

# News Romero

News and events from across  
The Romero Catholic Multi-Academy Company



## **BORN FOR THIS**

Choirs from our Primary schools and students from our Secondary join together.

## **MOUSIKE ENSEMBLE 2024**

'One Planet' learning through music

## **LIVESIMPLY AWARD**

Saint John Fisher and  
SS Peter and Paul Schools Celebrate

SPRING 2024

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# Welcome



As the trees begin to bud leaves and the days grow longer, it is my absolute pleasure to extend a heartfelt welcome to this newsletter, sharing events from the (short!) Spring term that draws to a close.

Spring, a season synonymous with renewal and growth, stands as a fitting metaphor for the journey we embark upon together in education and our faith community, especially as our Lenten days will give way to the season of Easter. Our collective commitment to nurturing young minds is the fertile soil from which the seeds of faith, knowledge and character sprout. This season, let us renew our dedication to fostering environments where creativity blooms and learning flourishes.

Let us continue our work to follow the example of Saint Oscar who tells us ‘Aspire not to have more, but to be more’. With two more schools achieving the LiveSimply Award, it is evident that we are empowering our pupils to answer the call for us to care for our common home and stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world.

May this newsletter, serve as a reminder of our shared vision and the vibrant tapestry we weave as a group of schools. This was particularly demonstrated in the depiction of “Born for This”, bringing together drama, music and narration from our staff and pupils across all our schools.

I look forward to seeing all our staff and governors at our annual Romero Training day #RomeroBelongs on the first day of the Summer term - April 8th 2024.

Wishing you all the peace and joy of the Easter Season,

**Brendan Fawcett**

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# Born For This

A 300-strong crowd gathered at Saint Patrick's church for a powerful retelling of the Easter story performed by pupils and staff across all eight schools.

Around 120 children came together to perform Born for This – a musical reflection on the Stations of the Cross – with families, friends and churchgoers soaking up dramatic sequences and choir music inspired by the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ.

The schools, who had been rehearsing individually before coming together for a final group practice on March 14, performed a mixture of sombre and uplifting songs to encourage reflection on the Easter story.

Between 10 and 15 children from all seven Romero Catholic Academy primary schools performed in the choir, with pupils from Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School taking lead parts.

The story covered the Last Supper and the arrest of Jesus at the Garden of Gethsemane, his trial with Pontius Pilate and three falls with the cross, and his crucifixion and resurrection, with a spoken reflection, physical performance and song in each section.

Some pupils also acted as the crowd bearing witness to the persecution of Jesus.

Tom Scott-Machin, Lay Chaplain at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, said: **"The performance was absolutely brilliant, and it was a really wonderful experience to come together and share it with the church.**

**We had not been in the space or rehearsed any elements of the show together until just before the main event, so it really was a remarkable undertaking and testament to talent of our students, who we are extremely proud of.** 4



**"It is a beautiful piece and something which can really help us in preparing for Easter. The sadness is overcome by the joy at the end, which is a really important message.**

**"With a prayerful moment after each section of show, the church was perfect for a performance like this as the location itself encourages the audience to reflect.**

**"It has been a fantastic opportunity to bring everyone together this year, which is so important not just in showcasing the talent across our schools, but in connecting with our community. We have been able to bring individuals from across the city together to put on something powerful."**



**Easter Services 2024**  
 Palm Sunday 24 March, Holy Thursday 28 March,  
 Good Friday 29 March, Holy Saturday 30 March,  
 Easter Sunday 31 March.  
 Coventry & Nuneaton Catholic Deanery |

# Parish Mass Times

	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Holy Saturday	Easter Sunday
Corpus Christi and Saint Anne Parish	7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (at Saint Anne's) watching until 9.30pm	3pm Passion of Our Lord.	7.30pm Easter Vigil.	11.00am Mass
Sacred Heart Parish	7.00pm Mass of the Lord's supper followed by watching until 11pm.	3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion. 7.00pm Stations of the Cross.	9am Blessing of the Easter Baskets. 7pm Easter Vigil.	10.30am Morning Mass.
Saint Elizabeth	8.00pm Mass of the Last Supper.	2.00pm Stations of the Cross. 3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion.	8.00pm Easter Vigil Mass.	9.15am, 11.15am Mass.
Saint John Fisher	7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper.	3.00pm Passion of Our Lord 7.00pm Way of the Cross.	6.30pm Easter Vigil.	9.30am, 11.30am Mass.
Saint Patrick	7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper. Watching for one hour after Mass	11.00am Children's celebration of the Passion, 3.00pm Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord 7pm Stations of the Cross.	9.00am Morning Prayer, 10.30am Polish Blessing of food, 7.00pm Easter Vigil Mass. 10.30pm Syro-Malabar Service (Malayalam)	10.30am Mass.



## Springing Into School Governance

Outside of schools, spring is the time for new life. In schools – and particularly in school governance - it is the time for deep dives, with the spring term positioned between the bustle and changing arrangements of the new school year, and the intense, assessment-focussed, summer term.

For this reason, the first governor monitoring visits of the year were scheduled for January and February, when governors from all Romero schools are invited to spend a full morning or afternoon in schools, reviewing their progress against the priorities that had been agreed with them.

For those who are not familiar with school monitoring visits, school priorities are set out as 'pillars' based on the school improvement 'pillars' or 'descriptors' developed by the Department of Education (DfE) as a way of identifying strong schools.

At Romero, the pillars used by governors as the basis of their monitoring are agreed individually with schools.

Examples of pillars or areas of focus looked at by governors included how Catholic life and mission is embraced by everyone within the school; how reading is recognised and encouraged as underpinning every other aspect of learning, and how a school supports all students to attain according to their ability, and particularly children with special educational needs or who qualify for pupil premium funding.

As part of understanding progress, governors carried out pupil and staff voice exercises or focus groups, interviewed school leaders and specialist members of staff including SEND and safeguarding leads, attended worship, toured schools, sat in classrooms, and viewed work of all kinds.

Governors' findings were then captured as part of an adapted meeting of the governing body and will be used as the basis for setting school priorities in future.



The themes of governors' findings included the warmth and heartfelt Catholic identity felt in schools across Romero.

The feedback also identified areas to improve – for example, pupils talked to governors about how poor behaviour in classrooms can make it harder to learn. Where areas for improvement have been identified, this will be acted on by schools.

Highlights of the visits included the Saint Gregory's guinea pigs and book machine, while at Saint Patrick's and SS Peter and Paul, it was poetry books and sustainability everywhere.

At Saint John Fisher, governors explored foundations in maths and discovered the importance of making connections from the earliest stages. At Sacred Heart, the focus was on chaplaincy and support including SEND, with students seeking out the governors to say that they appreciated the lengths school staff go to for them.

At Corpus Christi, Father Stephen spent time with parents and visited the prayer garden, while at Good Shepherd, governors were invited to take up residence in shelters made by the children in a forest school session.

At Cardinal Wiseman, governors investigated a broad range of curriculum and community issues including the place of the school in the parish and local community, the support to students including those with SEND or qualifying for pupil premium funding and the behaviour policy. Other areas of discussion were the school's IT strategy and a full review of attendance.

The next round of governor monitoring visits will be held in the summer term.

School governors make an invaluable contribution to the work of Romero schools, helping us to transform the life opportunities of the children in our care.

Opportunities are now open for governors from all backgrounds to play a part in the governance of our schools.

To find out more about governance in a Romero school local to you or to discuss an application to join one of our local governing bodies, please contact the Romero Head of Governance:

**Kate Godfrey at [k.godfrey@romeromac.com](mailto:k.godfrey@romeromac.com).**





## The Addams Family

Cardinal Wiseman students have just completed their performances of 'THE ADDAMS FAMILY'. This was a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family. Based on an original story the plot features every fathers' nightmare: Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family – a man her parents have never met.

And if that wasn't upsetting enough, Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before – keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia.

Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents.

The talented students performed a full dress rehearsal for the Romero primary schools on 19 March, who came along to the Saint Charles Lwanga theatre to experience the magic inside. All the pupils were amazed by this outstanding production; they loved the music, lights and most of all it made them laugh.

The cast then performed two evening shows on 19 and 20 March 2024, to a full house in the Saint Charles Lwanga Theatre, with lots of laughter and applause.

'Mrs Scott said, 'The Addams Family has been an enjoyable experience from start to finish, it has been a pleasure to work with such talented and committed individuals. These students have dedicated so much time and effort to putting this show together from attending after school and lunch time rehearsals to line learning and rehearsing at home. We are beyond proud of them! "

Miss Greenway complimented the cast, saying "The Addams Family is a fun and crazy musical with laughter and comedy from start to finish. Be prepared to sit back, relax and be transported to the spooky Addams mansion. We hope you enjoyed the show!"

Mr Pepper congratulated all students saying "It is so exciting to be part of a musical at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School! It has been great to work with the talented cast and crew, their enthusiasm has been incredibly infectious. I am sure you will agree that they are fantastic. I would like to take a moment to recognise the students from Year 11 that have supported with the lighting and sound desk. Without them, the show would simply not have had the same atmosphere."







# Swimming Gala 2024

Wednesday 21st February was an exciting day in the Romero calendar as the children competed in the Catholic Schools Swimming Gala. Children from 17 schools across East and West Coventry went head to head to become Coventry's winners and take home the trophy for their school.

The children all swam fantastically showing real determination, drive and enthusiasm. The atmosphere in the air was electric as children, staff and parents cheered for the contestants. With a very close set of heats, the final 8 schools headed into the finals. The races were incredibly close with many schools being within seconds of cinching the lead.

The children all had a wonderful day and represented their schools and Romero beautifully. A huge thank you to all those who participated, the staff who helped on the day and to the parents who supported the children.

  
*Congratulations!*

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| East Winners   | Sacred Heart        |
| East Runners Up  | Saint John Fisher   |
| West Winners   | All Souls           |
| West Runners Up  | Saint John Vianney  |
|  |                     |
| <b>Overall Winners</b>   | <b>Sacred Heart</b> |
| Overall 2nd Place  | Holy Family         |
| Overall 3rd Place  | All Souls           |

# LiveSimply

Let's hear it for the children at SS Peter and Paul. Whether it's litter picks, collecting bottle tops or cake sales, these children are all over it. The school has been presented with a LiveSimply Award in honour of its children's devotion to helping others. The children there have supported people in care homes, helped by staff kept the school grounds tidy - and generally been really good children.

Thirty-two children from Years 1 to 6 took part in a range of community-spirited initiatives, each embodying the principles of living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with others. These led to the accolade from the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD).

Members of the school's Chaplaincy, Eco and School Council teams visited Arden Park Residential Home to speak to and entertain residents. They even wrote cards and prayers for the elderly, displayed inside the school hall alongside a gallery of photos, and delivered flowers that had been donated for the school's sacred statue of Mary.

Eileen Osborne, a teaching assistant at Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, said the award was testament to the hard work of children and staff. "Pope Francis spoke about bridging the gap between the older and the younger generation at his general audience in June 2022," she said. "And that is exactly what we did, with a succession of heart-warming activities that really struck a chord with the care home residents and the children themselves.



"The cards they wrote were very much appreciated by the care home and made a lot of the elderly smile!" Sustainability, the environment and financial equality were other themes explored during the course of the awards programme which CAFOD says 'enables Catholic communities to care for God's creation and stand in solidarity with our global family'.

Litter picks were arranged to spruce up the school grounds and surrounding area, book swaps were held regularly to reinforce the importance of recycling, and bird boxes built to help encourage more wildlife. Children collected milk bottles and bottle tops that were turned into medals for runners in the Oslo Marathon as part of an eco-recycling project and ensured recycling bins were put in each classroom, earning SSPP an Eco Schools Green Flag Award in the process.



# Award



Pupils from Saint John Fisher have also received a global award for making a difference to the planet and those in need.

Saint John Fisher Catholic Primary School was joined by Colleen Fletcher MP and representatives from many charities as they received the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development LiveSimply Award for its projects.

Charities and other guests went to hear about the pupils' work over the last 18 months.

The children took part in a recycling project with Team Recycle, where the school community donated milk cartons and bottle tops. These were used to create 18,000 plastic medals for the 2023 Oslo Marathon.

The school worked alongside Coventry Food Bank and Langar Aid, gathering 15 crates of food donations, creating meal boxes and visiting their headquarters to learn how to support people in the community.

The award celebrates Catholic schools and parishes across the world who follow the Pope's aim by protecting the earth and local and global communities. Children from St John Fisher created the school's first Eco Club, responding to Pope Francis's call for all people to work towards a more sustainable world.

Colleen Fletcher, MP for Coventry North East, said: **"It was truly inspiring to see all the work and passion that had gone into earning the LiveSimply Award.**

**"I am really pleased to see how engaged all the pupils are with the issues both across the world and here in the UK.**

**"From the letters I received and all the activities I know they have taken part in, I can tell how seriously all the pupils have taken the goals and values of the award.**

**"I am sure that all of the pupils will continue to be engaged and passionate about the positive difference they can make in the world."**



# Mousike Ensemble 2024

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School welcomed more than 200 children from five other schools across the city and further afield for a Mousike Ensemble event; a specially written event which combined music and learning. The event had a geographical theme called One Planet: One World, taking the children on a musical journey through the geography National Curriculum.

The school was joined by fellow Romero schools Saint Gregory's, Saint Patrick's, Saint John Fisher and SS Peter and Paul's Catholic Schools as well as Saint Anne's Catholic Primary Schools in Coventry. Our other primary schools also took part, visiting schools across the city.

The event was led by Sacred Heart Executive Principal Paul Madia and class teacher Cathy Severs who took on the characters of geographical explorers to teach the pupils more about continents, climate zones, river systems, hemispheres, map and compass works, seas and oceans, to name a few through geography-themed music.

The children joined together to take part in a number of activities including performing a host of geographically themed songs and playing musical instruments. Each school was also invited to perform their own school showcase performance to the rest of the group of pupils.

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

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

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

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

"It coincided with the event being mirrored across Coventry and North Warwickshire in four other schools, with more than 26 primary schools taking part in total.

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

# Training Day

# #RomeroBelongs



Our first day back, Monday 8th April, is our annual training day. This year the theme is #RomeroBelongs.

One session during the day, will be set aside for a range of workshops for staff to choose from. These include Makaton, trauma-induced practice, Westfield, Sustainability, Power BI, Arbor and Virtual Reality class kits!

The inclusion of a session with a choice of workshops, is in response to feedback received on previous training days. It provides the opportunity to network with other staff members across Romero.

We hope to have workshops on Trauma Informed Practice, Westfield, Beginning to Makaton, VR, Artificial Intelligence, Tablet Academy, Power BI, Prayer and Liturgy, Living Sustainability, OPAL, Music Technology, EYFS, CSI and CST, Canva.

#networking #training #inclusive

## #ROMEROBELONGS

### Schedule

Time	Item		Venue
8.00am	Refreshments available		
8.45am	All invited to be seated in the hall		Gymnasium
9.00am	Welcome and Prayer	Matt Everett, Principal of Cardinal Wiseman	Saint John Paul II Sports Hall
9.05am	'Belonging' Opening Address	Helen Quinn CEO	Saint John Paul II Sports Hall
9.30am	Floyd Steadman OBE	Introduction Andy McConville, Good Shepherd	Saint John Paul II Sports Hall
10.30am	"Our People"	Alex Thomas Head of HR	Saint John Paul II Sports Hall
10.40am	Break		
11.00am	Chris Lubbe	Introduction/ Thanks Kevin Shakespeare Corpus Christi Laura Burtonwood Cardinal Wiseman	Gymnasium
12.00pm	Lunch	During lunch there will be a market place in the gymnasium	Saint Teresa of Calcutta Canteen
12.45pm		Raffle prize will be drawn except top four	Saint John Paul II Sports Hall
1.00pm	A range of workshops		Various areas around the school
1.45pm	Raffle Prize Drawing the top four prizes Quiz Afternoon tea at Coombe Abbey for two people	Dee Williams Saint John Fisher Megan Scullion, Saint Gregory Michelle Garvey, SS Peter & Paul	Saint John Paul II Sports Hall
2.00pm	Liturgy 'Belonging'	Long Service Award and Retirements	Saint John Paul II Sports Hall
2.30pm	Closing and thanks	Brendan Fawcett Chair of the Board	Saint John Paul II Sports Hall

Through sponsorship secured by the Shared Services Team, Funding has been raised towards the cost of external speakers and catering. This has been achieved through donations from our contractors and contacts. Furthermore, all funds raised from the raffle prizes, sourced by the Shared Services Team, will aid Mouthouse.



All eight schools are

**CLOSED**

on this day



**Stations of the cross**



Reception have been learning about Jesus' journey to the cross as part of their Lenten reflections.

They wanted to share their learning with the others, and created these beautifully poignant tableaus so that these can be displayed in the hall and used when each class take part in their stations of the cross Liturgy.



**Recruitment Fayre**



The SST Team at The Romero Catholic Academy enjoyed themselves while at the Coventry city Recruitment fayre held at Friars House in Coventry this February. Freya and Angelika were there showcasing our current vacancies and the opportunities available for future employees.



**World Book Day**



The school exploded into a spectacle of colour with the celebration of World Book Day. It was a great day with children and staff dressing in a wide range of book characters. Throughout the day the children had opportunities to share their love of reading through various activities, including visiting our library where they were able to take home a book free of charge following the generous book donations from Coventry Reading Doctor - thank you!

HAPPY  
Easter



**Trips**

Year 3 had a lovely time at Pizza Express this March for a pizza making activity. They also visited the Coventry Transport Museum, Coventry Cathedral and Herbert Art Gallery to see Dippy the nations favourite dinosaur! They had a wonderful day.



**CAFOD** Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

**THE BIG LENT WALK**

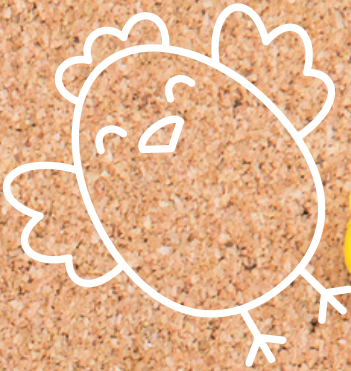
**WHAT ARE WE DOING?**  
Sacred Heart School are taking part in **THE BIG LENT WALK** to raise money for **CAFOD**. During school time, the staff and children will walk as far as possible around the school grounds and local area in the week beginning Monday 18th March.

**WHY NOT GET INVOLVED?**  
On the weekend prior to this (Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th March) we invite children, families and parishioners to join in our challenge and help us clock up 1000km. Just walk as far as possible over that weekend, and then upload a photo to our Padlet page. Don't forget to include how many people you walked with, and how far you walked so that we can add everybody's individual distances to our collective total. (Padlet link to follow).

Our target is **£500**

We will walk **1000km**

Please sponsor your child and help us to reach our target! Use the QR code to sponsor via our JustGiving page.

**Big Lent Walk**



The children and staff of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Coventry took part in the Big Lent Walk again this year. As a school community, we are collectively aiming to walk a total of 1000km to raise money for CAFOD.

Every child and member of staff took part in this challenge during school time in March; they walked around the school grounds and local area.



**Lenten Retreat Day**  
This event was entitled 'Remember Me' and the whole school welcomed Dan and Emily as they reflected on Jesus love and forgiveness during the Lent season. The day was filled with games, prayer, songs and reflection.  
Dan and Emily visited all our primary schools.




**Candles Conference**

A level Philosophy and Ethics students had an opportunity to attend the 2024 'Candle Conference' at Coventry Cathedral. This was a invaluable chance to hear theories explained by celebrated scholar Peter Vardy.




**Aspirations Week**

It has been Coventry Aspirations Week and our year 6 pupils had an opportunity at Little Heath school to meet adults in varying career roles and learn about what they do and the type of education and experience that was required for them to be successful.

Our year 6 girls also had a second opportunity to attend a workshop at Aldermans Green School titled 'Tech she can' where they explored science & technology career roles and had the opportunity to work with some exciting programming equipment.






# The Romero Catholic Academy

Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow

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

