

Summer 2020

News Romero

News and events from across The Romero Catholic Academy



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
FR BOB AND MRS FLYNN**

A Romero Tribute

CORPUS CHRISTI NEW 3G PITCH

A world class facility for our pupils and community

**CARDINAL WISEMAN SANCTUARY
STATUS**

Celebrating inclusivity and diversity

Swimming Success for Saint John Fisher



APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

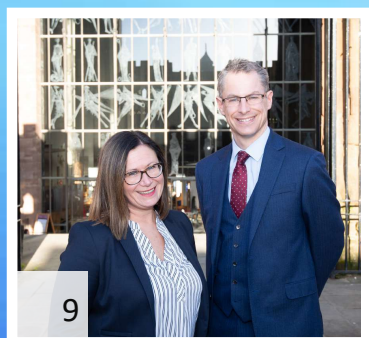
DANCE SQUAD

EARTH HOUR

Summer 2020

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Brendan Fawcett

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

Well what a strange year! Despite the lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic there's been plenty going on. Our schools have remained open to key workers throughout and we've seen some fantastic activity and learning both within schools and at home.

These last few months have undoubtedly been difficult for everyone. Within our Romero family we have lost two very special people. Carole Flynn was a much-loved member of staff at Corpus Christi who was one of the first COVID-19 victims in Coventry. Just talking to her you got a sense of her kindness, energy and fun. Father Bob also sadly passed away during March. Father Bob was my Parish Priest, he married me, he took my children through their sacraments and was such a driving force within both his parish schools of Saint Gregory's and Saint John Fisher and the wider Romero Community. We will miss them both greatly and we pay tribute to them on pages 10 and 11.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has also meant that we've had to delay the grand opening of our new 3G football pitch at Corpus Christi but on page 8 we'll give you a sneak preview of this fabulous new sporting facility.

However, these strange times have also offered opportunities. We've been asking all staff for their "Corona keeps" – new ways of working or things that have happened that are worth preserving when things become more normal. On Pages 14 and 15 cover our social media round up of the activities our children have been undertaking through lockdown. It has also been a time when we have been able to celebrate and let our Catholic virtues shine through. Many of our schools are now bedecked in rainbows to show our support for the NHS and key workers that have looked after us over this period and the children who have been in school have

been supporting in other ways. Before Lockdown, we celebrated many achievements. Find out why Saint John Fisher are such good swimmers on page 12. On page 4 we celebrate the achievements of Daniel Donnell, our Apprentice of the Year, and on page 9 we take a look at how Cardinal Wiseman are one of the few schools in the country to have achieved School of Sanctuary status. Sacred Heart and St John Fisher have enjoyed success with their Dance Squads (see page 6 and 7).

We are also highlighting two major areas of focus for next year. The first on page 17 is how we are improving our careers advice particularly at Cardinal Wiseman by utilising our fabulous Alumni so that our young people are inspired and aspire to be more. The second is the recent decision that we have taken to bring our Catering service in house. This will enable us to provide an improved and more nutritious food offer to our children and staff. On page 13 you'll find an interview with our new Romero Catering Manager, Tom O'Reilly, talking about his plans.

For all our students in Year 11 and 13, we know this year has been challenging for you particularly in light of the changes to examinations. We hope that when you receive your results, it will align with your expectations; we pray that you will be able to step onto your next destination and we wish you all success for the future. For all our pupils, we know it will be a strange summer but we are doing lots to prepare for what we hope will be the full re-opening of our schools to all pupils later in the year.

With best wishes for the summer,

Brendan



Romero Employee Wins 'Apprentice of the Year' Award

A young IT technician from within The Romero Academy is celebrating after being named as the Coventry Guild Apprentice of the Year for his superb work at the academy he once studied at.

Daniel Donnell, 23, won the prestigious title during a ceremony held at Coombe Abbey Hotel ahead of a large number of applicants.

He earned the award after his rapid progress since starting as an ICT apprentice at Saint John Fisher Catholic Primary School.

Daniel said: **"I was blown away when my name was read out at the ceremony, it was such a nice feeling to have won."**

"As a former pupil in Romero schools I now enjoy coming into the schools I used to study at and making a genuine difference to the pupils' learning, so although my apprenticeship wasn't easy, I loved throwing myself into it."

Daniel studied a Teacher's Technology Apprenticeship at Romero through Primary

Goal, an apprenticeship provider which works with schools all over the country.

This involved Daniel working at Saint John Fisher and SS Peter and Pauls Catholic Primary Schools and helping teachers deal with any IT issues which affected their classes.

Since then, Daniel has progressed to a full time IT Technician role in the Academy and was delighted to be appointed to the position.

Dee Williams Principal of Saint John Fisher Primary School added **"I'm absolutely thrilled at Daniel's success, and he is a credit to himself and the apprenticeship programme that we run across the Academy."**



Pupils at Good Shepherd support WWF with Earth Hour

Pupils at Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School, have taken part in the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF's) Earth Hour, which sees people across the globe come together to do their bit to help the planet.

The pupils, who are all the children of key workers, have been inspiring others to switch off all non-essential lights during Earth Hour by making invitations for family members as well as posting information on the school's website and social media pages.

They have also learnt about a variety of endangered species and how to protect them, decorated a tree with promise leaves featuring messages of how they can help the planet and looked at ways to raise awareness of plastic pollution.

The project was organised by the school's Eco Council which was set up last year to enable the school to become more environmentally friendly.

Michala Blackwell, Eco Leader at Good

Shepherd Catholic Primary School, said: **"Young people are key to protecting the future of our planet, so it's great to have an event like Earth Hour to help them better understand the importance of living sustainably."**

"Our Eco Council has done a fantastic job putting this project together."

"They came up with a variety of fun and engaging activities for pupils to take part in which everyone thoroughly enjoyed."

Patrick Taggart, Director of Operations, added: **"We have a really broad curriculum and activities like these are so important to making our children into well rounded individuals who have empathy for everything around them."**





The Dance Squad

A dance squad from Saint John Fisher Primary School is set to compete with the best in the country after wowing the judges at a competition in Birmingham.

The squad came in the top three of all schools competing in the West Midlands heat of the 'Great Big Dance Off', a national school dance competition.

The troupe of thirty pupils, performed at the Alexandra Theatre themed around mental health. The execution and level of difficulty of the dance impressed judges enough for the squad to finish third out of sixteen teams.

They will go onto the grand final at the New Theatre in Oxford in June, where they will be up



against all the other schools which finished in the top three of their regions.

Fellow Romero Academy school Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School also competed in Birmingham with an 'Alice in Wonderland' themed dance, but finished just outside of the top three.

Sophie Edge, PE lead at Sacred Heart, helped choreograph both dances alongside her sister Annie Pelchat, herself a teacher at Saint John Fisher.

She said: "It was an absolutely fantastic day, and both squads danced their hearts out. They did incredibly well, and we're especially proud of Saint John

Fisher's squad for making the top three and qualifying for the grand final."

Annie added "Giving our pupils an outlet to express themselves is so important, and dance is just one of the ways we do that."



Corpus Christi's New 3G Pitch

A brand new sports pitch at Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School is almost ready to open and it will not just be for the benefit of pupils.

The all-weather pitch will allow pupils to play a variety of sports, such as football, netball, touch rugby and much more.

And Corpus Christi will be able to lease the pitch out to the general public, meaning the community will also benefit from the new sporting facility.

Kevin Shakespeare, Principal at Corpus Christi, felt the new pitch would be a superb addition to the school.

He said: **"We're absolutely delighted our new 3G pitch is almost ready to open – it will be such an important asset to Corpus Christi in years to come.**

"At Corpus Christi, we strive to make sure our pupils not only have a well-rounded education in the classroom, but have plenty of chances to play sport and keep fit."

The Romero Catholic Academy are working with local football clubs to arrange community lettings, between 5pm-10pm in the week and 8am-10pm at weekends and during school holidays.

We are keen to encourage local groups to use the pitch which will become a great asset to the school, Academy and neighbourhood. This is a major step forward in our schools working with the community and we are looking to develop our school lettings further across the MAC to fit with our aim of developing vibrant communities.

Patrick Taggart, Director of Operations at The Romero Catholic Academy, added: **"The opening of this amazing 3G pitch is wonderful news for not only Corpus Christi and the Academy, but for the wider public as well.**

"We're confident the new pitch will give Corpus Christi, The Romero Catholic Academy and the local community a real boost for many years to come."



Cardinal Wiseman Awarded School of Sanctuary Status

Cardinal Wiseman is leading the way in helping children who have moved to the city as refugees thrive in the world of work and further education.

Tom Leverage, Executive Principal at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, spoke about his school's success at a special event.

The 'Schools of Sanctuary' event at Coventry Cathedral brought together school leaders, other professionals and students.

A senior teacher from Coventry EMAS, Leanne Cameron, is now based part time at Cardinal Wiseman to support the school's distinct programme of education for newly arrived young people.

Tom said: **"Thanks to the hard work of Leanne and our teachers, every single student involved in the scheme has gone on to either study in further education, find a job or be in training, which is absolutely fantastic."**

"We were only too happy to welcome them to our school, and since we began, the course has

proved highly successful for these students."

"During the course, the pupils have access to a key language specialist during their studies."

"They complete qualifications in mathematics, humanities and computing."

'Schools of Sanctuary' is an award that schools can earn if they can demonstrate with evidence that their school is safe and welcoming for refugees and asylum seekers.

Leanne Cameron said Cardinal Wiseman was well on its way to becoming the first school in Coventry to meet these new criteria.

She said: **"Cardinal Wiseman is the only school in the region which is providing support to young refugees and asylum seekers on this kind of scale."**

"The school is a fantastic example of how to help refugees and asylum seekers integrate into society, and we hope many more schools in Coventry follow their example."

In Loving

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Father Bob

Father Robert Wright served as a Priest for 43 years and he spent the last 26 years serving the people of Saint John Fisher Parish in Coventry. Father Bob dedicated his life to serving others and was an inspiration to us all. A strong, yet kind and humble man, he served his people well.

Father Bob was a long-standing and active Governor in each of his Parish schools; Saint John Fisher and Saint Gregory's. He worked hard to support the pupils, families and staff and gave of his time endlessly.

There are too many acts of kindness to mention but Father Bob felt passionately about supporting children and adults with Special Educational Needs. He was one of the founders of The Redditch Catholic Fellowship and whilst working in Coventry supported the Coventry Catholic Fellowship. Father Bob ensured that many young people and adults enjoyed holidays, visits to Lourdes, theatre trips and of course the annual pantomime.

Born and bred in Coventry, Father was one of the Sky Blues'

most loyal supporters. He was delighted to bless the pitch at the Ricoh Arena many years ago before the team's first game.

As many would know, Father would update his Parishioners on the Sky Blues' performance on a weekly basis and always say a prayer for them. Father Bob was much-loved and greatly respected by all and the parish and school recently commemorated his 70th birthday.

He will never be forgotten.

Memory of

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Mrs Flynn

It is with great sadness that we must announce the loss of a very dear friend and colleague, Carole Flynn. For all those people who had the pleasure and privilege of knowing Carole, they will feel the loss of a truly remarkable and sparkly person who would fill a room with warmth and laughter by simply being present.

Carole has been the heart and soul of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School for many years supporting children, parents and staff alike. Nothing was

too much trouble for Carole. If she could help, she would and if she couldn't, she would find a way. The children of Corpus Christi, past and present, were at the forefront of all that she did; she carried a special place in her heart for each and every one of them.

Not only was Carole and integral cog in school life, but she was at the heart of the parish and community, giving hope, love and support to all. She was fun-loving, kind and had an infectious smile which brought people joy.

Sadly, Carole leaves behind her family that she was so proud of; her two sons and her daughter. Carole has left a legacy behind her that will continue.

For all who knew Carole, they know that Heaven will have a little more sparkle today, but we will miss the glitter and shine that she has taken with her.

God bless Carole.



Saint John Fisher Swimming Success

Pupils from every primary school in The Romero Catholic Academy made a big splash at a major annual swimming gala.

The Coventry Catholic Sports' Association Swimming Gala saw seventeen primary schools across Coventry, split into 'East' and 'West' divisions, compete against each other in individual and relay races.

The gala, held at the Pingles Leisure Centre in Nuneaton, was watched by a packed and vocal crowd of fellow pupils, teachers and parents who constantly cheered the swimmers on in every race.

The squads from the seven Romero schools competed in the East division, and after an intense morning of competition, the East heats were won by Saint John Fisher Catholic School, with Sacred Heart finishing as runners up.

The finals were held during the afternoon, and Saint John Fisher, Sacred Heart, and Corpus Christi were pitted against the best Catholic schools from the West division.

Despite finishing second in the heats, it was Sacred Heart who finished highest in the finals in fourth place, Saint John Fisher sixth and Corpus Christi eighth.

Sophie Edge, PE Lead at Sacred Heart, coordinated the races on the day, and praised every pupil who took part. She said: **"This gala was a fantastic day of competitive swimming, and every swimmer who got into the pool should be very proud of their efforts."**

"Swimming is such a key skill for children to learn, and we strive to make sure every pupil is able to swim by Year 6."

"Special congratulations should go to Saint John Fisher's squad for winning the East heats, and to Sacred Heart for finishing fourth in the final."



Come Dine With Us

The Romero Catholic Academy Space Centre in Leicester, the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry and the Royal Pump Rooms in Leamington Spa.

dishing up a top quality menu to its pupils.

Tom has more than thirty years experience within the culinary and hospitality industry and will support the Academy as it takes its currently outsourced catering in-house from September.

Tom has held various management positions within Four-Star hotels and conference centres and has also managed multi-site catering contracts for venues including the National

Tom said: **"I am very excited to bring the catering service in-house at The Romero Catholic Academy, it's something that has been outsourced by a high proportion of schools, so this is very forward-thinking.**

"Catering companies look after numerous schools which means they can often work on a one size fits all approach, however cooking in-house will allow the Academy to be more flexible

with its menus and tailor the offer to our pupils and staff."

Patrick Taggart, Director of Operations said: **"We are extremely excited to bring our catering in-house, enabling us to provide pupils with a menu that features a wide variety of dishes made with the freshest local ingredients."**



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ROMERO THROUGH LOCKDOWN



Good Shepherd

Olivia's and David's space rockets! Well done to David (Year 1) for completing his thirty day maths challenge.



Cardinal Wiseman

Thank you Casey, Year 13 at Cardinal Wiseman for reminding us to show our appreciation and gratitude to NHS.



Saint Gregory

Our amazing Key worker children enjoyed making strawberry ice-cream and tasting their scrumptious treat. Very welcome on this beautiful day!



Corpus Christi

Reception Bubble A have had another lovely week! We have been practising our sounds, reading and writing green words and writing sentences! We have also been doing some maths and having fun playing in the sunshine.



Saint Patrick

We've been having lots of fun decorating our cakes and doing some exercises in the field!



Sacred Heart

A socially distancing outdoor activity for our key worker children, during the wonderful Spring weather.



Saint Gregory

Following our Wednesday Wellbeing Assembly some of our children have created their own Worry Monsters, what a great idea and so lovely to see our amazing children.

There's a rainbow after the rain.

We'll get through the storm together.



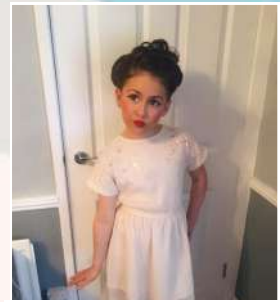
Julie Fulea, Romero Director

Julie who works as a Matron in the NHS guided Romero staff through a PPE training session, which was extremely informative and appreciated by all.



Saint John Fisher

Meet Sunny and Summer, Saint John Fisher's very own scarecrows! These were made by Kaityln and her mum.



SS Peter and Paul

Well done Layla! What a star worthy performance! We hope that Colonel Tom gets to see this!



SS Peter and Paul

The children had a very special assembly today led by the Duchess of Cambridge.



Saint John Fisher

Virtual Games Well done to Aiva and Noah we are super proud of you for taking part in the School Games Virtual Athletics.





SS Peter and Paul Making Cards for NHS

Compassionate children at a Coventry primary school are trying to raise the spirits of coronavirus patients by hand-making get-well cards for them.

Pupils at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, part of The Romero Catholic Academy, have been making the cards during the school day if they are coming in because they are the children of key workers.

All year groups have been taking part in designing and creating the cards by hand, which are full of well-wishes for those in hospital fighting COVID-19.

Cards have also been written

for patients in hospital who are banned from having visitors due to the disease.

The cards will be delivered to Walsgrave Hospital every Friday, and it is hoped more cards can be delivered to other hospitals too.

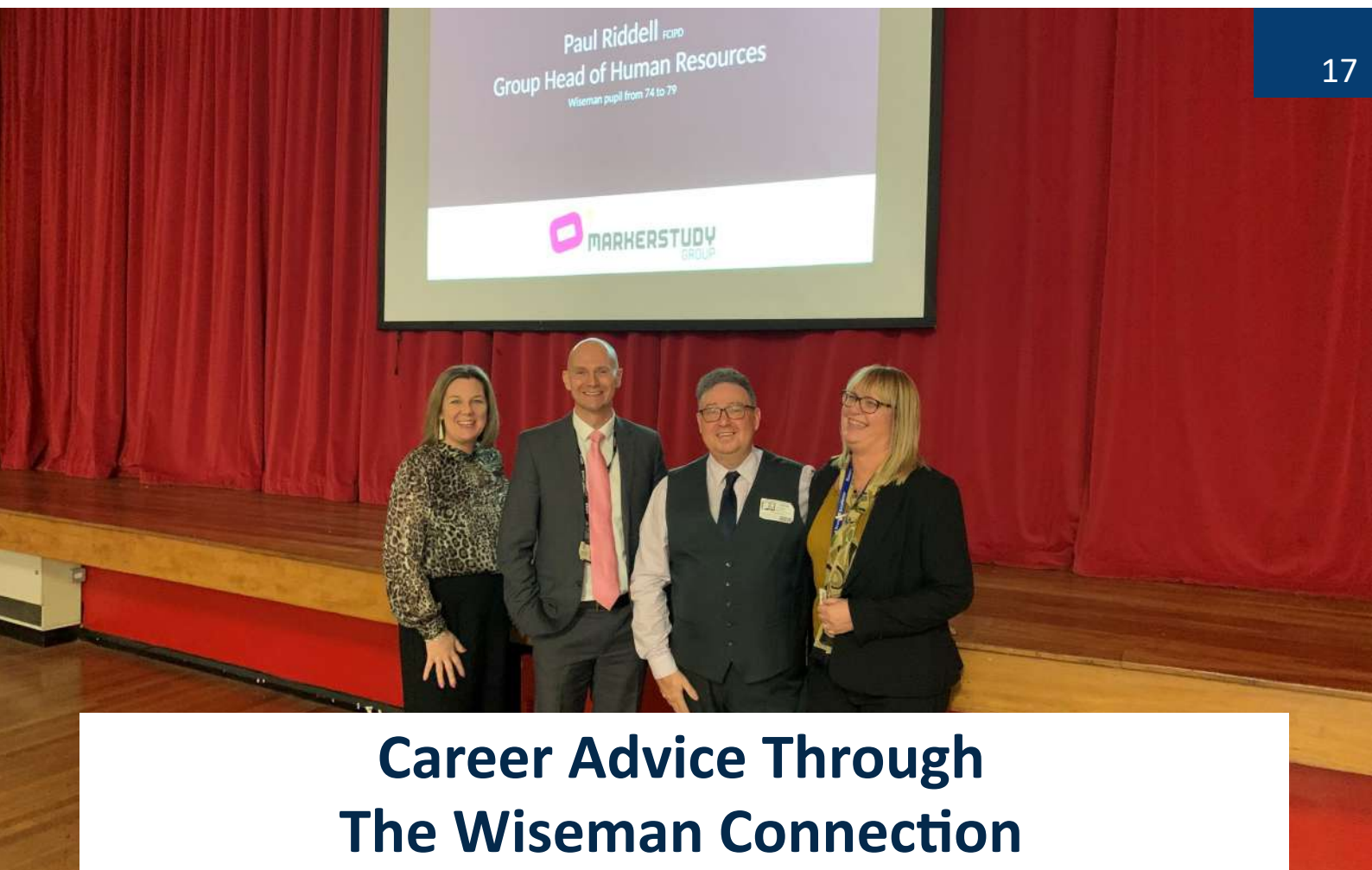
Laurie Jackson, Year 5 teaching assistant at SS Peter and Paul, has been overseeing the card-making, and has been really impressed with the pupils' enthusiasm.

She said: **"The pupils who have been coming into school want to help make these cards, they may be young, but they are aware of what coronavirus is and why it's so serious.**

"It's fantastic to see how enthusiastic our pupils are about doing this. It's so important in times like these to focus on our Catholic values of being compassionate and loving, and our pupils are showing these qualities in spades."

The idea to create get well cards initially came from one pupil whose mother and father work at Walsgrave Hospital.

Ss Peter and Paul's Principal, Lorraine Stanton, added: **"We're all in this together, so I'm delighted our pupils have taken such a positive step to help cheer people up."**



Career Advice Through The Wiseman Connection

Cardinal Wiseman welcomed opportunities for students asking questions and advice.

Paul Riddell, Group Head of Human Resources for the Markerstudy Group, to address Sixth Form students in this month's careers talk.

Paul, a former Cardinal Wiseman pupil, attended the school between 1974 and 1979.

The presentation was followed by a Question and Answer session. Paul provided students with details of his current role within the Markerstudy Organisation. Markerstudy Group is one of the top thirty Sunday Times' Best Big Companies.

Paul went on to describe the

variety of companies owned by Markerstudy Group. Including ALEX, the Apprenticeship Learning Experience, the multi-award winning programme open to apprenticeships within the various business owned by the Markerstudy Group. Apprentices are fully supported through their training schedule and have the opportunity to stay with the Group once they complete their Apprenticeship.

Paul's advice on interview techniques was invaluable to the audience. The Sixth Form students engaged with Paul

The students have been offered a dedicated service from Markerstudy Group by way of one to one mentoring, advice line and assistance as they being their working lives.

The value of these talks will enable students to receive information, advice and offer possibilities they may not have previously considered as future careers.

It is also a fantastic way for former pupils to demonstrate how their lives have been shaped since they studied and moved on from Cardinal Wiseman.



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Social Media Snapshot



Corpus Christi

@Corpusprimary_Jun23

Our students had a great afternoon celebrating Olympic day. They competed in various sporting events in the lovely sunshine.



Sacred Heart

@SacredHeartCov_Jun23

Year 1/2 children have had a fab day inspired by the underwater film camera 'Melville' from our book Flotsam. They looked at how photos are captured and developed.



Saint John Fisher

@SJF_May21

We explored our wonderful school grounds to go on a 'senses scavenger hunt' and had lots of fun in the shade!



Good Shepherd

@GoodShepherdCOV_May17

Today would have been the day our Year 3 children would have received the sacrament of First Holy Communion.



Cardinal Wiseman

@OfficialWiseman_May1

Our wonderful 'Compass for Life' is fully launched with our wonderful banners on Saint Francis block and the main quadrangle in Cardinal Wiseman.



Saint Gregory's

@StGregorysPrimary_June18

Kingdom of the Monkeys planted their sunflowers, looked at the diet of a fox and found a red ants nest and larvae.



SS Peter and Paul

@SSPP_May21

We have had a lovely afternoon out in the sun making our first initials with sticks!



Saint Patrick's

@StPatricksCov_Jun22

Nursery are having an amazing time outside. We have been digging in the mud, finding the worms in the soil and making houses and beds for them.



Saint Gregory's
@StGregsPrimary_Jun24

The Kingdom of Superstars have been on a minibeast hunt to the forest this week. They found bees, ladybirds and butterflies!



Saint Patrick's
@StPatricksCov_Jun22

Year 6 were finally able to go to our home church of St Patrick's this morning, for silent prayer. We felt very pleased to be back.



The Wiseman Connection
@TheWisemanConnection

Cardinal Wiseman School Netball Team March 1976. Coventry Champions off to the National Championships.



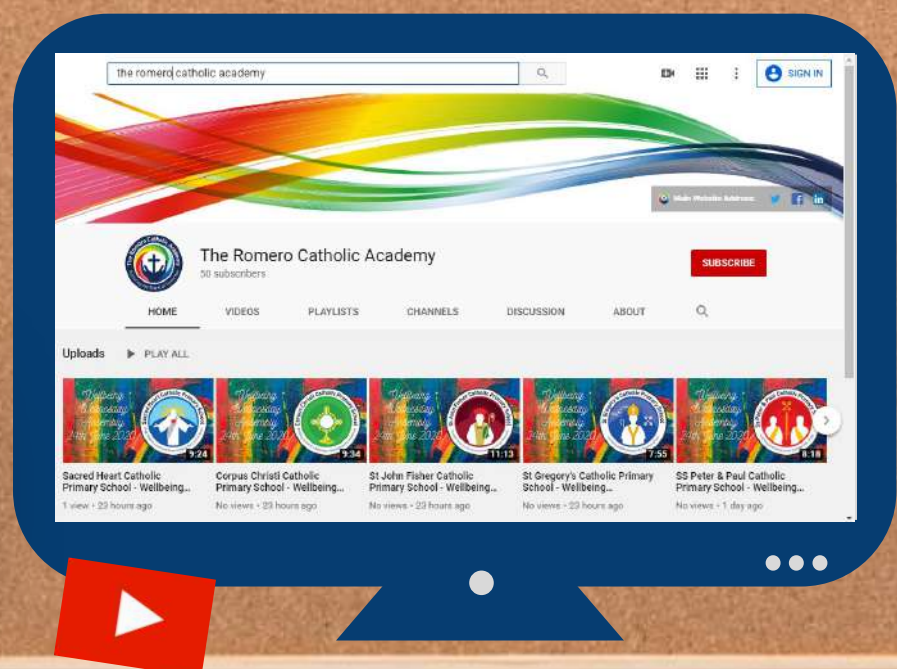
Sacred Heart
@SacredHeartCov_Jun24

Miss Allport's bubble were given a forest school challenge of building a den entirely from nature. They worked incredibly as a team and problem solved so well - look at their incredible work!



Corpus Christi
@CorpusChristi_May14

Today we had lots of fun making slime!





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

Omnia pro Christo



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

Walking in Christ's footsteps, opening hearts and minds



Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School

One Fold, One Family, Walking with Christ



Ss Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School

Learning and loving on our journey with Jesus



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Pray, Reflect, Learn and Grow to Mirror the Love of Jesus



St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Growing in the Service of God



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

With Jesus we love, grow and succeed



St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

To live, love and learn, in our caring community



Blue Sky

Teaching School Alliance

Romero News
News and events from across The Romero Catholic Academy

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