

HFCMAT NEWS

Message from the CEO

Dear parents,

We have come to the end of another busy term where so many fantastic things have been happening across our schools.

We have welcomed new colleagues to the team including Kathryn Dunne as Head of School at Our Lady of Pity and most recently Erin Wheeler, as Executive Head to SJP. I am sure if you haven't yet, you will get to know these wonderful leaders very soon. For those families who are new to our Trust family, I hope that you have enjoyed your time with us. There is much more to come in 2023!

You can see through the newsletter the inspiring activities and events that have been taking place across our schools. The experiences teachers and support staff are providing for our young people are opening doors and opportunities that haven't been possible over recent years. I am sure that these will continue to develop into the Spring term and know how much our young people value them.

This year has been an important one for our Trust as we have built our team across all of our schools. Our vision of 'formation, inspiration and transformation' is alive across our schools. We hope that you feel this energy and this change as we grow together in the new year.

This Christmas, our Trust family came together to celebrate in person for the first time. Carols by candlelight was held at St Michael and All Angels church and children from across our schools performed wonderfully together. This was a joyous event that brought us together in faith, festivity and song. Held on the 8th December, we remembered especially the role of Mary, mother of God as she celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The children and staff came and shared their talents and it was a true pleasure to be there with all of them. For those of you who were able to attend, I hope that you enjoyed it. I look forward to more events like this where we join together and share our faith and family together.

At the end of this year, I would like to say a huge thank you to Ms Sharrat who leaves us. Ms Sharrat has worked at SJP since joining the school as Deputy Head Teacher in 2017. She took over as Headteacher in September 2020 and led the school through the challenges of the pandemic. Throughout all, her commitment to our young people and focus on unconditional positive regard remained at the forefront of all her work. We will always be grateful for what she has brought to our community and wish her well for the future.

Once again I would like to thank all staff for their commitment and work over this term. They work tirelessly for your children and strive to give them experiences to help them thrive. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for all they do.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all you do in partnership with our schools. The link between parents and school is key and we do not take that for granted. We look forward to working more with you in 2023 and wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

All the news across SJP



Students at St John Plessington awarded a coveted Eco-Schools Green Flag!

Students at St John Plessington have earned an international accreditation this academic year, recognising their amazing work in making their school more environmentally friendly and raising eco-awareness in fellow students.

Year 7 Welcome Mas

On Friday, 4th November, 270 Year 7 students along with their Form Tutors, College Staff, Parents and Carers, gathered together in St Anne's Church in Rock Ferry to celebrate the Year 7 Mass of Welcome. The Theme for our Mass, celebrated by Fr. Mario was, "A Home for All." The theme was chosen to remind us of the words of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical to the world, Laudato Si (Praise Be to You). In his encyclical he calls all people to cooperate with each other as "instruments of God for the care of creation."



BBC ambassador talks

A BBC production team visited St John Plessington this month and staff from this prestigious, world-renowned organisation shared their career paths with our older year groups. Students appreciated the 'real life' insights provided and the 'question and answer' sessions towards the end of the presentation, hosted by Robyn (broadcaster/TV host). The event gave them a chance to consider the possible careers they might wish to consider in the future.

Arts Showcase

Recently, SJP held its Winter Arts Showcase 2022, a free event hosted by its drama department that celebrates students' hard work throughout the term. The evening provided an opportunity for the school community to come together in appreciation of the arts and talents of the school's students and served to develop their confidence.



Junk Kouture - Giuliana's off to Abu Dhabi!

Congratulations to Giuliana for making it to the World Finals of the Junk Kouture Competition. Giuliana competed in the London Finals and was in the top 10 of designers. She will now fly to Abu Dhabi in January to try and claim the crown of world champion Junk Kouture. Good luck, Giuliana!



All the news across St Mary's

Formation - Inspiration - Transformation



COP27 Climate Summit

With the event of the COP27 Climate Summit in Egypt this year, Year 9 students were invited to participate in the Annual Schools Climate Conference in Sheffield. The day began with a panel discussion on what it means to be an activist hearing from activists, presenters, academics and campaigners on the many ways young people can engage with the climate movement.

Alton Castle - Year 7 Retreat

In November, 80 Year 7 students spent two nights under the magnificent walls of Alton Castle, where they developed their confidence, resilience, compassion and a sense of community. During the 3-day trip students looked at rising to the challenge and undertook many activities from crate stacking to low ropes to archery. They reflected on their own lives and future, whilst remembering the gifts that God has given them. Mass was celebrated with our students participating in the readings.



Anti-bullying Ambassadors

Anti-bullying Ambassadors at St Mary's Catholic College, Wallasey, have come together to promote equality, diversity, inclusion and kindness within school. The Anti-bullying Ambassadors are made up of 12 students from Years 9, 11, 12 and 13 and was originally set up in 2021 as part of the school's '#BEKIND!' campaign and has since continued to develop.

Liverpool Empire Partnership

St Mary's has embarked on an educational partnership with the Liverpool Empire Theatre. It is incredibly exciting to be working alongside them as they have many opportunities on offer which will expose students to new and memorable experiences. Without the partnership, these would otherwise be inaccessible. Students have already taken part in a visual workshop with the English National Ballet, as well as visiting the theatre to see Swan Lake and there are so many more opportunities to come!



Educate Awards

Oh what a night! The Performing Arts and Elements Team were nominated for an award at this spectacular event. To be nominated is a huge achievement and we are delighted to have been part of such a prestigious evening and even more proud that students were invited to perform a medley from Legally Blonde to over 500 adults in the Anglican Cathedral. Even last year's Year 13 came back to share in this fantastic opportunity. We can't wait to be there again next year.



All the news across St Bernard's

Trust - Respect - Innovation - Courage

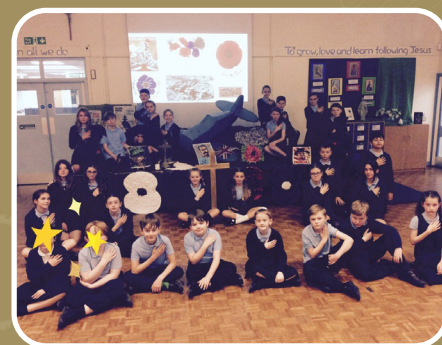


Conservationists meet local MP

Children from St Bernard's were invited by Chester Zoo to come and talk to Ellesmere Port MP Justin Madders about the importance of protecting local wildlife. They shared their knowledge about native species and how important the nature corridor the Zoo is creating will be to Ellesmere Port.

Remembrance Assembly

St. Bernard's Team 6 led a Remembrance service for their parents and carers. Singing beautifully and reading poems and prayers to honor those who lost their lives in war. Taking a moment of silence is also an important part of the Remembrance tradition, as it allows people to reflect on the sacrifices of the past and the impact of war on individuals and communities.



Harvest Donations

After weeks of fundraising from students, staff, parents and carers, St Bernard's Mini Vinnies and Charity Ministers bagged all Harvest donations. All donations were taken to the Our Lady's Church where they were distributed among the local community. The Mini Vinnies and Charity Ministers are doing important work by organising and distributing the donations, and they should be proud of their efforts to help others.

Bronze UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award

St Bernard's is proud to be working with UNICEF. Being awarded the UNICEF Bronze Respectful Schools Rights Award is a significant achievement, and the school should be proud of its commitment to promoting the rights and well-being of children. The journey to the silver award will likely involve continued efforts to create a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environment for all students.



Advent

During Advent, our children enjoyed taking a Travelling Crib home to share with their families. This is to help them to remember the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem and, as a family, to take time to stop and think about the true meaning of Christmas. Sharing the Travelling Crib with their families is a great way for children to engage with the story in a personal and meaningful way.





All the news across St Joseph's



Oxton Christmas Lights

The school choir had a great performance at the Oxton Christmas lights event. The children, Mrs. Lester and Miss Barrie worked hard to put on a successful show. Christmas light switch-ons are a special tradition for many people, and it's great that the school choir was able to be a part of it. Well done to everyone involved!

Ancient Greek Day

Year 4 was filled with hordes of gods and goddesses as they enjoyed an Ancient Greek day. The students discovered fabulous facts, learnt about the Geography of Greece, explored Greek architecture through Art and even enjoyed an Ancient Greek feast!



Inter-Faith Week

St Joseph's participated in Inter-Faith Week by welcoming guests to talk about different religious traditions. Learning about the beliefs, practices, and histories of different religions can help students understand and appreciate the diversity of cultures and perspectives in the world. The students had fun learning about Judaism and enjoyed hearing a song about the Kippah (Jewish head cap).

Cross Country Team

The St Joseph's cross country team competed at the final Wirral event before the 'winter break'. In perfect conditions at Birkenhead Park, runners were able to beat their previous best times. Participating in sports events is a great way for students to stay active, develop their teamwork and sportsmanship skills, and learn the value of hard work and dedication. Well done to the cross country team for their hard work and achievements.



World War II Evacuation Day

Year 6 had a fun and educational experience learning about World War II and the evacuation of children from cities to the countryside. Students used mapping skills to locate the Allied and Axis countries, created their own ration recipes and found a hidden message using our code-breaking skills. The students enjoyed participating in such a fun and informative event.



All the news across OLOP



National Poetry Day

During National Poetry Day, children from Our Lady of Pity shared their favourite poems with year groups. The children recited their poems with such confidence and everyone enjoyed listening to each other's poems. It was especially lovely to see the older and younger children recite and listen to each other with fantastic mutual respect. We hope to do this again soon!

Remembrance Day

Our Lady of Pity's amazing Year 6 classes led a beautiful and thoughtful Remembrance Day service at the school. They led with maturity and respect. One of their talented students performed "The Last Post" and allowed the entire school to pause and remember those who lost their lives during the war. The whole school also created a memorial garden outside with homemade poppies. This became a lovely focal point by our prayer benches for all our families and visitors.



Hoylake & Meols Christmas Lights Winner!

Our Lady of Pity were delighted to announce we had a winner of the Hoylake and Meols Christmas Lights competition! The children designed their entries back in July and they cannot wait to see this beautiful penguin light display featured around the local area. It is currently hanging close to our annexe site in Hoylake so keep an eye out and see if you can spot this sparkly penguin over the Christmas holiday!

Elf Run 2022

Following last year's successful Rudolph Run, Our Lady of Pity staff and children once again put on their running shoes to raise money for Wirral Hospice St. John's. They were delighted to have Hospice staff and mascot John Bear visit to help launch the event for this very special cause. The whole school took part, wearing their festive Christmas jumpers too, and they didn't let the sleet and hail deter them!



Carols in the Community

Our choir were recently invited to sing carols in Tesco Bidston to help raise money for Marie Curie, a cause close to our hearts. They did a beautiful job and certainly brought some Christmas cheer to the shoppers. They sang old favourites and some new songs and ended with a rousing 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' which had the staff joining in too!

Carol Service

On Thursday 8th December, our Trust community came together to celebrate Christmas in our first 'Carols by Candlelight' service which was held at St Michael and All Angels Church in Woodchurch.

The event was a wonderful, collaborative evening, with performances from all schools highlighting the amazing singing that has been taking place across our schools this term. After our two previous Christmas services taking place virtually, it was so special for our students to share the stage together and perform in front of a packed church, with over 450 parents attending.

Year 3 from Our Lady of Pity sang a wonderful version of 'Mary Did You Know', Team 4 from St Bernard's sang the most beautiful 'Love Shone Down' and St Joseph's made sure they had everyone bopping along with them to their joyous version of 'Mary's Boy Child'. The secondaries added to these superb performances with St Mary's Choir singing a spine tingling version of 'You Got the Love', and SJP wowing the audience with a gospel version of 'O Holy Night'. It was a wonderful celebration of the Christmas message with a special focus on Our Lady, as it was the feast of the Immaculate Conception that day.

A huge thank you to all staff from across the Trust who contributed to the event, from our amazing minibus drivers, music staff, class teachers and TAs who all prepared the children so well. It really was a very special evening and we look forward to providing more opportunities for our young people to share the stage together in the future. You can watch the full service here:

[Click Here to watch the Carol Service](#)



Formation - Inspiration - Transformation

Dear God,
At this holy time
We remember the great mystery of the incarnation,
That you loved the world so much you sent us your Son
To be one of us, born not in a palace
Or even in a comfortable home, but in the place
In the house where they kept the animals downstairs.
This humble beginning tells us
That you are not a God of power the way that we think about power,
Not a God of pretence, but a quiet God
Who enters history with no ceremony.

There were a few visitors: in Luke's Gospel
The lowly ones, the Shepherds, in Matthew's Gospel
The wise men with their gifts.
They can stand for all of us, the human race
Gathered around the manger, with our hopes and our fears,
With our heartfelt prayers for peace:
Peace in our hearts, in our homes, in the places on earth
Destroyed by war and violence.

As we kneel before the God of the universe
Held tightly in the arms of Mary, his mother and ours,
We pray for the fragile world,
That in this vulnerable child we will find our joy,
Our light in the darkness,
Our dignity as human beings,
Our common cause,
Our hope.

