



The Romero Catholic Academy
Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow

Winter 2021

News

Romero

News and events from across The Romero Catholic Academy



RUGBY WORLD CUP STAR VISITS ROMERO

Phil Vickery shares his knowledge and experience of team building.

GUARDIAN BALLERS FILM PREMIER

Coventry MIND develop mental health programme via sport.

A DIAMOND CELEBRATION

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School held a day of celebrations to mark its 60th anniversary.

NEW THEATRE MAKES A DRAMATIC IMPACT

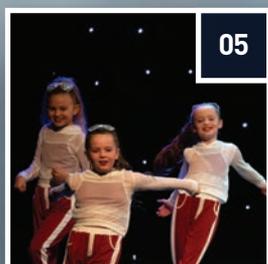


**GIVING BACK TO THE NHS
COP26 ARRIVES AT Ss PETER AND PAUL**

Romero ^{News}

News and events from across The Romero Catholic Academy

Winter 2021



Contents

Welcome to our Winter newsletter	4
Sacred Heart perform at Coventry's Gotta Dance Showcase	5
Rugby world cup star lifts Romero staff conference	6
A diamond celebration for Corpus Christi	8
School welcome back founding Head after 50 years	10
City of Culture supporting mental health via sport	12
Stickz and Stonez visit Cardinal Wiseman	14
Lord Mayor delivers award to Ss Peter and Paul	15
Alumni: Life after Wiseman	16
New theatre makes a dramatic impact	18
Cop26 arrives at Ss Peter and Paul	20
Giving back to the NHS	21
A snapshot from Twitter	22





Brendan Fawcett



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

Welcome to our Winter newsletter

As we come to the end of another calendar year, it's fabulous to look back and see how much has been going on across our schools during a year that has brought many challenges. Hopefully this winter newsletter provides a flavour of the life across our schools over the past four months.

We were delighted to hold our 5th annual staff conference at Cardinal Wiseman on 22nd October and were very lucky to be able to listen to a range of educational, sporting and spiritual speakers throughout the day. Our new in-house catering team provided an outstanding service and food throughout the day and we were very fortunate to be supported by one of our Catering suppliers, Creed who sponsored staff refreshments and a goody bag on the day. Phil Vickery Ex England Rugby Captain and world cup winner delivered an outstanding presentation around team work and communication and many staff were thrilled to get the opportunity for a photo and chat.

We have had two joyous school celebrations with Corpus Christi's 60th anniversary and St Gregory's 50th anniversary and The Most Reverend Bernard Longley, the Archbishop of Birmingham celebrated masses at both events. The two celebrations recognised the amazing contributions that both schools have made to their communities over the years and both schools invited back many ex staff, including Richard Carson the original Head Teacher at St Gregory's.

Cardinal Wiseman Staff and pupils have responded really positively to the investment in their newly refurbished 288-seat theatre. The development has seen the school hall transformed to include new theatre style automatic seating, the latest Audio Visual equipment, professional lighting and a hi-tech sound system.

It is complemented by a new outdoor patio area directly outside, which features a large electric canopy, seating and activities including table tennis tables. Not only will the theatre be used by students and schools from our Academy, but it will also be open to the community. We are hopeful that amateur dramatics groups, dance clubs and other schools, clubs, organisations and businesses will take advantage of the facility.

Our Primary schools have continued to offer fantastic learning opportunities to our children. Ss Peter and Paul has been awarded the Coventry Peace Award, a scheme launched by the Coventry Lord Mayor's Committee for Peace and Reconciliation. Children and staff were visited by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, councillor John McNicholas, and committee member Pru Porretta MBE, who presented the award and heard what the school did to receive it.

St Gregory's have also been winning awards, the Circle of Life Award in recognition of a special project held in aid of the NHS. The school children received the award which recognises the work of young people who have made a positive contribution to their community. The children held a non-uniform day, an animal themed wellbeing Wednesday afternoon and an after school 'movies and munchies' event for the whole school, raising a total of £478.73 for the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire Charity.

Sacred Heart's dance group have been successful in getting through to the

later stages of this year's 'Great Big Dance Off', a national school dance competition, and are now preparing to take to the stage once again for the regional heats. The school's new dance team took part in the Coventry's Gotta Dance Showcase at The Albany Theatre. The children are really looking forward to be working towards their first competition in February which will be held at the Alexandra Theatre, in Birmingham."

Cardinal Wiseman are delighted with the outcome of their project with Guardian Ballers, a Coventry and Warwickshire Mind service, launched in March 2021 by founding director Kieran Joseph who left a career in teaching to bring his vision of launching a service which uses sport to support school children with their mental health.

A film showcasing the service was premiered in the new theatre with Coventry's Lord Mayor in attendance, where guests were able to watch the film on the big screen before taking part in a question-and-answer session with Kieran and others involved.

I would like to send out a huge thank you from the Board and LAC members to all staff for the incredible lengths that you go to ensure our pupils have a great education and experiences across our eight schools.

I hope you enjoy reading this winter's Romero newsletter and have a happy and holy Christmas. God Bless.

Brendan Fawcett

On behalf of the Romero
MAC Board of Directors



Sacred Heart perform at Coventry's Gotta Dance Showcase

November 24th was an exciting evening for our dance team. They had their debut theatre performance at The Albany Theatre performing in the Coventry's Gotta Dance Showcase.

The children have spent the last 10 weeks working exceptionally hard to learn and practise their street dance routine titled 'Check This Out'. The children absolutely smashed their first performance and were a credit to the school. They are now working towards their first competition in February at the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham.

Patrick Taggart Director of Operations commented **"It is great to see our pupils engaging and performing so well in this area. We work incredibly hard to provide our 3500 pupils across the Academy with a broad and stimulating curriculum, as this gives all our pupils the opportunity to express their talents"**.

"We look forward to the performance at the Alexandra Theatre in February and wish the group every success on the day".





Rugby world cup star lifts Romero staff conference

An English sporting icon was on hand to discuss teamwork and the importance of positivity with hundreds of staff members from the Academy as part of the annual staff day.

The Romero Catholic Academy invited every single staff member from its eight schools to its annual staff day at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, leaving some starstruck by the sight of 2003 Rugby World Cup winner Phil Vickery.

More than 500 staff members from the Academy attended to a day of inspiring talks on the importance of working together, including a special appearance from the English rugby legend.

The revered England no. 3, who also claimed the Celebrity Masterchef title in 2011, delivered an inspiring talk to guests about his upbringing, his achievements in the game and the people who inspired him to succeed before fielding questions in a lively Q&A session.

He said: "I often get asked if we could have won the World Cup without Jonny Wilkinson and I always say 'I don't know' but I do know that he couldn't



“... the message that I wanted to impart today - having a great headteacher alone doesn't make a great school, it takes everyone.”



World Cup winner Phil Vickery delivered a motivational speech to staff as part of Romero Catholic Academy's annual staff day.



have won it without us, and that is the message that I wanted to impart today - having a great headteacher alone doesn't make a great school, it takes everyone.

“Everyone is here because of the importance of what they do and when I think about the impact that everyone from teachers to cleaners and dinner ladies had on my journey it reminds me that you can have an effect on people by simply having a positive personal interaction and taking an interest in how they are doing.

“It's clear to see that everyone at the Academy is on the same page and in search of a shared goal, which is crucial when you want to achieve big things in any occupation, and I hope they came away from the event with a reminder of the part they play in the lives of thousands of young girls and boys.”

The talk was held within Cardinal Wiseman's new 288-seat auditorium,

which includes automatic theatre-style seating, professional lighting and a hi-tech sound system, complemented by a new outdoor patio area directly outside which features a large electric canopy and table tennis tables.

Patrick Taggart, Director of Operations at the Romero Catholic Academy, said: **“We were delighted to see so many people from across the Romero family in one place to share in a day of ideas and inspiration.**

“Phil was a fantastic guest and said some important things about everyone here playing a role to achieve something greater and how our staff at each of our schools can come together to impact thousands of young people.

“I'd also like to thank our catering partners Creed Foodservice for sponsoring this event and allowing our staff members to experience a day all about the importance of reaching out to people and supporting others in the

pursuit of personal and shared goals.”

Guests also heard from author, catechist and motivational speaker David Wells who was on hand to address staff on the subject of faith in schools.

He said: **“It was lovely to see so many members of staff coming together and having an opportunity to speak with some of them and hear about the good work that has been going on at the Romero Catholic Academy.**

“I thought Phil made an excellent speaker and summed up the day's theme perfectly.”

In addition, there were sessions focusing on the importance of reading. David Didau, freelance writer, speaker and trainer, addressed the Key Stage 2, 3, 4, 5 teachers looking at the progression model in English. Hilary Minns led a workshop on rhymes and stories to inspire teachers and support staff in Early Years and Key Stage One.



A diamond celebration for Corpus Christi

Children from Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School take part in a special Mass to celebrate the milestone.

60TH ANNIVERSARY

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School held a day of celebrations to mark its 60th anniversary.

The Most Reverend Bernard Longley, the Archbishop of Birmingham, (centre) joins Zoe Pollard, Kevin Shakespeare, Jenny Cortese and Zara Flynn, of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School.



The school welcomed The Most Reverend Bernard Longley, the Archbishop of Birmingham, who held a Mass for children, staff and governors as well as colleagues from across the Academy.

He also blessed the school's new sensory garden which was created in memory of learning mentor Carole Flynn, who passed away last year.

Tours of the school were held and everyone was treated to an ice cream.

Corpus Christi Principal Kevin Shakespeare said:

"We had a fantastic time celebrating the school's 60th anniversary.

"It was excellent to welcome the Archbishop - it's the first time he's visited Corpus Christi so it was nice that he not only led a Mass, but had the opportunity to tour the school to see some of our outstanding facilities.

"We also welcomed our new Parish Priest, Father Stephen Fawcett, who joined us for the celebrations.

"The children really enjoyed the day and the brilliant weather meant they were able to enjoy their ice creams in the sunshine.

"We will be continuing our 60th anniversary celebrations into next year, culminating in a series of events in June when we hope Covid

restrictions allow us to welcome the whole school community."

Patrick Taggart, Director of Operations, said: **"It was a very special day for the school and celebrated so many outstanding things that the school has done for its pupils and community over the past 60 years.**

"The school and parish have been a bedrock for the community and offer an amazing learning environment for its staff and pupils.

"Community engagement continues to thrive via the school's new floodlit 3G pitch which provides first class facilities to more than ten local sports clubs per week."

Children at St Gregory's Catholic Primary School enjoy ice creams and ice lollies as part of the celebrations.



School welcome back founding Head after 50 years

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School has held a day of celebrations to mark half a century of delivering education to children in the city.

The school welcomed special guests including a number of former staff members and their families, as well as its very first headteacher Richard Carson.

The Most Reverend Bernard Longley, the Archbishop of Birmingham, held a Mass for children, staff and governors, colleagues from across the Academy and guests.

He then blessed the school's newly-refurbished hall which has been named 'The Robert Wright Hall' in memory of its parish priest and

school chaplain Father Robert Wright - better known as Father Bob - who passed away in March last year.

Guests were then treated to canapes and refreshments before taking a tour of the school which included displays of photos taken across the 50 years while the children enjoyed a special lunch.

The children also had a visit from an ice cream van and were given commemorative bookmarks and sweet cones to take home.

Paul Madia, who was Executive Principal at St Gregory's Catholic Primary School at the time of the anniversary, said: **"It has been wonderful to reflect on 50 years of delivering Catholic education in Coventry and celebrating everything the school has achieved during this time."**

"It's been fantastic to welcome previous leadership and staff members from across the years and also welcome the Archbishop of Birmingham who delivered a Mass and paid tribute to much-missed Father Bob."

"The children had a wonderful day celebrating and sang so beautifully during Mass, and of course enjoyed the visit from the ice cream van!"

Richard Carson, who retired from his position in 1999, said: **"It was brilliant to come back to St Gregory's Catholic Primary School**

once again to celebrate such a milestone."

"When the school opened, I was the youngest head in Coventry at the time at just 29-years-old."

"I chose the colours of the uniform which are still used today and so have many fond memories from across the years."

"It was excellent to share these memories and catch-up with former staff members, and it was a lovely way to also remember Father Bob who I knew very well."

"It was a very fitting celebration to mark the occasion and I am extremely proud to have been part of it."

The family of Paul Ryan, the school's second head who has sadly passed away, also attended the event.

Paul's wife Julie Ryan said:

"Being back at the school brought back so many memories and it was wonderful to reminisce with present and former staff members."

"It was so nice to see old faces and share stories, and it was lovely for our two daughters to visit once more."

"It's such a family-orientated school and it's fantastic to be part of this community and celebrate such an important milestone."

Ina Murphy, who worked at the school for 30 years – eight of which she spent as head, added:

"St Gregory's is such a lovely school and I am extremely proud to be associated with it."

"To go back into the hall and see the children and staff brought it all back. It's a place that will always be in my heart and it was excellent to visit for the anniversary celebrations."

The Most Reverend Bernard Longley, the Archbishop of Birmingham, joins Paul Madia and Megan Scullion, of St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, and Helen Quinn, Catholic Senior Executive Leader at the Romero Catholic Academy.





City of Culture supporting mental health via sport

The Premier of Guardian Ballers first film was held at the newly renovated Theatre at Cardinal Wiseman. The film shines a spotlight on Guardian Ballers work with young people across the city, not only teaching them new basketball skills, but also how to cope with challenges in their lives which may have an impact on their mental health.

SUPPORTED BY



Guardian Ballers, a Coventry and Warwickshire Mind service, was launched in March 2021 by founding director Kieran Joseph. Kieran left a career in teaching to bring his vision of launching a service which uses sport to support school children with their mental health to life.

The film explores Guardian Ballers' work with students at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School - the very first school to work with the service - and Whitley Academy.

As well as taking a general look at the work done by the Guardian Ballers, the film focuses on five young people who share their stories and give an insight into just how much their lives have been changed thanks to the team behind the service.



Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School Principal Matthew Everett (left) and Guardian Ballers founder Kieran Joseph (right) with two of the pupils who feature in the film.

The film was commissioned as part of the Community Connectors Programme which was launched by Coventry City of Culture Trust and 64 Million Artists to provide funding for creative projects which benefit areas of Coventry during its time as the UK City of Culture.

Kieran then enlisted the services of Ryan and Sara Ormes of RS Creative Solutions to produce the film.

A special event was held to premiere the film at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School's new 288-seater theatre where guests were able to watch the film on the big screen before taking part in a question-and-answer session with Kieran and others involved.

Kieran said: **"We are extremely proud to launch our 'Guardian Ballers Life Stories' film.**

"It shows how something that came from an idea is now completely transforming the lives of young people right across Coventry.

"It gives a fantastic overview of the programme while focusing on a diverse group of five individuals, with filming taking place in their schools, neighbourhoods and homes to give a 360-degree picture.

"We have reached 900 young people aged between 11 and 18 since launching in March and are now working with nine schools, providing a programme which links sport with mental health awareness and giving students a space where they can talk openly about their emotions, and that number is only set to grow.

"Holding the premiere at Cardinal Wiseman was very special - they were the first school to allow us to deliver sessions to students, and we're so pleased that many more schools have followed in their footsteps.

"We received a huge amount of positive feedback at the event - everyone was spellbound by the film and we also heard from some young people who spoke about what Guardian Ballers means to them which was an incredible highlight, as although we've now worked with hundreds of students it's important to

remember that it's the individuals who are at the heart of our programme.

"Since the films release, the creative artistry of producers Ryan and Sara has been praised by many who have commented on how the film captivates an audience through their story-telling gift."

Matthew Everett, Principal of Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, said: **"We were delighted to host the premiere of 'Guardian Ballers Life Stories' as the very first event in our new theatre.**

"At Cardinal Wiseman we focus on developing the whole child, which includes promoting positive mental health and providing our students with the tools to enable them to be resilient.

"This is why our work with Guardian Ballers has been so important. Kieran and the team deliver fantastic sessions which not only focus on how sport can improve mental health and wellbeing, but also encourage students to talk openly about their feelings and emotions.

"The film provides a real insight into just how much of an impact they are having, and we look forward to continuing to work with the team in the future."

The film can now be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/eFXVptWLU1A>



Stickz and Stonez visit Cardinal Wiseman

Students at Cardinal Wiseman have been given an insight into the world of fashion by working together to create their school's very own bespoke basketball kit.

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School has been working with apparel and teamwear brand Stickz and Stonez, which visited the school to deliver a number of fashion workshops to students.

The new Year 7 students were tasked with designing the school's basketball kit in a session lead by joint founder of the brand Alex Begyinah.

Each student designed their own kit before Alex worked with the school's Senior Leadership Team and Student Leadership Board to pick the best elements of each design to create a home kit, away kit and a third kit, all of which were also inspired by the school's values.

Alex also ensured each kit featured the number of a legendary basketball player as well as branding from Guardian Ballers, a Coventry and Warwickshire Mind service which delivers basketball sessions at the school to both empower students and encourage them to open up about their mental health.

The kits were made by Stickz and Stonez and have now been delivered to the school, which is part of the Romero Catholic Academy, along with hoodies designed during fashion sessions with other year groups.

As part of the official kit unveiling, Alex gave an inspirational assembly to each year group, telling the story of how he and business partner Kieran Jones were both heavily into basketball and

American fashion as teenagers and originally launched the Birmingham-based brand by importing clothes from the USA and selling them to family and friends.

This then evolved into them printing their own basketball-inspired designs on pre-made hoodies and T-shirts, before eventually working with an overseas manufacturer to create their own clothing and teamwear, and launching the Stickz and Stonez online store.

Guardian Ballers founding director Kieran Joseph was also on-hand to deliver basketball sessions with some of the students in the new kits.

Alex said: **"It was fantastic to visit the school to deliver the basketball kits and show what the students' original designs had helped create.**

"This was Stickz and Stonez' first time delivering sessions within a school, and all of the students were incredibly engaged and really keen to find out more about fashion design and entrepreneurship.

"It was also excellent to host an assembly to tell everyone a bit more about my story. Growing up I wanted to be a professional basketball player - I had family in Los Angeles so I supported the LA Lakers and was inspired by the legendary players of that era.

"But this passion evolved and resulted in me and my business partner launching Stickz and Stonez, again

inspired by the dynamic duos of basketball.

"I hope I was not only able to give the students an insight into launching and running a fashion brand, but also how there are a number of ways your passions can be incorporated into future career paths."

Zoe Seth, of Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, added: **"The sessions with Stickz and Stonez provided a great opportunity for our students to be creative.**

"We're keen to develop the whole child and promote values such as teamwork and good sportsmanship and these workshops did exactly that.

"We're also keen to ensure students are knowledgeable about the wide variety of career paths available, not only through the lessons we teach, but through visits from businesses and external speakers.

"We are delighted with our new basketball kits and our teams will be immensely proud to wear them in their games."





Lord Mayor delivers award to Ss Peter and Paul

Children at a Coventry school have been presented with a special award in recognition of their efforts to promote peace and reconciliation.

Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School has been awarded the Coventry Peace Award, a scheme launched by the Coventry Lord Mayor's Committee for Peace and Reconciliation.

Children and staff were visited by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, councillor John McNicholas, and committee member Pru Porretta MBE, who presented the award and heard more what the school did to receive it.

The award looks to encourage and support schools to promote peace and reconciliation, and the children, supported by teaching assistant Laurie Jackson, took part in a range of activities as part of the application process.

This included creating peace and remembrance poems, sending thank you cards to key workers, saying daily prayers of reflection, electing school council members and antibullying ambassadors, and working to support the environment.

They also took part in a special 'Coventry Week' where each year group learnt more about the city and went on Coventry's 'Peace Trail' around the city centre.

Pupils and staff also used blue paint donated by Coventry City of Culture Trust to create a peace wall at the school which includes inspirational messages of peace and reconciliation, and friendship benches containing messages of friendship where the children can sit and reflect.

Lorraine Stanton, Principal at Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, said: **"It was fantastic to welcome the Mayor and Pru Porretta to the school to present the award.**

"The children all really enjoyed the morning and are very proud of what they have achieved.

"We have been working towards the award for some time, so we also clapped for our former Year 6 pupils who have now moved on to

Year 7 in recognition of their efforts.

"We received some fantastic feedback from the Mayor and Pru, who enjoyed hearing about our work and said that the school was very deserving of the award.

"I would also like to thank Laurie who led the project at Ss Peter and Paul and worked incredibly hard throughout the application process.

"This work certainly doesn't stop here, and we will continue to take part in activities to raise awareness of peace and reconciliation moving forward."





<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheWisemanConnection>



The Wiseman Connection

Alumni:

Life after Wiseman

John Bernard

Spoken word poet and rapper.
Founder of the B.A.C.E Foundation.



School Life

'John moved to Coventry from London with his sister after being orphaned at the age of 11 when his mum passed away. They were taken in by a family friend who lived in the Bell Green area of the city and then moved to Stoke Aldermoor.

He joined Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School in Year 8 and faced a difficult situation being in both a new school and new city while battling with loss and his personal identity. But it was his talents in football which saw him fit into the school quickly and make a lot of friends.



Career

John went on to study Level 3 course in music performance at Warwickshire College, and while he was studying was offered a record deal by Sony but turned it down after feeling that mentally he was unable to commit to a deal of that magnitude.

After making the decision to step back from university and taking a few years out to work, John then found his faith and felt the drive to go to university. He took an Access to Higher Education course at Henley College before going on to study International Relations and Sociology at Aston University at the age of 20.

He said: **“At this stage I wasn’t sure what to do at university but one thing I’d opened my eyes to is my community and how things were run, and I wanted to understand society a bit more which is how I chose my course.**

“When I started university, my love for poetry came back because the knowledge I had built up meant I understood it more and I started touring universities to perform.”

It was a drive back to Stoke Aldermoor that made John realise this is where he needed to be, supporting the young people in his former community and offering them a relatable role model.

This was also confirmed after he was invited to share his story and perform at Blue Coat School, in Coventry, and as the young people fell silent to listen, he knew this was his calling.

Fast forward and John and his sister launched B.A.C.E, a social enterprise working with young people and showing them how to express themselves using spoken word poetry and music production, and has worked with schools across the city as well as local clubs, youth offending teams.

He said: **“I wanted to utilise my skills in writing my feelings down on paper to help young people express themselves and maximise their potential.”**

John is also focused on his own poetry, and has recently performed at the BBC Contains Strong Language Festival and BBC Radio 1’s Big Weekend.

Advice to pupils

When speaking about the advice he would give to current pupils, John said:

“Follow your instincts, we all know what we’re good at and what we gravitate towards, and everyone should pursue their dreams.

John said: **“Things changed for me in Year 9 as although I found myself, I also realised the difficulties of growing up in a working-class community.**

John said: **“My tutor Miss Sanders was a music teacher and when she saw that I liked music she set-up a studio and used this as an incentive to help keep me out of trouble.**

“It was the first studio in Wiseman at the time, and she opened it for me and a friend to use at lunchtime if we kept out of trouble.

“For me that was a special moment as I realised that a teacher had seen something in me, and going forward from there she put us in the Christmas programme to perform urban music - something that was previously unheard of at the school which was great.

“That trust from a person of authority sparked something inside me and made me believe that I was good at something.”



New theatre makes a dramatic impact



Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School has started the new academic year by opening its 288-seat theatre.

The development has seen the school hall transformed to include new theatre style automatic seating, the latest Audio Visual equipment, professional lighting and a hi-tech sound system.

It is complemented by a new outdoor patio area directly outside which features a large electric canopy, seating and activities including table tennis tables.

Not only will the theatre be used by students and schools from the Romero Catholic Academy, but it will also be open to the community.

It is hoped that amateur dramatics groups, dance clubs and other schools, clubs, organisations and businesses will take advantage of the facility.



Those looking to stage an event will also have the opportunity to use the school's in-house catering service.

The theatre will be open to prospective students and their families as part of the school's next open evening being held at 6pm on September 21.

Principal Matthew Everett said: **"We are extremely pleased to have transformed what was a 1960s-style school hall into a professional theatre facility.**

"At Cardinal Wiseman we strive to develop the whole child, and this will provide our students with a space where they can proudly hold performances and events as well as learn more about the theatre industry.

"It will also be a fantastic resource for the whole community to take advantage of, and we look forward to welcoming everyone from clubs and schools looking for spaces to rehearse or perform to those wanting to hold competitions or events with theatre-style seating."

Patrick Taggart, Director of Operations at the Romero Catholic Academy, added: **"The Academy is committed to investing in its schools to provide fantastic environments for our students.**

"This investment will also demonstrate that Cardinal Wiseman School can be utilised as a high-quality events space and will help us with our aim of increasing community engagement across all our schools this year.

"We have worked with 15 local contractors to create the theatre and the transformation has been incredible.

"The new theatre along with the school's in-house catering service, meeting rooms, classroom areas and sports facilities demonstrates just how much the school has to offer.

"We can't wait to see the first performance from the students and look forward to welcoming enquiries from the wider community."

Further details about the theatre can be found by contacting the school on 02476 617231.





Cop26 arrives at Ss Peter and Paul



Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School held a 'green day' to mark the end of the COP26 conference.

Children learnt more about the environment and climate change throughout the two-week event, finishing with a special day dedicated to the topic.

They dressed in green to mark the occasion and planted trees in the school grounds which were donated to the school by Coventry's Assembly Festival Gardens, launched a new 'bug hotel' and held a morning of rolling prayer during which each year group learnt more about COP26 and prayed for change.

Finally, a group of children and staff were joined by parents and younger siblings for a community litter pick to help clean up the area around the school.

The event was driven by the school's Eco Team, which was launched last year after the children learnt more about deforestation and wanted to do more to help the environment.

Lorraine Stanton, Principal at Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, said: **"The children had a fantastic time on our green day.**

"Our Eco Team are very environmentally-focused, doing work across the school such as recycling, turning off lights and taps and encouraging people to use our on-site clothes bank, but they wanted to do something to mark COP26.

"It was an excellent way for children right across the school to learn more about the environment and the small changes that they can make to help make a difference in combatting climate change.

"The group of children who took part in our litter pick ranged from Year 1 to

Year 5 and they found a lot of litter - which was a real eye opener for them.

"We were able to talk about what dropping litter does to the environment and the wildlife, and at the end of it they felt like they had made a real difference. It was also fantastic to get some of our parents and younger siblings involved.

"We really hope that the children will take something away from the event and continue to spread the message about climate change and encourage others to change their habits."





Giving back to the NHS

Children and teachers from St Gregory's Catholic Primary School present the funds they have raised to the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire Charity.

Pupils from St Gregory's Catholic Primary School were given something to celebrate as they returned to the classroom following the summer break.

The Circle of Life award recognises the work of young people who have made a positive contribution to their community and in this instance in recognition of a special project held in aid of the NHS.

The award was set up by Disney Theatrical Productions in partnership with Young Citizens and aims to capture the values of Disney's The Lion King and to inspire young citizens to become the next generation of community leaders by delivering a social action project which will benefit the community.

The project was led by children on the school council and Higher Level Teaching Assistant Jill Swiadek who organised a day of activities linked to the Lion King theme.

Being based close to University Hospital Coventry, they also wanted to use the project as an opportunity to recognise the impact of Covid-19 and give something back to the local NHS heroes of the pandemic.

The children held a non-uniform day, an animal themed wellbeing Wednesday afternoon and an after school 'movies and munchies' event for the whole school, raising a total of £478.73 for the University Hospital

Coventry and Warwickshire Charity.

Jill said: **"We have been working hard within school to raise the profile of pupil leadership, and this was a fantastic opportunity for our school council to take ownership of a project which benefitted the local community.**

"Members of the school council worked together excellently to come up with a range of fundraising ideas and plan a fantastic day around these. They were even aware of the risk assessments required ahead of the event.

"All of the children enjoyed the day in their class bubbles and had a wonderful time, raising hundreds of pounds for a very worthy cause.

"It is excellent that the hard work of the children has been recognised with a Circle of Life Award. It is very well deserved."

Head of School Megan Scullion added: **"At St Gregory's we aim to provide our children with a well-rounded education, including the importance of being a good citizen and supporting our local community.**

"After what has been a challenging 18

months it is truly heart-warming that our school council chose to use this opportunity to support some of the local heroes of the pandemic and raise awareness of the fantastic work of the NHS.

"I would like to congratulate the children on receiving this award - a fantastic achievement for the school to celebrate."

Nancy Shakerley, Education and Audience Engagement Manager at Disney Theatrical Group, said: **"I would like to congratulate the school on this fantastic project.**

"The school council clearly put a great deal of thought into to how they could be a make positive difference to those in the local community who have worked so hard on the front line over the past 18 months.

"We were very impressed with the organisational skills that the children needed to action their plans, and it sounds like the whole school had a lot of fun taking part in the activities.

"We are very pleased to present the school with the Circle of Life Award in recognition of all of the children's hard work."

A snapshot from Twitter



Cardinal Wiseman
@OfficialWiseman

Cardinal Wiseman's Year 11 football team after their 5-0 win for the 2nd round of the West Midlands Schools' Cup.



Cardinal Wiseman
@OfficialWiseman

Cardinal Wiseman's Rising Writers Club went to meet a successful children's author and illustrator, Yuval Zommer, at Warwick Arts Centre.



Corpus Christi
@CorpusPrimary

Thank you for all your Pudsey donations! We raised over £400, amazing!



Cardinal Wiseman
@OfficialWiseman

Food donations from our pupils for the Emmaus Charity who work with the homeless in Coventry providing shelter and food.



Corpus Christi
@CorpusPrimary

Year 2 had an amazing day at Selly Manor!



Corpus Christi
@CorpusPrimary

@Corpuschristiprimary Remembrance Day - Reception's collective worship. We will remember. #romerorefects



St John Fisher
@SJF

Year 3 working hard on Advent art to prepare our classroom for Advent.



St John Fisher
@SJF

Year 3 have had great fun learning how to play the ukulele this afternoon.



St John Fisher
@SJF

Wraparound had a great time meeting our new friend Boo. #theraponywithboo



St Patrick's
@StPatricksCov

Every year group took part in Remembrance day rolling prayer. Well done everyone!



St Gregory's
@StGregsPrimary

Today Year 2 became brilliant bakers and made their own bread. It was a great way to bring their learning to life and imagine what Pudding Lane Bakery was like at the time of the Great Fire of London. They looked and smelt amazing!





St Patrick's
@StPatricksCov

We won the Go Parks Active Schools Challenge!



St Gregory's
@StGregsPrimary

ADVENT • ART • DAY

What a day! Year 4 had an amazing time preparing for Advent. They decorated their classroom, made their class advent calendar, wreath and tree decorations and to top it off, our supportive parents came in for some Advent Art.



St Gregory's
@StGregsPrimary

Year 1 had a wonderful visit from the Animal Man. They learnt about the similarities and differences between types of animals, and showed how brave they could be by holding some animals!



Sacred Heart
@SacredHeartCov

Year 4 have been working brilliantly today to create code procedures for repeating shapes. We were amazed at some of the patterns we were able to make!



Sacred Heart
@SacredHeartCov

We're so proud of our dance team, who absolutely smashed their first theatre performance at the Albany Dance Showcase!



Good Shepherd
@GoodShepherdCOV

'Whole School Mass' celebrated outside. The first in 18 months.



Sacred Heart
@SacredHeartCov

Our children are taking some time to read through their programmes, before we go into the auditorium at the Royal Opera House in



Good Shepherd
@GoodShepherdCOV

School Photographs are this Friday 12th November so remember no PE kits! All pupils from Y1-6 should now be in winter uniform - No polo T shirts.



Good Shepherd
@GoodShepherdCOV

Year 2 had a fantastic morning baking bread with the Romero Catering Team. We have been learning about food hygiene and how our bakeries are different from Thomas Farriner's bakery in 1666. #romeroexperiences





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