



EAST ANGLIA DIOCESE SCHOOLS' NEWS APRIL 2019



Editor's Note

Dear colleagues,

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



My precious and crucified Lord, I offer You this Lent.

I offer it to You with total abandonment and trust.

I offer You my prayers, sacrifices and my very life this day.

Do with me, Lord, as You will.

I pray that this Lent will be fruitful.

Below is a focus on one or two things happening:

For this edition we are pleased to have contributions from Maria Kemble, with news from the Federation of St Edmund's and St Joseph's, Sean Hayes, St John Fisher High School, Peterborough, Primary RE Leaders, (from Jan Southgate and Margaret Stewart), Joe McCrossan, St Alban's Primary, Ignite, Flame 2019, White Socks, Alex Savage Lay Chaplain Notre Dame High School, Norwich.

News from the Federation of St Edmund's and St Joseph's Catholic Primary Schools Key Stage 2 Test Development

In November, Maria Kemble (Executive Head) was asked to be part of the expert panel working with the Standards and Testing Agency on the development of the Year 6 reading comprehension papers for 2020 and 2021. This was an informative process which provided insight into the thinking behind the selection of texts for the test papers as well as discussion around the questions devised. The process of devising questions was very thorough with each one scrutinised by the 12 strong panel over two days to ensure consistency in levels of difficulty and clarity of language. The lay out of the test booklet including fonts, colour and illustrations was discussed in detail to support accessibility.

'Taking part in the work of the expert panel, gave me a new-found respect for the thought that goes into the process of setting the test papers. It also provided an understanding that has informed our teaching back in school' Maria commented.

Climate Change

Year 4 pupils at St Edmund's studied Climate Change as part of the Geography curriculum in the Autumn term. Using their knowledge, they wrote letters to Michael Gove (SoS for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) detailing their views on issues such as use of sustainable energy sources, pollution and habitat destruction around the world. They were pleased to receive a lengthy response from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy at the beginning of March. The department were clearly impressed by the children's understanding of the issues and name-checked specific pupils who had written with such passion about the future of our planet.

Praise from the Secretary of State

Staff and pupils at St Joseph's have been praised for their achievements in national tests by Damien Hinds and Nick Gibb. In November, the school received a letter highlighting the high standards reached in the year 1 phonics screening where the school was amongst the top performing 9% of schools nationally. In February, a second letter was received highlighting the performance in the year 6 reading comprehension test where St Joseph's were in the top performing 1% of schools nationally.

After the challenge of being a school that required improvement up until 2017, these results demonstrate the hard work and dedication of staff to provide the best possible education for our pupils. Parents have supported the school and the children are enthusiastic and motivated to learn; this has led to the improvement and success from the beginning of their education at St Joseph's and culminates in the year 6 pupils striving for high standards.

Science Sleepover

Year 4 pupils from the federation celebrated the start of National Science week with their annual sleepover at The Science Museum in London. The children travelled by coach through central London enjoying the chance to see the sights. Once at the museum the children participated in experiments about ultra violet light and made their own LED torch. They learnt about space and the Solar System, spending time in The Sun gallery working as teams to answer questions about how we use the sun's energy on earth. Finally, at midnight we all bedded down in the communication gallery where we tried to get some sleep.

The next morning we went into the IMAX cinema to watch a film about life on the International Space Centre. It was a joy to hear the children gasp as they saw the world through the eyes of the space station and spotted Great Britain. The visit ended with a prize giving where all the children were given badges to commemorate their participation in the Astronight.

This visit is one example of our shared curriculum built by the federation to enable the children and staff to come together regularly. The jointly planned and resourced curriculum allows the federation to offer a richer experience for all our children and provides support for staff's professional development.



*I am the vine, ye are the branches:
He that abideth in me, and I in him,
the same bringeth forth much fruit:
for without me ye can do nothing
John 15:5{KJV}*

St John Fisher, Peterborough

As I come to the end my time at SJF I have been invited to give and update on the school and reflect on the last 10+ years.

Peterborough remains a very multi-ethnic and multi-cultural city and this continues to be reflected in our students with close to 75% now having EAL. But we have so many different groups that integration is somehow easier, and we adjust the curriculum and chaplaincy experience to suit. This has had the effect of making behaviour and outcomes very good and consistently so.

As well as being in Special Measures when I came in 2008 the school had little involvement with others, and yet Peterborough is the most collaborative authority I know. This is very different now as we are a key player in the Teaching School Alliance, the SCITT and our own support network.

Alongside that networking we have taken every opportunity to offer more to the students. Examples include The Brilliant Club with Cambridge University and the Army Cadet unit. The latter has just become a stand-alone unit and we currently have almost 70 cadets. Student leadership has also been a keen focus with student mentors, learning leaders, reading buddies, as well as the traditional roles.

Having improved steadily over this period – and I do believe the tortoise rather than the hare makes for sustainable improvement – we have moved to a situation where we are oversubscribed and so now have new admissions issues to deal with. Next year's Year 7 currently has 40 children on the waiting list who put us as first choice, and despite expanding the Sixth Form from September we have 50% more applications than we can take.

Looking back, two key organisational decisions have had a significant impact. One is the four-period day and the other is vertical tutoring, which allowed us to create the four houses and the family atmosphere.

'Could you write about half a page?' I was asked. Well clearly the answer is No, and this is just a snapshot of what I could say. However, I will draw to a close. It has been an amazing experience (since Julie asked me to come for six months!) and not one I might have chosen, but it is certainly one I have enjoyed tremendously. When people press me for one thing that I am especially proud of I often mentioned the fact that three assistant heads have progressed to deputy headship since 2015, and three of those are now headteachers. The cherry on that particular cake is that one of those, Kate Pereira, is succeeding me next term.

I will end by wishing her and the school well, and by thanking Julie and the team for their support and all of you for your collegiality. I hope it is au revoir rather than adieu.

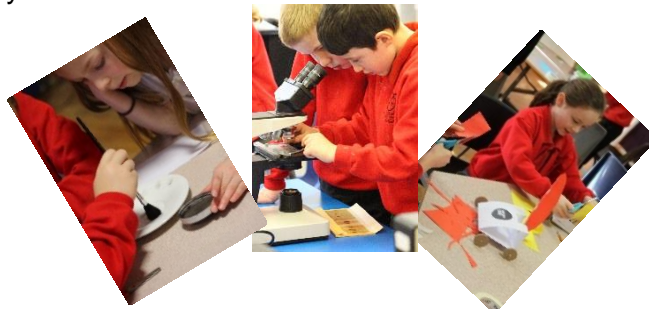
Sean Hayes



Young scientists at St Alban's

Last week, St Alban's Catholic Primary, Cambridge, celebrated the subject of science through their annual Science Week. This always coincides with when Cambridge University has its Science Festival for two weeks in March, to show everyone what is happening in the lecture theatres, laboratories and the museums. It is something all young children should experience if they ever visit Cambridge, and at St Alban's they take advantage of being in the heart of the city close to everything by planning a scientific themed curriculum for a week.

The festival consists of the universities opening the doors to the public and having demonstrations and workshops. The children at St Alban's had the opportunity to engage in a range of experiments and activities related to all areas of science. Some of the activities included; recreating the digestive system and using microscopes to study body parts; designing, building and testing rockets at the Department of engineering; designing lava lamps; bridge building, creating and testing boat wind sails; building DNA models; investigating minibeats; fingerprint and crime scene investigations, studying chromatography, evidence building and DNA fruit extraction; weather & climate change talks; sound workshops and creating 'silly putty'. In addition to the hands on activities, KS1 and KS2 enjoyed individual Science Shows delivered by Captain Calamity.



Classes also participated in a variety of trips to study different areas of science. Outreach visits included trips to The Botanical Gardens, Fitzwilliam Museum, Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, The Cambridge University Department of Chemistry (Table Talk lecture by Dr Worther) and Engineering and St Mary's Secondary School science department.

The science week drew to a close with a whole school dress-up day, where the children dressed up in a variety of striking science outfits. The children made an exceptional effort with their costumes and it was a delight to see how they enjoyed the week and their enthusiasm for science.

A sincere thank you to all at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology Institute, the The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), Cambridge University's Department of Chemistry and Engineering, St Mary's Secondary School, Kinetic Science, Cambridge Science Centre, Captain Calamity, AstraZeneca, STEM and all the parents and volunteers who supported the school during this special week!

In addition to the events of science week the children in year2 took part in one of the four faith walks focusing on inventions and faith. These walks allow children to gain access to the universities in Cambridge. If you would like to know more contact Anne Waterson at AWaterson@stalbans.cambs.sch.uk or visit <http://csoc.org.uk/2017/12/footprints-of-faith-cambridge-walks>

The future is bright at St Alban's and they look forward to Science Week coming around next year.

Headteacher's quote:

"Science week is an excellent time to promote science in the school but it is also a great opportunity to take advantage of the fantastic scientific resources we have on our doorstep. The experience to visit universities inspires our children to live our mission statement; Believe, Achieve and Succeed."

Teacher's quote:

"Science week provides an exceptional opportunity for our school to continue our hands on scientific learning, whilst extending their experiences by utilising the wonderful science establishments around us. In addition to celebrating the wonders of science, the week gives us a chance to again work closely with many generous parents who wish to support the school's drive on delivering hands on science learning to pupils."

Children's quote:

Year 4

"I thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of this year's science week, especially the Captain Calamity science show! It was so interesting and made learning fun! The learning activities throughout the week weren't too easy but always involved us doing things. I found that the week made science learning really easy! I can't wait for next year!"

Year 2

"I really enjoyed the lemonade experiment we did during science week! We now know how to make our own lemonade and do not need any instructions! We found the whole week really fun and interesting! We are looking forward to next year's science week already!"

PRIMARY RE LEADERS

Our RE leaders have been working hard at implementing the New Standards in RE, rolling the tool out across all year groups in school. Initially the standards were set to describe the end of phase expectations but colleagues felt that the document needed further unpacking to make it useful for planning and assessment. Our diocesan document now includes differentiated end of year statements and is being used successfully in all our Primary schools. Colleagues have been very creative and have adapted the statements to fit with the format of existing assessment tools used in school which promotes ease of use and interpretation of data. This term we have worked on developing 'I Can Statements' that reflect both the Diocesan Primary RE Curriculum and the New Standards, in both content and skill. Our last RE Leaders' day gave us the opportunity to work together on creating useful 'I Can' statements for Key Stage 2. This was a highly successful session as specific and challenging statements were developed, supporting our aim that planning for progress and effective assessment in RE is consistent throughout the Diocese. As with all things, assessment in RE is work in progress but we are in agreement that it should be useful, informative and manageable so that our teachers and children benefit from the new systems in place.

With regard to inspections, at the RE Leaders' Day at the beginning of March, leaders were made aware of the proposed changes and additions which make up the new Ofsted 5 Education Inspection Framework (EIF). Also aspects of changes and additions within the new section 48 Catholic Schools Inspection Framework (CSI) due to be implemented in September

2020, were also discussed. The full draft CSI will be shared at the next RE Leaders' Day in June.

FLAME 2019 Lights Up Youth at Wembley Arena

Young people from across the Diocese joined 10,000 young people at Wembley Arena for FLAME 2019, the largest gathering of Catholic youth in England and Wales. The theme of the event was #Significance and explored ways in which we can lead a life of purpose. The Congress started with a message from Pope Francis encouraging the Youth of the Church to 'dream great things' inspired by Jesus' example. Jean Vanier the founder of l'Arche explained that as we accept our weaknesses and grow in love, our true value is revealed. Those who attended were clearly inspired by experiencing this event with thousands of likeminded people. Jasmine felt that "the people who spoke were so relatable and inspirational". "The atmosphere of being with everyone in Christ filled our hearts" said Angel. One of the most popular aspects of the day was singing such uplifting songs. Matthew shared how the music "filled everyone with joy". Destiny summed up the day up by explaining "you can really feel the presence and love of God around us".

Students perform own musical in 'White Socks'

A jazz bar recently appeared in Notre Dame High School's Sports Hall, complete with dancers and chorus singers, all accompanied by a live 15 piece big band.

These colourful scenes were conjured up by Y13 students Owen Whiteside-Ward and James O'Donnell. Together they wrote, composed and directed 'White Socks' an original, full blown musical set in 1960s New York. Students from all year groups performed, played and worked back stage to bring the story to life.

Pupils from St Augustine, St Francis of Assisi and St Mary and St Peter's Primaries were transfixed by the first performance. They found themselves in the middle of the action as dancers weaved between their tables and rival gangs fought for their territory.

Samantha Orciel, Head of English is full of praise for such an ambitious production, "It is an incredible achievement, not just for the students, but in itself". For Chris Ellis, Director of Music, performing arts opportunities like this are invaluable for "developing students' inner confidence and a sense of what they can achieve".

It has certainly inspired many students to get involved in future performances, either on, or back stage. The uplifting climax of the final song summed up the experience perfectly "it's the best way to feel so good".



Alex Savage, Lay Chaplain
Notre Dame High School

Pope Francis: Document on Human Fraternity

The Holy Father has requested, via the Apostolic Nuncio and the Bishops' Conference, that the attached document, signed jointly by Pope Francis and Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, the Grand

Imam of Al-Azhar, be disseminated as widely as possible. The Pope and the Grand Imam want the Document to become the object of study and reflection in all schools, universities and institutes of education and formation. The hope is that such an effort might contribute towards inspiring new generations to promote peace and the common good and, in particular, to defend the rights of the oppressed. (The attachment includes a copy of the Nuncio's letter.)

The document itself can most easily be accessed on the Vatican website, at the following link:

[MailGate has detected a mismatched link to "analytics-us.junglemail365.com" appearing as http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/travels/2019/outside/documents/papa-francesco_20190204_documento-fratellanza-umana.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/travels/2019/outside/documents/papa-francesco_20190204_documento-fratellanza-umana.html)

A link to this document will also be sent out to schools in the CES monthly newsletter.

The current title of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar was officially established in 1961, but has a longer history dating back to the 14th century. It is a prominent title and office within Sunni Islam in Egypt (sometimes also known as the Grand Sheikh). He is considered by some Muslims to be the highest authority in Sunni Islamic thought and Islamic jurisprudence and holds a great influence on followers of the theological Ash'ari and Maturidi traditions worldwide. The Grand Imam Heads the Al-Azhar Mosque, and by extension Al-Azhar University.

Dates for your Diary:

Chaplains Day – Thursday 9th May 2019, 10.30 – 2.30pm. lead by the Diocesan Youth Team at The Hyndman Centre, Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3JT

Deps/Heads of Sch./Assistant Heads Summer Pilgrimage – Loretto, Thursday 13th – Saturday 15th June 2019

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

Primary RE Day – Friday 28th June 2019

Music Training Day Beyond Shine Jesus Shine – Thursday 4th July 2019, 9.30 – 4.30pm

Whole School Mass – Friday 20th September 2019 at SJB Cathedral. The theme is 'Spreading the Good News'. As part of the celebration each school will receive a pack of resources and information on upcoming events and support within the Diocese. More information will be published online in the Summer Term to help your school to get the most from this special occasion.

Headteachers Autumn Conference – Tuesday 29th October 2019

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

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

Catholic Education Service 2014



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

From: Julie, Flavio, Helen and Jane