



St Mary's CVA - Governor's NEWSLETTER

March 2023



OFSTED Congratulations

We hope you have had chance to read and absorb the findings of the latest OFSTED inspection. I think you will agree that the staff and pupils have done brilliantly!

To be **outstanding** in **four out of five categories** gives us every reason to celebrate and feel pride. Once again, a warm congratulations to everyone involved. What a wonderful report to carry us into our new school later this year!

by Emma Farmer (Chair of Governors)

Young Voices

On Friday 10th February I had the great pleasure of attending the Utilitia Arena Sheffield, to see the St Marys Choir participate in the 'Young Voices' performance, along with another 5000 children from schools all over the UK. The choir had been practising for the event for months, and the St Marys SPIRIT shone through.

A huge thank-you to Mrs Lane, Mrs Brentnall and Mrs Hazel for accompanying them to the event, which was a truly unique atmosphere for all to experience.

Rebekah Maguire
Parent Governor



St Mary's CVA - Local Governing Body

L-R: Sara Bolton, Rebekah Maguire, Lara Tayo-Sobajo, Lesia Bandura, Emma Farmer, Ben Taylor

WELCOME

We are thrilled to announce that we have welcomed a new addition to our governing board. Mrs. Lara Tayo-Sobajo has been appointed by Bishop Patrick as a foundation governor for St. Mary's. As we work towards embracing the opportunities and confronting the challenges of the coming years, we know Lara will be a huge asset to our team.

Meet the Governor: Ben Taylor



My name is Ben Taylor - one of the new parent governors at St Mary's. I will be working with Mrs Greaves and the school's staff on the curriculum, supporting all with maintaining the high-quality education our students receive and for St Mary's to continue going from strength to strength as one of the best schools in Derby.

I am a former student of St Benedicts, where I met my wife. She even attended St Mary's in the late 90s, in its original setting, behind the church. My son, Noah, and daughter, Ella, attend the school in Year 3 and Nursery.

I am a Head of English in Derbyshire, working in Alternative Provision to support vulnerable students obtaining the qualifications that will help them succeed in their lives. Prior to this, I worked at Lees Brook school in Chaddesden, for 14 years. My roles there included: pastoral care and as the Literacy Co-Ordinator. I am a strong advocate for literacy and the opportunities it offers young people in their lives and will endeavour to support the school to provide the best literacy curriculum.

Also, I am a big sports fan and a former journalist at the BBC and Sky Sports. I play hockey for Derby, where I have been a former club captain, and also play cricket when I am not cheering on the mighty Rams at Pride Park. My journalism training, has also allowed me to become the News Editor at Teacher Hug Radio, which is the first ever radio station dedicated to education. I had the privilege of presenting the news bulletins on air and interviewing some of the leading professionals in education.

I look forward to meeting you as parents, and playing a supporting role in the ambitions of the school and the experiences our students receive.

Ben Taylor - Parent Governor

Governor Monitoring Visit: Catholic Social Teaching

The season of Lent, seemed an excellent time to catch up with Mrs. Naylor to find out more about the Catholic Social Teaching taking place in school. It is an area where she takes a leading role.

It was exciting to hear about how the children strengthen their understanding and most importantly, live out their Faith both at school and in the wider community.

The Mission Days, that are an established feature of our school calendar, are excellent opportunities for the school community to come together to celebrate Faith. For the Lent Mission Day, it was powerful to join our own Lenten promises with those of our children. However, it was clear from our discussion that mission days are just a small part of the wider journey that is taking place in school. Mrs. Naylor was able to give us an exciting overview of how our children are being encouraged to encounter Christ and Faith throughout their school day, across all aspects of their learning and interaction, fully embracing the St. Mary's SPIRIT.

By Emma Farmer and Rebekah Maguire

New School Build

Following the breaking ground ceremony on 6th February, things have been progressing at pace on the Broadway



school site. As can be seen on the latest drone photo - the layout of the buildings is clear and we



should be able to see the first above ground structures going up very soon! it's all very exciting!