



PILGRIMS OF HOPE CELEBRATION

Celebrations continue....

ROMERO SYNOD

All our schools gather to respond to Pope Francis' call.



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Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of hope



Welcome to our Winter Newsletter

Brendan Fawcett

Chair of the Board of Directors



Original logo



As we draw this Jubilee Year to a close, we celebrate a remarkable milestone: ten years of the Romero Catholic Academy. This year has been filled with moments of reflection, gratitude, and hope — values that have guided our journey since 2015. Our 10th anniversary Mass at Coventry Cathedral was a powerful expression of unity, bringing together pupils, staff, and community members to give thanks for all we have achieved and to look forward as “Pilgrims of Hope.”

Our Synod gathering reminded us of Pope Francis’ call to walk together in faith, listening deeply and acting with mercy and hope. These conversations will shape our priorities for the year ahead, strengthening belonging and encouraging faith in action across all our schools. Find out more on page 14 - 15.

We were also honoured to host Ed Sheeran at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, where he launched two inspiring music initiatives — Access to Music Industry and Your Voice — opening doors for young people to explore creative careers and find confidence through music. The full story is on page 20-21.

Finally, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Mrs Dee Williams, who leaves after ten years as Principal of Saint John Fisher—a tenure that beautifully mirrors the decade of Romero’s shared mission. Thank you for service to the school, the parish and the MAC; we are grateful for the legacy you leave and wish you well in your next venture.

As we celebrate these achievements and look forward to the future, we wish every member of our Romero family a joyful, peaceful, and blessed Christmas.





Mass times Come let us adore Him

Link here for all Parish Mass across the city :

[CLICK HERE](#)



Corpus Christi Parish
Langbank Avenue,
Ernesford Grange,
Coventry, CV3 2QP.

Christmas Eve (Wednesday)

- 8.00pm Carols by candlelight
- 8.30pm Christmas Mass

Christmas Day (Thursday)

- 10.00am Christmas Day Mass

Boxing Day (Friday)

- 10.00am Mass

Sacred Heart Parish
Harefield Road,
Coventry, CV2 4BT.

Christmas Eve (Wednesday)

- 3.00pm Carols (not Mass) around the stable in the Hall for very young children
- 4.30pm Mass
- 7.00pm Mass

Christmas Day (Thursday)

- 10.30am Mass

St Elizabeth's Church
St Elizabeth's Road,
Foleshill,
Coventry, CV6 5BX

Christmas Eve (Wednesday)

- 5:30pm Carol Service
- 6:00pm Mass
- 11.30pm Carols and 00:00 Mass

Christmas Day (Thursday)

- 10.15am Mass

St John Fisher Parish,
Tiverton Road, Wyken,
Coventry, CV2 3NR

Christmas Eve (Wednesday)

- 6.30pm Mass
- 9.00pm Mass.

Christmas Day (Thursday)

- 9.00am Mass
- 11.00am Mass

Saint Patrick's Parish
Deedmore Road, Bell
Green, Coventry, CV2 2AA

Christmas Eve (Wednesday)

- 5.00pm Children's Mass

Christmas Day (Thursday)

- 10.30am Mass

Blessing of the Crib



Sunday 30 November
First Sunday of Advent



Parishes and schools came together as a community of faith to bless the crib which is prominently placed in Broadgate.

O God, out of your love for us,
you sent your dearly beloved Son to become man.
You willed that he be born in a humble stable,
in order to give us an example of humility.
We pray to you now, to bless this crib,
a representation of the scene of his birth:
may it draw us closer to Him.

By imitating his humility,
may we become a worthy dwelling place for his rebirth,
Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord.
All: Amen.



Pupils from Catholic Primary and Secondary schools across the city led the readings.



Monsignor Tom Farrell led the Service in Broadgate with Father Tony.
Don't forget to join us next year!



The weather stayed mild and dry this year!

Romero Catholic Academy Celebrates a Decade of Shared Mission and Community



Pupils, staff and senior figures from our MAC gathered at Coventry Cathedral to mark ten years since we became “Romero”.

The Romero Catholic Academy, which was established in 2015 welcomed visitors from across the community to our 10th anniversary Mass at the iconic venue.

The event saw readings, music, performances from a gospel choir and a procession performed by Year 4 pupils from across the academy. The event was live streamed.

The day formed part of the schools’ wider Jubilee Year celebrations, described as a moment of reflection, gratitude and hope for the future as part of Romero’s mission for its pupils to become “Pilgrims of Hope”.



The morning was a series of workshops culminating in each school performing a dance to reflect a line from a prayer attributed to Saint Oscar Romero.

Very Rev. Canon Tom Farrell, parish priest at Christ the King Church, led the anniversary Mass, joined by other local clergy including Fr Tony Norton from Sacred Heart Church, Fr George Bennett from St Patrick's Church, and Fr Marco Egawhary from St John Fisher Catholic Church, with a host of pupils as well as current and former staff giving readings.

Patrick Taggart, who served as the inaugural chair of the board of directors, joined senior leaders including current chair Brendan Fawcett, vice chair Eleanor Barry, and foundation director Victor Bellanti for the occasion.

As part of the anniversary event, long-serving school governors were honoured for their dedication and commitment to Catholic education in Coventry and their school communities. Those recognised included Celine McCrea, Ann Harkin, Paul O'Donnell. Louise Condie, Pete James, Nacey Abraham and Imelda Keogh.

Helen Quinn, CEO of the Romero Catholic Academy, said: **"Over the past 10 years, we have achieved so much more together than we could have as eight individual schools."**

"The Jubilee year, and today in particular, has been incredibly special as we've been able to bring together and celebrate the individuals who helped lay the foundations of that success, while evaluating our mission moving forward as Pilgrims of Hope."

PLMR





From left, Michael Mogan, Laura Burtonwood and Gordon Rutherford

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, has launched a new initiative designed to bring together past pupils, celebrate their achievements, and inspire the next generation of students ahead of its 70th anniversary in 2028.

The project – a relaunch of the school’s Wiseman Connection alumni network – is being led by Principal, Laura Burtonwood, herself a former student, in collaboration with Coventry-based fundraiser Michael Mogan MBE, also an alumnus of the school.

The project aims to uncover stories of former pupils from all walks of life – not just those who’ve led high profile careers, but people who have made a difference in their communities, created something impressive, or followed a unique path worth celebrating.

Michael said: **“The ambition is to mark the school’s 70th anniversary in 2028 by telling 70 stories from the school’s alumni network, shining a light on the many ways Cardinal Wiseman pupils have gone on to make an impact – and help today’s pupils see there are no limits to their potential.**

“This is about showcasing a wide range of life stories connected by Cardinal Wiseman – not just who’ve achieved great things in the corporate world, but those who’ve made a real difference or ploughed their own furrow. Whether it’s in business, family, charity, creativity, or their local communities, we want to hear it.

“Cardinal Wiseman shaped me, as I know it did for many others. Our hope is that The Wiseman Connection becomes a lasting platform to celebrate that legacy, inspire current pupils, and build a supportive network for the future.”

The project will see stories gathered via social media including LinkedIn and Facebook, with alumni encouraged to share and discuss their suggestions, which can then be submitted via an online hub.

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✉ Admin.TWC@romeromac.com

🌐 [Cardinal Wiseman School](https://www.cardinalwiseman.org.uk)

🌐 [Wiseman Connection](https://www.wisemanconnection.org.uk)

📱 [The Wiseman Connection](https://www.thewisemanconnection.org.uk)



PLMR



Alumni is launched!



The Wiseman Connection

Laura, who attended Cardinal Wiseman from 1991 to 1998 and was appointed Principal this year, said: **“As a former pupil who now has the privilege of leading the school, I know there are so many amazing stories from past pupils who have gone on to do remarkable things in all walks of life – whether that’s local heroes making a difference in their communities or those achieving on the national and international stage.**

“The Wiseman Connection is about uncovering and celebrating all of those journeys. We want to show today’s students that no matter where they start, their futures are full of possibility – and we can’t wait to get started.”

Gordon Rutherford, one of the school’s longest serving former members of staff, who was a languages teacher from 1977 to 2021, has also helped to launch the project.

He said: **“This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the incredible community brought together by Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School over the last seven decades – the project has got great potential to make a real impact on current pupils.”**

To get involved visit cardinalwiseman.coventry.sch.uk/alumni, join the Wiseman Connection Facebook group or follow its LinkedIn page.



Shape the future of our students

Vocations Week
2nd - 6th March 2026

We're inviting local businesses, professionals, and community members to take part in Cardinal Wiseman's Vocation's week from:
Monday 2nd March to Friday 6th March 2026.

Help us create a positive and inspiring experience for our students by sharing your career journey, skills, and insights. Whether you're in healthcare, trades, tech, education, the arts —or anything in between—your story could spark a future!

Let's show our students what's possible.
Sign up now to be part of it!
or contact: Admin.TWC@romeromac.com

We are Wiseman. I am Wiseman

A Living Tribute: Corpus Christi Plants Bulbs in Memory of Mr. Shakespeare



On 17th November, Corpus Christi School marked the month of remembrance with a poignant day of reflection, thanksgiving, and hope in memory of Mr. Shakespeare. Staff and pupils came together to honour his life and the values he inspired within our community.

The day began with a Celebration of the Word assembly, where we expressed gratitude to God for the example of endurance, love, and empathy that Mr. Shakespeare so deeply embodied.

Throughout the day, students and staff engaged in meaningful activities, including reverently planting daffodil bulbs across the school grounds—flowers that will bloom around the anniversary of his passing.



These acts were accompanied by moments of prayer for Mr. Shakespeare and all who loved him. Many took time to share thoughts of what he would be proud of and to seek his guidance during times of uncertainty.

The bulbs planted will serve as a living tribute. By springtime, we hope the school will bloom with vibrant colours—a reminder of the joy and positivity Mr. Shakespeare brought to our community. Special attention was given to the path leading to the Mary statue, creating a space where members of our parish and all who mourn can find comfort and peace when the bulbs flourish around his anniversary on March 2 next year.

This day was not only a celebration of Mr. Shakespeare's life but also a reaffirmation of the values he inspired in us:

**Courage, Openness, Respect,
Perseverance, Unity and Service**



From Mud Kitchens to Music: St Patrick's Wins OPAL's Highest Honour



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, has received the top accreditation from OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning), a national programme designed to support schools in transforming breaktimes.

The award follows 18 months of work to enhance the school's outdoor provision and embed a long-term strategy for high-quality play. St Patrick's has introduced a wide range of outdoor play features to spark imagination and exploration – including a model wooden car made with donated parts, a reading hut, vegetable patch, musical area, and a popular mud kitchen built and donated by a former pupil's family.

A sandpit was also created with the help of family volunteers, with a wide range of items donated by the community.

The facilities are designed to support physical activity, creativity and wellbeing, and provide space for both energetic and quieter play. Pupils have also been taught how to use the spaces safely, and the school's growing welly bank means children without appropriate footwear can still get involved.

Assistant Vice Principal, Elise Liggins said: **"We're absolutely delighted to receive the Platinum OPAL Award. These outdoor spaces have completely transformed playtimes for our children, offering opportunities to play, create, imagine and connect in ways that support their learning and wellbeing."**

"It's fantastic to see so many of our pupils engaged and happy outside. The support we've had from families and the community to make it all happen was heartwarming – and it's been incredible to see that pay off."

OPAL CIC has worked with more than 1,500 schools across the UK since 2011 to improve the quality of school playtime – which accounts for around 20% of pupils' time in school.

Rob Francksen, OPAL mentor, added: **"I was delighted to present St Patrick with their Platinum OPAL award for their commitment to improving play opportunities for every child."**

"When you step into the playground, you will witness a hive of activity. Children are playing in the giant sandpit, making concoctions in the mud kitchen, and singing and dancing on the stage. There is so much choice that every child can find something they want to do. It is truly magical to watch."

Michael Follett, OPAL CIC Founder and Director, said: **"The benefits of play are well-documented, but it has virtually disappeared from children's lives. That's why we are working with schools across the country to improve playtimes."**

"Congratulations to St Patrick for your recent award and for everything you are doing to make sure children have amazing play every day."



PLMR



FAN THE FLAME



On Monday 2 October, all Year 5 pupils from our primary schools came together at Holy Family Church for a truly uplifting spiritual retreat: the Fan the Flame Pilgrimage.

This special event, part of our Year of Jubilee celebrations, was designed to deepen pupils' understanding of their faith and strengthen their connection to our shared Catholic mission.

Each school arrived with their beautifully crafted Pilgrim of Hope banners, created by pupils in preparation for the event. These banners, along with heartfelt prayer petitions, were presented at the start of the liturgy, symbolising the unity and hope of our Romero community.

Pupils engaged in a spiritual journey through music, scripture, and reflection, guided by the inspiring voices of Dan and Emily from One Life Music. The event was a powerful reminder of Jesus' invitation: "Let the children come to me."



The pilgrimage was not only a celebration of faith but also a testament to the strength of our Romero family – working together as a group of Coventry Catholic schools to nurture the spiritual development of our pupils and staff.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 5 pupils for their reverence, enthusiasm and leadership throughout the day. A huge thank you to all staff who supported the event and to Holy Family Church for hosting such a memorable gathering.

"We are Pilgrims on a Journey"





Year 7 Football Team Shines in Thrilling Victory



The Cardinal Wiseman Year 7 Football Team delivered a spectacular performance in their recent fixture against Ernesford Grange, showcasing not only their attacking prowess but also their teamwork, determination and school spirit. In a match brimming with energy and excitement from start to finish, the team emerged victorious with an impressive 7–3 win!

From the first whistle, it was clear that the Cardinal Wiseman squad came prepared to play with purpose. Their attacking intent was evident early on, as they pressed high and moved the ball with confidence and creativity. The midfield worked tirelessly to link up play, while the forwards demonstrated sharp movement and clinical finishing.

The goals came thick and fast, with contributions from across the pitch. Kobby opened the scoring with a powerful strike that set the tone for the rest of the match. Codie followed up with a composed finish after a well-worked team move, while Shako added flair and finesse with a brilliant solo effort that left the opposition defence scrambling. Noah and Oscar also found the back of the net, each goal reflecting the team's depth and versatility.



But it wasn't just the goal scorers who made an impact. Every player on the pitch played their part in this memorable win. The defence held firm under pressure, making crucial tackles and interceptions to keep Ernesford Grange at bay. The goalkeeper made several key saves, ensuring the team maintained their lead and momentum. The substitutes brought fresh energy and maintained the intensity, proving that this is a squad full of talent and commitment.

Coach and staff were full of praise for the team's performance, highlighting not only the result but the attitude and sportsmanship displayed throughout the match. **"It was a joy to watch,"** said one member of staff. **"The boys played with heart, discipline, and a real sense of unity. They supported each other, celebrated each other's successes, and showed great respect to their opponents."**

This victory is more than just a score line—it's a reflection of the hard work the team has put in during training, the guidance of their coaches, and the support of the school community. It also signals a bright future for the Year 7 squad. With such a strong foundation and so much talent already on display, there's every reason to believe that this group will continue to grow and achieve great things in the seasons ahead.

As the team looks ahead to future fixtures, they do so with confidence and ambition. The win against Ernesford Grange is a reminder of what they're capable of when they play together, support one another, and give their all on the pitch.

Congratulations to the Year 7 Football Team on a fantastic performance and a well-deserved victory. We can't wait to see what's next!



Synod: Walking together as Pilgrims of Hope

On Thursday 6 November 2025, representatives from every Romero school gathered at Christ the King Parish Centre for a special Synod event marking both the Church's Jubilee Year and the tenth anniversary of the Romero MAC. Rooted in prayer, reflection and listening, the gathering responded to Pope Francis' call for the Church to journey together as Pilgrims of Hope—a people who build community, show mercy and share the joy of the Gospel. Throughout the day, staff, governors, clergy and pupils reflected on how we continue to place Christ at the centre of all we do.

A strong message emerged about how members of our community see Christ in their daily lives. Pupils spoke beautifully about encountering Jesus through kindness, friendship, prayer and the care shown by teachers and classmates. One child shared: **"We see Jesus when helping one another in lessons and on the playground when making people feel welcome."** There was also a shared desire for more opportunities for personal prayer, time spent in chapels and prayer gardens, and moments where schools can gather as one family of faith.

The theme of belonging was explored — welcoming new pupils, including others in games, celebrating different cultures and supporting classmates who may feel lonely or unsure. A pupil captured this beautifully, saying: **"Belonging means making sure no one feels left out."**

The Synod will shape our MAC-wide priorities for the year ahead. Across all schools, there will be a renewed focus on deepening prayer life, strengthening belonging and encouraging faith in action. This includes class-led prayer, pupil-led liturgies, chaplaincy teams, buddy systems, diversity celebrations, charity partnerships, food bank support, environmental projects and closer links with our parishes. These actions are woven through the Jubilee themes of mercy, hope and pilgrimage, helping our communities to grow in faith together.



Claire Restell, Strategic Lead for School Improvement at the Romero Catholic Academy, said: **“This was an important gathering to ensure members of our school community continue to be heard, and a strong message emerged about how they see Christ in their daily lives.**

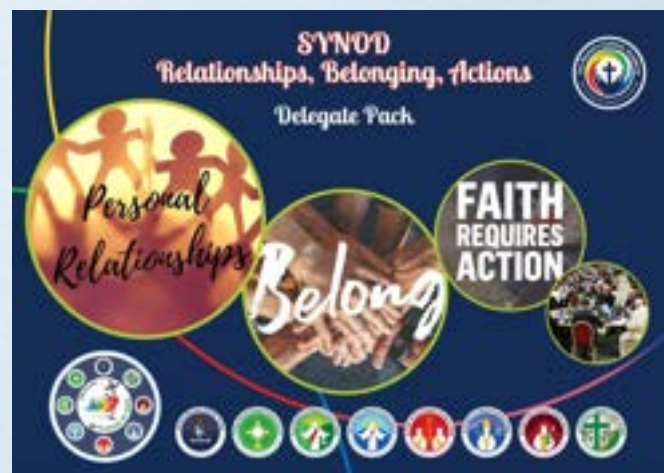
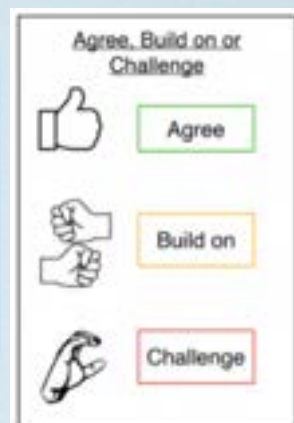
“It was also fantastic to see a desire from pupils for more opportunities for personal prayer, time spent in chapels and prayer gardens, and moments where schools can gather as one family of faith.

“The theme of belonging was deeply felt, with children expressing that no one should ever feel left out. Many shared simple but powerful ideas, from welcoming new pupils and including others in games to celebrating different cultures and supporting classmates who may feel lonely or unsure.

“Another significant theme was the call to live out our faith through action. Pupils expressed a strong passion for charity work, caring for creation and supporting those in need. They spoke about the importance of more opportunities to attend Mass, develop chaplaincy and take part in projects that serve the wider community.

“Their reflections showed a deep hunger for justice and a genuine desire to make the world a better place through small, everyday acts of kindness inspired by the Gospel.”

During our group discussion, we used Voice 21 hand signals to show when we agreed with a point, to build on someone’s idea by adding more detail, and to challenge respectfully when we had a different perspectives.



Spotlight across Autumn

Cross Country

On October 15, Cardinal Wiseman welcomed 12 primary schools for a fun Cross Country challenge. It was a brilliant day and we loved having everyone join us.



Writing working shop

For the first two Thursdays in December, groups of Year 6 pupils from across our seven primary schools came together for our much-loved annual Christmas Writing Workshop, led by Miss McGinty and Mr Allen. It was a joy to see so many young people with a passion for writing, fully engaged and enthusiastic throughout the sessions. They produced some truly wonderful narratives inspired by The Christmas Truce, and we are incredibly proud of their creativity and effort. These talented young writers have a very bright future ahead, and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow and flourish.



Reverse Advent Calendar

On Thursday 11 December, we took our donations for the Reverse Advent Calendar to Father Hudson Caritas head office in Coleshill. Thank you to everyone who donated non-perishable food items.



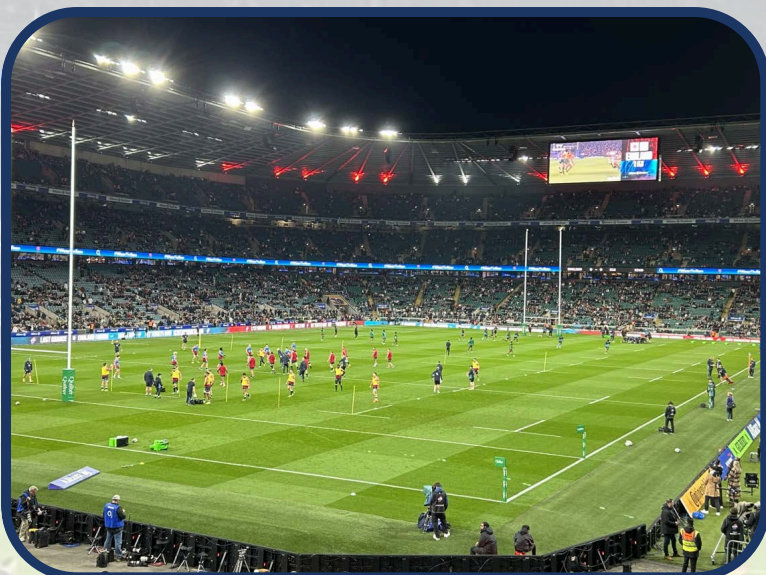
Key Stage 3 Rugby tour to Twickenham



In November, 12 students from the Cardinal Wiseman KS3 Rugby Club went to Twickenham (Allianz) Stadium in London to watch England take on Fiji in the Autumn International.

For many in the group, it was the first every rugby match they had watched and for some it was their first visit to a stadium.

England put on a show and ran out strong winners in the end. It was brilliant for the students to see Coventry-born England Prop, Asher Opoku-Fordjour, coming on as a replacement in the second half.



One student said: **"I thoroughly enjoyed the match, and the light show was brilliant. I enjoyed spending time with my friends watching England win."**

Well done to all the students who attended and represented the school incredibly well.

**Mr Young and Mr Page
Cardinal Wiseman**





Three Schools Lead the Way in Living Simply: CAFOD Award Recognises Inspiring Action

Three Schools Achieve CAFOD LiveSimply Award.

Corpus Christi, Cardinal Wiseman, and Sacred Heart have proudly achieved the CAFOD LiveSimply Award, a recognition of their commitment to living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with those in need. This national campaign encourages schools and communities to take practical steps that care for people and the planet.

Each school demonstrated creativity and dedication through a range of initiatives.

From reducing waste and promoting recycling to organising charity drives and supporting global justice projects, their efforts reflect the values of compassion and stewardship. Students and staff worked together to embed sustainability into daily life — whether through eco-friendly practices, energy-saving measures or raising awareness about climate change.

The LiveSimply journey has strengthened community spirit and inspired pupils to think globally while acting locally. By achieving this award, these schools have shown that small actions can make a big difference in building a fairer, greener world.

To learn more about the CAFOD LiveSimply Campaign and how your school can get involved, visit CAFOD's official website. (www.cafod.org.uk)



In November, Cardinal Wiseman hosted a Dance show organised by Miss Cook from SS Peter and Paul. Five primary schools took part and the standards were very high! Thank you to Vice Chair of the Board, Mrs Eleanor Barry who presented the trophies.



Saint Patrick



Saint Patrick

ROMERO DANCE SHOW



SS Peter & Paul



Sacred Heart



Saint Gregory



Saint John Fisher



Ed Sheeran visited Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School on Friday 5 December at 4pm, as part of his family's foundation partnership with Coventry Music and St Giles Trust, where he officially launched two transformative music initiatives for young people. The visit took place before his concert at the CBS arena that evening.

The event was orchestrated by Coventry Music who invited guests included the headteachers from across the Secondary schools in the city.

The first programme, **Access to Music Industry**, is a collaborative effort between Coventry Music and the Ed Sheeran Foundation. It offers students (one chosen from each secondary school involved) dedicated weekly sessions over the next two years. These sessions include bespoke industry-focused training and mentorship, designed to guide pupils toward creative careers. Industry professionals will visit throughout 2026 and 2027 to share insights and real-world experience.

The second initiative, **Your Voice**, is specifically tailored for vulnerable young people aged 11–17. It will be delivered at Cardinal Wiseman in partnership with St Giles Trust. This programme combines weekly music workshops, trauma-informed one-on-one mentoring, accredited music qualifications, and masterclasses from producers, songwriters and behind-the-scenes creatives. The curriculum is community-inspired, spanning grime, pop, soul, rock, dance, drill and the Brum music scene.



Cardinal Wiseman's Principal, Laura Burtonwood, praised Ed's visit to the students who are supported by St Giles Trust in the school:

"We were delighted to welcome Ed Sheeran to our school today. His visit was an extraordinary source of inspiration for our pupils, showing them first-hand what can be achieved through hard work, creativity and perseverance. Ed's warmth, humility, and genuine interest in our young people made a lasting impact, and we are incredibly grateful for the encouragement he has given our school community and the wider Coventry community"





Over the next 12 months, 40 young people will access weekly music sessions, trauma-informed mentoring and industry masterclasses to gain accredited music qualifications. From Grime, Pop, Rock Soul, Dance, Drill to the Brum music scene, every element has been co-designed to reflect the voices and cultures of Coventry's young people.

As the lead provider, St Giles will offer intensive one-to-one lived-experience mentoring; a proven model that helps young people build trust, regulate emotions, process trauma and stay engaged. Coventry Music will deliver specialist tuition, accredited learning pathways, and facilitate visits from industry professionals including producers, songwriters and behind-the-scenes creatives.



Dr Renuka Fernando, CEO, Ed Sheeran Foundation said: **“As a foundation, we are partnering with organisations at all levels – schools, councils and charities – to give the young people of Coventry the right access to music, which we hope will raise aspiration across the city. Music is a transformative, powerful subject that offers invaluable life skills, and it’s important to us that it’s not seen as a luxury but as a pathway all young people can pursue, no matter their background.”**

For further information go to:
<https://www.stgilestrust.org.uk/ed-sheeran-foundation-launches-two-new-music-projects-for-young-people/>



Secondary Headteachers from across the city engage in conversation with Ed Sheeran regarding the programmes and the profile of music in education.

Coventry Pupils Share Eco Initiatives with Minister for Nature After COP30 Insights

Pupils at St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, welcomed **Mary Creagh MP**, Minister for Nature, to discuss the importance of taking care of the environment and tackling climate change.

During the visit, Ms Creagh spoke to Year 5 pupils about her experience at major international climate summit COP30, held in Brazil, as well as some of the initiatives she is leading to improve the UK's environment as part of her role as Minister for Nature.

Ms Creagh also spoke about how the Department for Education is encouraging schools to focus more on biodiversity, and gave some tips on what can be done in the school grounds to help reduce carbon and support insects and wildlife, including planting hedges and wildflowers.

Ms Creagh then joined the school's Eco Team to visit the forest school area and hear more about the efforts being made by pupils and staff at the school to tackle climate change.

These include litter picking in the local community, taking steps to reduce food waste in the kitchen, installing energy-efficient LED lighting, launching a book swap scheme to prevent books going to landfill, uniform recycling and championing education around ethical produce.

Next year the school will be implementing even more environmental initiatives, including encouraging families to swap single use plastics for reusable containers in lunchboxes.



Mary Creagh MP said: **"It was fantastic to meet the pupils at St John Fisher and see first-hand how passionate they are about protecting nature and the planet."**

"I always encourage people to think local, act global when looking at tackling climate change and the steps the school is taking are key examples of how small actions locally can make a big difference to our planet."

"I'm looking forward to returning to the school to see all of their exciting future plans come to fruition."

Pauline Finn, Vice Principal at St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, said: **"We were extremely pleased to welcome Mary who is both the MP for our area and Minister for Nature."**

"Our Year 5 pupils have been learning about COP30, so hearing about Mary's experiences at the conference was the perfect way to bring this to life."

"Our Eco Team also did an excellent job at showcasing all of the environmental initiatives we have in place at the school and how incredibly hard they work to drive these forwards – they really did us proud!"

"We're now going to be taking onboard Mary's suggestions of what more we could be doing, and our Eco Team will be planting wildflowers in the school grounds in 2026."



Amazon Delivers Christmas Cheer with 5,000 Books for Cardinal Wiseman Pupils

Thousands of books have been delivered to children at Cardinal Wiseman in time for Christmas after they were wrapped by hundreds of volunteers as part of an Amazon community initiative.

Packing events were held at Amazon offices in London and Cambridge, with more than 250 volunteers helping to pack the books – with each pupil receiving at least three books to provide more opportunities for reading at home.

Amazon partnered with The Give Box, which sourced and organised delivery of the books, as staff at Amazon offices in London and Cambridge gathered to pack the gifts, which were worth more than £17,000.

Lynette Taylor, Assistant Principal & Vocations Lead at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, said: **“To be able to support children throughout the school at this time of year is very special and we are extremely grateful for the effort that has gone into making this extraordinary donation happen.”**

“It was wonderful to see the reaction from our pupils when they received the gifts. We know some pupils may not receive the gift of reading over Christmas, so it is incredibly important we encourage that in any way we can. We’re incredibly fortunate to have had such amazing support to make it happen.”

The volunteering was organised by Swati Ramachandran, who works at Amazon in London and sits on Business In The Community’s Coventry Pride of Place board, which helped identify the school as a worthy recipient in a target area of the city for high levels of deprivation.



More than one third of Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School pupils (36 per cent) qualify for Free School Meals, around 10 per cent higher than the national average.

Swati said: **“This initiative represents more than just books - it’s an opportunity to provide hope, inspiration and educational opportunities to young people who need it most during the holiday season.”**

“Amazon is a huge supporter of literacy and encouraging reading among young people and we’re proud of our wider UK team for coming together to support a school that does important work in the Coventry community.”

Heather Black, Coventry Strategic Partnerships Manager at Business in the Community, said: **“Many disadvantaged children in the UK face the reality of missing out on Christmas gifts, including something as simple as having a book of their own.”**

“This initiative is about opening up the world of reading, improving literacy skills and all the opportunity this brings and we are delighted to have supported Amazon, one of our member organisations, by facilitating the introduction to Cardinal Wiseman for this donation.”

Romero Recognises.....



Throughout the summer and autumn term staff have recognised for going above and beyond in their roles and displaying our values of Respect, Integrity, Service and Excellence.

Nominations have been received across all schools and job families, and we continue to welcome nominations from staff, parents, governors and visitors.

Post boxes and nomination cards are available within schools, and we strongly encourage you to put nominations in to recognise what staff are doing to live out our values.

Staff Nominations and Thank you Cards

Look out for your Post Box with cards in your school!
Staff/ parents/ carers/ governors can use the nomination cards for anyone who lives out the values and goes the extra mile. Make sure the cards are on your Reception.
Senior Leaders - will use the Thank you cards.



Romero Listens.....

Staff Survey Autumn 2025

Across all eight schools and SST,
over 80% felt would still choose
to apply for their current job if
they could go back in time

Staff Survey

Our staff surveys have continued to take place across our schools.

Questions within our survey focus on the five pillars of our People Strategy: Attract, Belong, Culture, Develop, and Leadership. Whilst there are other opportunities to share feedback and to highlight where others have shone.

Feedback will continue in the schools and a new survey will be issued in the Spring term.

8 out of 10



Congratulations to our Star Employees!

Across the Summer and Autumn term we 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 has been awarded a gift and certificate.



Respect

We respect and value those we work with and the contribution that they make.



Integrity

We act fairly, ethically and openly in all we do.



Service

We put our children at the centre of all that we do.



Excellence

We use our energy, skills and resources to deliver the best, sustainable results.

Our Romero Values (RISE)

Entity	Summer	Autumn
Corpus Christi 	Sarah Lewis	Darcie Bridges
Good Shepherd 	Sarah Holywell	Michala Perry
Sacred Heart 	Lisa Watts	Rebecca Annals
SS Peter and Paul 	Kerry Gardner	Nabdeep Dhaliwal
Saint Gregory 	Katie McWilliams	Claire Webb
Saint John Fisher 	Denise Corry	Kelly Smith
Saint Patrick 	Harpreet Kaur	Taylor Moranis
Cardinal Wiseman 	Sharon Garcha Fiona Denis Stephens	Zoe Jones Maxine Pollock
Shared Services Team 	Brendan Woollams	Katie Holmes
Leadership 	Tom O'Reilly	Terrie Kenyon



GIFT & Chaplaincy Teams Gather for MAC Action Planning Day

This term, Chaplaincy and GIFT Teams from across the Romero MAC came together for a special Action Planning and Formation Day, strengthening pupil leadership in prayer, liturgy and Catholic Life. The day was filled with fellowship, joy and a deep sense of purpose as pupils grew in confidence as young missionary disciples.

In a powerful start to the day, each school arrived carrying their lanterns, symbolising their shared pilgrimage during this Jubilee Year of Hope. Like pilgrims journeying together, the lanterns reminded pupils that they are called to be “beacons of hope” in their schools - shining the light of Christ through kindness, prayer and service.

The gathering opened with a Celebration of the Word, centred on the theme of courage. Reflecting on the Angel Gabriel’s words, **“Do not be afraid, Mary,”** pupils explored how God calls each of us to serve with trust and generous hearts. Mary’s “yes” to God inspired pupils to consider how they too can say “yes” to leading prayer and sharing God’s love within their school communities.

Throughout the sessions, pupils received formation and practice using the new Prayer, Liturgy and Doctrine (PLD) framework and the new prayer and liturgy resources now in place across the MAC. Working together, they explored how to prepare a prayer focus, choose Scripture, create reflective silence, and guide others in the four movements of worship: We Gather, We Listen, We Respond, We Go Forth in Mission. Their enthusiasm showed a real desire to deepen the prayer life of their schools.

Leadership across schools was a highlight of the day. Chaplaincy leaders from Cardinal Wiseman supported the primary pupils, acting as mentors and role models in faith. Earlier in the term, these secondary leaders had taken part in a special pilgrimage to St Chad’s Cathedral in Birmingham, where they attended Mass and were blessed and commissioned for their chaplaincy responsibilities—a powerful moment they carried into the day as they guided younger pupils.

During the afternoon, all pupils developed their Chaplaincy Action Plans, considering how they will lead prayer, support charitable work and help their schools grow in faith this year. Their ideas reflected maturity, creativity and a deep understanding of what it means to be ambassadors of Christ.

The day concluded with a blessing of all GIFT and Chaplaincy Team members, where pupils received their leadership badges. This joyful moment affirmed their commitment to serve their school communities with love, humility and hope.

To continue supporting teams throughout the year, Mrs Restell will meet with each school’s GIFT and Chaplaincy Team in Terms 2 and 3. These gentle follow-up sessions are designed to encourage, guide and celebrate pupils’ progress - helping them grow in confidence as leaders of prayer and service.

The formation day was a beautiful expression of who we are as a Romero family: a community walking together in faith, carrying the light of Christ, and striving to be true Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year.





Community Spirit in Action: Saint Gregory's Pupils Visit Phil Mead House



At St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, kindness is more than a value, it is a way of life. Just before the October half term, our dedicated Kindness Ambassadors took their mission beyond the classroom, spending an afternoon with residents at Phil Mead House.

Their visit was warm and joyful, showing the power of simple acts of kindness. The afternoon began with pupils sharing stories and reading aloud to residents who listened with genuine delight. These conversations connected generations and created an atmosphere of respect and curiosity.

The visit ended with a lively sing-along, where all voices joined together in song, filling the room with laughter and a sense of community. What might seem like a small gesture became an experience that left a lasting impression on everyone involved.

Reflecting on the visit, Megan Scullion, Principal at St Gregory, shared, **"It was wonderful to witness the impact our children had on the residents. The Kindness Ambassadors are passionate about spreading kindness and making a difference, this visit did just that. They embraced the opportunity and loved learning about the residents' lives."**

This initiative is not a one-time event. It marks the start of a new monthly tradition where pupils will return regularly to offer companionship and build meaningful relationships with the residents of Phil Mead House. Through these visits, our children practice Gospel values in a real and heartfelt way, learning the importance of empathy, service, and community involvement. St Gregory is proud to share this initiative with the wider Romero family.

It shows our commitment to nurturing pupils who not only excel academically but also grow into caring individuals who make a positive impact in the world. We look forward to celebrating many more moments of kindness in the months ahead as this partnership continues to grow.



Coventry Peace Award

On Tuesday 25 November, Good Shepherd was presented with the Coventry Peace Award by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Rachel Lancaster and Pru Poretta from the Lord Mayor's Committee for Peace and Reconciliation. The award is valid for the next three years, and it is the second time the school has received this award, having been recognised in 2021. The award highlights our school's ongoing fundraising for Bright Future school in Kampala, Uganda. This has included helping with setting up fresh running water, providing better sanitation and providing teaching resources. Mrs Vince has visited on 3 occasions to see first hand the impact we have made. To date we have raised around £7,000 for the project. The award also recognises our school's support for the following charities: Myton Hospice, Father Hudson's Caritas, Fair trade fortnight, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Foleshill Food bank and The Homeless with Cyrenians.



Cycling Success at Good Shepherd

During the first half of the Autumn term, our Year 5 children benefited from weekly cycling lessons from British Cycling. At the beginning of the term, approximately 50% of the children were confident in riding a bike. Following a six week block of lessons under the careful tuition of Steve Wilson, all children were able to cycle confidently and independently.



"When I started the sessions, I didn't know how to pedal the bike. But it gave me the motivation to learn how to do it. I got a bike of my own and practiced a lot at home and in school during the sessions with Steve. I was so proud of everyone in my class because by the end, everyone was able to ride! I am now really interested in cycling and have customised my own bike." (Armaan, Year 5)



Cultural enrichment for pupils at Good Shepherd

On Thursday 23 October, a group of 14 students from Good Shepherd attended the Royal Opera House in London, taking in a showing of 'The Magic Flute', a celebrated opera by Mozart. The Magic Flute is a fantastic introduction to opera, combining powerful music, storytelling and visual spectacle in one of the world's most prestigious performance venues. This was a truly exciting chance for children to experience something new and inspiring in an extraordinary setting.



"It was a wonderful experience. The singing was breathtaking - I was blown away by the range of notes the performers were able to reach. It has definitely made me more interested in opera." (Amarachi & Lola-Rose, Year 6)



Family Time

Saint Gregory was delighted to welcome families into the school for a joyful Advent Art Day. The event was filled with creativity and festive spirit as parents and children worked together on beautiful seasonal artwork. A huge thank you to all the families who joined us and helped make the day such a wonderful celebration of community and Advent!



Reverse Advent Calendar

Saint Patrick proudly took part in this year's Reverse Advent Calendar, helping to spread kindness and generosity throughout the season. We are so grateful to our families and community for their incredible contributions, truly reflecting the spirit of Christmas and the joy of giving!



PCSO Visit

Saint John Fisher Year 3 and 4 pupils enjoyed a fascinating afternoon with our local PCSO, learning all about online safety. The session covered why apps have age ratings, how these ratings help protect children online and practical tips for making smart choices in the digital world. A big thank you to our PCSO for sharing such valuable advice!



Abbey Park Care Home

Corpus Christi pupils visited Abbey Park Care Home to spread joy and kindness during this season of giving. Their warmth and cheerful spirit brightened the day for many residents, creating moments of happiness that were truly inspirational!



Whole School Mass

SS Peter and Paul came together to celebrate a beautiful whole-school Advent Mass, led by Father George and the GIFT Team. During the service, the Bambinelli figures, Advent wreaths and Christmas tree were blessed, creating a truly special moment for our community. The Mass also marked an important milestone for our Year Six pupils as they received their Confirmandi certificates. A wonderful celebration of faith and preparation for the season of Advent!





Crow Recycling



Year 2 had a fantastic time visiting and exploring the Crow Recycling Centre. The children discovered how recycling helps protect our planet and even got hands-on experience. One of the highlights was using a giant shredding machine to prepare paper for reuse—a fun and memorable way to learn about sustainability!



The Shared Services team came together for a heart-warming Macmillan Coffee Morning, raising £200 to support those affected by cancer. The event was filled with delicious treats, laughter and generosity, with colleagues showcasing their baking talents in a friendly Star Baker competition (won by Alex Thomas - Head of HR). From gooey brownies to perfectly iced cupcakes, the entries were both creative and mouth-watering. A big thank you to everyone who donated, baked, and joined in - your support made a real difference!



Residential Trip



Our Sixth Form students had an incredible time on their residential trip, exploring the historic Corfe Castle. The visit was a fantastic opportunity to learn about its rich history while enjoying the stunning scenery and bonding as a group. A truly unforgettable experience!



Day out in London



Good Shepherd Year 2 pupils had an amazing day in London, visiting the iconic St Paul's Cathedral. The trip brought their learning about the Great Fire of London to life as they explored the historic site and deepened their understanding of this important event. A truly memorable experience for everyone!



The Romero Catholic Academy

Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow

We are a Multi-academy Company comprising of the following individual schools/academies

