



The Romero  
Catholic Academy  
Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow

Winter 2022

# News Romero

News and events from across The Romero Catholic Academy



## ROOTS TO FRUITS

Roots to Fruit, Midlands in partnership with Romero.

## GIVING BACK

The Princess Trust, Children in Need and Food Bank Donations.

## SKY BLUES AT ST PATRICKS

Matty Godden and Callum O'Hare are put through their paces.



## At What Cost?



**ALUMNI: LIFE AFTER WISEMAN  
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS AT ROMERO**



# Romero<sup>News</sup>

News and events from across The Romero Catholic Academy

## Winter 2022



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



Brendan Fawcett

## Welcome to our Winter newsletter

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

Across the Multi-Academy our children have donated their time and efforts to charity events across local communities. Pupils at Saint Gregory's have prepared prayer bags, with pupils at Saint Patrick's and Saint John Fisher offering food and products to local food banks; one pupil at Sacred Heart has personally raised over £800 for the Princess Trust.

We continue our focus on sustainability with our second eco annual conference being held at Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School. "At What Cost?" provided our children the opportunity to attend a series of educational workshops all focused on sustainability. Topics included the product lifetime of everyday gadgets such as smartphones and recycling, focused time in Saint Patrick's Forest School, alongside learning about shelter building and staying safe outdoors. We are also happy to share that Ss Peter and Pauls have achieved their Eco School Green flag, joining Sacred Heart, with several of our other Primary Schools following

suit. Continuing our mission, our facilities team have made a number of improvements across our schools to maximise heat retention and energy efficiency in our classrooms, making sure that we provide a warm and nurturing environment to learn in.

Students at Cardinal Wiseman met with Alumni member Katy Kirkland who is Company Secretary at the Best Foundation. Katy spoke of her time at Wiseman and how it provided her first taste of law; inspiring a number of our students to consider the possibilities after leaving Cardinal Wiseman.

**If you are an ex-student and want to inspire the next generation of Cardinal Wiseman, please contact Zoe Seth at [z.seth@romeromac.com](mailto:z.seth@romeromac.com) for more information.**

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

As we enter a new year of the Church, we begin Advent with a period of preparation, extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. Advent is a season intended to renew the experience of waiting, and longing, for Christ. Advent is the time in which we prepare for Christmas, remembering Jesus being born into the world.

During Advent, we're invited to enter more frequently into silence, into prayer and reflection, into Scripture, and into the sacramental life of the Church, all to prepare for celebrating Christmas.

Joy to the world, let heaven and earth rejoice; may you all have a happy and holy Christmas.

God Bless

**Brendan Fawcett**  
On behalf of the Romero  
MAC Board of Directors





# Romero Gives Back

A year 4 student at Sacred Heart has raised over £800 by donating his long locks, grown over lockdown, to The Princess Trust! The charity provides free real hair wigs to children and young people, up to 24 years, who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions.

The School Council and GIFT team at St Patricks have made substantial donations to their local food bank and children were invited to take part in the Pudsey walk challenge, where children had to walk the shape of Pudsey; raising £118 for Children in Need.

Year 3 children at St John Fisher were visited by Langar Aid, the Coventry-based Sikh charity which serves the homeless, vulnerable and those struggling with poverty in the UK. It supports anyone in need, regardless of faith. The children learned about the amazing work the charity does and then helped to label bags and make sandwiches for the charity to distribute that evening to those in need! The charity relies heavily on donations, so we decided as a school to gather as much food as possible. We delivered them later that week to Langar Aid. The children really enjoyed this experience and felt good about being able to help others.







**COP27**  
SHARM EL-SHEIKH  
EGYPT 2022

# At What Cost?



**Pupils from our schools recently gathered to get in touch with nature and learn about sustainable living to mark the start of COP27.**



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School welcomed 60 pupils to the second Romero Eco Conference ahead of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Egypt.

The academy-wide forum was set up to address climate change after pupils wrote to the senior leadership team at Romero Catholic Academy to ask what they planned to do in response to the challenges raised at COP26 in Glasgow last year.

Pupils took part in a series of educational workshops all focused on sustainability, addressing topics including the product lifetime of everyday gadgets such as





Mark McLoughlin, Victor Bellanti and David Harris with pupils from across the Romero Catholic Academy.



smartphones and recycling, and spent time in St Patrick's Forest School learning about shelter building and staying safe outdoors.

The day also coincided with the Feast of St Charles Borromeo, the Patron Saint of apple orchards, with Victor Bellanti, Foundation Director of the Romero Catholic Academy Board of Directors, donating an apple tree sapling to each school to mark the occasion.

Mark McLoughlin, Principal at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, thanked Victor for the donation, and encouraged pupils to see their trees as symbols of the difference they can make to the planet with care and hard work.

He said: **"It was fantastic to hold this year's Eco Conference at St Patrick's**

### **Primary School on the eve of COP27 and on the day of the Feast of St Charles Borromeo.**

**"We have all been thoroughly impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment from the children here today as they look to make a real difference in their schools and communities in response to the climate crisis.**

**"The fruits of the apple trees so kindly donated by Victor will take a lot of nurturing to grow, but will be a sign of the efforts and intentions of these very pupils and staff members here today in the years to come."**

Victor Bellanti said: **"It's been a really interesting and fun-filled day alongside addressing some incredibly important issues.**

**"We all have a lot to learn around sustainability. With days such as this our schools are giving children a fighting chance of making a difference and changing deep-rooted behaviours, and I'm already looking forward to attending the next conference."**

David Harris, Adviser for Catholic Education at Birmingham Diocesan Education Services, was also impressed with the Eco Conference.

He said: **"The day was a wonderful opportunity to witness Romero MAC's commitment to Laudato Si and caring for God's creation. The children and young people participated in a number of workshops and spoke with passion about the actions they can take to make a difference in the world we live in."**





# SS Peter & Paul Go Green

Pupils from Ss Peter and Paul School have been awarded an Eco-School Green Flag.

The Eco Committee at the school have been praised for their outstanding commitment to Eco Schools Green Flag programme and making their school more sustainable.

Lorraine Stanton, Principal at Ss Peter and Paul, said **“It’s been fantastic to see the impact of the Eco-Schools programme; the wellbeing of pupils has massively improved, and it has been great to see different year groups work together as one team.”**

**“The school is now recycling more than ever due to the hard work and passion of our Eco Committee. They have actioned part of their plan including a bug hotel on the school grounds and community litter picks as well as the planting of trees.”**







# School Improvements at Romero

Over the last few months, The Academy has completed works across our 8 schools to maximise heat retention and energy efficiency in our classrooms - and keep pupils warm this winter.

A £750k investment, made through the School Allocation Fund, has enabled the academy to install new boiler systems in three of its schools, with other vital works undertaken across the academy, including the repair of leaks in hard-to-reach areas.

Tom O'Reilly, Head of Estates at Romero Catholic Academy, said the spend was part of a drive to refocus annual investments in long-term solutions, ensuring each of the schools can continue to provide ideal learning environments in the colder months ahead and for years to come.

He said: **"The aim with this latest round of refurbishments has really been to balance immediate repairs and aesthetic improvements with investing in a sustainable future across our schools and addressing the challenges that all schools and families have started to face."**

**"While this spend will also help to mitigate unexpected future repair costs related to classroom heating and keep everything running as smooth as possible, it is also high on our list of**

**priorities to carry on providing fun and engaging spaces for our pupils during breaktime."**

Alongside the investment in sustainability, Ss Peter and Paul has seen the development of a forest school area, while St. John Fisher has enjoyed a rejuvenation of their nursery garden area.

Corpus Christi has seen a new outdoor nursery playground installed, while Good Shepherd and St. Gregory's have also had playground improvements.

Pupils at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic school are also making the most of the investment, with new fencing in place in the school's tennis courts.

Tom added: **"Overall, we are thrilled with what we have been able to achieve thanks to the School Allocation Fund. Our sustainability priorities are influenced hugely by our students, and while there will be plenty of support required to continue investing in their futures, this represents a great start."**







“Roots to Fruit Midlands will offer the course, which combines practical skills and scientific knowledge with outdoor learning, to pupils aged 14 and over”







# New Qualifications available at Romero

**Roots to Fruit Midlands has announced a partnership with The Romero Catholic Academy that will see pupils at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School able to complete the social enterprise's Level 2 Horticulture course as part of their Year 10 and 11 studies - giving them a one-year head start on other school leavers.**

The qualification will launch in the 2023/24 academic year and comes after a year-long partnership between Roots to Fruit Midlands and The Romero Catholic Academy, which has seen 22 Cardinal Wiseman pupils engage with seven gaining Level 1 qualifications on top of their curriculum learning.

Level 2 courses are normally taken after leaving school and take up to two years to complete, but Roots to Fruit Midlands will offer the course, which combines practical skills and scientific knowledge with outdoor learning, to pupils aged 14 and over to complete in one academic year - giving pupils a one-year head start on careers in horticulture, natural sciences, landscaping and other related fields.

The Sutton Coldfield-based social enterprise, which was established by Jonathan Ensell in 2013, has also been working with primary schools across the West Midlands to link plant science to the curriculum and build on classroom learning.

The sessions are designed to be productive for learners of all abilities, but also provide respite from typical classroom learning and boost pupils' mental health through physical, outdoor activity.

Jonathan Ensell, Director of Roots to Fruit Midlands, said: **"So many of our core values are aligned with**

**The Romero Catholic Academy, and this new partnership represents our first opportunity to focus on supporting pupils in advance of school leaving age, having worked with other age groups across schools in the Midlands.**

**"With these courses, we want to support pupils who may struggle with traditional academic learning and bring a feel-good factor to their education, while still incorporating valued skills and knowledge that apply to a vast number of careers and industries.**

**"It's not just the practical outdoor facilities and green spaces at Cardinal Wiseman that make it a fantastic school to be working with, but the values of the whole Romero Catholic Academy, none more so than the sheer amount of care that they give to every child.**

**"As a social enterprise and an advocate for education of all ages, we are thrilled to be working with them, and can't wait to get started next year."**

Zoe Seth, Operations Manager at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Secondary School, said: **"The impact that Roots to Fruit has had on pupils has been incredible, and we are thrilled that they have chosen Cardinal Wiseman as the first school to launch their new Level 2 course.**

**"We are always looking for ways to support all learners and this represents a real chance to give pupils the qualifications to back that up and lay solid foundations for their careers."**

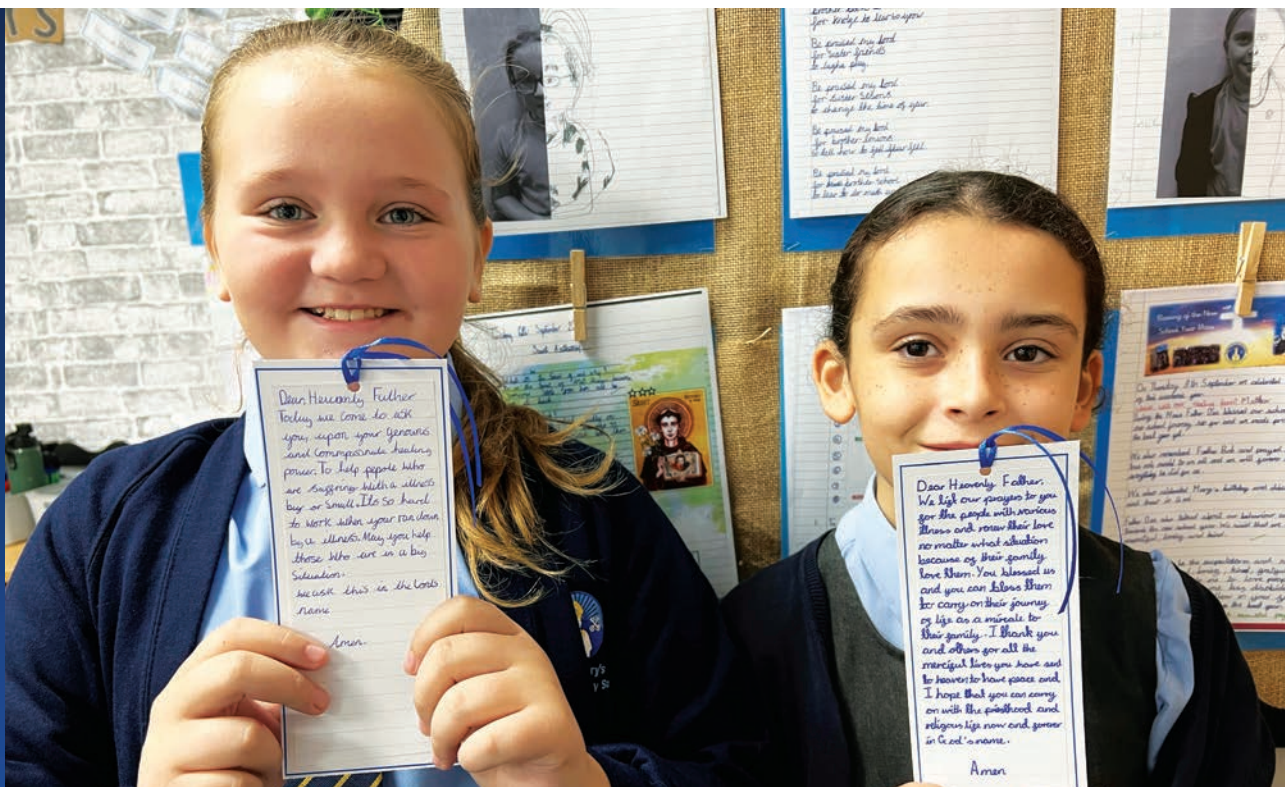
Matthew Everett, Principal at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, said: **"Jon and the whole Roots to Fruit team have been phenomenal since our partnership began and we cannot wait to begin the next stage of the journey.**

**"We are always looking at new ways to offer the best and we truly believe that this is something that will broaden our curriculum offer and give students exposure to practical skills that they might not get until much later in their educational journey."**

**For more information about Roots to Fruit Midlands visit [www.rootstofruit.co.uk](http://www.rootstofruit.co.uk)**







## St Gregory Faith Packages helping local families

Pupils at St Gregory's Catholic Primary School are hoping to provide comfort to local people suffering from Covid-19 after creating more than 30 handmade faith packages. Year 5 pupils have created 32 prayer bags to provide comfort to people suffering from illness in the Wyken area.

The packages, which include a prayer hand-written by pupils, a hand-decorated prayer stone, a small wooden cross and a pack of tissues, are set to be distributed as a show of support for families affected by Covid-19.

The initiative was inspired by the Year 5 pupils' studies around the Anointing of the Sick - the sacrament given to people who are suffering from illness - as well as pupil's own experiences with family members who have been affected by the virus, in a bid to provide comfort through faith.

Emily Stirling, Year 5 Teacher at St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, said: **"The Year 5s have taken a real interest in creating their prayer bags as they know the difference that small comforts and supportive words can make to people who are suffering from illness and are potentially separated from their families."**

**"Many of our pupils have personal experience of supporting family**



**members who have suffered from Covid-19, so to have the opportunity to reach out to members of the public with a show of good faith is very rewarding from their perspective.**

**"We hope that the recipients of the prayer bags get as much positivity and comfort from them as we did in creating them."**

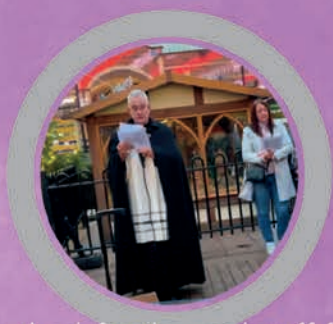
St John Fisher Parish Priest Fr Des Devenney, who is helping to distribute



the prayer bags to the community, said: **"I joined the parish during Covid-19 so have witnessed the community's response throughout, and it's brilliant that the younger generation are so keen to support others living in the area."**

**"It's a lovely thought and a project that will provide a lift to people and parishioners living in the local area. It's a privilege and joy to be involved."**





# Advent



We thank families and staff for joining the Coventry and Nuneaton Deanery as we gathered in Broadgate for our traditional Blessing of the Crib. This year schools in Romero led readings and music as we joined with pupils from around the city to welcome the start of Advent.

We pray together:

God of every nation and people,  
From the very beginning of creation,  
You have made manifest your love.  
When our need for a Saviour was great,  
You sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.  
To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love.  
Lord, bless all who look upon the manger.  
May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,  
The Word who became flesh.  
Raise up our thoughts to him,  
Who is God-with-us and Saviour of all  
And who lives and reigns for ever and ever  
Amen



## First Sunday of Advent



Hope Prophet Prepare Listen Say 'Yes'



CLICK ON THE QR CODE TO SEE A REFLECTION FOR EACH DAY FROM ACROSS OUR SCHOOLS IN ROMERO

## Second Sunday of Advent

Flame of  
Faith Bethlehem Faith Repent Trust

PHOTO: RIVER JORDAN

This year we have created an Advent calendar with pupils and staff in Romero. A reflection for each school day to enable us to prepare our hearts and minds to receive Christ once again into our lives.

Click on the QR code with the camera on your phone, to see the link on YouTube for each reflection:



## Third Sunday of Advent

Gratitude  
#THELORDISNEAR  
#JOY  
#PINKCANDLE



Joy Shepherd Saint Rejoice Mary's Joy







## The Wiseman Connection



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



## Alumni: Life after Wiseman

**Katy Kirkland**

Company Secretary at the  
Best Foundation

### School Life

Katy grew up in Wyken and went to Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School before attending Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School and later joining the sixth form, where she studied A Level English Literature, Psychology and Law.

Katy came out of her shell at sixth form, where she got her first taste of law and started to picture a possible career. She praised her teachers for being engaging and enthusiastic about their subjects and for having authority while still being approachable.

She said: **"I was fairly quiet throughout school and while I was a good pupil and got on with my work, I didn't have a subject that I was really passionate about until later on in school.**

**"A lot of my teachers were very good**



leaders who stood out as role models. They encouraged me to work hard, and were willing to connect with pupils instead of creating a distance and being too authoritative.

**"My English teacher Miss Murphy was fabulous because she didn't treat us like children and always held the attention of the class no matter the content of the lesson. She always spoke with us, never at us, and I admired her for that.**

**"I chose to stay on for A Levels to study law, psychology and English literature, where again I remember some great teachers that made a huge difference to my time there. Mr Lee, my psychology teacher always made classes interesting and Mrs May, the head of year 2006, always commanded a lot of respect without being too imposing.**

**"But it was law that captured my imagination at this time as it was a completely new subject for me, and being able to explore it in a fantastic learning environment with supportive classmates and the opportunity to carry out independent learning was a very good fit for me.**

**"You always had the chance to direct your own study, but at the same time there was a collective spirit that everyone was trying to do their best, and wanted to see others succeed too."**

In addition to having the chance to work independently whilst being motivated by other students around her, Katy found the family environment at Cardinal Wiseman had a lasting impact on her.

She said: **"The potential for creating a thriving community environment in a faith school is massive, but Cardinal Wiseman really put that into practice by creating an atmosphere where everyone felt that they were both welcome and part of a wider family.**

**"I carry a lot of the values I picked up at school with me today, and I would recommend parents of any religious background to consider The Romero Catholic Academy as a**

**place to send their children, not wholly because they are Catholic schools, but because of the values that inform the way they approach teaching and supporting young people."**

## Career

After enjoying a greater level of independence at sixth form, Katy decided that she would enter the world of work after completing her A Level studies and set her sights on a career in legal services.

Katy joined the Crown Prosecution Service in September 2008 as a Casework Support Officer, where she supported a variety of criminal cases.

**"The work was very challenging as I would have to record evidence and speak to victims and witnesses of a variety of criminal cases, but it was ultimately very rewarding and was a great introduction into the profession," said Katy.**

**"My first job was a caseworker and I quickly began to work my way up. I worked there for around three years and at 21 I moved on to Countrywide Tax & Trust Corporation."**

Katy joined Countrywide Tax & Trust Corporation as a legal administrator in March 2011 and worked as Personal Assistant to the Director for four years before fulfilling roles as New Entrants Administrator, Client Liaison Officer and finally Client Care Team Leader during an 11-year stay.

**"I got my foot in the door as a legal administrator, supporting with admin and research tasks and preparing legal documents. Eventually I had the chance to work across the wills and estates side of legal services, which was more in line with what I was interested in professionally," she added.**

**"After gaining experience across a range of teams over the years, I worked my way up to team leader."**

Katy now works as Project Manager at Countrywide Tax & Trust Corporation and in April 2022, Katy started a new chapter as Company Secretary at the Best Foundation, a

non-profit professional membership body for Estate Planning professionals and firms.

It aims to bring together and support modern, forwarding-thinking Estate Planning professionals, while serving as a mark of assurance to members of the public that Best members are highly capable professionals working in their field.

As Company Secretary, Katy is one of the most senior staff members at the Best Foundation, and delivers a range of support to its members including one-to-one professional advice, candidate sourcing for firms, as well as finding opportunities for the foundation to grow its network.

## Advice to pupils

Katy offered some words of assurance for any school leavers unsure what direction their career will take.

She said: **"On the whole, my career has not followed a straightforward path. I've taken some sideways moves to get where I want to be and taken on challenges I may not have expected, but I still think that my school experience played a role in how I have got to where I am now.**

**"If you had said to me while I was at school that I would be a confident public speaker and hosting regular webinars with hundreds of people, I would not have believed you. But now I do things like that all the time.**

**"So, my message is to say yes to new challenges and experiences - you don't have to know everything to be successful. What's important is that you surround yourself with people who will support and encourage you, just like I had at Cardinal Wiseman, and from there you can get the life and career that will bring you real fulfilment."**





## Exam Success at Cardinal Wiseman

Sixth form students and staff at Cardinal Wiseman have celebrated unprecedented A Level results after the return of public exams.

The sixth form reported a 100 per cent pass rate with 27 per cent of students achieving A\*/A, a 10 per cent increase on 2019 - the last year that in-person examinations were sat. The exams were the first major public examinations that the current cohort have sat, following the cancellation of their GCSEs at the beginning of the pandemic.

Richard Kingshott, head of sixth form at Cardinal Wiseman, said: **"Congratulations to all students who have received their results today. Confronted by so much that none of us could have predicted, this amazing group of young people have not sought excuses. We are extremely proud of all of them."**

**"As a school of sanctuary, Cardinal Wiseman is particularly thrilled with**

**the achievements of the students who completed our Foundation Programme before embarking on their Level 3 studies.**

**"Despite only arriving in the UK three years ago with no qualifications, these students have embraced the opportunities to progress in their education at our Sixth Form and are now able to continue to further study at university. This set of results is testament to our students' determination to achieve academic excellence, fulfil their aspirations and continue their journey to be the best they can be."**

GCSE results also saw an improvement on 2019 results, with 42.3 per cent of Year 11 pupils achieving grades 9-5, up from 33.1 per cent three years ago.

The school boasted 100 percent 9-4 in Triple Science, which covers Chemistry, Biology, and Physics, with many students pursuing STEM subjects at the school's Sixth Form, who also enjoyed improvements on 2019 grades in last week's A Level result.

Matthew Everett, Principal, said: **"After two years with no external examinations, to come back with such continued success is wonderful for our pupils who have faced many challenges, and our staff who have worked hard to ensure a successful exam performance. "I'd like to congratulate all of our pupils for their hard work over the last year and wish them the best of luck in the next chapter of their lives, with many of them joining us for their A-level studies."**





## Learning beyond the classroom

Pupils at our primary schools have been getting a taste for new experiences thanks to an initiative that takes learning beyond the classroom.

During this term we have helped 300 children across our seven primary schools broaden their horizons thanks to a range of enhancement days - which connect practical activities with curriculum topics to make learning more interactive.

Each enhancement day engages with a topic that pupils have been learning about in class. Most recently, Year 2 pupils have been taking part in bread making to expand their learning around the Great Fire of London - which started in a bakery on Pudding Lane in 1666.

The enhancement days are developed by Jane Andreassen, Laura McGinty, and Marcus Chilvers and are delivered to each school by Romero Catholic Academy's in house catering team.

Marcus Chilvers, Deputy Facilities Manager at The Romero Catholic Academy, said: **"It is always great to see the enjoyment on pupils' faces as**

**they experience a practical link to their learning.**

**"The bread making has been a really good link to their current learning, building on their time in class and broadening their knowledge through the experience.**

**"The mini-loaves that each child creates also provides an opportunity to share the experience and reinforces their learning at home."**

Last half term, Year 4 groups enjoyed a Roman-themed enhancement day, giving pupils the opportunity to sample different foods that were available during the height of the Roman Empire.

Other enhancement days taking place this school year including a Polish food tasting day and an afternoon tea experience, with a Victorian pastry day set to follow in 2023 for Year 1, 3 and 5 groups.

Marcus added: **"Across our future enhancement days, it is hoped that the pupils get a new experience that they can participate in, often tastings foods that they may not have previously tried, exploring new cultures or important historical periods, and creating memorable school moments."**







## Apprentice Success at Romero

Two of our IT technicians have received promotions after completing their apprenticeships.

Cern Diston has completed his Level 4 Network Engineer course and takes up the role of Senior Technician, while Kamran Bhakta has been named Junior IT Technician following two years at Romero Catholic Academy while completing his Level 3 Infrastructure Technician course.

The pair, who both gained their qualifications via Primary Goal, will continue to be based at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School but offer remote support across the Romero Catholic Academy's seven primary schools.

Primary Goal is a national digital industries apprenticeship training provider working with schools and businesses to deliver high quality teaching and learning apprenticeship programmes.

Cern said: **"The Level 4 course has helped me learn about IT issues in**

**more detail, not only be able to solve problems, but to know how they might have been caused in the first place.**

**"The new position has a lot more responsibility with it and means I'll get to work more closely with any new staff arriving and help them find their feet, which I'm really looking forward to.**

**"The apprenticeship was challenging at times, but I received lots of support to help me pass, and I'm looking forward to starting in my new position this term."**

Kamran said: **"I've really enjoyed the last couple of years and learnt a lot during my apprenticeship and from my colleagues along the way and I'm hoping I can continue to progress as part of a great team."**

Hitesh Vara, Head of IT at the Romero Catholic Academy, said: **"Kamran and**



Cern are two highly valued members of the team and we are delighted to have been able to support their personal development.

**"The apprenticeships posed lots of challenges but they were both able to rise to them and they will continue to provide a high level of service across the Romero Catholic Academy, taking on more responsibility as they progress in their careers here."**





# Facilitating the Estate

We have recently expanded our new in-house facilities team with the appointment of Donna Heaney as Facilities Site Officer (FSO).

Donna joins the facilities team having spent six years as part of the cleaning team at Romero, which she led, and started her new position at the beginning of September.

She becomes the first female to take up the role, working under Lead FSO at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School Paul Alwill and alongside fellow FSO Taylor Moranis in Romero's new in-house facilities team.

Her new role will see her apply different aspects of caretaking and maintenance skills on anything from fixing carpets, to emptying bins,

arranging litter picks, and managing cleaners.

Donna, said:

**"It feels great to start this new role.**

**"I have a lot of affection for Romero as I used to study here myself and have some great memories, and one of my children also studied here too and loved it.**

**"The first few weeks have been great. I'm really looking forward to helping making sure the school is well presented for the children to use, and it is nice to learn new things along the way."**

Tom O'Reilly, head of estates at Romero Catholic Academy, said:

**"We are thrilled that Donna has taken up this position. She brings lots of knowledge both of the role and of the Romero Catholic Academy with her and has made an excellent start.**

**"Part of the reason for bringing the facilities team in house was to put a greater level of personal care into our facilities operations and move away from relying on agency staff, and Donna will be a big part of that moving forward."**





# Sky Blues at St Patricks

A pair of Coventry City stars used to outsmarting Championship defences were put through their paces by children at a St Patricks Catholic Primary School.

City fan-favourites Matty Godden and Callum O'Hare joined more than 200 pupils at the school to answer young fans' burning questions and celebrate a pair of award-winning pupils.

The visit, supported by Sky Blues in the Community, took place after St Patrick's pupils Ellarose and Piper helped the school win Coventry City Council's Go Parks: Active Schools Challenge by creating a short video showcasing their support for the Sky Blues, which was crowned the winner in a public vote.

The Go Parks: Active Schools Challenge aimed to get children and families active in their local green spaces and parks. The challenge saw more than 70,000 participants support over 100 local schools, with a variety of prizes on offer.

The players, after meeting the two young stars, fielded a range of questions from pupils across the school from Year 2 to Year 6 in a special afternoon assembly.

Pupils asked the star duo about their training routines and what it takes to

become a professional footballer, as well as how to deal with adversity and respond to bullies.

The players encouraged pupils to work hard and follow their dreams as they did as youngsters, and urged them to speak up if they experience or see bullying in any aspect of life.

Before visiting each year group in their classrooms for a team photo, the pupils, and avid City-supporting staff, gave renditions of matchday staples 'We've got O'Hare' and 'Super Matty Godden'.

Mark McLoughlin, Principal of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, said: **"It was a privilege to host Callum and Matt, and inspiring for the students to meet and talk to two people who have achieved great success through their hard work.**

**"Their answers gave us all a window into the life of a professional footballer, but also showed that there are some essential values that overlap across all walks of life, and I'd like to thank them**

**for their generosity in sharing those insights.**

**"The visit has been a great way to thank Ellarose and Piper for their efforts in the Go Parks competition as young advocates not only of the school, but of young people across the city."**

Cllr Kamran Caan, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, Coventry City Council, said: **"I'm so pleased that St Patrick's Catholic Primary School finally got their Coventry City Football Club visit. It was such a fantastic prize that was a part of our Go Parks: Active Schools Challenge. The students' efforts to win the Flash Challenge and get the visit were all brilliant.**

**"It was great to see that the children had the opportunity to ask the players questions about their sport, but also enjoy playing some football with them. I hope both the players and the school had a great time and I look forward to what is next for the Go Parks project in the city."**





# Sports England visit Romero

On Tuesday 8th November, an equipment giveaway event was held at Cardinal Wiseman school to celebrate the community impact of the Commonwealth Games, in partnership with Guardian Ballers - a mental and emotional wellbeing basketball programme that has been awarded equipment through the giveaway.

England 3x3 Commonwealth Games 2022 gold medallist Orlan Jackman joined the event to handover the equipment to the Guardian Ballers.

Guardian Ballers promote social cohesion, connection and positive mental health through basketball and provide inclusive sporting experiences for diverse young people in the West Midlands, working with communities that traditionally enjoy fewer opportunities to get involved in sport.

The equipment giveaway supports the long-term ambition of the Commonwealth Games to support local people to take part in sport and be

active, creating a lasting community impact in the West Midlands.

The school were delighted to host members of the team from Sports England, students from Eden Girls School, crews from the BBC and ITV news, Coventry City Council and Deputy Lord Mayor, Bob Sleigh.

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, said: **"After the spectacular Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, I was determined that our region would see a tangible legacy from the Games for months and years to come. That's why I'm so pleased that the sports equipment used by the**

**athletes is getting to so many clubs and organisations. By reaching out to the grassroots, I hope we will make a real difference and serve as a catalyst for change in local communities - encouraging more people to get active. I cannot wait to see lives changed for the better."**

As a school, and an Academy, we are incredibly proud of our students who represented the school during this celebration. We are also delighted to continue our partnership with Kieran, Scott and the rest of the Guardian Ballers team.





# Social Snapshot



**Corpus Christi**  
**@CorpusChristi**

At the beginning of November, Reception were learning about Bonfire night and got to enjoy some hot chocolate with their friends and hold a sparkler!



**Cardinal Wiseman**  
**@OfficialWiseman**

Hello @OfficialWiseman!  
Thank you for a hoopstastic day with @GuardianBallers. Watch tonight @BBCNews. @ITVCentral.



**Cardinal Wiseman**  
**@OfficialWiseman**

Coventry schools gather for eco conference to mark the start of COP27 summit.  
@CatholicEW @CathEdService  
@Romero\_MAC\_  
@OfficialWiseman



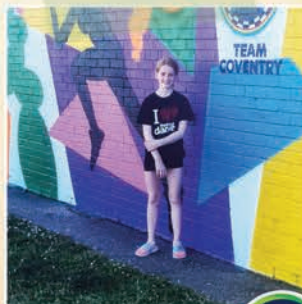
**Corpus Christi**  
**@CorpusChristi**

Year 6 netballers were amazing from start to finish in their match last week against Sacred Heart. It was a magnificent display of technical ability, and we are so proud of how much they have already developed since the start of the year.



**St John Fisher**  
**@SJFCoventry**

EFL DAY OF ACTION | Players joined @SJFCoventry in their #MoveandLearn lesson today for a game of handball & health based classroom fun. Sessions are centred around Year 5 learning about a healthy lifestyle and trying something new! #EFLDayOfAction #MakingADifference



**St John Fisher**  
**@SJFCoventry**

All Emily wanted was to find or win a goparks water bottle during the #goparks event @CovSport no luck in finding one on the way to @FreemanDance.



**Sacred Heart**  
**@SacredHeartCov**

Charity Football Match - Congratulations Sacred Heart All Stars! Our amazing school council raised over £400 for school fund and CAFOD. Swept up by World Cup Fever, the school council decided to hold a charity football match - the children's Sacred Heart All-stars vs Staff. #Romeroserves.



**Sacred Heart**  
**@SacredHeartCov**

IT'S SHOW TIME - 30 dancers from the Sacred Heart Dance Team took to the stage to perform as part of the Coventry's Gotta Dance show at The Albany.







**Good Shepherd**  
**@goodshepherdcoventry**

Good Shepherd Year 6 pupils braving the elements at Plas Dol y Moch.



**Good Shepherd**  
**@goodshepherdcoventry**

Year 5 Good Shepherd pupils visiting Hogwarts bringing their English curriculum to life.



**St Gregory**  
**@stgregoryscoventry**

A wonderful afternoon at the beach! Lovely memories made and the children loved exploring their surroundings! The smiles on their faces say it all!  
#romeroexperiences  
#stgregsadventures  
#engagementandexcitement  
#activelearningexperiences  
#stgregsatdym #romerothrives  
#teamstgregs #itswhatwedohere  
#momentsthatbecomememories



**Ss Peter and Paul**  
**@sspeterpaulcoventry**

We supported Children In Need this year by asking everyone to come into school wearing their pyjamas! We asked for donations of any spare change and raised £163.04 for this amazing charity.



**Ss Peter and Paul**  
**@sspeterpaulcoventry**

Our Year 1 Class recently enjoyed an experience looking at and holding different animals linking with our Science topic of Animals including humans. The children loved seeing the animals and some were brave to let the animals sit in their heads!



**St Patricks**  
**@StPatricksCov**

Cooking Club enjoyed making their own spaghetti bolognaise and having a candle lit dinner together.



**St Gregory**  
**@stgregoryscoventry**

Year 4 had a fantastic day participating in Advent Art Day on Friday! They made their own class Advent wreath and topped it off with their parents helping them create some wonderful Christmas tree decorations. They are feeling very festive now!



**St Patricks**  
**@StPatricksCov**

Year 6 are preparing for their Confirmation by creating candles with their parents and carers.  
#RomeroReflects





# 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