



The Romero
Catholic Academy
Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow

Summer 2019

News

Romero

News and events from across The Romero Catholic Academy



WISEMAN ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Ofsted says school provides quality
education to its pupils

ROMERO SCHOOLS GO HEAD-TO-HEAD

Pupils take part in the first Romero
debating competition

PARLIAMENT HEARS FROM ST GREGORY'S

Pupils raise plastic and waste issues
on World Environment Day

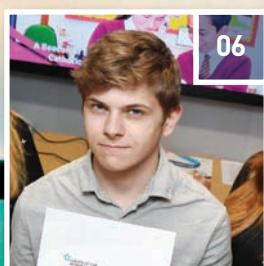
GB athlete inspires pupils



VOLUNTEERS HELP TO IMPROVE GARDEN

ROMERO BACK PADDY'S PLEA APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Summer 2019



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Romero^{News}

News and events from across The Romero Catholic Academy





**The Romero
Catholic Academy**
Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow



Brendan Fawcett

Welcome to our Summer newsletter

As the academic year comes to a close on our fourth year as Romero, we reflect on the achievements over the last twelve months. It has been a joy to see the various events across our schools. There's always so much going on.

This term has seen the end of year performances, the Cardinal Wiseman trip to Malawi, the end of year Literacy Festival, the Debating Event and the Year 11 Prom to name but a few of the events going on in our schools.

I hope that this term's newsletter gives you a taste of the activities and a sense of the talent and skills across our children and students which is really incredible to see in action! This year has definitely been the year in which collaboration extended across the pupils in our schools with the enrichment opportunities that have been offered through the curriculum.

The focus on curriculum has been significant and I am delighted to see the joined-up approach to curriculum design across Primary has progressed well in readiness for implementation in September.

Through next year, we hope that we will create a seamless transition into Secondary and hopefully a greater collaboration cross-phase to ensure a progressive journey in learning from Year 6 to Year 7. Exciting times are ahead as we carefully plan the journey of a 'Romero child' through our schools.

I know that all pupils have been working exceptionally hard this year. Through the lessons, the work in books and the results in tests we know our pupils are encouraged to reach their God-given potential through the hard work and commitment of staff.

We wish all pupils who have taken tests in Year 11 and Year 13, the best of luck for results day in August and we hope this enables you to take the step towards your chosen destination.

This time of year, sees a number of staff across our schools taking up new vocations. We wish you all, every happiness in your new endeavours.

I particularly want to thank Tony Quinn, who has been instrumental in the changes over the last two years at Cardinal Wiseman.

We are grateful for his expertise, tenacity and sense of humour. He has led us through the challenges and high points in recent times.

Tony takes up a role at the Diocese and he will continue to work with Cardinal Wiseman as a Monitoring Improvement Partner.

Finally, after a year that has been full of surprises, challenges and achievement, I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to opening the door to a new year in September.

With very best regards,

Brendan Fawcett
On behalf of the Romero
MAC Board of Directors



Wiseman 'on the right track', says Ofsted

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School is doing everything right to provide quality education to its pupils, according to a recent letter from Ofsted.

The school was visited by the government educational body as part of a monitoring inspection.

It found that the new leadership team installed by the Romero Academy's Board of Directors had turned Cardinal Wiseman around since their appointment in 2017.

Areas for improvement found in the school's last Ofsted inspection, which resulted in a 'Requires Improvement' rating, are all being tackled effectively, according to inspector Bianca Zemke.

A letter from Zemke to the school following her visit praised the Principal Tom Leverage and his team and said: **"Since your appointment, you have brought some much-needed stability and made a number of important changes to the daily running of the school."**

"As a result, standards at the school have improved and you have introduced a new sense of purpose and energy to the school."

Monitoring inspections are carried out by Ofsted at schools with 'Requires Improvement' ratings to see if they are on the right track.

And this visit found almost every aspect of Cardinal Wiseman had improved since Ofsted's last full inspection thanks to the support from the Romero Academy's wider team and school leaders being proactive.

Improvements were 'clearly evident' in pupils' behaviour, the quality of teaching and learning, and the new curriculum being taught.

A new 'knowledge-based' curriculum, as well as regular meetings between staff to discuss what teaching strategies work best, has enhanced pupils' learning.

Inspectors found teachers were 'proud' of working for Cardinal Wiseman and feel the school is moving forward.

Mr Leverage said: **"This letter from Bianca at Ofsted proves how hard we are working at Cardinal Wiseman to provide great education to our pupils."**

"We're doing everything we can to improve Cardinal Wiseman, and we are constantly thinking of ways we can to improve further."

"I have to thank all the staff, pupils and parents at Cardinal Wiseman, as well as the Board of Directors at Romero and the wider support team that our Academy provides for getting us to this stage. They've all had a part to play."

"We're looking forward to Ofsted's inspectors visiting us again and seeing for themselves just how far we've come as a school."

Helen Quinn, Catholic Senior Executive Leader at the Romero Catholic Academy, was delighted with the progress the school has made.

She said: **"It is so pleasing to see that Ofsted have identified so much improving practice at Cardinal Wiseman."**

"At Romero we have worked so hard to improve every aspect of the school since we took it over."

"This report follows a successful Section 48 RE inspection by the Diocese in November 2018, which judged Cardinal Wiseman to be a Good Catholic School."

"We have 3,500 children across our seven primary schools and our secondary school, Cardinal Wiseman, and it is important for us to have a strong secondary school in order to provide an outstanding education from age 2 to 19."

"Having Ofsted validate this work with their highly positive letter is absolutely wonderful."

Former Romero pupil aiming to become 'Apprentice of the Year'

A young Coventry IT technician is hoping to become the Apprentice of the Year after earning a top grade in his IT apprenticeship.



Daniel Donnell, 22, was a pupil at Ss Peter and Paul and later St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, before going onto Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School. All three are part of the Romero Catholic Academy.

He found school a challenge but was always interested in IT and engineering subjects and his passion and curiosity for IT was strong throughout his studies. He built his computer at home as a hobby and dismantled older PCs to understand how similar they are to one another.

He said: "I found learning in some subjects difficult when I was younger, but my interest in IT led me to think I should try and build a career around something I enjoyed and was good at already. I've made great efforts since school to better myself as a person and grow independently."

Daniel decided to apply for a Teachers Technology Apprenticeship at Romero through Primary Goal, an apprenticeship provider which works with schools.

The apprenticeship involved going into schools within the academy, mainly at St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, part of the Romero Catholic Academy, and helping teachers deal with any IT issues that may have stopped them from teaching their pupils effectively.

Daniel combined his apprenticeship with many hours of outside study as well as working weekends and evenings to earn himself more money.

Thanks to his hard work, Daniel achieved a distinction in his apprenticeship - the highest grade possible.

The academy was hiring full-time IT technicians soon afterwards. Daniel was encouraged to apply and got the job after a successful interview.

He said: "I was nervous about other people getting the job ahead of me, so I worked really hard on my application. I was so pleased when I was offered the job.

"It's a really powerful feeling to come into a school and genuinely make a difference - you're improving children's learning with everything you do.

"I've come on so much since I started my apprenticeship - I'm a lot more confident now. My interpersonal and IT skills have both improved massively.

"I am indebted to St John Fisher and all the faith they put in me. I wouldn't be where I am now without their support. In such a short span of time I have managed to grow through their values and continued support."

Daniel currently spends two days at St John Fisher, two days at Ss Peter and Paul, and one day at St Gregory's, although he can be called out to any school in the Romero Catholic Academy if needed.

Louise Campton at Primary Goal said they would be putting Daniel forward for Apprentice of the Year in the National Apprenticeship Awards due to his achievement.

She said: "Earning a distinction grade is highly challenging - it requires skill as well as hard work.

"Daniel is a true role model for young people across Coventry, so it's only right we put him forward to be the Apprentice of the Year 2019."



And Linda Edge, Vice Principal of St John Fisher, praised Daniel on how much he has achieved during his time as an IT technician.

"I've seen so much growth in Daniel since he started his apprenticeship," she said.

"Taking on Daniel as an apprentice was a great decision - he worked so hard and was incredibly helpful. He truly deserved his top grade.

"We didn't want to lose Daniel following his apprenticeship with us, so when he applied for our vacant technician role we were only too happy to hire him.

"We want to help our former pupils gain meaningful employment and offering jobs to former pupils with the right qualifications is just one of the ways we can do that.

"We offer our pupils an education all the way through from age two to 19 and it is now a real bonus to be employing some at the end of their time with us.

"It keeps the standards high within Romero and gives them a seamless transition to paid employment within a progressive organisation."

A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a green school uniform, is clapping and smiling. She is seated at a table with a microphone in front of her. Another person's hands are visible on the right, also clapping. The background is a dark, wood-paneled room.

Romero schools go head-to-head at debating competition

Romero pupils were given the floor at the stomping ground of local councillors to put their debating skills to the test at the launch of a new multi-school competition.



Youngsters from the seven primary schools within the Romero Catholic Academy went head to head at the Council House this month, swapping the classroom for council chambers at the first Romero Catholic Academy Deliberates competition.

The competition encouraged students working in teams of four to craft their own arguments for or against a range of proposals including banning junk food, limiting mobile phone and tablet use, and extending the school day to 5pm. The teams had to deliver their responses within a two-minute time limit.

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School ran out eventual winners, with Sacred Heart finishing as runners up, as all seven Romero schools putting their best debaters against rival schools across five knockout rounds at the same place where Coventry councillors deliberate on local issues.

Megan Scullion, Leading Practitioner for Key Stage 2 at the Romero Catholic Academy, said: **"This year, Romero has been looking at creative ways in which we can enhance provision across the curriculum for our More Able pupils."**

"The standard of the debating from all schools was so high. The children were well prepared and spoke with plenty of confidence. It really was a joy to be a part of."

Megan, who is also Year 6 Teacher at Corpus Christi, spoke of the benefits of holding the inaugural Romero Deliberates competition at the home of Coventry City Council.

She said: **"We are so thankful to the Council for allowing us to hold this event in council chambers."**

"To be able to debate in such a setting was such a memorable for experience for the children. From the seating to having their own individual microphone, it all added to the atmosphere and the children were so excited."

"The children gained a great deal of confidence from speaking so publicly and in front of an audience. They also were able to learn about the ways in which they can express their own ideas, as well as ways in which they could respond to ideas with which they don't necessarily agree with."

"I think we definitely have some public speakers of the future in our midst, and we are hoping to continue the success of Romero Deliberates with another event next year."





Easter happiness delivered by St Gregory's pupils

Kind pupils from St Gregory's Primary School brightened Easter for poorly children by donating a big batch of Easter eggs to University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.

St Gregory's pupils in the children's ward of University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire with a selection of Easter eggs they donated.

Year five and six pupils from St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, part of the Romero Catholic Academy, visited the children's ward of the hospital to drop off around 40 eggs for the patients.

The pupils, who are part of the school's 'Mini Vinnies' team - a venture from the Catholic charity St Vincent de Paul Society - came up with the idea to donate Easter eggs to the hospital after some students had spent time there seeing relatives and friends.

Geraldine Marshall, Principal at St Gregory's, said: "The pupils wanted to think of something that would help children who are less fortunate than themselves over Easter.

"And some of them had visited the hospital before, either as patients themselves or to visit loved ones.

"So they thought it would be a nice idea to collect Easter eggs and donate them to the children who are in hospital over Easter to make them feel a little happier.

"They created posters around school to encourage pupils to donate, and we managed to get around 40 to give to the children.

"I'm so pleased with their efforts, and I'm sure the children on the ward will be very happy to receive the eggs."

Amie Mills, health play specialist on the children's ward, said she was very grateful to the pupils for their generosity.

"Things like this really put a smile on the children's faces," she said. "We have lots of children here over Easter, so it's very thoughtful of St Gregory's to donate Easter eggs to the ward.

"Kind gestures and donations are so important to our children. When they're in hospital, they can be scared and feeling vulnerable, so acts like this make a big difference. I have to give a big thank-you to St Gregory's for doing this."

Patrick Taggart, Business Director at the Romero Catholic Academy, also praised the pupils for their kindness.

He said: "All of our pupils at every Romero school are taught to put others before themselves, so I'm delighted with what the Mini Vinnies at St Gregory's have done for the children at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.

"It is so hard for a child to be in hospital at any time, but especially so over Easter. I hope the donations helped bring happiness to the children during this holy time of year."





Maths Challenge success for Romero pupils

Gifted young mathematicians at several Romero primary schools have received special awards for their achievement in a maths challenge aimed at children two years above them.

The pupils in Romero Catholic Academy schools who earned awards in the Junior Maths Challenge.

Talented Year 6 pupils across Corpus Christi, Good Shepherd, Ss Peter and Paul, Sacred Heart, St Gregory's, St John Fisher and St Patrick's, attempted the Junior Maths Challenge, organised by the UK Mathematical Trust to stimulate interest in maths.

The paper is aimed at children in Year 8 or below, meaning the pupils were taking on an especially difficult test for their age.

Despite its difficulty, ten pupils achieved a bronze award in the challenge, while Good Shepherd pupil Eynan received a silver award for his performance.

This was the first time schools across the Romero Catholic Academy had taken part in the challenge, and Megan Scullion, Leading Practitioner for Key Stage 2 at Romero, was thrilled with the pupils' success.

She said: "It was amazing for our pupils to even be in the position to take part in the Maths Challenge, let alone earn bronze and silver awards.

"These awards are only given to the best 40 per cent of candidates, so this is a fantastic achievement.

"We're so happy with all of their performances, and it just goes to show how well maths is being taught across the Academy."

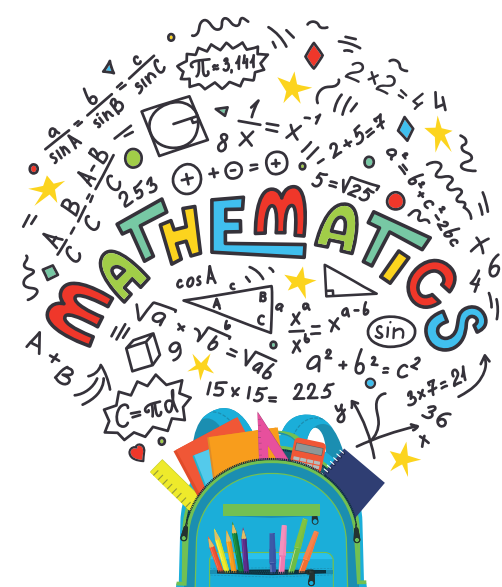
Pupils were chosen by their teachers as they were excelling in maths and were invited to take part in a 'Maths Day', where they were given tasks such as a maths-based 'escape room' to solve.

The better performers on the day were then entered into the Junior Maths Challenge. Teachers from across the seven primary schools then joined together to help prepare the pupils for the test.

Megan added: "It was great that the teachers across the Academy were able to collaborate and share ideas on this. I think it helped us get the results we did.

"We've got plans underway to enter the Junior Maths Challenge next year, and we're hopeful our success in the challenge can continue."

Helen Quinn, Catholic Senior Executive Leader at the Romero Catholic Academy, said that the Romero Academy looks to develop all their pupils' talents and this was a great opportunity for those with real strengths in maths to test themselves.





The Wiseman Connection

Part of The Romero Catholic Academy



Former pupils asked to join 'The Wiseman Connection'

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School is aiming to reconnect its old pupils and encourage them to contribute to future projects by founding an alumni organisation.



Alumni member, Kevin Rodgers, Group Chief Executive of WM Housing Group who attended Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School.

The school invited around 20 former pupils of all ages to the school to introduce 'The Wiseman Connection', which will allow former students to stay in touch with each other, as well as the school.

The group is also a way for former pupils to help out with future projects at the school should they wish to.

The invited pupils heard speeches from Romero staff and long-standing Cardinal Wiseman teacher Gordon Rutherford, who has given 42 years of service to the school, before being taken on a tour of the school to see how much it had changed over the years.

And various suggestions were brought forward during the evening of how alumni could help current students, such as contributing to career advice events and providing mentoring to current pupils.

One such pupil, Tom McCann, started at Cardinal Wiseman when the school first opened in 1958 when the school was split into a boys and girls school.

He said: "I have a really strong connection to Cardinal Wiseman - my two brothers came here, my daughter came here, and my three granddaughters came here too.

"I loved my time at Cardinal Wiseman, and I decided to come along to this event to see how the school had changed and to see some of the old photos. It really has changed a lot since my time here.

"I think connecting old pupils is a great idea. It's always nice to reminisce with old friends and help out the school that made you who you are."

Helen Quinn, Catholic Senior Executive Leader at the Romero Catholic Academy, said: "Having taught in Romero schools for the last 25 years, it has been a privilege to watch pupils progress from the primary schools to Cardinal Wiseman and see them continue their journey of learning and faith.

"We have employed a number of past students who have attended one of the eight schools and wanted to give something back.

"Keeping that connection to your school after you've left is so important - we want Cardinal Wiseman pupils to still feel part of the community even after their education here is finished."

Patrick Taggart, Business Director at the Romero Catholic Academy, said:

"The Wiseman Connection will add another dimension to this school.

"We educate our pupils at our Romero Academy schools from age two to nineteen, but we wanted a way to keep that connection to their school for the rest of their lives.

"The Wiseman Connection will allow every Cardinal Wiseman pupil to stay in touch even after they've finished their education here, and we hope former pupils with particular skills or connections will help the school out in years to come."

Cardinal Wiseman is also hoping to produce a book commemorating every year the school has been open from 1958, and staff would like to hear pupils' memories from each year.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the book or to join the Wiseman Connection should contact Caroline Clarke by emailing c.clarke@romeromac.com or calling 02476 451888.



Alumni member, Dean Kavanagh, MD of QED who attended Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School.



Sacred Heart gets Mousike-al

School children from across Coventry came together to showcase their musical talents while developing their scientific knowledge.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School welcomed more than 200 children from five other schools across the city and further afield for a Mousike Ensemble event - a specially-written production which combined music and learning.

The event had a 'science odyssey' theme, taking the children on a musical journey through the science National Curriculum.



Laura Stevenson and Paul Madia (back row) with pupils taking part in Mousike Ensemble.

The school was joined by fellow Romero schools St Gregory's and Good Shepherd Catholic Primary Schools as well as St Osburg's and St Anne's Catholic Primary Schools in Coventry and Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, in Princethorpe.

The event was led by Sacred Heart Principal Paul Madia and Vice-Principal Laura Stevenson who took on the characters of Professor Mad-Ear and Professor O-Deer to teach the pupils more about biology, physics and chemistry through science-themed music.

The children joined together to take part in a number of activities including performing a host science-themed songs and playing musical instruments.

Each school was also invited to perform their very own science odyssey showcase to the rest of the group.

The production was written by Paul Madia along with Chris Smith, Director of EmbedIT, a Midlands-based company which works with schools to help them embed the latest technology into the classroom.

Paul said: "It was excellent to welcome so many schools to Sacred Heart for the Mousike Ensemble event.

"It was a great way to not only celebrate music, but also learn more about science and the topics the children are covering in their classrooms.

"The event had specially-tailored songs to suit both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part.

"It coincided with the event being mirrored across Coventry in three other schools, with more than 19 primary schools taking part in total.

"We look to offer our pupils a rich curriculum which develops the whole child, and music is an excellent way to help their creativity thrive."



GB athlete inspires pupils to keep fit

Pupils at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School were put through their paces by a top-level athlete who wanted to inspire the children to play sport and keep fit.



Katie Stainton, a heptathlete from Solihull who competed in the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia, visited the school to encourage the pupils to lead a healthy life.

She led a 10-minute exercise circuit for the pupils involving jogging, leg thrusts, press ups and star jumps to finish. Once one set of pupils finished an exercise, another set of pupils took their place.

Katie then gave an assembly after all the pupils finished their circuits. She spoke about her athletics career and the importance of playing sport and keeping active.

Katie said: **"It was great to visit Sacred Heart and take these exercise classes – I was really pleased with how much enthusiasm the children had."**

"Every single one of them put their all into the exercises, which was fantastic to see."

"I hope my visit inspired the pupils to stay active - it's absolutely crucial that children get plenty of exercise and develop good habits at a young age to stay healthy throughout their lives."

Katie visited Sacred Heart as part of an initiative from fundraising organisation Sport for Champions, which helps raise money for unsponsored athletes as well as for schools.

Money was raised by the pupils in advance of Katie's visit, with 60 per cent going to Sacred Heart, and the rest going to Sport for Champions, which gives athletes a small fee for every school they attend.

Paul Madia, Principal at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, said:

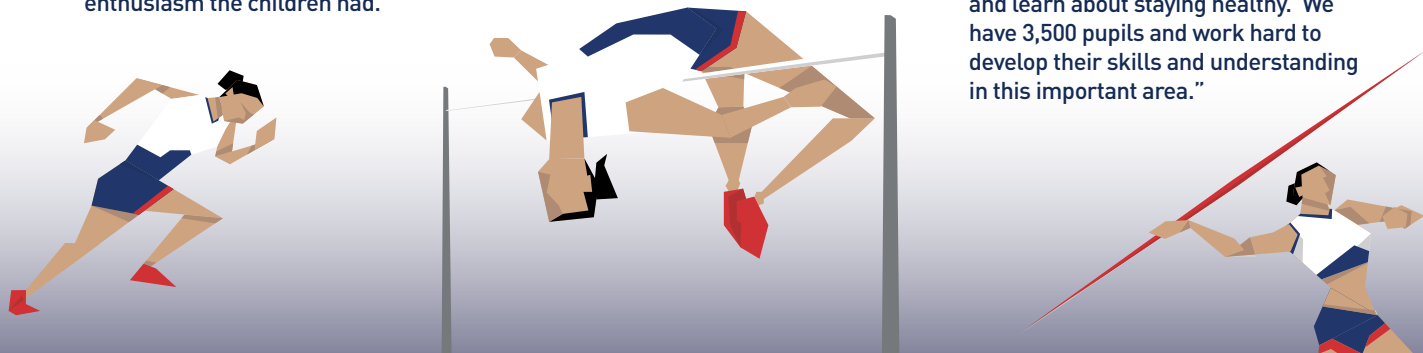
"While we encourage our pupils at Sacred Heart to stay active and play sport, it was lovely to have a top athlete like Katie come in and lead these exercise classes."

"The children were very excited during the sessions thanks to Katie's high energy, and I think her message in her assembly really resonated with them."

"It's also great to have helped support Katie in her training, while also raising money for Sacred Heart at the same time."

And Rhye Parry, PE Coordinator at the Romero Catholic Academy, added:

"This is another example of several initiatives that we run across our schools to help our pupils to exercise and learn about staying healthy. We have 3,500 pupils and work hard to develop their skills and understanding in this important area."





Pupils' plastic plea heard in Parliament

A plea from pupils at a St Gregory's Catholic Primary School to urge the Government to reduce plastic waste and encourage more people to recycle was formally heard in Parliament.

Year 6 pupils from the school recently undertook a research project into plastic waste, and whether it was being recycled enough.

Many of the pupils wrote to Coventry North East MP Colleen Fletcher asking her to raise the issue in Parliament and advocate for a deposit recycling scheme where people are charged a deposit when buying plastic bottles, but can earn it back by recycling the bottles.

And at Prime Minister's Questions during World Environment Day, Mrs Fletcher raised the pupils' letters formally.

Addressing David Lidington, who was standing in for Prime Minister Theresa May, she said: "Pupils from St Gregory's Primary School in my constituency recently wrote to me regarding the problem of plastic pollution in our environment.

"They rightly pointed out the damage that plastic waste causes to marine life and human life as it makes its way up the food chain.

"As a result, they are calling on the Government to introduce a deposit return scheme that will reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in landfill and in our oceans.

"On this World Environment Day does the Minister agree with the pupils of St Gregory's Primary School?"

In response, Mr Lidington said he had an 'encouraging message' to St Gregory's, and said the Government was consulting on a possible deposit return scheme in the future.

Marg Baker, Year 6 teacher at St Gregory's, was really pleased the pupils' hard work had resulted in a mention in Parliament.

She said: "This was a fabulous day for the pupils. Having their research project mentioned in Prime Minister's Questions by Colleen Fletcher made them feel really proud.

"It shows the younger generation have a voice. This is their future, and if they believe in something strongly enough they should stand up for it."

Geraldine Marshall, Principal of St Gregory's, said: "It is important that we encourage strong values within all of our children.

They are the future leaders of our country and the power of their voice can really make a difference. I'm delighted their concerns have been heard by Parliament."

And Helen Quinn, Catholic Senior Executive Leader at the Romero Catholic Academy added:

"We encourage all of our pupils at Romero schools to think for themselves and to be pro-active.

"This research project at St Gregory's made the Year 6 pupils feel they had to do something about plastic waste.

"Their decision to write to their MP paid off, and if the Government brings in a deposit recycling scheme, we can say St Gregory's had a part to play in that decision."





Romero backs Paddy's Plea

Parents, staff and the general public turned out in force at a Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School to support a donor drive to help a 12-year-old Earlsdon schoolboy with a debilitating blood condition.

Hundreds of potential donors headed to the school for a mouth swab from charity DKMS to see if they were a bone marrow match for Paddy Igoe, who has yet to find a match on the worldwide donor register.

Paddy suffers from aplastic anaemia - a condition which drastically weakens patients by lowering their blood cell count - and desperately needs a bone marrow transplant to treat him.

His mum Donna, an Early Years teacher at Sacred Heart - part of the Romero Catholic Academy - helped launch the 'Paddy's Plea' campaign along with DKMS to try and get the public to help him.

The plea was shared widely across social media, resulting in a huge response from the public.

A donor drive at Earlsdon Primary School, where Paddy was a pupil, saw 860 people register, and the drive at

Sacred Heart saw a further 704 people get swabbed.

Although the results of the swabs have yet to come through, Donna was hopeful the high turnout could have found a match for her son.

Donna said: "I'm astonished at how many people turned up to try and help Paddy - it really means the world to me.



DKMS
WE DELETE BLOOD CANCER

"Paddy's tissue type is very rare, but I know someone out there must be a match for him. So I'm incredibly grateful to everyone who came - every person who walked through the door increased Paddy's chances of getting better.

"When he was diagnosed with aplastic anaemia at the start of the year, our world was turned upside-down.

"His condition has made him very tired and weak - it's stopped him from going to school and from playing football, which is his favourite sport.

"But I'm still hopeful he can get his life back thanks to the generosity of those who came to the donor drives. I want to thank every single one of them."

When Donna told her colleagues at Sacred Heart about Paddy's condition, the staff rallied round her and invited DKMS to host a donor drive at the school.

Principal of Sacred Heart Paul Madia said: "As soon as Donna told us about Paddy's condition, we knew we had to do as much as we could to help him.

"We got in touch with DKMS and they were very happy to come down and swab as many people as possible.

"I'm so grateful to all the parents, staff and members of the public who came to Sacred Heart to get swabbed and potentially save Paddy's life."

And Lisa Nugent, head of donor recruitment at DKMS, was equally delighted with the public's response to the Paddy's Plea campaign.

"The turnout as a result of the Paddy's Plea appeal has been incredible," she said.

"A single mouth swab only takes ten minutes or so, but it could make all the difference for a child like Paddy or another patient in need.

"So we're delighted at the response from the public, and we also have to thank Sacred Heart for putting themselves forward to host a donor drive."





Volunteers help to improve garden

Volunteers from Coventry Building Society gave up their time to help a Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School create an attractive courtyard and social space for its sixth form students.

Pictured above: Coventry Building Society volunteers and Romero Catholic Academy staff pose by a digger donated by Clements. From left: Caroline Clarke, Grace Taggart, Rachel Byrne, Jaye Stansfield, Patrick Taggart, Nigel Bellamy, and Tom Froggatt.

The sixth form garden at the school is being turned into a new-improved space over the summer holidays.

And staff from Coventry Building Society's Walsgrave office came along to help landscape the area. They were also assisted with the donation of a digger donated by Mark Cooper at Clements Plant & Access Hire to help with the work.

Their visit follows substantial work from Cardinal Wiseman's site team to remove several sheds, trees and shrubberies in the old garden.

Caroline Clarke, Funding Coordinator and Bid Writer at the Romero Catholic Academy, said: "The sixth formers currently look out onto the garden, which was in need of some improvement. The school wanted to turn it into something more inviting that they could be proud of.

"Once the site team had completed the initial work over the last 12 months, I approached various businesses to see if they would be willing to help with tidying up the garden and preparing areas for the next stage of the project.

"We are very grateful to the volunteers from Coventry Building Society for coming down and supporting us and would like to thank them and Clements for letting us have a digger free of charge.

"This clean-up would have been a lot more difficult without their support."

One of the volunteers from Coventry Building Society, Tom Froggatt, said he enjoyed visiting the school to get started on the project.

He said: "It's always nice to come along to projects like this and help out. Cardinal Wiseman has great plans for this space, so it was great to be a part of the initial work.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing what the garden looks like once all the work is finished."

Patrick Taggart, Business Director of the Romero Catholic Academy, said: "It's great that companies like Coventry Building Society and Clements are volunteering their time and resources to help us continue this project.

"We refurbished our sixth form block last year and it is really pleasing to start the work on developing their outdoor area."





Romero Sports Awards

A Premier League footballer and former Coventry City player returned to his old Coventry school to inspire its current pupils to follow their sporting dreams.

Everton striker Bassala Sambou visited Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, part of the Romero Catholic Academy, to present the Romero Sports Awards 2018/19.

The awards, being held for the second time, celebrated the sporting achievements of pupils and staff across the Academy.

Bassala was joined by Wasps rugby player Tom Cruse, and Wes Blair, the coach of Wasps Netball's under-19 squad. All three handed out trophies to the winners.

Pupils and their parents and families from all schools in the Academy - Cardinal Wiseman, Corpus Christi, Good Shepherd, Sacred Heart, SS Peter and Paul, St Gregory's, St John Fisher and St Patrick's - came to the school to watch the ceremony.

Bassala, 21, attended Cardinal Wiseman after moving to the UK from Hanover in Germany as a child.

In a speech to the audience, the former Coventry City player thanked Cardinal Wiseman for supporting him during his time at the school and with his training at Coventry City.

He said: "Football was always my passion, and Cardinal Wiseman really understood that. They allowed me to take extra time off for my training at Coventry City.

"Their support allowed my game to get better and better, and now I'm playing for Everton, a Premier League side.

"I hope every pupil at Cardinal Wiseman and its sister primary schools follow their sporting dreams, because their schools will support them."

Rhye Parry, PE and Wellbeing Coordinator for the Romero Catholic Academy, said: "The Romero Sports Awards are a celebration of every school's sporting achievements throughout the year, and special congratulations must be given to all the nominees and winners.

"It was lovely to have Tom Cruse and Wes Blair here to present the awards, and having an ex pupil in Bassala here was extra special.

"We hope his visit showed pupils that, with hard work and dedication they can get to the top in whatever sport they play."

The winners in full were:

Sport Young Leader:

Key Stage 2 - Jason Mukwama (St Patrick's), Amelia Cripps (St Gregory's)

Key Stage 3 - Patrycja Bela (Cardinal Wiseman)

Key Stage 4 - Sophie Byrne (Cardinal Wiseman)

Key Stage 5 - Shivam Pandya (Cardinal Wiseman)

Sport Achiever of the Year:

Key Stage 1 - Lincoln Chapani (St Patrick's)

Key Stage 2 - Caiden Robinson (Good Shepherd)

Key Stage 3 - Jaffer Hassan (Cardinal Wiseman)

Key Stage 4 - Lilith Masterson (Cardinal Wiseman)

School Staff Member of the Year:

Primary - Elise Liggins (St Patrick's)

Secondary - Sarah Jefferson (Cardinal Wiseman)

School Sport Team of the Year:

Primary - St John Fisher's Swimming Team

Secondary - Cardinal Wiseman's Year 8 Boys' Football Team

School of the Year for Sport:

Sacred Heart

A snapshot from Twitter



Sacred Heart School
@SacredHeartCov_Jun 24

Cycling fun in the sun in the beautiful Derby countryside along the Tissington Trail with St John Fisher pupils and Sustrans West Midlands @SustransWMids



Sacred Heart School
@DKMS_uk_May 3

#FantasticFriday These are the lovely @SacredHeartCov staff and volunteers who have registered an incredible 684 potential donors today. Thank you so much to you all! - At Sacred Heart R C Primary School



St John Fisher
@SJF_Jun 6

Our fantastic year 5 cricketers were in action today and came 1st place in the Coventry Catholic Schools Cricket East Tournament. Well done everybody, an amazing achievement!



St Gregory's
@StGregsPrimary_Jul 2

Year 5 getting ready for their court case!



SS Peter and Paul
@SSPP_Coventry_Jul 2

Some of our Year 5s are enjoying their visit to @cardiffuni for their graduation with @StPatricksCov. Well done!



St John Fisher
@SJF_Jun 4

Technical rehearsal done and dancers and now in hair and makeup! #thegreatbigdanceoff2019



Romero MAC
@Romero_MAC_Jun 27

Our ICT team working at St Gregory's to complete the transition of all schools onto one tenant to enhance Romero wide communications #romero #beaconofexcellence



SS Peter and Paul
@SSPP_Coventry_Jun 27

Our amazing year 5 children have won the Romero Reading Competition, well done!



Cardinal Wiseman
@OfficialWiseman_Jun 23

The Malawi team are off to @HeathrowAirport to begin their 2019 adventure! Thanks to all who have donated supplies and resources for those in need. #Belncredible #Charity #GlobalEducation #Service @Romero_MAC @RCBirmingham @BhamDES @live_coventry



Good Shepherd
@GoodShepherdCOV_Jun 7

Year 1 have been exploring how compasses work!





Cardinal Wiseman
@OfficialWiseman_May 19

Our superb Gold Duke of Edinburgh students have just completed their three day expedition in the Peak District. Well done to all; we are so proud of you. #BeIncredible #WisemanStudentsCan #GoldDofE #DofE #DofEGold



Cardinal Wiseman
@OfficialWiseman_Jul 3

We are delighted to welcome our Y6 Transition students today! Our Lay Chaplain, Chloe, began with the school prayer and an inspiring story about the little things that we can achieve. #Wiseman #Transition2019 #Team2024 #BeIncredible



St Gregory's
@StGregsPrimary_Jun 11

We have arrived at West Minster Cathedral ready for our special mass with the Mini Vinnies!!



Corpus Christi
@CorpusPrimary_Jun 10

WE WON! Romero Deliberates Champions 2019! #debatingchampions #winners



St Patrick's
@StPatricksCov_May 24

The Superheroes even completed their Daily Mile. Well done everyone!



St Patrick's
@StPatricksCov_Jun 20

We are so proud of our athletics team who won the shield at the Catholic Sports Athletics competition! #TeamStPats #ProudTeachers



Good Shepherd
@GoodShepherdCOV_Jun 27

Well done Caiden 'Sports achiever of the year Key Stage 2'



Romero MAC
@Romero_MAC_Jun 10

A fantastic morning of debating took place today in our first ever Romero Deliberates Competition! All children were amazing and the judges were highly impressed with the level of speeches! Thank you to the Council House for letting us use the Council Chamber!



Corpus Christi
@CorpusPrimary_May 23

Great success yesterday at the Catholic school rally. Our footballers got through to the final and our netballers made it to the semi final. Well done to both teams #peatcorpuschristi #teamworkmakesadreamwork





The Romero Catholic Academy

Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow

We are a multi-academy company comprised of the following individual schools/academies:



Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School
Part of The Romero Catholic Academy



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School
Part of The Romero Catholic Academy



Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School
Part of The Romero Catholic Academy



SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School
Part of The Romero Catholic Academy



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
Part of The Romero Catholic Academy



St Gregory's Catholic Primary School
Part of The Romero Catholic Academy



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Part of The Romero Catholic Academy



St John Fisher Catholic Primary School
Part of The Romero Catholic Academy



Blue Sky
Teaching School Alliance