



# KENT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER



EASTER 2023 | ISSUE 09

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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE



This has been another busy term for the Trust and our schools, and in this issue of our newsletter we feature a wonderful range of news and activities from across our Catholic family (*please see pages 7-17*), all of which I hope you'll find as interesting and inspiring as I did! I have very much enjoyed my visits to schools over the past few weeks, meeting staff and pupils is always one of the real highlights of my role.

This past week, I was also privileged to attend a retreat day with our school leaders at **The Royal Foundation of Saint Katharine** in London. This was an important day which gave all our leaders much-needed time to reflect upon and also re-focus on how we can best lead our schools spiritually, using Jesus and his teachings as our guiding light and example. One of the scriptures we looked at really summed up the essence of the role of a school leader:

***Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them - not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be...being examples to the flock.***

1 Peter, 5: 1-3

So, my thanks go, as always, to all of our leaders, for their hard work, dedication and care of our schools and our pupils. And I would also like to take a moment to thank our pupils, all staff, parents & carers, and volunteers - for sharing your skills, talents, gifts, and time with our school communities, each and every day.

As we approach the summer months, we now look forward to another wide and exciting range of Trust and school events, including sports days, productions, and Masses & Liturgies; but for now, may I wish you all a very happy, blessed Easter and a wonderful break, with time to rest and enjoy being with your family and friends.

**Annemarie Whittle**  
CEO

*Annemarie*

[awhittle@kcsp.org.uk](mailto:awhittle@kcsp.org.uk)





## THOUGHTS FROM TRUST FOUNDATION DIRECTOR JULIAN GIZZI

I can hardly believe it, but this is my fifth year with KCSP. Little did I know when I decided to respond to an advertisement for foundation directors in my parish newsletter that I would find such a captivating and fulfilling way to spend my retirement.

I sometimes think that I am a teacher manqué. I taught at Friars School, now Ashford School, in my gap year between school and university. I was but a few years older than my pupils at the time and whilst the experience was somewhat daunting at first, I found it immensely rewarding. However, a career in the law beckoned and I spent nigh on forty years in practice in London, though still, I am pleased to say, with an educational flavour, as I was privileged to number amongst my clients the funding agencies for higher and further education, the Qualifications & Curriculum Authority, and Ofsted.



Much as I enjoy working alongside my wonderful fellow directors and colleagues at the Trust Office, I derive the greatest satisfaction from helping out (or should that be, getting in the way?) as a volunteer in one of our schools. The time I spend there makes real our work around the Board table and in committee, and not a day passes without a story to tell. One of my favourites is a conversation I had with a pupil not so long ago:

Girl: *My nan made me an apple pie last night.*

Julian: *That's nice, did she make it from scratch?*

Girl (after a pause for thought): *No, she didn't use scratch.*

I said at my first KCSP School Leaders' Conference that I had so much to learn from and about our schools. Whilst that remains the case today, it didn't take me long to discover what an amazing community the KCSP family of schools is, one that puts Christ's teachings into practice, all day, every day. I am full of admiration and praise for all that our staff, governors and volunteers do, and for their love of and devotion to our pupils. Thank you to all for your skill, your commitment and your hard work.

I wish you all a joyful and blessed Easter, secure in the knowledge that Jesus is with us and that we are always loved.

**Julian Gizzi**  
Foundation Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julian".

[jgizzi@kcsp.org.uk](mailto:jgizzi@kcsp.org.uk)

# SCIENCE IN ACTION: SUPPORTED BY THE PRIMARY SCIENCE TEACHING TRUST



WRITTEN BY SARAH FLIGHT, CPD COORDINATOR

Building on the success of last year's online science event, it was wonderful to have all 20 of the Trust's primary schools join together on Friday 10 March to once again mark the start of **British Science Week** (10 - 19 March 2023).

This year's event celebrated 'connections' and was expertly led by Tom Holloway, the Primary Science Teaching Trust's (PSTT) Regional Mentor for London and the South East.

A range of activities took place during the morning session which saw children from EYFS and Years 1 & 2 building birds' nests, to investigate if they could withstand the wind.

Years 3 & 4 built their own seismometers to measure different sounds in and around their school; and Years 5 & 6 became worm-charmers to investigate if using different methods would encourage a range of wriggly worms out of the ground!



**Pictured on this page: Trust pupils taking part in our Primary Science Day Event on 10th March**



STEM FEATURE FOCUS

All of these engaging activities were then followed in the afternoon with a live feedback session, which was an absolute joy to be part of, with children from across a range of schools and year groups sharing their findings via verbal feedback, pictures, presentations, and even models!

The event was once again a huge success, and it was clear to see that both staff and children thoroughly enjoyed the day.

A big thank you to Tom, and to all of our staff and children, who took part and made the event such a success!

*"Children across the whole school thoroughly enjoyed the activities. Sharing their findings with children across KCSP encouraged the children to talk like scientists and use scientific vocabulary.*

*The day created a real buzz about science.*

*Thank you, Tom!"*

**Mrs Martin, Teacher at St Richard's Primary, Dover**

# SCIENCE IN ACTION: SUPPORTED BY THE PRIMARY SCIENCE TEACHING TRUST



Pictured on this page: Trust pupils taking part in our Primary Science Day Event on 10th March

STEM FEATURE FOCUS



# Easter News 2023

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This term, we are delighted to share news with you from across our family of schools; you will see some of the hard work and the incredible range of activities that take place in schools every day.

# Stella Maris Catholic Primary School

## Folkestone



Stella Maris Catholic Primary School is located in central Folkestone, and serves the parish of Our Lady and St Joseph, Folkestone.

Stella Maris is very much a family school and provides a caring atmosphere, an exciting curriculum, and great opportunities for all children. Most, but not all, of the school's children are Catholics, and those who do not share the Catholic faith still choose the school because of its strong family values and the work it does to teach the children about loving God and their fellows. All the work of the school is based on five Gospel values: Love, Care, Share, Respect & Trust.

This term, children at Stella Maris Primary led a very special prayer service for the people of Turkey and Syria following the devastating earthquake in February. It was a beautiful and reflective service.



# St Augustine's Catholic Primary School Tunbridge Wells



ST AUGUSTINE'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is located in Tunbridge Wells, and serves the local parish of St Augustine, Tunbridge Wells.

St Augustine's has a rich and diverse community that aims to value each child for their unique gifts, skills and talents.

This term, St Augustine's school council voted to raise money during Lent for the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** to support endangered animals. Pupils decided to hold a PJ day and managed to raise a fantastic total of £230. Well done, everyone!

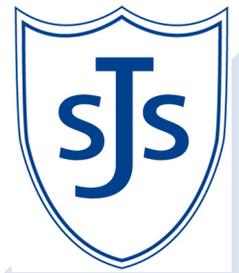


Pupils have also been hard at work creating beautiful Easter Gardens (pictured left and right)



# St John's Catholic Primary School

## Gravesend



St John's Catholic Primary School is located in Gravesend, and serves the local parish of St John the Evangelist, Gravesend.

St John's prides itself on its vibrant and successful learning environment, which lies at the heart of its community and parish. The school's strong Catholic ethos permeates all that it does; as staff encourage and inspire all children to flourish and reach their potential, both spiritually and academically.

The school held a very special Easter Liturgy this week, pupils recreated famous paintings displayed in the National Gallery in London, which retold the story of the Holy Week.



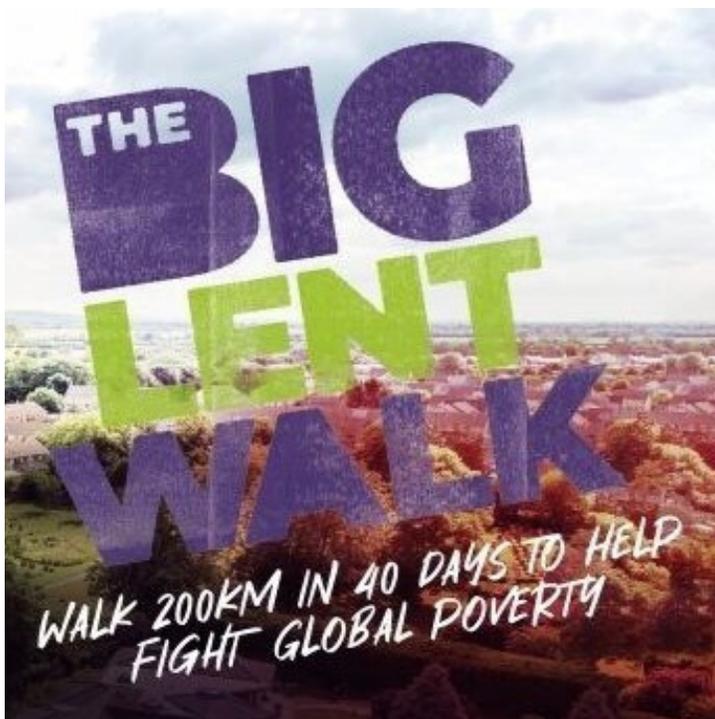
# St Teresa's Catholic Primary School Ashford



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School is located in Ashford, and serves its local parish of St Teresa of Avila, Ashford.

## Lenten Reflection with The Avilites

St Teresa's Avilites Prayer Leader Group have been working hard throughout Lent to develop and deliver 3 Lenten reflections for their school community, all of which are based on each of the 3 elements of Lent (pictured right). Careful thought and consideration was taken when selecting appropriate Bible verses, hymns and personal reflections to enable them to deliver a pupil-led session to their peers. The school is incredibly proud of its Avilites for their dedication to and passion that they have shown during these reflections.



## The Big Lent Walk for CAFOD

As a school family, St Teresa's have been working collaboratively to walk 200km in 40 days collectively. The children have been walking each day around our school field to accumulate their kilometres over the period of Lent. Pupils' families and the wider school community have very kindly sponsored the children so the school is now well on its way to reaching its target of £500 to support the global fight against poverty! Well done to everyone.

# St Thomas' Catholic Primary School

## Sevenoaks



St Thomas' Catholic Primary School is located in Sevenoaks, and serves its local parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks.

At St Thomas', guided by Christ's teaching to love God and neighbour, the school strives to create a caring ethos through its teaching, through its worship and by its example.

Pupils are encouraged to recognise all for their unique God-given talents and the school works together with its families to make the most of every child's full potential.

St Thomas' aims to promote a spirit of charity, social justice and global awareness and strives to provide the best possible education for all of its children.

This term, children and staff walked 5.18km around Sevenoaks town and into Knole Park within two hours to raise money for **CAFOD's Lent Appeal 2023**. The children were superb and negotiated the mud with both agility and good humour!

The Trust and the school would like to thank all the parents & carers for their generous donations to this appeal, the school raised a fantastic total of almost £500. A huge well done to all!



# The Holy Family Catholic Primary School Maidstone



The Holy Family Catholic Primary School is located in Parkwood, Maidstone, and serves the parish of Maidstone South.

At Holy Family Primary the children are at the heart of all that the school does, and it prides itself on its warm, friendly and family-orientated atmosphere.

As a Catholic school, Holy Family Primary recognises that every child – and every member of its community – is unique and precious to God, and so aims to create an ambitious, supportive atmosphere where everyone can flourish. All of the school's staff work extremely hard to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Linking with British Science Week in school (as featured in the article on pages 5-6.), it was wonderful to see pupils attending the school's second 'Stargazing' event; the stars and the weather finally aligned to allow the event to go ahead earlier this month!

Pupils found it truly fascinating to be able to locate Jupiter and utterly mind-blowing to try and understand how far away the planet is! Mrs Brenton, as science lead in school, is hoping to hold similar events in the future and as the **The Ogden Trust** Hub school for KCSP, is delighted that Holy Family Primary can lead the way for future Trust involvement and excellence in Science!



# St Anselm's Catholic School

## Canterbury



St Anselm's is a Catholic School for students of all abilities, designated as a Specialist Science College in September 2004. It serves the people of the Canterbury Deanery.

The school are incredibly proud to share the news that some of its Sixth Form students have recently attained the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and have received an invitation to Buckingham Palace for the official presentation ceremony. This is a tremendous achievement!

**The Duke of Edinburgh Award** which was started in 1956 by HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh is open to young people from the ages of 14-25 and has three levels of achievement; Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level has four main components; Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition with an additional Residential section for Gold Award participants.

St Anselm's is a licenced organisation of the scheme, which is co-ordinated by science teacher, Mr Richard Lloyd. *"Each level of the scheme requires a significant commitment from its participants. The students that have recently achieved their Gold Award started their Bronze with us in Year 9 and they continued right through the pandemic."*

Head Prefect, Freya Gomes and Tom Hughes-Lewis are two of the St Anselm's Sixth Form students that have achieved their Gold Award (pictured right) and are looking forward to their visit to Buckingham Palace. For the volunteering element, Freya

*assisted at Age Concern, whilst Tom has been a leader of the Beavers since the age of 14 when he first started his Bronze Award. Speaking about their experiences, Freya said, "It has definitely given me a lot of confidence – not just with the outdoor activities such as kayaking and mountain climbing, but also the volunteering aspect as well. I feel very lucky to have taken part."*

Academy Principal, Mr Jez Rowarth said, *"We're incredibly proud of all our students that take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, both for the invaluable skills they learn and the service that they provide to their community. All thanks and credit are due to Mr Lloyd and the staff that assist him on the many trips throughout the year, all of which are undertaken in their own time."*



# St Edmund's Catholic School

## Dover

St Edmund's Catholic School is located in Dover, and serves the Parish of the Good Shepherd, Dover & Aylesham.



St Edmund's places a strong emphasis on supporting each individual student to thrive and succeed in their education, and takes daily inspiration from its Catholic ethos.

This term, the school continued to celebrate Liturgies and Masses together, on holy days & feast days, with some taking place at the school's parish church of St Paul's. Each week the school houses have also held a form Mass in the School Chapel (pictured below).



# St Gregory's Catholic School Tunbridge Wells



St Gregory's Catholic School is located in Tunbridge Wells, and serves the Parishes of the Tunbridge Wells Deanery.

St Gregory's are joining in **The Big Lent Walk** campaign to raise money for CAFOD. The school is aiming to raise £9,322 – a symbolic amount with £1 representing every kilometre of distance between the school and Bangladesh.

In school, the Year 12 CAFOD Young Leaders are busy promoting the **fundraising campaign** which will see students in Years 7 to 10 completing a 15-minute walk around the school playing fields on Wednesday 26 April and Wednesday 3 May to show their support for the work CAFOD does.



## Lenten prayer

St Gregory's welcomed members of local outreach group, Youth for Christ Tunbridge Wells, into school to lead prayer sessions with Year 7 students and talk them through the events of Holy Week. They explored themes and questions such as suffering, and , forgiveness, and heaven. The whole school also had the opportunity to drop by and explore the activities in the Lent Prayer Room, which was being run by Youth for Christ in the School's Chapel during lunchtimes.

# Ursuline College

## Westgate on Sea



Ursuline College is located in Westgate on Sea, and serves the parish of Westgate-on-Sea, Thanet and the local area.

The school, as always, has had a very busy term! Students in Year 8 and 9 played hosts to 40 Italian students (pictured right) from Oristano, Sardinia over the course of 2 weeks. Ursuline College students were 'buddied' with Italian students taking them to all their lessons and breaks, taking part in cultural activities as well as sports activities including the Clip and Climb centre in Broadstairs. Italian students were fully immersed into English schooling and they loved it! Many staff described them as pleasure to have in the classroom. Many good friends and memories were made, and contact details exchanged.

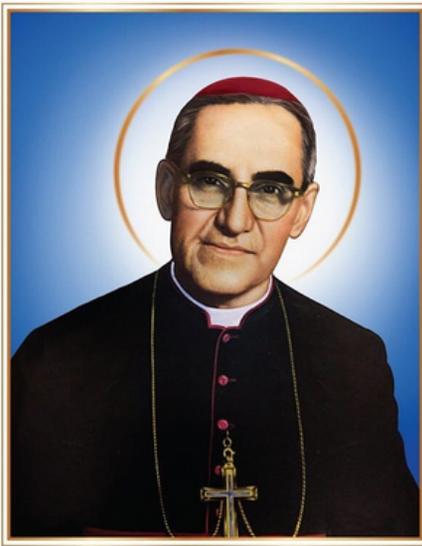


Miss Lancefield had the pleasure of being able to say 'yes' to two Y11 students who asked if students could have a non-uniform and bake sale day to raise money for Cafod's Syria/Turkey Earthquake Appeal, but advised the students that there were some conditions: They write the communication to parents, students and staff, they organise how they will collect money and ensure enough cakes, and they aim to reach a target amount of £700. They did all of this and recruited support from staff and other students. We are very proud to be able to tell you the school raised a wonderful £1200 which CAFOD were delighted with.



The Oscar Romero Award  
Aspire to be more

## Trust update: The Oscar Romero Award



SAN ÓSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO  
OBISPO Y MÁRTIR

Archbishop Oscar Romero is a 20th century martyr of the Church. He was the Archbishop of San Salvador in Central America and was canonised (recognised as a saint) on 14 October 2018 by Pope Francis in Rome, having been beatified on 23 May 2015.

The Oscar Romero Award Trust was set up to advance the Catholic faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the teachings of St. Oscar Romero; The Oscar Romero Award for schools recognises a school's commitment to Catholic Social Teaching.

OUR CATHOLIC LIFE

The Trust is incredibly proud to advise that a further four of our schools have now been awarded the Participator Level of The Oscar Romero Award, which recognises that a school is living their mission as a Catholic community; and one of our schools, St Gregory's Primary in Margate, has also now been awarded the Developer Level of the award! We now have nine schools in receipt of the award:

- Holy Family Primary, Maidstone - Participator Award
- More Park Primary, West Malling - Participator Award
- St Augustine's Primary, Hythe - Participator Award
- St Augustine's Primary, Tunbridge Wells - Participator Award
- St Edward's Primary, Sheerness - Participator Award
- St Gregory's Primary, Margate - Participator Award & Developer Award
- St Joseph's Primary, Broadstairs - Participator Award
- St Mary's Primary, Whitstable - Participator Award
- St Peter's Primary, Sittingbourne - Participator Award

A huge well done to all; if you would like to find out more about the award, please take a look at the Trust website [here](#).

A number of our schools are also currently in the process of applying for the award, so please watch this space for other updates!



# Join our Team!

We are looking for talented and inspirational people to join our Trust.

Please take a look at our website vacancies page for the latest opportunities:

**<https://www.kcsp.org.uk/work-with-us/>**





**Have a wonderful Easter break,  
see you all next term!**

**The KCSP Summer newsletter will be published on 19 July 2023,  
you can subscribe directly [here](#).**

Please visit the [news](#) page on our website to keep up to date with  
the very latest stories and updates from our schools throughout  
term time.

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Catholic  
Schools'  
Partnership**



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Part of the Archdiocese of Southwark



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