Saint Gregory	Prafulla Padigar
Saint John Fisher	Paul Murray
Saint Patrick	Mia Parkes
Cardinal Wiseman	Sarah Hodgkinson & Lauren Langan
Shared Services Team	Pete Montague
Leadership	Andy McConville





# Sacred Heart Shines with Second Platinum OPAL Accreditation and Ofsted Report

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is celebrating a remarkable achievement—being awarded Platinum status for the second time by the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme, placing it among the top one percent of schools in the UK for play provision

This prestigious recognition reflects the school's commitment to transforming playtimes into rich, inclusive, and imaginative experiences. From mud kitchens and woodland trails to music and construction zones, Sacred Heart has a vibrant landscape where every child can explore, create, and thrive.



The journey to Platinum was nothing short of inspiring. In just 18 months, Sacred Heart became the first school in Coventry to achieve this level of excellence. Staff worked closely with OPAL mentors to reimagine outdoor spaces, ensuring that every child has access to high-quality play every day. Since then we have worked hard over the past couple of years to improve the play provision for the pupils resulting in our second platinum award.

Melissa Starkey, OPAL Lead at Sacred Heart **"Achieving Platinum again is a reflection of our belief that play is not a luxury—it's a necessity. We've seen first hand how purposeful play boosts confidence, creativity, and wellbeing. It's been a joy to watch our children flourish in an environment where they feel free, safe, and inspired."**

OPAL's vision is clear: every child deserves an amazing hour of play every day. Sacred Heart has embraced this philosophy wholeheartedly, proving that when play is prioritised, the entire school culture benefits—from happier children to more engaged learning. Sacred Heart is already planning new projects to build on its success. The school continues to welcome support from families, volunteers, and local businesses to keep the momentum going and ensure every child's playtime remains magical.

## Celebrating Excellence: A Positive Spotlight on Our Latest Ofsted Report

We are delighted to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which highlights the exceptional work taking place at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School. The full report reflects the dedication, collaboration, and high standards that define our school.

- Inspectors praised the strong leadership and clear vision that underpin the school's success.
- Pupils across were found to be happy, safe, and thriving, with staff committed to nurturing both academic and personal development.
- The curriculum was described as ambitious and well-structured, ensuring that all learners are challenged and supported.
- Our commitment to inclusion and safeguarding was recognised as robust and effective, with staff going above and beyond to meet the needs of every child.

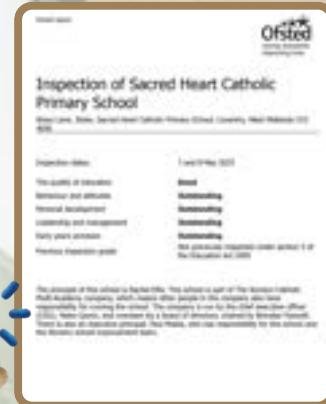
Rachel Ellis, Principal **"This report is a testament to the relentless hard work of our staff, governors and the enthusiasm of our pupils, and the support of our families. We are proud of the culture we've built—one that puts children first and empowers all our staff to innovate and inspire. The feedback from Ofsted affirms our belief that when we work together, we can be the best versions of ourselves."**

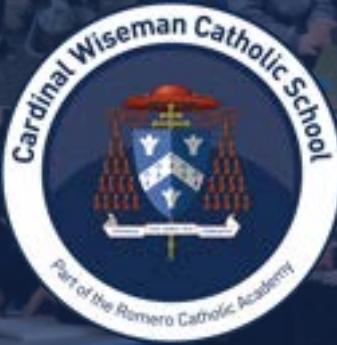
Looking ahead, the school remains committed to continuous improvement. The report's findings will guide the next steps as the school builds on strengths and addresses areas for growth. Staff are excited to continue shaping futures and raising aspirations.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fantastic outcome.

**Sacred Heart of Jesus: I place all my trust in You.**

**CLICK HERE**





SAVE THE DATE

# PROSPECTIVE YEAR 7 OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

5.30PM 2025

CARDINAL WISEMAN'S  
OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS  
IN ALL AREAS IS  
**GOOD**  
OFSTED 2022

JOIN US AND SEE WHAT OPPORTUNITIES AWAITS YOU  
AT CARDINAL WISEMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU!

5.30PM - 7.30PM



#BEINCREDIBLE #WEAREWISEMAN



# Safer Street Scheme

**Coventry City Council** are continuing with the School Safer Street Scheme. The scheme restricts roads to traffic, for a short time at the start and end of the day outside Cardinal Wiseman, to keep our students safe and reduce congestion for residents.

Please see the below image for the roads covered by the scheme:



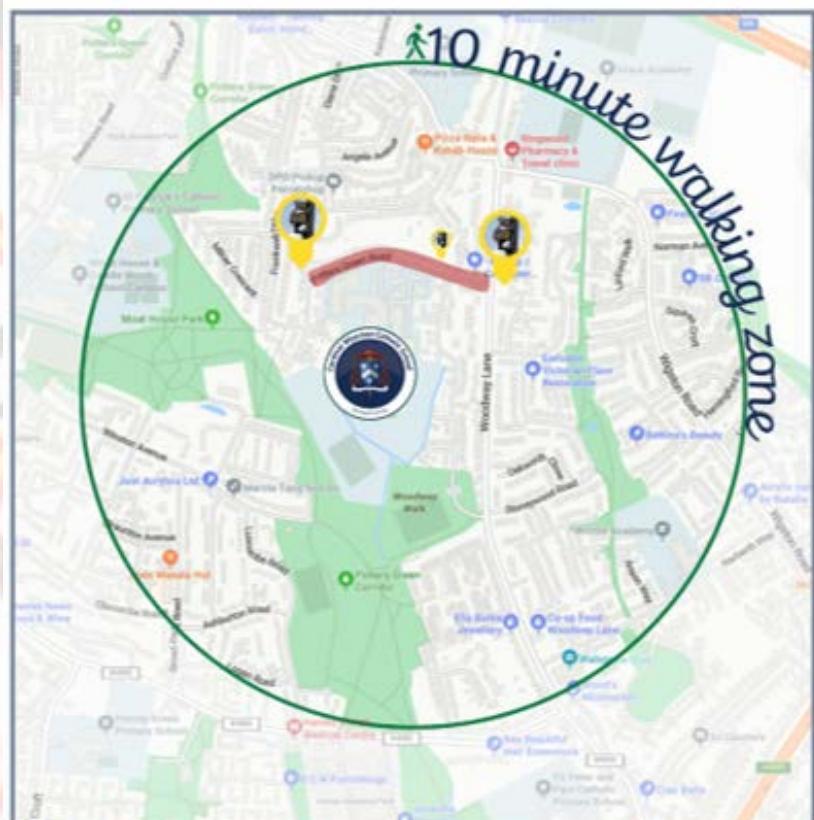
The scheme is in operation from 8:30am – 9:30am and \*2:45pm – 3:45pm every weekday.

Anyone driving on Potters Green Road, Wedgwood Close, Minton Road and Dalton Close may receive a fixed penalty fine from the Council which is currently set at £70.00.

For **parents/ carers** at either end of the day who use a car, please **arrange a meeting point** within a 5 minute walk of the school so that you can avoid congesting this road within the time period stated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [admin.CW@romeromac.com](mailto:admin.CW@romeromac.com)

\*Please note there is a consultation underway and these times may adjust for the new academic year.



## ANPR cameras

Capture licence plates of vehicles travelling through section of Potters Green Road, between the times of enforcement at the start and end of the day detailed on the sign.

# Be the Difference: Become a Foundation Governor and Shape the Future of Catholic Education

Are you passionate about Catholic education and eager to make a lasting impact in your community?

The Romero Catholic Academy is calling on committed individuals to step forward and serve as Foundation Governors in our schools.

As a Foundation Governor, you will:

- Safeguard the Catholic ethos of the school
- Support school leadership in delivering high-quality education
- Contribute your skills to strategic decision-making
- Grow personally and spiritually through service and collaboration

**Whether you're a parent, parishioner, or professional with a heart for Catholic education, your voice and values are needed.**

Benefits of Being a Governor

- 1. Make a Real Difference** - by being the 'eyes and ears' of the board, you help shape the future of children and young people by influencing the quality of education and the spiritual life of the school.
- 2. Live Your Faith** - as a Foundation Governor, you actively support and promote the Catholic ethos, ensuring the school remains true to its mission working alongside the parish.
- 3. Develop Leadership Skills** - you gain experience in skills that are highly transferable to other leadership roles.
- 4. Grow Your Network** - you'll work alongside dedicated professionals, educators, and community leaders, building strong relationships and expanding your influence.

## Meetings across the year

Each school has their own pattern of meetings; some are mornings, afternoons or evenings.

We offer a hybrid of teams and onsite meetings.

Autumn 1 (September 11 for all governors)	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
All LGBs together (MAC vision and Safeguarding)	Local Governing Body meeting 1.5 hours	School visit morning or afternoon	Local Governing Body meeting 1.5 hours	School visit morning or afternoon	Local Governing Body meeting 1.5 hours

**Apply Today! Contact Katie Holmes 024 76451888 or...**

**Via BDES: <https://www.bdes.org.uk/online-academies.html>**

Or for questions please contact: [admin@romeromac.com](mailto:admin@romeromac.com)

**You will need to give the name of your Parish priest, to confirm you are a practising Catholic.**

*"Let all that you do be done in love."*

*1 Corinthians 16:14*



## A Twist of Brilliance: Year 6 Take Final Bow with Heartfelt Oliver Production

Children in Y6 at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School wowed parents, staff and the wider school community with a vibrant and heartfelt performance of Oliver Twist. The much loved Dickens classic was brought to life with impressive acting, wonderful singing and a clear passion for the stage.

The production, performed at Cardinal Wiseman Theatre, was the culmination of weeks of hard work and rehearsals. Behind the scenes, staff and families supported pupils to learn lines, and grow in confidence with every rehearsal. The show was not only a celebration of talent and creativity, but also a reflection of the children's resilience and dedication. For many it was their first time performing on stage in front of a live audience, a milestone they have embraced with courage and enthusiasm.

Mrs Hall, Y6 class teacher said, **'We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 children. Their performance of Oliver Twist was a real highlight of the school year and a testament to their hard work, talent and team spirit. It was wonderful to see them perform with such confidence and joy.'**

The performance marked a fitting end to the children's time at SS Peter and Paul, giving them the chance to make lasting memories and leave a legacy for younger year groups to aspire to.

## Celebrating Community, Creativity and Legacy



As the school year draws to a close, SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School has been alive with celebration, remembrance, and creativity. The spirit of remembrance was also honoured this term. On 21st May, the school community gathered with the family of **Kevin Shakespeare** and the **Cardinal Wiseman** choir to celebrate Kevin's life and service. A tree was planted in his memory, joined by rose bushes for former headteachers **Mr Fletcher** and **Mr Daly**, blessed by Fr George Bennett. These living memorials now grow at the heart of the school grounds, symbolising the love and leadership that shaped the school.

**Mrs Pat Garner, Chair of the LGB unveils the new urban garden**

Adding to the sense of renewal, the school unveiled a new urban garden on its Feast Day. Led by Miss Early and the gardening club, with support from Drapers Civil Engineering and Active Tunneling, the garden transforms an unused space into a vibrant area for learning, reflection, and biodiversity. Pupils have grown vegetables and flowers, used produce in cooking lessons, and shared it with families. Malaika in Year 2 said, **"It's a really nice place to spend time in and I've enjoyed learning about the plants and wildlife."**

Together, these moments reflect the heart of SS Peter and Paul—where learning, faith, and community flourish side by side.

**From left to right**  
**The first headteacher, Mr Fletcher served from 1966 to 1986.**  
**Mr Daly served as headteacher 1986 - 2001.**  
**Mr Shakespeare served as headteacher from 2014 - 2019.**

**PLMR  
ADVENT**



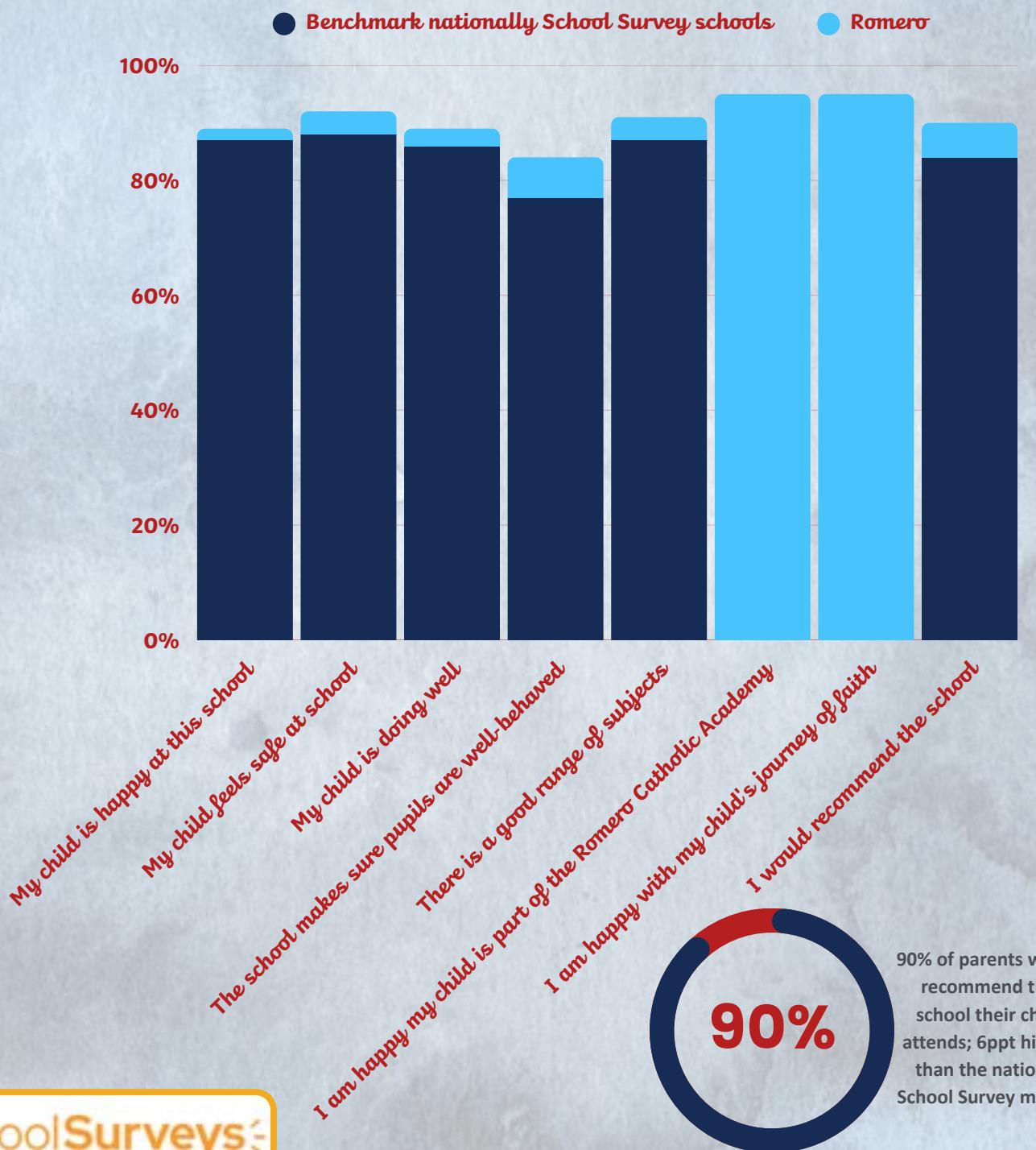
# Parent Surveys: You Said We Did!

We value your feedback. Our annual survey helps us understand your views and track progress since last year highlighting where you feel we are performing well as a family of schools and any areas for improvement as constructive feedback.



The survey was open for a month and pushed out through the newsletters. Survey results and a “**You said, we did**” summary will be shared in the Autumn. All levels of governance review the feedback carefully.

This year, we have used School Survey. This enables us to benchmark against all schools nationally who use this portal. In every question asked, our overall response was **above** the benchmark. Individual schools will access their own survey and be able to compare nationally.



# Congratulations Saint Gregory!



Congratulations and well done all, for all your hard work in encouraging and maintain school attendance.

All your efforts have ensured that all our primary schools have equalled or surpassed national and region attendance data.

The attendance for each week was captured; the school for the highest attendance for that week was declared the winner. The results are as follows:

Place	Weekly wins	School(s)
1 <sup>st</sup>	12	<b>Saint Gregory</b> 
2 <sup>nd</sup>	11	Sacred Heart
3 <sup>rd</sup>	6	Corpus Christi
4 <sup>th</sup>	2	Good Shepherd SS Peter and Paul Saint Patrick
5 <sup>th</sup>	1	Saint John Fisher

# Junior Maths Challenge Success

Gifted mathematicians from across the Romero primaries attended a special Maths Enrichment afternoon hosted by Cardinal Wiseman.

Children earned points for their team by completing challenges based on different topics and areas of mathematics. The depth of understanding of complex areas such simultaneous algebra equations was truly remarkable. In addition to points for mathematical reasoning, teams also earned points for displaying the Cardinal Wiseman Values of Life (Ambition, Knowledge, Resilience and Respect). All children embraced this persevering when tackling challenges and not getting the answers straight away, striving to be the best and learning to compete in a healthy way.

The scores were incredible close with all teams only separated by 5 points and a number of teams achieving the same final total. The closeness demonstrates the fantastic ability on display. A tie-breaker was needed to separate one of the Sacred Heart teams and St. Patricks which added to the spectacle of the afternoon. Congratulations to St. Patrick's who were triumphant in the tie break.

The event was organised to prepare children ahead of tackling the Junior Maths Challenge. A special thank you to all of the children and staff for taking part and to Cardinal Wiseman for hosting the event.



The following week, children then completed the Junior Maths Challenge. This is a longstanding, national challenge that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think.

At Primary, over 70% of children who sat the test achieved award status; a 17% increase on last year's percentage. Even more impressively, we topped our previous best in terms of the number of Gold Awards achieved as this year 5 children were successful in achieving the highest grade. At Cardinal Wiseman, 34 bronze awards, 24 silvers and 2 golds also represented our best performances to date.

A special well done to Samuel at Sacred Heart, Suri in Year 7 and Israel in Year 8, who not only achieved gold awards but were also achieved the highest scores in their respective year groups.

We are so proud of all of the children who participated and love seeing the incredibly high standards they have achieved.

**Will Allen,  
Senior Strategic Lead for School Improvement  
Primary and Secondary**



HAPPY

100  
Anniversary

ROMERO CMAC

1  
AUGUST  
2015

to

1  
AUGUST  
2025





## Champions



A huge congratulations to our incredible netball team, who were crowned champions at the Coventry Catholic Schools Netball Rally! With skill, determination, and fantastic teamwork, they played their hearts out and brought home the trophy.

Every match was filled with energy, focus, and team spirit—what an amazing achievement! We are so proud of you all!



## Fundraising



Members of the Romero Shared Services team have been going the extra mile—literally—for charity! Freya proudly completed the Race for Life, raising vital funds for Cancer Research UK, while Max took on the incredible challenge of running a half marathon in support of Zoe's Place.

Their dedication, compassion, and determination are truly inspiring. A huge well done to both for making a real difference in the lives of others!

# Hello Summer



## Rutland Water

Year 1 had a fantastic day out at Rutland Water, filled with sunshine, smiles, and sandy fun! The children loved digging, building, and playing in the sand, making the most of the beautiful surroundings.

With buckets, spades, and plenty of laughter, it was a joyful day of exploration and play—one they'll be talking about for a long time!



## Conkers



Year 4 had an action-packed adventure on their residential trip to Conkers! From exploring the great outdoors to tackling exciting activities like obstacle courses and woodland trails, the children showed amazing teamwork and enthusiasm. They laughed, learned, and made wonderful memories—whether it was around the campfire, during nature walks, or just enjoying time with friends. A brilliant trip full of fun, friendship, and fresh air!





### Dol Y Moch



Year 6 had an unforgettable time on their residential trip to Dol-y-Moch! From a sunny day at the beach to thrilling gorge walking and canoeing adventures, every moment was packed with excitement and discovery.

They showed incredible teamwork, courage, and enthusiasm as they explored the great outdoors, splashed through streams, and paddled across calm waters. It was a week full of laughter, challenges, and memories that will stay with them forever!



### Year 6



Year 6 truly shone in their final school performance of Oliver Twist! With incredible talent, confidence, and heart, they brought the classic story to life on stage. From powerful solos to dramatic scenes and lively ensemble numbers, every moment was a joy to watch. Their energy, teamwork, and passion left the audience amazed and proud. It was a perfect farewell performance—one that captured their journey and left a lasting impression. Bravo, Year 6!



### Camping



Year Three had an unforgettable time on their camping trip! The air was filled with laughter and music as the children sang their favorite songs around the crackling campfire. They danced under the stars, their faces glowing with joy and the warm light of the flames.

The highlight of the evening? Toasting marshmallows until they were golden and gooey, then munching on crispy chips while sharing stories and giggles. It was a magical night full of fun, friendship, and memories that will last a lifetime!



### Transition Day



Transition Day at Saint Patrick's was filled with excitement, smiles, and new beginnings! The children explored their new classrooms, met their teachers, and made new friends along the way. From fun activities to team games, the day was all about building confidence and feeling at home. There was plenty of laughter, curiosity, and a warm sense of belonging as everyone took their first steps into the next chapter of their school journey. A fantastic start to what promises to be a brilliant year ahead!



### Year 12



Year 12 brought the energy and excitement to Sports Day with a thrilling mix of competition and camaraderie! The football and netball matches were packed with fast-paced action, clever plays, and plenty of cheering from the sidelines. Every goal and pass kept the crowd on edge! Meanwhile, the table tennis showdowns added a dash of intensity and fun, with quick reflexes and friendly rivalries lighting up the hall. Laughter echoed throughout the day as students celebrated victories, supported teammates, and enjoyed the spirit of sport and togetherness. It was a day full of movement, smiles, and unforgettable moments!



### Super SCITTs



This year marked the start of our strategic partnership with Bishop Challoner Training School for School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT). Through the programme 6 trainee teachers at Cardinal Wiseman and 7 trainee teachers from across the primaries have achieved QTS. We also achieved two awards at the BCTSA Celebration event with Mike Bench being recognised for his tremendous work supporting colleagues and leading training and Rosie Jewell from Saint Gregory's being awarded Trainee of the Year. Congratulations to both of them, to all of our SCITTs and to everyone involved in supporting them this year.



# The Romero Catholic Academy

Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow

**We are a multi-academy company comprised of the following individual schools/academies:**



**Articles are written by staff across our multi-academy both in schools and central team, alongside articles created by Advent.**



**If you have an article to share, please email [admin@romeromac.com](mailto:admin@romeromac.com) with good quality photographs.**



# News Romero

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