



# St Ralph Sherwin

Catholic Multi Academy Trust



## Our Journey Together

- news from across the St Ralph Sherwin Trust

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I would like to begin by expressing my thanks to our school leaders and to every single member of staff for their incredible efforts

and patience in what has been an extremely difficult half-term for everyone.

I have been in awe of how our staff have responded to the ever-changing events around the opening of our schools. Their resilience, optimism, determination and belief in what they are doing has helped see our schools

through this most challenging of half-terms.

I would also like to thank pupils for adapting to and embracing home learning and parents/carers who, in many cases, are supporting their children while also having to work from home. I do appreciate how difficult this situation is but with the vaccine programme in full flow there is hopefully light at the end of the tunnel now.

Our term will finish with our Annual Trust Conference for staff and I am delighted to say that we have two outstanding keynote speakers; the former Education Secretary, The Rt Hon Baroness Nicky Morgan and

Andrew Hammond, Senior Director of Education at Discovery Education. The theme of our day is Equality and Health and Wellbeing in the workplace; two priorities for the Trust this year.

I am sure that everyone is looking forward to this half-term. I hope that you can all take the opportunity to switch off the laptop, to close the books and to go for a walk in the fresh air.

**Sean McClafferty**  
Chief Executive

## STUDENTS SET TO BENEFIT FROM TRUST-WIDE HARDSHIP FUND



A Hardship Fund which will support students facing financial difficulties has been launched across 25 academies by the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

The fund is a source of financial help available to all registered full-time students at 20 Trust primary and 5 secondary schools in Derbyshire and the surrounding counties.

It will help students who are experiencing difficulties through hardship in paying for: curriculum trips, visits, and residential courses; uniform, shoes, or sports kit; other materials or equipment required for academic studies; attendance at seminars, interviews, or work experience placements and emergency travel expenses.

There is also the opportunity for qualifying students to be able to access one free school meal each day during recognised academy holidays through the fund.

Sean McClafferty, Trust Chief Executive, said he was pleased that the Trust was able to support those students most in need.

He said: "The Trust acknowledges the difficulties faced by many of the families we serve, particularly with the effects of Coronavirus on the community.

"All of our students should have the same access to important aspects of

their education and their financial situation should not be a barrier to that."

For more information about the Hardship Fund visit the Trust website <http://bit.ly/2LYOZTD>



**Abigail and Flo jump for joy after raising £1,000**

Turn to p2 to read Abigail and Flo's story.





From page one

“We did a sponsored walk for the NDCYS. We walked 10 kilometres starting at the Briars Retreat Centre. Our goal was to reach £500. We successfully raised over £1,000 for a charity we love. The NDCYS has a retreat centre for young people to learn more about their faith. We did this walk because the NDCYS has helped so many people and we would like to say thank you to them. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side but the walk was still very enjoyable. We were inspired to do the walk because of the NDCYS YouTube channel, which we watched at home in lockdown and back at school. It is a great way to start your day and always puts a smile on your face. We were lucky enough to be featured in one of their Monday morning live streams. Thank you to all of the supporters that have donated to our sponsored walk for the Briars.”

By Abigail N and Flo A (10)

St Charles' Catholic Voluntary Academy has been awarded the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Bronze Award and is now going for Gold. The status has been granted by UNICEF in recognition that the school is embedding children's rights in its policies, practice and ethos.



# St Charles' celebrates UNICEF award

The Bronze award means that St Charles' Senior Leadership Team understands what is involved in the award and is committed to embarking on the UNICEF UK rights respecting journey. It also recognises that the right foundations are in place for the school's journey to the second stage, which is Silver.

The award recognises achievement in putting the UN Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of a school's practice to improve wellbeing and help all children and young people realise their potential. UNCRC recognises that all children have the right to be treated with dignity, fairness, to be

protected, to develop their full potential and to participate.

Headteacher Mrs Quirke said:

“Becoming part of a UNICEF Rights Respecting School has helped to develop our Character Curriculum. “The school recognises the importance of developing character traits in our pupils, which include personal and social responsibility. As part of our Catholic ethos, we want our pupils to grow into responsible citizens who care about the world they live in and learning about children's rights helps to create understanding and empathy for our global world.”



Feast Day Inset for

## Community and Staff Wellbeing

4th December 2020

“It is like this. A man takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground. After a while it grows up and becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out such large branches that the birds come and make their nests in its shade.”  
Mark 4:31-32

The St Ralph Sherwin Feast Day celebrations were warmly received by all who participated. The apt themes of Community and Staff Wellbeing drove the content for the day, enabling staff from across the Trust to pause and reflect on their roles within and contributions towards the building of our communities which bond us together within our Trust family.

With words of introduction and support from our CEO and Trust Board Chair, an insightful input from Angela Gillespie, a heart-warming liturgy and reflection, as well as opportunities

for valuable discussion within our own staff teams, everyone could stop and draw breath after such a hectic and unusual Advent term.

Trust mugs were distributed as this year's gift - many of which our staff chose to fill with goodies. Bishop Patrick and Fr Simon closed the event in prayer, leaving time for each person to have some much-needed time for self. A lasting memento for each school was the creation of a Communitree on the day, where staff thumbprints, representing leaves, filled up the image of a tree.





The families of Saint Mary's in Glossop once again generously donated food items to Glossopdale Foodbank. During the season of Advent the children have been thinking about giving to others, not just receiving. Mr Ackers, Headteacher, was particularly keen for this initiative to continue this year to support local families struggling during the festive period and is delighted the school has been able to reach out to the community in this way.



Families and staff from St Margaret's CVA in Glossop collected an enormous amount of food and toiletries for the Reverse Advent Calendar to help Glossopdale Foodbank this year. Jane Redshaw from Glossopdale Foodbank came to the school to pick up the goodies and was overwhelmed by how much had been generously donated. Mrs Beaumont, Headteacher, said: "It's been a tough year for everyone. The parents, children and staff from the school have really thought about our local community. I would like to say a big thank you to the children and their families for supporting a local charity."

# St Anne's CVA praised for charity donations



A charity appeal which was supported by pupils and parents at St Anne's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Buxton raised over £1,400.

Mrs Wiggins, headteacher at St Anne's, thanked parents after she said they were 'overwhelmed' with donations for the Helping Hands pop up shop, which ran at The Source Café in Terrace Road.

Helping Hands is run by volunteers including Hannah Tarplee, a Friends of St Anne's chair and governor. Mrs Wiggins said she was delighted at how the school community had joined together to support those in need. She said: "After a difficult year we wanted to do whatever we could do to help families in our town who have experienced financial hardship because of the COVID restrictions. Initially, we were going to ask our parents for donations of food for the local food bank but decided to also request donations of new/good condition toys and warm clothing such as coats, too.

"The collections were advertised on social media and on our school Dojo page - our Friends of St Anne's chair (who is also one of our governors) rallied her volunteers and a number of before school and after school collections were planned. Children brought food into school, parents arrived with bags stuffed full of toys and clothes. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of families

who donated and by the way our school community came together to support those in need, in our wider community."

Hannah thanked St Anne's and all those who donated to the appeal.

She said: "All items were on sale for a minimal amount, most £1 or less, to provide families with the ability to choose the gifts and the dignity to say that they had provided for their families. From the beginning, we said all proceeds from the sale of items would be donated directly to The Food Bank in Buxton.

"We're now pleased to say a massive £1,425.41 was raised by Helping Hands and this will be donated to The High Peak Food Bank and the excellent projects they run."







St Thomas' Catholic Voluntary Academy in Ilkeston held a Karate Week in school before Christmas. Two qualified martial arts experts came in and ran socially distanced sessions. All children were sponsored and almost £2,200 was raised for local charity Home Start Erewash.

There have been so many individual stories of parents, pupils, staff and governors going over and above to support one another. Our fantastic art teachers Mrs Snow and Ms Wilson have been in school putting packs together for the Year 10 GCSE art students. They were worried that without access to a range of materials and paints at home the students were more limited in the art work they could complete, so they have put individual art packs together so students can still do as much as possible at home.

Mr Gritton, Saint Benedict CVA.



# Alisha races to 2020 Vice Champion title



St Philip Howard student Alisha Palmowski is celebrating after winning a top racing title. Alisha finished the shortened Championship Season in second place (out of 28) and was therefore the 2020 Junior DRS100 (Daniel Ricciardo Series UK) Vice Champion. Her dad Martin said: "We as parents are extremely proud, particularly as this is a national championship that attracts some of the country's leading young



racers. "Her on-track ability continues to gain attention and positive reactions and she is booked to enter the Ginetta Junior Scholarship, where the successful driver (out of approx. 60 entrants) wins a fully funded season racing these cars as a support series alongside the BTCC (British Touring Car Championship) which is aired on live TV. "Whilst this is a long shot, based on the calibre and much more experienced competition, Alisha showed amazing promise in one of these cars earlier in the year when she had a formal test day with the official Ginetta works factory team."



St Edward's CVA, hub school for the Swadlincote Partnership, launched a marvellous marble

challenge for pupils and their families – with more than 200 families across the Partnership taking place. Families were challenged to develop a track for a marble to travel along, with a journey time from start to finish of 35 seconds. The Ogden partnership funding was used to buy the marble run kits which were provided to each family who took part and included card, art straws, a marble, sellotape and blue tack. Once they had built and tested their track, the children had to submit a video to their school for judging. Teachers at each school selected three winners: best design, most ingenious and closest to the given time limit. Each of these winners received a £10 Amazon voucher.



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