



**EAST ANGLIA DIOCESE SCHOOLS' NEWS
DECEMBER 2018**



Editor's Note

Dear colleagues,

May the Blessings of Christmas be with you today and always.



A Picture inside Poringland Church

I have faith

Fay Toms, Age 9

I have faith in my teacher because I feel safe inside my classroom.

I have faith in my friends because they never let me down.

I have faith in the vicar because she is the best vicar and would never shout.

I have faith in the police because they will try and find your mum or dad if you're lost.

I have faith in my mum and dad because they love me.

I have faith in my doctor because he would never hurt me.

I have faith in my family because they make me happy when I'm sad.

I have faith in the fire fighter because they would put the fire out.

I have faith in all of these things because they keep me safe.

Below is a focus on one or two things happening:

Within our Newsletter we are keen to have some broader focus on educational issues from across the Diocese. For this edition we are pleased to have contributions from Our Lady of Walsingham, Ignite Team and EEF Research Schools.



“Christ at the Centre, Children at the Heart”

Formed on the 1st November 2016, Our Lady of Walsingham is one of two School Trusts in the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia. The founding Schools were St Louis Catholic Academy in Newmarket and St Felix Roman Catholic Primary School in Haverhill. On 1st January St Mary’s Catholic Primary School in Haverhill was welcomed into the Trust. From small beginnings the Trust is already achieving great things; having a positive impact for the staff who work in its schools and the children who attend. The Trust has three drivers: Christ at the centre - putting the person and teachings of Jesus Christ at the centre of all that we do; children at the heart - to be servants to ensuring that all our children are given the best chances in life by building solidly on their talents and starting points; and a commitment to developing our staff to do this important work to the best of their ability while developing Catholic leaders for the future.

The Trust has achieved much in a short time. Here is a flavour of the work that is already happening.

Our Lady of Walsingham Teaching and Learning Network



The network started in September 2018 with the sole purpose of improving the quality of teaching and learning in Our Lady of Walsingham Trust schools. The whole idea of school to school support is well proven in terms of effect on outcomes for children, so we knew we were on safe ground with this strategy for driving standards. However, we also wanted the groups to be achievement, impact and actioned focused, alongside fostering an ethos of trust between schools which ensured that all parties had a positive, enjoyable and professionally worthwhile experience. We wanted to foster collaboration where strengths are greater than the sum of the parts.

However, I think the level of engagement and excitement between the group members surprised us. Not only are the groups blisteringly clear about their aims and objectives for this year, but their

desire to share and work together to 'make things happen' for all our children, the sharing of all the excellent teaching and learning strategies employed in our schools and the commitment to going away with things to try back in school is already bearing fruit, even after only one round of Autumn Term meetings. People feel 'connected'. They feel that there are others 'like them' to whom they can now turn for support – the phones are hot between the schools!

Alongside the RE, English, Maths, Science and SEND working group, we hope in the Spring Term to add an Early Years group – something the schools themselves requested as they could clearly see the benefits coming back from other group participants. All schools are invited: all schools are welcome. I am sure that next year, not only will the membership have grown, but that other dimensions will come into play as high schools join the Trust – for example KS2/3 transition. This is exciting and meaningful work for all of us and can only benefit more of our children because, after all, that is what this is all about – we have Christ at our centre and children at our heart.

Jill Sandvig, Executive Headteacher.

From my point of view as Head of School, the benefits of being a member school of Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi-Academy Trust are clear: a clear focus on high standards, ambitious expectations for the children and staff, a joy of learning in a faith-based context and the opportunity to make a meaningful difference to the children in our care.



So, how do we achieve this? One example would be the effective peer-to-peer support for leaders which are helping drive a renewed focus on standards and outcomes, based within and supported by

our equally strong and effective Catholic context. This is not, however, just for leaders. Staff in the Trust's schools are benefitting from increased network support and have commented how they feel supported by wider colleagues and the opportunities that being a member of the Trust brings, not just for shared professional development to have an impact on classroom practice, but also for their longer-term career development, and contribution towards whole-school development priorities. There is clear and common understanding that such approaches exist ultimately to promote a high-quality education for the children in our care, now and in the future. We are looking forward to the on-going development of the Trust and the opportunities for the children and staff which this will undoubtedly bring.

Nick Kerin, Head of School, St Louis

Here is a letter from a parent of a child at St Louis Catholic Primary School, one of the founding school of the Trust.

"Hi Teresa",

Just a short note to let you know of progress since the school encouraged him to pursue his tennis.

As his coach identified when he wrote to the school originally in Sept 2016, had (and still maintains) a passion and ability regarding tennis. The school's decision and flexibility back then began quite a journey. In fact, the school's support has been nothing but positive to help him.

Last week he qualified for his first national event in the 10 and under category. It was a two day event, culminating with him beating the Wales No 1 in the final. So, he is now officially ranked as the GB No.1 in this age group.

Additionally, he has been chosen to represent team GB in a friendly V France this week (one of 4 boys in the under 11 category, playing and boarding over 3 days, with the junior GB coaching team).

Truly an example of the MAT's ethos working 'children in the trust will have the opportunity to develop their talents to the full'

So, in summary, this note was written only to say thank you to the school (everyone within), his tennis journey could not have progressed as it has without the school's initial and continued flexibility and support.

Best Regards

Data protection names omitted



We are proud of what we have achieved so far and excited about the future for our staff, children and young people. This academic year we will be welcoming 2 more schools to the Trust. St Pancras Primary School in Ipswich on 1st April and St Alban's High School, Ipswich on 1st July. We look forward to welcoming St Mark's Catholic Primary School, Ipswich, St Alban's and St Laurence in Cambridge, St Edmund and St Joseph's Federation and St Benedict's Secondary School over the next two years.

This is important work for the Diocese. It is about working collectively to do the best for all our children; not just the children in individual schools. It is about being Catholic and caring about the common good and the greater good. It is about protecting Catholic Education in the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia.

Teresa Selvey CEO Our Lady of Walsingham Trust



Ignite Diocesan Youth Mission Team

Last academic year, we had a fantastic response from many schools across of the Diocese, and I just want to extend a word of thanks to all those who invited us to come in and spend time with pupils, it was an absolute delight! Some highlights for us included our retreat days throughout Lent, usually based around Reconciliation, leading Y3 classes through retreat days on First Holy Communion and more besides. This year we are blessed to have expanded as a team, welcoming two new faces (Jess and Mary) and to also be living as a community in Walsingham.

This academic year there are a few news themes which we have developed which I would like to bring to the attention of schools: one of them explores Catholicism's influence on culture, both historically and in the present, in the areas of art, architecture, science and philosophy. There is also 'Judaism and Christianity,' which looks at Judaism in the Old Testament and how that teaches us more about our faith; both these themes can be adapted to primary or secondary schools. And, for a limited time, we are offering, 'Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment,' days, based around material being released by the Vatican following the synod that has recently taken place, we recommend this particularly for secondary schools and older children in primary school. And, of course, the other themes we offer are still available and a full list can be obtained by contacting us on: igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk.

It is a real privilege for us to be invited into schools and run these events, and we look forward to visiting (and re-visiting!) many of the schools around the Diocese over the rest of this academic year.

Catharine Williams, Ignite Team Leader

Listening to the silence of God

*Oh, the love of my lord is the essence of all that I love here on earth.
All the beauty I see he has given to me and his giving is gentle as
silence.*

*Every day, every hour, every moment have been blessed by the
strength of his love.*

*At the turn of each tide he is there at my side, and his touch is as
gentle as silence.*

Estelle White



**EEF Research Schools
Network
Link to our Diocese**



You may already be aware that Norwich Dame High School (Norwich) was designated a Research School by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) in 2017. Now in its second year, Norwich Research School at NDHS would like to take this opportunity to provide Diocesan schools with an overview of what Research Schools offer.

Who are the EEF?

The EEF are a grant-making organisation. They commissioned and curate the EEF/Sutton Trust T&L Toolkit (as used by the majority of senior leaders in UK schools), and commission a range of practical resources for schools seeking to be evidence-informed. They also fund innovation projects, which schools can apply to be part of. See <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/>.

What is the Research Schools Network?

A network of 22 schools which act as regional delivery arms for the work of the EEF. Research Schools are funded to work with other schools to support them to make better use of evidence to inform teaching and school leadership. They do this through three strands of work:

- **Communication:** newsletters signposting research evidence and opportunities for schools; social media presence, one-off events including conferences and talks;
- **Training:** designing and delivering evidence-based professional development (PD) programmes for leaders and teachers (all quality assured by the EEF);
- **Innovation:** supporting other schools in evaluating innovative practice, and seeking to scale up its implementation.

See <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/scaling-up-evidence/research-schools/>.

What are the Research Schools in our Diocese offering?

In addition to Notre Dame, there are three other Research Schools operating in our region. Check their websites:

- Norwich Research School: <https://norwich.researchschool.org.uk/>
- East Cambridgeshire and Fenlands Research School: <https://eastcambsandfens.researchschool.org.uk/>
- Ipswich Research School: <https://ipswich.researchschool.org.uk/>
- Unity Research School in Suffolk: <https://samuelward.researchschool.org.uk/>

You can also sign up to their individual newsletters in order to be kept informed of their offers and opportunities for schools to get involved.

Highlights for 2018-19 include (all bookable via the respective Research School websites):

- **East Anglia ‘Slow-burn leadership’ conference for system and school leaders:** scheduled for June 2019 in Norwich.
- **Leading Learning training programme:** offered by all 4 Eastern Research Schools, this training aimed at senior leaders supports schools to improve the effectiveness of their teacher PD;
- **Secondary Science training programme:** offered by Norwich Research School, this training aimed at leaders and teachers of Secondary Science is based around the evidence of what works;
- **KS2/3 Maths training programme:** offered by Norwich and Unity Research Schools, this training is aimed at MATs with secondary and primary schools seeking to align their teaching and curricula to benefit pupils;
- **KS3 Literacy:** offered by Unity Research School (and Norwich in 2019-20), this training is aimed at middle and senior leaders, and is based around the evidence on Disciplinary (subject-specific) literacy teaching;
- **Evidence dives:** one-off events to support schools to interpret EEF guidance reports.

Lord I offer myself afresh to serve you

By leading a community.

By acting justly.

By proclaiming our distinctiveness.

By sharing my gifts.

By respecting and caring for others.

By living with hope.

Being sensitive to your presence.

And giving heed to your constant call.

Amen

Dates for your Diary

Primary RE Day – Friday 1st March 2019

Deputy/Heads of Sch./Assistant Heads Summer Pilgrimage Thursday 13th – Sunday 16th June 2019

Headteachers Summer Pilgrimage – Thursday 20th – Saturday 22nd June 2019

Primary RE Day – Friday 28th June 2019

Whole School Mass – Friday 20th September 2019

Headteachers Autumn Conference – Tuesday 29th October 2019

Deps/Heads of school/Assistant Heads Autumn Conference – Friday 15th November 2019

Wishing you all a restful and restorative break and many thanks for all of the hard work and dedication you give.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

From: Julie, Flavio, Helen and Jane