

Summer 2025

Welcome to our Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT's newsletter
for our 36 primary and secondary schools across
Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City

Newsletter

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope



This year, students and staff across our Trust have celebrated the Jubilee Year 2025, Pilgrims of Hope – a call for us to share Christian hope in a world facing war, poverty, climate change and post-pandemic challenges in a range of creative and spiritual ways.

Cathedral Pilgrimages

St. Teresa's Year 5 pupils, embarked on an inspiring visit to Nottingham Cathedral and The Mary Potter Heritage Centre, where they explored the spiritual significance of the Cathedral through a guided tour and participated in the Jubilee Pilgrim Trail.

Holy Trinity also embraced the pilgrimage spirit. Their Year 5 children visited the Cathedral, learning about its history and restoration. They were particularly moved by the story of Mary Potter's unwavering faith, explored during their visit to the Heritage Centre.



The Jubilee Icon Pilgrimage

In July, schools and central teams across our Trust took part in a special pilgrimage with the Travelling

Jubilee Icon, commissioned by CAFOD for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

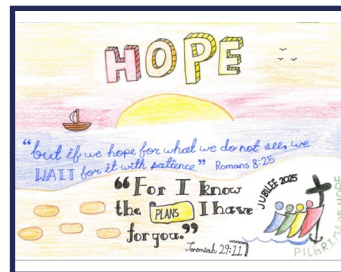


Created by Ethiopian artist Mulugeta Araya, the icon reflects both the Church's global unity and Ethiopia's rich tradition of sacred art.

It journeyed from school to school and across our Trust, including a stop at Nottingham Cathedral, allowing all to embrace the themes of Encounter, Discipleship and Missionary Discipleship that underpin our shared vision.

Jubilee Retreats

At St. Edmund Campion, pupils took part in a 'Pilgrims of Hope' retreat led by school chaplains. Students explored the meaning behind the Jubilee Year logo, and Year 6 were challenged to create their own school-inspired versions. The winning designs are radiant beacons of hope, capturing the spirit of community and renewal.



St. Mary's, Boston SAT scores soar!

Following a strategic review and the launch of their spiral curriculum, Year 6 SAT results at St. Mary's, Boston, have soared this year!

Achievement in Maths has increased from 65% to an outstanding 97% and is likely to place St. Mary's in the top 15-20% of schools, once national results are released in September.

Reading results have also increased significantly from 65% to 83% and writing from 65% to 79%.

This progress is particularly notable given that 78% of pupils speak English as an additional language.

A huge congratulations to everyone at St. Mary's for these incredible results!



Father Michael's 55 years of Service

Pupils at Holy Trinity, Newark and St. Joseph's, Boughton celebrated Father Michael O'Donoghue's Emerald Jubilee, the 55th Anniversary of his ordination earlier this month.

Alongside members of their parish, the two schools came to together for a special Mass of celebration for Father Micheal.

Pupils at St. Joseph's decorated and presented a stole for him to wear during the service and the Holy Trinity choir entertained at a special jubilee party for parishioners.



Students lead our Trust green mission

This year we launched our Environmental Sustainability Strategic Action Plan in response to Pope Francis' call to action in Laudato Si and Laudato Deum, committing to a sustainable, carbon-neutral future that protects the most vulnerable.

More information on our Strategic Action plan can be found on our website here: [Sustainability at Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT](#).

We are really proud of the work our students and staff have done this year to be agents of change and have a positive impact on the environment.

Eco-Council

Following the launch at our Trust Synod in January, our newly formed Eco-Council has met twice this year.

Made up of student representatives from all 36 of our Trust schools, they form a very important part of our mission to be more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

The council discussed what environmental and sustainability issues are most important to their school community and shared some ideas about projects we could do as a Trust.

School action plans

Children from the Holy Trinity Eco and Chaplaincy Teams shared their Climate Change Action Plans with parishioners at a special Eco-themed Sunday Mass. The event followed an in-school Eco Retreat Day, where pupils reflected on the plans and made their Jubilee Pledges linked to the Trust's eco themes.



No Mow May

Many of our schools participated in No Mow May this year and left lawns and grassed areas untouched to let wildflowers grow. Allowing grass and wildflowers to grow benefits wildlife, tackles pollution and helps lock away carbon underground. Some schools have decided to keep these areas unmown year-round as a habitat for wildlife.



Solar Panels

This year, solar panels were installed at St. Bede's and St. Bernadette's to help the schools become more energy efficient and contribute to wider environmental goals.

The project has been made possible thanks to North Lincolnshire Community Energy, supported by North Lincolnshire Council. NLCE is a community benefit society that funds renewable energy projects across the area.

They join five other Trust schools who also have solar panels and are able to cut carbon emissions and reduce energy costs.



We're excited to keep building on this work and look forward to sharing more inspiring eco updates in the months ahead!

Empowering education: Our AI Charter

This month, we proudly launched our AI Charter which sets out clear principles for the safe, ethical, and purposeful use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in our schools.

Designed collaboratively with input from staff across our schools and the central Trust team, the Charter aims to support colleagues in navigating AI confidently and practically.

In our mission to inspire and educate future generations, we welcome the positive impact of AI. When used responsibly and ethically, AI can improve teaching, learning and school operations. It helps staff work more efficiently and allows for more personalised and inclusive support for students.

To mark the launch, we hosted a special event where staff explored the Charter's vision and how to use AI safely and effectively in their role.

You can read the full document here: [Our AI Charter](#).

To support the implementation of the Charter, we've developed a CPD programme for 2025/26, enabling all our staff to access specialist AI training that will ultimately benefit all of our young people across our schools.



Chickens, Charity & Compassion

The Mini Vinnies at St Hugh's, Lincoln have been hard at work planning fresh fundraising ideas and supporting local charities this term.

Their Lenten campaign for CAFOD's Glitter Chicken Programme raised an incredible £444 - enough to buy nearly 89 chickens.

A special thanks go to:

- The Noor family for their generous involvement
- Mrs Boyns for her delightful crocheted chickens
- Superstar pupils: Noah, who raised £50, and Junior, who raised £60 — we are so proud of your dedication!

The Upper Juniors also had the privilege of welcoming Mrs Foster from Let Them Eat Cake this term, who shared moving stories of her work with Lincoln's homeless community. Her compassion and commitment were deeply felt, offering a powerful example of real discipleship in action.

Staff and pupils were honoured to present a cheque for £249 to Mrs Foster to help support the charity's night café and provide meals and essential supplies.

Congratulations to all involved for their continued support of charity and helping those in need.



The Becket supports next gen teachers

The Becket School has continued to support teacher training by offering multiple placements for undergraduates and post graduate trainees this academic year.

These included one day experience visits as well as longer placements in a range of subjects.

They also hosted more than 20 trainees for Itap Placements for Nottingham Trent University throughout the year and several interns in STEM, RE and Modern Foreign Language subjects.

Best of luck to the trainees as they progress into their first teaching posts!

Mrs Barker (Music), Mr Adcock (Drama), Mrs Leonidova (Art), Miss Markham (PE), Miss Costello (English), Mr Halls Backler (English with Drama) and Miss Wren (RE).



Staff raising thousands for CAFOD

Mr Brown, class teacher from St. Edmund Campion, West Bridgford completed the London Marathon in April, raising an incredible £2,442 for CAFOD.

Funds were raised through cake sales, non-uniform days and sponsorship. His medal was a big hit with pupils, especially when they heard he beat Joe Wicks to the finish line!

Meanwhile, Elspeth Wilkins-Campbell (Headteacher, St Joseph's Boughton) and Nik Shively (Deputy Headteacher, St Philip Neri, Mansfield) completed a virtual London Marathon — covering 26.2 miles from 5am. They've secured places in next year's official race and will also be fundraising for CAFOD.

To help support their fundraising, please give to their donation pages here:

[Elspeth Wilkins-Campbell](#)
[Nicola Shivley](#)



Saint Jude Hub News

The community at Saint Mary's in Boston were delighted to welcome Bishop Patrick to their school on Friday 13th July for a Mass of celebration in regard to their achievement of the CAFOD Live Simply award. Many special guests also attended, both from the Nottingham Diocese and the Our Lady of Lourdes Academy Trust. The pupils read and sang beautifully, and it was a wonderful occasion! Whilst at Saint Mary's, Bishop Patrick also blessed a newly developed space in school and unveiled it as 'The Jubilee Room'. This special day truly celebrated the efforts of the whole community and recognised their ongoing commitment towards living simply, sustainably and in solidarity.

Year 5 at Saint Augustine's in Stamford held a scavenger hunt on the school field this term and joined up with the EYFS children to follow clues and collect letters which ultimately spelt out a phrase linked to the Jubilee Year; 'Pilgrims of Hope'. This was their Faith in Action project, which they linked to the principle of solidarity because it reminded everyone that we are all part of one big family and that younger and older people can and should work together and support each other. Everyone had lots of fun completing the tasks along the way, such as giving everyone in their team a high five or talking about their favourite memory of the school year, and everyone received a little sweet treat as a prize at the end.

On Friday 27th June, pupils and staff representatives from each of the central Lincoln and south Lincolnshire schools gathered together at Saint Peter and Saint Paul's school for a joyous celebration of Mass ahead of their patronal feast day. They were joined by parishioners, civic guests and members of other faith communities for a very special outdoor Mass on the school field. In recognition too of the Jubilee Year of Hope, each school carried forward a banner during the entrance procession which represented their school community combined with the themes of the Jubilee. The Saint Peter and Saint Paul's school choir were outstanding! The event was a marvellous celebration and special opportunity to come together during the Jubilee Year.

The Agents of Change at Saint Mary's in Grantham have been working hard this term on a project centring on improving the safety on the roads and pavements around the school. The Agents of Change have designed their own posters to promote safer parking, and to encourage drivers to turn off their engines whilst waiting too in an effort to promote stewardship and reduce pollution. They have also worked together to compose an e-mail to their local MP which details their concerns and even offers suggestions for improvements.

Article by Lucy Wright, Lay Chaplain



League victories

The Year 5/6 Boys' Football team at St. Teresa's, Aspley have finished the season as joint winners of the league and a place in the end of year Champions League Final.

The Year 3/4 Boys' Football team at St. Joseph's, Boughton have also had an amazing year, winning both the Mansfield Town RH Academy Trophy and the Forest View League.

A huge congratulations to both teams for their effort, determination and teamwork this season.



Hufflepuff triumph

During Healthy Schools Fortnight this term,, students at Our Lady and St. Edwards, Thorneywood learned to play the magical sport of Quidditch!

They started the day with an assembly and Sorting Hat Ceremony to determine which team pupils would play for. After learning the rules of the game they spent the day out on the pitch competing for the title.

Congratulations to Hufflepuff (Blessed Cyprian Tansi House) and a well done to everyone who took part.



Feathery friends



As part of their Farms topic, EYFS pupils at St. Norbert's, Spalding enjoyed an exciting ten-day duckling experience.

They watched the ducklings hatch, learnt about the life cycle of a duck, looked after them and changed their bedding, food and water daily.

They highlight was holding their feathery friends and watching them take their first swim in their very own paddling pool in class!

Headline heroes

Year 6 students at St. Augustine's, Stamford, have been hard at work creating the first edition of a new school newspaper.

A huge thank you to Flynn, Alice, Charlie and Rocco who sold the newspapers after school.

The funds raised will ensure the school newspaper will continue after they leave St. Augustine's in July.



The Becket School goes Broadway!

In June, over 100 students at The Becket School, West Bridgford performed in their West End Musical Theatre Showcase.

The evening opened with a vibrant rendition of 'You Can't Stop the Beat' from the musical Hairspray performed by the Sixth Form musicians and ended with a selection of songs from Wicked.

Soloists from Year 7 to 13 took to the stage and showcased a wide range of vocal talent.

There were some superb dance moves from the Sixth Form in Cell Block Tango, some incredibly poignant moments from Les Misérables and a standout performance from the Year 9 band Supernova.

More photos and musical clips were shared by [@becketmusicdept](#) on Instagram.



Faith in focus: Exploring Islam

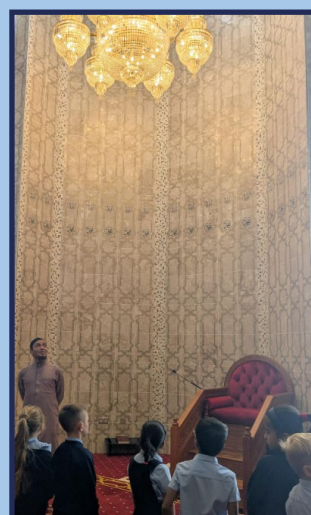


As part of 'Other Faiths Week', St Hugh's pupils in Lincoln deepened their understanding of Islam through engaging activities and meaningful experiences.

Abdullah and Nabihah lead an assembly on Monday 19th May sharing valuable insights into the Five Pillars of Islam. They presented the meaning behind each pillar in a truly inspiring and thoughtful way.

Pupils also visited the Lincoln Mosque, where they were warmly welcomed by the Imam. The visit offered a valuable opportunity to explore the role of the mosque in the Muslim community and to learn firsthand about its spiritual importance.

Special thanks go to Mr Ghumra, grandfather of Abdullah and Abdurahman, for his generous support in organising the visit.



Looking for your next career adventure?



We have a number of teaching and non-teaching vacancies available in our trust.

If you are seeking a rewarding career with ample opportunities for growth and professional development, we want to hear from you!

Current vacancies:

- Trainee Teachers (Primary and Secondary)
- Cover Supervisor with a Sports focus
- Behaviour Support Assistant
- Primary Class Teacher
- Finance & Health and Safety Coordinator
- Midday Supervisor
- Cleaner

Visit our vacancies page to find out more: www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/work-with-us

Helping our families with financial support

Our Trust initiative, The Little Acts of Kindness Fund supports eligible pupils with school-related costs, from trips and uniforms to meals and travel.

Learn more and check eligibility criteria here: [Little Acts of Kindness Fund](#)

Have you got a story to share with us?

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the newsletter, we love showcasing the amazing accomplishments of our students and staff.

If you have a story you would like to share in the next edition, please email us at marketing@ololcatholicmat.co.uk or send us a DM on Instagram (@ourladyoflourdescmat), ensuring necessary consents are in place for GDPR purposes.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to share your school's stories and accomplishments with the Trust community!

Mental Health Space

At Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT, we're building a community where mental health and wellbeing thrive.

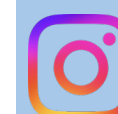
Our resources offer practical support and guidance for staff, students, families, and mental health first aider and promote awareness and positive wellbeing across our schools.

Access here: [Mental Health Space](#)

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