



Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Trust

NEWSLETTER

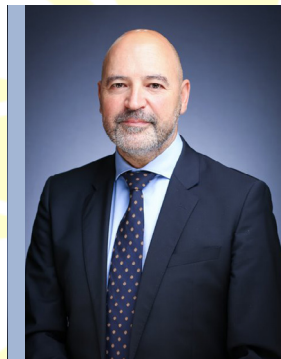
Issue 4 - December 2021

Thank you to all our colleagues across our schools for your dedication, professionalism and support throughout the year.

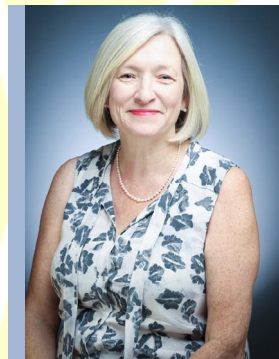
We would also like to wish our students, parents, carers and the communities we serve both a wonderful and peaceful Christmas holiday.



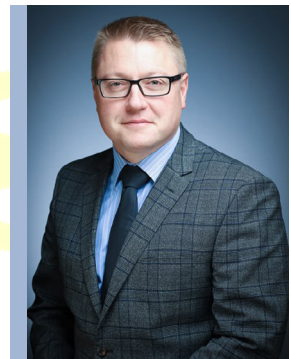
Mark Wilkinson
Chief Financial
Officer



Flavio Vettese
Chief Executive
Officer



Clare Clark
Primary Improvement
Lead



Matt Baker
Headteacher - St Alban's
Catholic High School



*Christ at the Centre,
Children at the Heart*

Bishop Alan Hopes



the DIOCESE of EAST ANGLIA

Dear Friends,

I would like to express my gratitude for the hard work and dedication that you as schools have shown throughout this very challenging and unpredictable period in our history. It is hard to remember a time when our communities, families and individual lives have been so adversely affected with the present extremely difficult issues which have consequences that can affect us all.

Our Catholic schools have always been more than buildings. They are the fundamental foundations to help our children and young people to grow and develop in their faith as well as in every other area of life, so that they are fully prepared for their adult life in society. Through the commitment and determination you have all shown this is so evident in our schools which have been steadfast and resilient throughout this time and have remained places where we encounter the living God.

I have been delighted to see the progress that Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic MAT is making. This has been evident in areas such as additional support, creating learning networks

and professional development opportunities. In addition, I know that the Executive Team and their colleagues have been working on developing the principles that underpin a Catholic Trust. The Trust Vision Statement is an opportunity to ensure we stand by the values of faith, excellence and service. We will hear more about the underpinning values of the Trust early within the New Year.

Our Lady of Walsingham newsletter is always a good opportunity to read about the impact that a truly inclusive and broad education can bring to so many lives. I do hope that you will get an opportunity to read and enjoy the various school and Trust articles.

Finally, I pray that you and your families will have a truly blessed Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Alan Hopes

Bishop of East Anglia

*Christ at the Centre,
Children at the Heart*



Mental Health and Wellbeing



Wellbeing is essentially how we are doing. As a Catholic family of schools we are naturally curious to find out how other people are doing so we can reach out to support or be supported in just the way Jesus modelled.



Measuring and improving the mental health of pupils and staff is an essential safeguarding responsibility but it can be hard to move from being well-meaning to meaningful well-being without a secure frame of reference. As a Trust, we are using the Five Steps to Mental Health and Wellbeing provided by the Anna Freud Centre. They have created an evidence-based framework so that each school can decide its own approach to mental health and wellbeing based on the local picture of need and resources. This Framework is developed by mental health experts and teachers, for teachers.

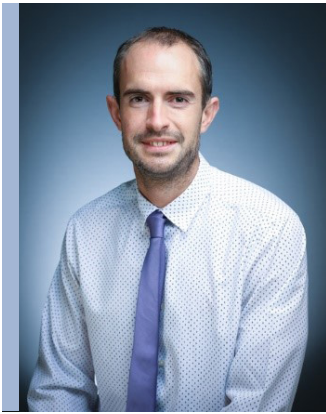
These five simple steps are:



Each school in our Trust has an identified Mental Health Lead and Andi Dodds, Head of St Felix Primary School is Mental Health Lead for the Trust. Andi's role is to promote the use of the Five Steps Framework and raise awareness of what we can achieve by supporting one another.



Tim Line - Director of IT



Over the last 18 months we and our students have been thrown into a world where being digitally connected moved from being a luxury to something that is now demanded of them. For some this may have been the first time that they have ever had to operate a device in a way that connects them to others. This might have been connecting to their class via Microsoft Teams during the pandemic lockdowns or submitting homework to their teacher via an online learning platform.

The digitally connected world for many has been accelerated towards them at a pace that would be daunting for anyone to get to grips with. Not least for our students, but also parents, carers and teachers who have all embraced what they have been presented with, all in the interest of our children's education. Thank you.

We are now rapidly moving towards the Christmas break and the excitement levels are building in expectation of the new digital devices Father Christmas might be bringing those who are lucky enough to receive them. This adds another dimension to "being connected" as this new device now gives access to the wider digital world and with that, new risks to be aware of.

National Online Safety are an organisation who strive to make the internet a safer place for our children. Their website (nationalonlinesafety.com) offers a wealth of information focusing on online risk and I encourage everyone to sign up to their platform and take advantage of the free materials provided. They also have a mobile app which is available in the Apple and Google app stores. The app has been designed to be an easily accessible reference point for parents and educators to keep children safe online.

Further advice, guidance and free resource can also be found on the CEOP (ceop.police.uk) and Thinkuknow (thinkuknow.co.uk) websites.

One of the guides that National Online Safety have created focuses on "The 12 on-line safety tips of Christmas". This guide contains "top tips" for staying safe online whilst using a new device.

For the full size guide please scan the qr code



Cassie Bergen - Director of Inclusive Learning St Benedicts Catholic High School, Bury St Edmunds



'No man is an island entire of itself;' wrote John Donne in his well-known meditative poem, yet teaching and having responsibility in a school can make you feel like an island: alone and isolated, looking out to the mainland, wondering what is happening there. When you teach back-to-back lessons or are in a classroom for the whole day, there's little time and opportunity to liaise with colleagues in school or other schools and work collaboratively. The questions that you wonder about remain unanswered. How does that school moderate their Year 6 writing? How does that school teach digital ethics? How has that school approached whole-school literacy? Who knows how to implement the new Engagement Model?



This is where the Our Lady of Walsingham Teaching and Learning Network meetings come in: the bridges between the islands, joining islands into a flotilla of collaborative and collegial expertise and advice. In the SEND and Inclusion network, we come together to share best practice with like-minded practitioners; we come together to support each other in our endeavours; we come together to help review each other's practice.

Educators have long known the power of collaboration, for both learners and teachers. Collaborative practice in the Teaching and Learning network groups allows us to mobilise knowledge. I'm sure we all remember the expensive courses of old, where schools paid hundreds of pounds for teachers to go away and learn something and, frustratingly, the best thing that happened was you actually got to eat your lunch! The expertise and knowledge across the Trust is incredible: when we share our knowledge and experience it helps the shift towards learning-orientated and enquiry-based practice in schools. This in turn, improves outcomes for children and young people, which is our core aim: to have Christ at the centre and children at the heart.

There are those who challenge inter-school collaboration, citing power imbalances or potential loss of autonomy or, worse, increased workload as the reasons. This is not a reality in our Network meetings. As a Trust, we are islands joined together, where a team of professionals come together to share ideas and offer support with the overarching aim of improving outcomes for children and young people, so that perceived and potential barriers can be knocked down - because, if we don't aim to improve outcomes, we're aiming for the wrong thing.





St Pancras Primary, Ipswich

Environmental Warriors

As part of their English curriculum, Y4 read a book called 'One Plastic Bag' which was written by Isatou Ceesay. This is a story about one woman who led her friends in a campaign to save her local environment from the scourge of plastic pollution.

Reading this book, heightened Y4's concern for the environment and climate change.

In response, they wrote 'TED-style' talks and delivered them to their classmates and others in our school. They gave some very compelling arguments to make us all reconsider our use of plastic.

As part of their campaign, they also wrote to our MP, Dr. Dan Poulter, and expressed their very deep concern for the environment to him too. Wonderfully, they each received a personal reply from Dr. Dan Poulter as well as a reply for the whole class.

We are extremely proud of our environmental warriors!



DR DANIEL POULTER MP
Lib (Hons), MBE, AKC, MRCPsych



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Justine Hughes
Class 4 Teacher
St. Pancras Catholic Primary School
Stratford Rd
Ipswich
IP1 6EF

Wednesday, 17th November 2021

Dear Ms Hughes,

Thank you for writing to me recently and enclosing letters from your Class 4 students about climate change. I have identified three key themes from the letters written by your students, namely: the use of the palm oil; deforestation, and; plastic pollution in our waters.

I absolutely understand the concerns of Class 4 about the use of palm oil. It is important to note, however, that palm oil is a very efficient crop, producing more oil per hectare than other vegetable oil crops. Substitution with other oils which typically require significantly more land to produce may lead to greater deforestation as more land is converted to agricultural use, and I know this is also of great concern to your students. Government ministers are therefore committed to reducing the environmental impact of palm oil production while at the same time building demand for sustainable palm oil in the UK.

In 2012, the Government established the *UK Roundtable on Sourcing Sustainable Palm Oil* which brings together key UK businesses and supports them to transition to fully sustainable palm oil supply chains. The latest reports show that the UK has achieved 70 per cent certified sustainable palm oil in 2019, compared to only 16 per cent in 2010.

Additionally, the Partnerships for Forests programme provides support to develop industry standards for deforestation-free palm oil production. Ministers are working with companies, civil society groups and governments around the world to develop and test new ways of growing palm oil, which provides sustainable jobs and livelihoods whilst also protecting forests. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office also funds the Tropical Forest Alliance, which brings together over 160 companies, governments and civil society groups which are working to end deforestation associated with palm oil and other agriculture commodities.

Relating more broadly to Class 4's concerns about deforestation, the UK has already committed to doubling its International Climate Finance to £11.6 billion in the years 2021-2025, which includes programmes that aim to reduce emissions from deforestation and land use change. As part of this funding, the Government will invest £150 million for businesses and investors who support and deliver sustainable land-use projects and protect rainforest regions like the Amazon and Indonesian basins in communities vulnerable to climate change. This is also expected to attract as much as £850 million private investment, support thousands of green jobs across multiple sectors, and is predicted

to provide 23 per cent of the reduction in carbon emissions and climate impacts needed over the next decade to meet the goals set in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Since International Climate Finance began in 2011, the UK has spent over £800 million on forest and land use programmes, including projects which aim to reduce deforestation in Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia. As well as this, in 2019 the Prime Minister announced a package of support to help developing countries stop the destruction of their forests.

Furthermore, at the COP26 Summit in Glasgow, leaders from over 100 countries (accounting for approximately 90 per cent of the world's forests) backed a pledge committing to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030. This is a landmark achievement, backed by over \$19 billion USD of newly mobilised public and private sector funding. It is very encouraging that Brazil, Colombia, and many other South American nations have supported this pledge. The UK will commit £1.5 billion over five years to support this pledge worldwide, including up to £300 million intended for the Amazon.

Finally, I agree with many of the concerns raised by Class 4 about plastic pollution in our waters. The Resources and Waste strategy sets out plans to reduce plastic pollution with a target of eliminating all avoidable waste over the lifetime of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

The Environment Bill includes powers to enable the Government to deliver on commitments in the Resources and Waste strategy which will improve the quantity and quality of the materials we recycle. These include commitments on extended producer responsibility; implementation of a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, which is now in its second phase of consultation; and introduction of consistent recycling collections across the country. Further, single-use plastic plates, cutlery and polystyrene cups are among a raft of items that could be banned in England as part of a new public consultation being launched in the Autumn.

The Government has also announced key details of the world leading Plastic Packaging Tax at the 2020 Budget, which will help to tackle the pressing issue of plastic waste. The initial rate of the tax will be £200 per tonne, and it will be paid by manufacturers and importers of plastic packaging that contains less than 30 per cent recycled plastic.

I hope students in Class 4 will be reassured by the steps that the Government is taking to tackle climate change, including the use of sustainable palm oil, reducing deforestation, and cutting plastic pollution.

If you would be interested in arranging a visit for Class 4 to the Houses of Parliament, including a Q&A session with me, please visit the following website containing details of the free packages offered to schools by UK Parliament Learning: <https://learning.parliament.uk/en/contact-us/>

Thank you again for sharing Class 4's excellent letters with me.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Daniel Poulter MP

The letters can be seen in full size on our school website

We are Loving and kind,

We Pray and we Play



A visit from Ipswich MP Tom Hunt

On Friday 10th December St Mary's Ipswich was very pleased to have a visit from our local MP, Tom Hunt. Two classes had entered his "design a Christmas card competition" and two children from each class had been chosen to receive a certificate to celebrate their great work. With him coming in to give the certificates in person, it seemed like a perfect opportunity for pupils to prepare and ask him some questions about his job and his priorities for Ipswich and beyond. They took to the task with gusto and asked their questions with passion and care. Tom appreciated their desire to make life better here in school, in Ipswich and for the environment everywhere. We were very proud of the achievements being celebrated and of our Year 6 young citizens. Good job everyone!



Year 6

Year 6 also took part in the school's remembrance service yesterday. They reflected carefully about the fallen soldiers and represented the school beautifully. Well done Year 6!



Cafod Fund Raising

St Louis have been extraordinarily busy raising funds during advent for Cafod. Children have worked collaboratively to organise their own phase day fundraisers that included a pyjama day and a Christmas jumper day. Teachers have made and sold Christmas milkshakes and Head Cook, Trina, has made delicious hot chocolate drinks. One child reported, " This is the most amazing hot chocolate I've ever tasted."



A Christmas Story at St Louis



Children have also dressed as angels, shepherds or kings to re-enact and retell the Christmas story within class. St Louis hope to attend a school Carol service in church on their final Thursday in school and this sounds of Advent service with prayers and Carols will be live streamed to families. Finally, teachers will be joining their classes at their school collection gates to sing to families at a social distance to allow their families to experience

the wonderful voices on our final Friday. Our target is to surpass our £500 Cafod fundraiser in 2020.

Festive Activities and Masses

As usual, we had our annual Christmas jumper day for Save the Children Fund and Fr Leo has been busy celebrating masses with us across our school.

In addition to all these Cafod activities, every class has experienced live theatre at Bury St Edmunds Theatre Royal when they attended a brilliant production of Cinderella. Oh yes we did!





Forest of Imagination, A Free Celebration

Forest of Imagination celebrates the natural world at a time when there is mounting evidence about the vital importance of the outdoors to our mental wellbeing. The Forest contains 50 beautiful gauze hangings creative from work made by nearly 400 children, including students from St Laurence. Our pupils worked with the artists from Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination. These workshops, were informed by themes which will inspire the artwork being developed by artist Lilah Fowler for the forthcoming new community centre at the Meadows, which is opposite the school.

The children's work was exhibited at Wandlebury Country Park and Christ's Pieces (Cambridge). If you would like to read more about the art project please visit their website: www.cambridgecandi.org.uk/projects



Charity Fundraising

St Laurence children have been very focused on their fundraising activities this term! We raised over £230 for our Poppy appeal (which was the best in region!) and over £270 for Children in Need. A huge "Thank You" to our parents who have supported these endeavours.



Our Mini Vinnies are Back in Action

The new members of the junior division of the SVP were signed in and received their certificates and membership badges at the Celebration Assembly on 19th November. They are already planning how to "turn concern into action" by organising toy sales, making Christmas decorations for Jimmy's and sending Christmas cards to the vulnerable.





St Felix Primary, Haverhill

Pupil Leaders at St Felix

At St Felix, our pupils love having a voice and helping to make a difference to the whole community. During Covid restrictions this has been reduced due to fewer assemblies and less opportunities to work with different year groups.

For 2021-22 one of our priorities is to re-establish and expand our pupil leaders.

We have a number of groups working across the school, each with their own identity and purpose.

Our house captains are selected from Y6 following a recruitment process. They are role models for younger pupils and live out our school drivers of responsibility, community and possibility. They have a key role in marketing the school to visitors, leading collective worships half termly, promoting the house system and providing momentum to the School and Eco council.

The house captains have also led our Advent collection this year as their research revealed St Elizabeth is the patron saint of the homeless and they wanted to put this into action by collecting toiletries for Jimmy's Shelter in Cambridge.

Peer mentors are a new addition to our pupil leader structure. These are Y6 pupils who have been selected to train alongside the house captains to support younger pupils in the school. They are there as a listening ear for younger pupils and to help them resolve worries which may not need adult support. The Anna Freud Peer Mentoring Resources have been invaluable in developing this.

One of the ways this is delivered is through the Time Out, Breathe Out Club which is manned by peer mentors and Mrs Dodds on a Tuesday lunchtime for KS1. The peer mentors support activities for the younger pupils.

"I really like coming to the club because they choose things we like to do." Year Two club member.

Our Ministry Team consists of Y5 pupils who have been chosen for the way in which they mirror Christ's teaching in and around school. They present assemblies every half term and support our school Masses and collective worship.

Followers of Jesus

Learning Together





This half term they have focused on the virtues symbolised by the Advent wreath candles.

To support safe use of the internet we have E-Safety Ambassadors who curate resources to share in their termly assembly. This group is made up of Y5 pupils who are keen to encourage awareness in their peers.

The school council are elected by their classes and work with Mr Wolmarans weekly with the objective, "How can we make a difference at St Felix". They are also responsible for explaining the learning in their class to visitors and it is wonderful to watch their confidence with this grow across their term of office.

The newest addition to our pupil leader stable is our Eco Council. This has been formed to support our work for the Live Simply Award and in response to the pupil's enthusiasm for COP26 and the Cafod Eyes of the World Campaign. This team of pupils from each class, plus the house captains, have created our school promises for 2021-22 based on children's hopes and enacted through children's ideas of how to change things. Their promises encompass waste, water, electricity, recycling and transport.

As one of their Advent actions they are sending an e-Christmas card to all parents on behalf of the world to remind them of the impact of buying too much at Christmas. This has been designed by a pupil in Year 4.

It is wonderful to have so many pupils working at St Felix to become the leaders of tomorrow.



Live Simply Award

Livesimply award

St Alban's is very excited to let you know that we have joined up to Cafod's 'Live Simply' award.

The 'Live Simply' award is given to Catholic communities that have taken significant steps to respond to the Church's call to live simply so that others may simply live. It is awarded to schools that show they have taken action to practise three Christian values, to live Simply, Sustainably with creation and in solidarity with people in poverty.

Why should Catholic schools take part in the 'Live simply' award?

- To support Pope Francis in his call to protect the planet and recognise our global interconnectedness.
- Recognition for the work the school is doing already.
- Breaking down barriers and working together on a common endeavour.
 - To achieve more of an impact collectively.
 - To show leadership in the Catholic community.

As a school we have lots of new incentives and ideas to action to help our school community live simply (prayer garden), sustainably (planting trees and rewilding) and in solidarity with people in poverty (FIND – foodbank and supporting Love Ipswich with the hamper appeal). Please support the school in playing your part at home. What can you do to help our planet and future generations?

Here is the new team of eco warriors at St Alban's Catholic High school. These students have been pictured with their new 'eco warrior' badges that they now wear proudly on their school blazers. These students will be working to conserve and protect the school environment as well as setting up new eco initiatives to help our school become more sustainable!



Learning... Respecting... Caring...





Our eco warriors have already set their first Christmas challenge to all families/students. It would be lovely for you all to get involved in the making a Christmas decoration out of recycled materials and send those creations in for judging to:

vwilliamson@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk

Podcasting at St Alban's

Our podcasting adventure at St Alban's is now fully underway. We have both a Sixth Form and Main School podcast, with the former now available for anyone to listen to on the school website. It has been exciting time, getting new equipment and trying to scope out a room that can act as an effective recording studio!

As you will see on our dedicated Sixth Form Page further into the publication, recording has very much begun! However, due to Covid, the launch of the Main School podcast has been hampered. We had our first meeting at the start of December, where we had 25 keen members from Y7-11. It has been such an incredible turn out. Although my email inbox has exploded (along with our Teams page), with various ideas about jingles and topics, it has been wonderful to see how excited they are about editing, recording and managing. The next step for us, is to train them on Audacity and the equipment, ready to start recording mid-January.

Leonie Sturman (Teacher of English)

To listen to Episode 1 of our Podcast, brought to you by our Sixth Form team, scan the QR code below



UCAS update

Its been an extremely busy half term sending UCAS applications. What a great success already! 4 Oxbridge candidates have been offered interviews, we are very proud of Ewan, Charlotte, Amelie and Aine. 16 students have already received offers from their universities of choice, some with unconditional offers, and lots more to be interviewed in the lead up to Christmas. We have other students who are applying for exciting Apprenticeship and Art foundation courses too.



Charity and Community

The Sixth Form has been busy decorating the building as we have moved into the festive period while organising Christmas Jumper day and the school charity hamper appeal. This is to raise funds and gifts for those in need in our community. The Chaplaincy group have recorded the advent worship service for the whole school, supporting our Catholic mission at this holy time.



Sixth Form Podcasting

The Sixth Form podcasting group (team of approx. 13) have been truly incredible, taking on the daunting challenge of being able to hear your own voice and also create an interesting take on Pop Culture (the theme for the first episode). The topics we covered were: school news, environmental news, a film review and a rundown of TikTok trends. Our next episode(s), hopefully out at the end of January, will be two separate ones – Diversity and Faith. All have demonstrated such leadership and enthusiasm, which makes me a very lucky teacher overseeing it! After each episode, we reflect upon it and try to improve for next time. We are very fortunate to have a great editor, who is skilled with Audacity!

Leonie Sturman (Teacher of English at St Alban's Catholic High School)



Learning... Respecting... Caring...



Governor Recruitment Session



Earlier this term, the OLOW Board held a successful open information session focusing on the key role of local schools governance. The session was held remotely and is now available to view as a recording on the Trust website by scanning the following QR code.



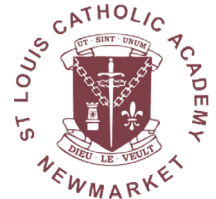
Please share with anyone who is interested in learning more about the positive impact of good governance on pupils' life chances and might be interested in joining one of our school boards.

Job Vacancy within the Trust



School Business Manager

Start date: as soon as possible
Full time 37 hours per week (term time only + 20 days)
Salary scale: 26 £30,451 FTE



We are seeking to employ an inspirational, creative and highly organised school business manager. Working with the senior leadership team of both schools, you will contribute to their strategic direction. Leading your team of support staff, you will ensure the day-to-day management of the school's HR, site and premises services, catering and parental engagement. Key to this role will be your previous experience of providing high level administrative support and leading and motivating a team. Above all you will have a relentless drive for excellence and the desire to continue making our schools warm and friendly environments for staff, pupils and families.

St Louis and St Laurence are proud to be part of the Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust. There will be opportunities to work collaboratively with primary and secondary colleagues across the Trust and access Trust wide CPD.

For full details including job description, closing date and how to apply, please visit either the trust or school websites using the QR codes below



*Christ at the Centre,
Children at the Heart*



www.ourladyofwalsingham.co.uk



Merry Christmas

and a



Happy New Year

the DIOCESE of
EAST ANGLIA



www.rcdea.org.uk

Christ at the Centre,
Children at the Heart



www.ourladyofwalsingham.co.uk

