



Stronger together for the common good

Spring / Summer 2023



CEO WELCOME

I am delighted to share our spring and summer newsletter – it has been another jam-packed academic year for All Saints Multi Academy Trust and its family of schools.

Firstly, I would like to offer a huge well done to our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have recently sat their examinations. It can be a testing time for our young people but, nevertheless, they all worked incredibly hard and showed immense dedication during exam season. We now wish them a relaxing summer and look forward to seeing their faces in August on results days.

I would like to congratulate The Academy of St Nicholas which was judged as 'Good' in

all areas by Ofsted when an inspection was carried out in December.

The Eurovision Song Contest offered many exciting opportunities to our academies this spring, The Academy of St Francis of Assisi was involved in the BBC's live television coverage, while Faith Primary Academy developed long lasting friendships with a school in Ukraine as they were 'United by Music'.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter and on behalf of everyone within All Saints Multi Academy Trust, I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Kind regards
Heather Duggan



TRUST LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Mrs Heather Duggan	– CEO
Mrs Annemarie Robb	– Chief Finance and Operating Officer
Mr Dave Smith	– Trust Education Director
Mrs Jeniffer Sing	– Executive Headteacher and Director for Education (Secondary)
Ms Jo Leech	– Headteacher at The Academy of St Francis of Assisi
Mrs Teresa Bleasdale	– Deputy Headteacher
Mr Charlie O'Doherty	– Deputy Headteacher
Mr Gary Lloyd	– Head of School at The Academy of St Nicholas
Mr Adam Robinson	– Senior Deputy Headteacher
Miss Siobhan Riley	– Deputy Headteacher / SENCO
Ms Sarah Williams	– Headteacher of Faith Primary Academy



NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS SET TO JOIN THE ASMAT FAMILY

The Trust is preparing to welcome Hope Academy and St Margaret's Church of England Academy to its family of growing schools on 1 October 2023.

Located in Newton-le-Willows, Hope Academy is an 11-16 school with a mission to deliver high quality education by working together to inspire excellence guided by Christian values. Guided by the Holy Spirit, Hope Academy lives by its core values of 'Respect', 'Courage', 'Ambition' and 'Hope'.

St Margaret's is situated in Aigburth and is an all-boys secondary school with a mixed sixth form. Its mission statement focuses on the work and the life of the school which takes place in an orderly atmosphere where self-discipline, mutual respect and the welfare of each individual is greatly valued

Miss Heather Duggan, CEO of All Saints Multi Academy Trust, said: "We are thrilled to be growing our family of schools and we are looking forward to the Hope Academy and St Margaret's communities officially joining us in the autumn term."



ASMAT INTRODUCES NEW CYBER SECURITY SYSTEM

A recent report by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, highlighted that 'education institutions are more likely to have identified cyber security breaches or attacks in the last 12 months than the average UK business'.

Given the extreme importance of keeping the ASMAT networks safe and secure, the Trust IT team will be introducing a 'passwordless' policy for all Trust staff. This will be implemented at the start of the autumn term.

Staff will be given a biometric USB key that they will need to register in order to be given access to their school devices and Office 365 on personal devices.

Dave Allerton, Trust IT manager, said: "We chose this method because it offers the maximum level of security and the best ease of use. Other multi-factor authentication solutions require a smart phone or mobile phone in the classroom, which is not practical, or very secure, as SMS messages can be spoofed by attackers."



MRS SING APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

Mrs Jeniffer Sing has been promoted to executive headteacher at All Saints Multi Academy Trust

As executive headteacher, Mrs Sing will take on an extended role and work across both The Academy of St Nicholas, where she was previously headteacher, and The Academy of St Francis Assisi.

Mrs Sing said: "As two 'Good' Ofsted rated secondary schools, we are on an exciting journey as we continue to deliver the best education and outcomes for students in these areas of the city."

The strategic promotion follows on the back of The Academy of St Nicholas' most recent Ofsted report in which it received its first ever 'Good' judgement.

"It is a really exciting time at All Saints Multi Academy Trust and my experience and knowledge will support our current and future schools that join the Trust family," added Mrs Sing.

CEO of All Saints Multi Academy Trust, Mrs Heather Duggan, said: "Mrs Sing has, and is continuing, to do a brilliant job at The Academy of St Nicholas. The promotion will provide stability, continuity and progression as we grow as a Multi Academy Trust."



DEDICATED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR ASFA COMMUNITY

ASFA has formed its own mental health impact team in a bid to offer continuous support for the whole school community.

Recognising the needs of students following the pandemic, Mrs Abigail Huthwaite, head of performing arts and senior mental health lead at the academy, developed the initiative together with other members of the senior leadership team.

The mental health impact team (MHIT) is made up of qualified practitioners, including mental health first aiders, an emotional literacy support assistant, emotion coach Sarah Brooks and school counsellor Ray Loftus.

The team has a range of experience in emotional wellbeing and mental health for mild to moderate needs in children and young people. They work directly within the school offering a range of

interventions and work with families and their child to determine the best course of action if they need support.

But it is not just the staff who are involved, students in Year 9 and Year 11 have volunteered to become mental health ambassadors and mental health mentors. The students have received vital training to deliver assemblies and podcasts, and 1:1 peer support.

Furthermore, the ambassadors have launched a podcast called 'The Assisi Way' which discusses a variety of topics related to mental health and wellbeing, as well as interviews with fellow students and industry professionals. Regular updates from the MHIT, ambassadors and mentors are also detailed in a monthly newsletter to parents and guardians.

Year 9 student, Jess, said "One thing that I value most about our school is the support surrounding mental health. I know this first hand as I have had support for my mental health.

"I now understand how important it is to talk about mental health and wellbeing but also, to look after it every single day. Because of this, I wanted to become a mental health mentor, which involves working with Year 7 students of a lunchtime. We have had training so that we feel able enough to help students but most importantly, to listen to them and direct them to the adults in school if they need or want more support."



LIVERPOOL STUDENTS SHINE IN EUROVISION'S LIVE SEMI-FINAL DRAW

Three students from The Academy of St Francis of Assisi were specially selected to represent the city as part of BBC Two's Eurovision Song Contest handover and draw.

The live show was broadcast from St George's Hall on Tuesday 31 January and presented by Rylan Clark and AJ Odudu.

Students from The Academy of St Francis of Assisi, Niota, Billal and Chenelle played an important role in the programme and announced the countries who have made it to the semi-finals in May, before the grand final.

The students revealed the results live on stage, alongside the well-known presenters.

Before Niota revealed the successful country, AJ asked her how she felt, as a local student, about Eurovision coming to Liverpool. Niota spoke eloquently, saying: "It is a delight to show off Liverpool's diversity and an honour to present and host Eurovision on behalf of Ukraine."

The Year 11 student was met with rapturous applause and proceeded to open the envelope and announce that Germany was through to the first semi-final. Billal followed

suit and announced that Ukraine was through to the second semi-final, with Chenelle revealing that Spain was also through to the second semi-final.

Ms Jo Leech, headteacher of the academy, added: "To see our students live on television throughout the day filled me with so much pride. They represented The Academy of St Francis of Assisi on a regional, national and international scale and they did it effortlessly. Well done to Niota, Billal and Chenelle!"



NATIONAL TUTORING PROGRAMME BENEFITS STUDENTS

ASFA is successfully supporting students who require extra tutoring in English and maths thanks to the Government's catch-up funding, following COVID-19.

Teachers at the academy identified 15 students in each year group, from Years 7 to 10, to embark on a 15-week programme which involves external tutors coming into the school for one hour per week and working with students in small groups to help improve their reading or numeracy skills.

Now in its second year of the National Tutoring Programme, the school has seen tangible results with 80% of students now making expected, or better, progress in English or maths.

The academy has been commended by the Department for Education for its utilisation of the catch-up funding and is set to be used as a case study demonstrating best practice.



A 'GOOD' SCHOOL!

In January 2023, The Academy of St Nicholas announced that it received a rating of 'Good' by Ofsted (The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills).

The secondary school was visited for a two-day inspection in December 2022, under the new Ofsted framework. All four key judgement areas were examined and rated as 'Good' which include:

quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management.

Ofsted recognised that Mrs Sing, together with her dedicated senior leadership team, has changed the school for the better, saying: "Since the arrival of the new headteacher, leaders have transformed the curriculum."

The report found that 'pupils at this school, including those in the sixth form, benefit from a broad and ambitious curriculum'.

The inspection team also praised the input of All Saints Multi Academy Trust confirming its strong and effective governance.

LIVERPOOL'S NEW BISHOP MAKES SPECIAL VISIT

The Academy of St Nicholas rolled out the red carpet as the new Bishop of Liverpool, Right Reverend Doctor John Perumbalath, arrived at the school ahead of his official installation on Saturday 22 April.

Before being installed, the Diocese of Liverpool hosted a mini tour around the region and chose The Academy of St Nicholas as the first secondary school to visit.

He received an extremely warm welcome from staff and students and the visit began with a speech from head of school, Mr Gary Lloyd, and chaplain, Sarah-Joy Gillard.

In the academy's chapel, the honoured guest was treated to a musical performance by a talented Year 8 student called Sanchez. He sung 'Joyful, Joyful' as well as a beautiful rendition of Eric Clapton's 'Tears in Heaven'.

Bishop John was presented with a framed piece of artwork that was hand painted by a student in Year 11.

Later in the day, a question-and-answer session was held between the bishop and students from Years 7 to 11 as well as All Saints Sixth Form students. They asked him a range of interesting questions including 'How do you become a bishop?', 'What duties does a bishop have?' and, quite importantly, 'Are you going to be a blue or a red?'.

One student said: "It was really nice to meet the new Bishop of Liverpool. We got to hear some really interesting stories, such as how he knew Mother Teresa and when he met the King in March."

Bishop John Perumbalath said: "It was an absolute pleasure to meet students and staff at The Academy of St Nicholas. I received a really warm welcome and enjoyed hearing the students' stories of what they have been doing and their achievements. I was especially pleased to receive the gift of a painting which will be proudly displayed in my offices."

"It was a really engaging visit with some great conversations and challenging perceptive questions from the students which I hope I answered well. I am so grateful to all at the academy for making this visit happen."



NEW OUTDOOR LEARNING AREA UNVEILED

The Academy of St Nicholas has unveiled a new sustainable outdoor learning area based on the idea of five eco-conscious Year 9 students.

As part of the Premier League Inspires programme, students Emanuel, Harvey, Melissa, Melissa and Shea submitted a unique entry to the Inspires Challenge based on this year's theme around sustainability.

Working with Everton in the Community, the students' submission detailed ways in which they would like to nurture their school's outdoor environment, grow produce and create a space that supports mental health and wellbeing, all in a sustainable way.

The students presented their idea to a judging panel made up of representatives from Colas Ltd, Everton in the Community and Wates Group. The esteemed panel was extremely impressed by their entry and, out of six other schools, chose The Academy of St Nicholas as the regional winners, meaning that their idea would be brought to life.

The space which has recently been completed by Colas Ltd using only sustainable materials, will now enable students to enjoy a dedicated area of the academy's vast surroundings. Raised beds have been built to grow fruit and vegetables which will be harvested and donated to local foodbanks.

A large bug hotel for wildlife and insects has been constructed in order to create a safe space for them to shelter, hide from predators and raise their young.

A fire pit with stools made from tree trunks provides a group seating area and a pergola will offer students the chance to sit, talk and reflect.

Harvey said: "I am really proud to have won the Premier League Inspires Sustainability Challenge. To see our idea come together has been amazing and I can wait to see it being used by everyone."

Mr Adam Robinson, senior deputy headteacher at The Academy of St Nicholas, said: "A huge well done to Emanuel, Harvey, Melissa, Melissa and Shea. It is such a fantastic achievement, and they now have something they can call their own in school."

"The space is such a welcomed addition and will allow our students to learn, develop and grow in a new environment. A huge thank you to Everton in the Community and Colas for enabling us to make this vision a reality. It will be a valued learning area for many years to come."



RECORD APPLICATIONS

All Saints Sixth Form College has received a record number of applications this year, with a 50% increase in external applicants.

Over 260 students from within the Trust's schools, and other schools in the area, have applied to continue their studies at the sixth form, and have been interviewed and offered a place for September.

Due to the broad range of A-level and vocational courses on offer, the post 16 provision is able to meet the educational needs of the young people across Liverpool.

Students can also enhance their learning experiences beyond the classroom walls with an extensive co-curricular offer, together with a diverse range of trips and experiences.

Mr Grant Sibbald, head of All Saints Sixth Form College, said: "We are thrilled to have offered 260 students the chance to continue their learning with us here at All Saints Sixth Form College.

"The post 16 provision is going from strength to strength and this year we have hit a record number of external applicants. I am incredibly proud of the direction the sixth form is going in and this is down to the diverse courses on offer and the team's efforts in proactively marketing the sixth form."



WEIGHTMANS LAW INTERNSHIP SUCCESS!

All Saints Sixth Form College is proud to announce that aspiring law student, Adam, has been accepted onto a summer internship programme at Weightmans law firm in Liverpool.

Adam went through a gruelling process, competing against many other students in the city and was delighted to be selected.

Adam said: "I am really excited to begin my internship at Weightmans. The experience will be invaluable. It will not only help me as part of my degree when I go to university but also when I come to apply for jobs after I graduate."

Adam hopes to study law at a Russell Group university after sixth form, and this certainly supports his aspiration to do so.



EXPERIENCING THE WORLD OF WORK

During half term, Year 12 students spent a week gaining valuable work experience with local businesses in order to develop their skills, knowledge and experience of careers that they wish to pursue post 18.

Students attended a wide range of placements, including nurseries, primary schools, an animation company, the NHS, engineering and retail companies.

Student feedback was excellent as they thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to apply their classroom learning in different settings.

Feedback from staff hosting the placements was also excellent. Teaching staff at Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School commented on how fantastic sixth form student, Charlie, had been during his placement, asking if they could keep him for longer!

Practice manager at Speke Neighbourhood Health Centre wrote to staff with the following comment: "Sarthak is a pleasant young man with plenty of ambition and drive towards the goal he wants to achieve. He was a pleasure to have for the week and is a credit to your sixth form".



SUPPORTING CAREERS IN STEM

11 students who wish to pursue careers STEM industries recently attended a weeklong placement at global pharmaceutical company, AstraZeneca.

A programme has been designed in the interest specifically of those wishing to pursue careers in medicine and pharmaceuticals, as well as engineering.

This has been a fantastic opportunity for students to gain firsthand experience working in their chosen field with a world class company.

One student said: "I really enjoyed the placement at AstraZeneca. I had the chance to speak to professionals within the company and find out what a career would look like in this industry."





In March, staff and pupils at Faith Primary Academy held a special retirement service for its parish priest, Father Denis Blackledge SJ.

The dedicated assembly took place at the school, located on Prince Edwin Street, and saw Fr Denis honoured for his dedication over the past seven years.

Pupils sang 'Our God is a great big God' and presented Fr Denis with gifts, whilst headteacher,

A FOND FAREWELL

Miss Sarah Williams, and RE lead, Mrs Ashleigh Martin, gave heartfelt speeches and talked movingly about how much Fr Denis means to the school and how he has been a key pillar in the Everton community.

As the children filed out of the service, pupils gave Fr Denis hugs and lots of high fives. Father Denis Blackledge SJ said: "One of the greatest blessings of being parish priest here at St Francis Xavier's Church is the vital link with Faith Primary Academy. Relations with the head and staff are excellent, and a credit to all concerned. There is plenty of opportunity for lively ecumenical, and growing inter-faith, worship and practical co-operation.

"Our pastoral associate, Debbie Reynolds, has developed a rich vein of friendship with children and families through her presence and work at Faith week by week."

Miss Sarah Williams, headteacher of Faith Primary Academy, added: "The service was the perfect opportunity to give thanks to Fr Denis and show him how well loved he is by the school community. Over the years the children have developed an incredible bond with him and they would always be excited when he came into school or if we went to St Francis Xavier's Church.

"Fr Denis has touched the lives of many here at Faith and although we're very sad to see him retire, we wish him nothing but the best for the future."

UNITED BY MUSIC



As Eurovision fever spread through the city in May, Faith Primary Academy struck up a partnership with a school in Odesa, southwestern Ukraine, called Odessa Lyceum 117.

As part of a project with the British Council, the schools collaborated through their love of music and developed a deeper understanding of one another's cultures.

The schools wrote to one another and pupils shared details about school life and projects they had been working on.

In addition to this, schools from across the city and Ukraine learnt a song called 'Don't Judge a Book'. On 12 May, the schools came together and took part in a virtual sing-along at a special Eurovision-themed online concert.

The concert was presented in partnership with Resonate, the Music Education Hub for Liverpool and the Liverpool Philharmonic. By learning the song and exploring its themes of friendship, inclusion, diversity

and community in partnership, Faith Primary Academy was able to learn more about the rich language, geography and culture of Odessa Lyceum 117.

Speaking about the project, headteacher of Faith Primary Academy, Miss Sarah Williams said: "Music is a huge part of school life here at Faith and we jumped at the chance to get involved in this once in a life-time project.

"Not only have our students been able to express themselves musically but they have also been able to communicate with a school in Ukraine and find out more about what a school in Europe is like."



GREEN-FINGERED PUPILS TAKE PART IN THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

Pupils from Faith Primary Academy have been connecting with nature and transforming the school's green spaces as part of The Great Big Green Week.

The Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. The Everton-based academy boasts extensive grounds and budding gardeners have been planting a range of different flowers in a bid to attract wildlife.

An edible playground filled with fruit and vegetables has been created which will allow children to learn more about where their food comes from. They will even get to try the fruits of their labour once the produce is ready for harvesting. Across the year groups, the academy has established gardening groups and eco-ambassadors and every child now has the opportunity to maintain their class bedding planters.

Climate change and the environment are important topics at Faith Primary Academy. This term, pupils have been learning all about the ecosystem and the important role bees play in the growth of trees, flowers, and other plants, which serve as food and shelter for creatures, both large and small.

Harry Nicol, an eco-ambassador at the academy, said: "I have loved gardening at school. It is great to be outside and learn about the plants. I can't wait to watch them grow."

