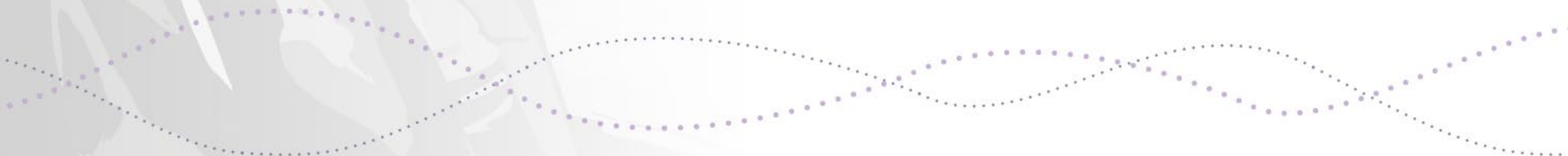


A faint, stylized illustration of a man in clerical attire, likely a priest, is visible on the left side of the page. He is wearing glasses and looking out over a cityscape with palm trees and buildings. The illustration is rendered in shades of grey and purple.

End of Year Newsletter

Summer Term 2025



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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM CEO

Hi everyone,

As we reach the end of another academic year, I want to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you. Since joining the Trust in September 2024, I have been incredibly proud to witness first-hand the dedication, creativity and care that underpins the work happening in all of our schools.

This year has been both reflective and forward-looking. One of the most exciting developments for the Trust itself has been the initiation of the conversion process with three new schools, who are due to join our Trust family on 1st December 2025. This marks the start of a new chapter for our Trust as we look ahead to a period of significant growth. By the end of this journey, we will proudly serve 58 schools across our footprint; I know the future will be shaped by the same commitment to excellence and collaboration that defines us today.

This newsletter, however, is a celebration of your work — a showcase of the achievements, innovations and joyful moments that have filled our classrooms and communities this year. From academic successes and inspiring student initiatives, to powerful partnerships and community engagement, this edition highlights just a few of the many reasons we have to celebrate.

Thank you so much to all of the schools who have submitted their articles, I am sure you will all agree that sharing in each other's successes is a fantastic way to end this academic year. We have taken the decision to run a celebration newsletter to coincide with every end of term from now on, so please do send your good news stories through to our team as and when they happen.

Each story shared is a reflection of the incredible efforts of our staff, pupils and wider communities. Thank you for your continued passion, resilience and drive. You make a real difference — and it does not go unnoticed.

Wishing you all a restful and well-deserved summer break.

With very best wishes,



Katy Cox, CEO/CSEL



BLESSED TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE, BURNLEY

YEAR 10 PUPIL OLIVIA'S PRESTIGIOUS APPOINTMENT

Year 10 pupil Olivia has been appointed to the prestigious post of High Sheriff of Lancashire's Cadet.

Olivia's appointment means she will assist the High Sheriff during their year in office.

Olivia, who carries out a number of volunteering roles in the community, said, "I want to go into the police and I have been a police cadet since last September. You had to email in about why you think you would be good for the High Sheriff Cadet role and I was selected as one of only two police cadets. I am really proud and it will be a big year; there are some ceremonial events coming up soon. This will be a big step for me to get into the police."



SCIENCE REVISION SUCCESS

Record numbers of Year 11 pupils gave up their free time on Saturday mornings to attend additional Science revision in school for their GCSEs. Mrs Hacking and Dr Tuohy put on two hours of GCSE revision preparation, to allow pupils to achieve the best possible GCSE grades in their summer exams.

Curriculum Leader of Science Mrs. Hacking said, "These sessions were designed to help students excel in their GCSEs. The sessions boosted knowledge, reinforced key concepts and helped them prepare for their exams with expert guidance and we hope to see this in the results in August. It was a pleasure to come to school on a Saturday and see so many eager and diligent pupils, determined to achieve the best possible grade they can. Dr Tuohy and I have been running these Saturday sessions for several years and we were astounded in the number of pupils taking up the opportunity this year, it was the best we have ever had."



The feedback from pupils was incredibly positive too, with student Giulia saying, "I felt like the Saturday revision was extremely useful and helpful because you're not under pressure about time. Those that attended were the students who were taking the exams seriously, so there were no distractions."

Fellow student Maisie said, "The sessions were helpful. The recap of content paired with the advice on exam technique gave me confidence to face my GCSEs. It was an opportunity to learn with my friends." Jack said, "I went to the sessions with my friends and, in the two hours, I got loads done. Although it was hard work, I feel it was well worth it – and hopefully we will see the results in August."

CHRIST THE KING RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BURNLEY

ACTIVE TRAVEL AND SAFER STREETS

This half term, pupils and staff at Christ the King have been working hard to encourage safer and more sustainable travel to school. Led by Mrs Webster and supported by members of the School Council, a new “Walking Bus” initiative was launched from Scott Park, helping families take a more active approach to the school run.

At the same time, Mr Broderick and other members of the School Council focused on promoting safer parking habits, speaking with parents and carers about how to park responsibly around the school site to reduce congestion and improve safety for all.

In May, pupils also enthusiastically took part in Beat the Street 2025 — a fun, free challenge aimed at getting the community moving by walking, cycling or wheeling around the local area. The initiative officially launched on 14th May and the school was thrilled to welcome a very special guest, the official Beat the Street mascot, Beattie the Hedgehog, who joined them to kick off the campaign.

These efforts reflect the school's ongoing commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles, reducing traffic and creating a safer, more active community for everyone.

A very special thank you to Mrs Webster, Mr Broderick and the School Council – fantastic work!



CHARITY COLOUR RUN



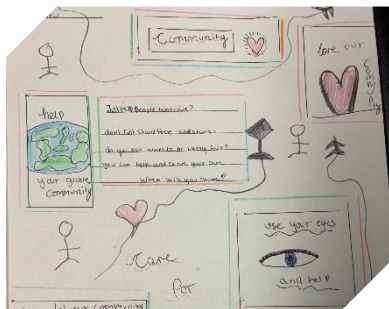
Friends of Christ the King organised an amazing colour run event to raise money for the 'Trim trail' and Pendleside Hospice.



The event was a great success, enjoyed by all who attended.

ALL SAINTS' ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, RAWTENSTALL

REFUGEE WEEK REFLECTIONS



In June, pupils at All Saints' Roman Catholic High School took part in a series of lessons to mark Refugee Week, delivered through the RE and English departments. Year 7 students explored the complex reasons why individuals and families may be forced to flee their homes and reflected deeply on how communities can offer meaningful support to those rebuilding their lives in new countries.

The sessions prompted mature and compassionate discussions, with pupils considering issues of justice, human dignity and the common good. Teachers were particularly impressed by the sensitivity and insight shown by Year 7, who responded with empathy, thoughtful contributions and practical ideas for creating a more welcoming society.

The work tied in closely with Catholic Social Teaching, with a focus on preferential treatment for the poor and vulnerable. Staff praised the way pupils engaged with these values, showing great respect for those in need and a clear understanding of the importance of standing in solidarity with displaced people around the world.

Well done to Year 7 for their outstanding engagement with such an important and timely topic.

YEAR 10 BRAVE THE ELEMENTS FOR DUKE OF EDINBURGH SUCCESS

Following months of volunteering, improving an area of physical activity and starting or developing a non-physical hobby, it was time for All Saints' Year 10s to complete their two-day, one-night adventure. Over a weekend in June, 25 Year 10 students braved the wonderful British weather, taking on torrential rain and scorching sun to complete their assessment expedition for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Despite the blisters and the ever-changing weather, the staff in attendance reported back that all students did brilliantly.

A huge thank you to all of the staff who gave up their weekends to allow their students to participate in this assessment and congratulations to all students who now hold the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BURNLEY

MARVELLOUS MATHMATICIANS!



In May, the St John's Year 4 Maths Challenge Team achieved outstanding success by winning the grand final held at Turf Moor. The event brought together more than 30 primary schools from Burnley and Pendle, with over 100 pupils competing across Years 2, 4, and 5.

Students were able to have a behind-the-scenes look at Turf Moor whilst completing practical maths challenges and STEM-related activities.

Congratulations Year 4, what a wonderful achievement!

SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY COMMITMENT CONTINUES

As part of their ongoing commitment to becoming a School of Sanctuary, pupils at St John the Baptist RC Primary School took part in a special project in collaboration with New Neighbours Charity to mark Refugee Week.

Children across the school engaged with the theme by creating thoughtful poetry and powerful artwork inspired by the experiences of refugees. Their submissions formed part of a town-wide competition aimed at raising awareness and fostering empathy, with selected pieces proudly displayed at the New Neighbours Charity.

To celebrate the pupils' efforts, Ruth and Edele from New Neighbours visited the school to present prizes to the winning entries. The event was a meaningful moment of recognition for the creativity and compassion shown by pupils, and a clear reflection of the school's dedication to promoting inclusion, understanding and social justice.

Well done to all involved for demonstrating such empathy and imagination in support of this important cause.



ST EDWARD'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, DARWEN

SINGING AT THE LOWRY FOR YEAR 3 AND 4



Pupils from Year 3 and 4 recently took part in a special performance at The Lowry as part of the Salford Diocesan Singing Programme.

Working closely with vocal leader Alex Paterson, the children have spent the term learning a range of songs, building their confidence and developing their musical skills. The programme culminated in a joyful celebration of music, where schools from across the Diocese came together to perform in a large-scale choral event.

St Edward's pupils represented their school with pride, singing with enthusiasm and unity in front of a large audience. It was a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with other schools, celebrate their hard work and experience the joy of shared music-making.

Well done to all involved in this inspiring performance!

PARENT PARTNERSHIP RECOGNITION

St Edward's RC Primary School has been awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) in recognition of its outstanding work in building strong, effective relationships between home and school.

The award follows a dedicated period of development led by Lisa Nelson, EYFS Coordinator, who worked collaboratively with staff and families to ensure that parental engagement is woven into every aspect of school life. The report praised the school's warm, proactive approach and highlighted the impact of meaningful partnerships on pupil outcomes.

Particular recognition was given to Lisa Nelson and Kate Scott, Pupil and Pastoral Lead, for their commitment and leadership in creating a welcoming, inclusive environment where families feel supported and involved.

As part of the school's wider work on wellbeing and family engagement, St Edward's also hosted a successful parent workshop in collaboration with Cre8ability Wellbeing, further strengthening its commitment to nurturing the whole school community.

Congratulations to all involved in achieving this important milestone.



OUR LADY & ST JOHN CATHOLIC COLLEGE, BLACKBURN

INSPIRING INNOVATION – YOUNG DESIGNERS’ SILVER PRIZE SUCCESS



Pupils from Our Lady and St John Catholic College have been recognised for their creativity and innovation in the BAE Systems Inspiring Lancashire 3D Printing Project, delivered in partnership with CREATE Education.

The student team was awarded the Silver Prize for their impressive project “Green, Clean Coffee”, a sustainable and refillable coffee pod design aimed at reducing single-use waste. Their solution not only demonstrated strong technical and design skills but also reflected a deep commitment to environmental responsibility.

Judges praised the team’s eco-conscious concept and confident presentation, which explored how small, thoughtful changes can lead to a more sustainable future.

Congratulations to all involved on this fantastic achievement – an inspiring example of future-facing innovation, teamwork and care for creation.

PILGRIM OF HOPE COMMITMENT

The whole school network at Our Lady and St John Catholic College have embraced the Pilgrim of Hope Challenge as part of their commitment to supporting the annual St Joseph’s Penny appeal, an initiative that provides vital assistance to those in need across the community.

As part of the challenge, every pupil took time to reflect on how they can show kindness in daily life, making personal pledges that connected closely with the school’s theme of the week: Commitment. From small acts of service to words of encouragement, students are putting faith into action through both reflection and fundraising.

Year 7 pupil Kornielia shared, “Taking part in the Pilgrim of Hope Challenge has really made me think about how I treat others. I’ve promised to be kind every day, even in small ways like helping someone or saying something encouraging. It feels good to know we’re doing something that helps other people too.”

The school and Trust is proud of the enthusiasm, compassion, and generosity shown by its young people; a powerful witness to Catholic Social Teaching and a reminder that even the smallest acts of kindness can have a lasting impact.



ST JOSEPH'S RC ACADEMY, TODMORDEN

YEAR 5 SHINE AT SAFE TRAVEL FINAL



On Friday 27th June, Year 5 pupils proudly represented their school at the Calderdale Safe Travel Cup Final; a dynamic and engaging competition that challenges pupils to think creatively about safe, sustainable travel. The event, described as Dragons' Den with a high-vis twist, brings together schools from across the area to pitch innovative travel solutions to a panel of judges.

St Joseph's were the first team to present, setting the bar high with a confident and well-rehearsed pitch. Their idea impressed both judges and peers from five other competing schools, showcasing not only their inventiveness but also their teamwork, communication skills and enthusiasm for promoting safer travel in the community.

While they didn't take home the overall trophy, the team's energy, spirit and creativity left a lasting impression. Staff and pupils alike were immensely proud of the way Year 5 represented the school, demonstrating values of responsibility, cooperation and care for others.

Congratulations Year 5 for putting St Joseph's RC Academy firmly on the safe travel map!

LEARN WITH THE LORDS

In January, Mrs Carlile spent three days in London at the Houses of Parliament training to become a Parliament Teacher Ambassador. Following on from this, she is now using the knowledge she gained to improve political knowledge and awareness and political literacy across the school.

On World Book Day, each child went home with a special book from Parliament for them to share with their families. Exciting things are currently being planned for next year, including the Year 6 children visiting the Houses of Parliament and the appointment of their new Pupil Parliament in September.

In May, Oak Class had an online session with a Baroness from the House of Lords; Baroness Fraser of Cramlington. During the event, she talked about the role and work of the House of Lords, before answering questions from the children to help further their knowledge.

Learn with the Lords is completely free and a unique opportunity for students to interact with a member of the House of Lords and learn more about the vital role of the House of Lords in the UK Parliament.



ST AUGUSTINE'S RC HIGH SCHOOL, BILLINGTON

ST AUGUSTINE'S WELCOME THE JUBILEE ICON



St Augustine's RC High School was honoured to welcome the official Jubilee Icon—blessed by Cardinal Vincent Nichols—as part of its journey across the country in celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope.

Commissioned by CAFOD and created by Ethiopian artist Mulugeta Araya, the icon powerfully depicts the moment in Luke's Gospel (chapter 4) when Jesus proclaims the words of the prophet Isaiah: "good news to the poor" and "liberty to captives."

The icon serves as a striking visual representation of hope, justice, and faith—core themes of the Jubilee—and its presence in school offered pupils and staff a moment of reflection on their shared mission to live out the Gospel values in daily life.

THOMAS' MISSION OF COMPASSION CONTINUES

Since 2020, Year 9 pupil Thomas has committed to a personal mission of charity, raising over £5,000 to support people experiencing homelessness.

Now in the fifth year of his incredible journey, Thomas has once again taken on a month-long running and cycling challenge in aid of Crisis. His goal for 2025 was to cover an impressive 120km by running 40km and cycling 80km, throughout the month of March.

Thomas was first inspired to act after speaking with Dean, a man experiencing homelessness whom he and his family regularly saw outside their local supermarket. After learning Dean's story just before the first national lockdown, Thomas felt compelled to help. Far from a one-off act of kindness, Dean's story had a lasting impact on Thomas and sparked a heartfelt commitment to supporting those most in need.

His continued efforts are a powerful reminder of the difference young people can make through compassion, determination, and a sense of social justice.

Well done, Thomas - your example is an inspiration to us all.



HOLY TRINITY RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, NELSON

YEAR 6 RACERS' FAST PACED TOURNAMENT



Four Year 6 pupils recently put their engineering skills to the test at Bolton University, taking part in a regional STEM Formula 1 competition designed to inspire the next generation of engineers.

As part of an after-school STEM club, the team worked together to design and build their own miniature F1 car, applying principles of aerodynamics, design and engineering. The project culminated in an exciting race event, where their CO₂-powered car sped down a 20-metre track in under 1.5 seconds; an impressive result among 20 competing teams from across the North West.

The Holy Trinity team impressed the judges and finished among the top three favourites. Although only the top two teams progressed to the national finals in Rotherham, the pupils had a fantastic experience, including the chance to test their driving skills on a Formula 1 simulator.

It was a day filled with innovation, teamwork and aspiration – congratulations to the Year 6 team!

HOLY TRINITY CHOIR RAISE THE ROOF IN MANCHESTER

Earlier this year, pupils from Years 4 to 6 part in their biggest concert to date, joining a mass choir of up to 9000 children at the spectacular Co-op Live Arena in Manchester.

The event formed part of a large-scale musical initiative bringing together schools from across the region. During the afternoon, pupils rehearsed alongside hundreds of others before delivering an unforgettable evening performance. Produced by some of the UK's leading sound and lighting professionals and featuring special guest artists, the concert was a true celebration of the power of music and singing.

This once-in-a-lifetime experience not only showcased the children's talent but also gave them a powerful sense of achievement and joy. Performing at such a scale nurtures wellbeing, builds confidence and leaves a lasting impact on all who take part.

A huge well done to everyone involved, what an incredibly proud moment to see the pupils shine on such a grand stage.



ST MARY MAGDALENE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BURNLEY

INSPIRATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP AT EAST LANCASHIRE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

In June, three Year 6 pupils, Charney, Oscar, and Jenson, proudly represented Burnley at the East Lancashire Cross Country Championship Final, having qualified earlier in the year. Competing against top runners from across Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley, Rossendale and Pendle, all three pupils gave outstanding performances and demonstrated determination, sportsmanship, and resilience throughout.

A particularly special moment came when upon seeing a fellow runner from another school in distress near the finish line, Charney chose to stop, take her hand and support her across the line; sacrificing her own final position in the race to do so. In recognition of this extraordinary act of compassion, Charney was awarded the Caritas Catholic Social Teaching Award.

Staff and pupils were immensely proud of all three athletes, not only for their athletic achievement, but for the values they demonstrated on and off the course, especially Charney, who embodied the true spirit of empathy and solidarity.

Congratulations to Charney, Oscar and Jenson for representing St Mary Magdalene's so well at this prestigious event.



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS AT ST MARY MAGDALENE'S



In May, St Mary Magdalene's RC Primary School faced a heartbreaking setback when their much-loved Forest School was significantly damaged by intruders. The incident saw the site vandalised; equipment broken, supplies destroyed and areas designed for both children and wildlife left in disarray.

Miss Ashley Gore, the school's Laudato Si' Eco Team Leader, was alerted by concerned parents on the evening in which the vandalism took place and arrived on site to find the Forest School shed ransacked, wildlife at risk and vital learning spaces severely affected. "It was devastating," she shared. "Our children's happy place had been destroyed." Parents were notified in the morning that Forest School sessions needed to be put on hold due to the damage as the site was no longer safe for use. The school staff and students spent the morning shocked and gutted by the state in which the area they had worked so hard to create had been left.

But what followed was a remarkable outpouring of community spirit. By lunchtime the following day, dozens of parents arrived, gloves on and tools in hand, ready to help clean and restore the site. Their support, along with prayers and a blessing from Father Joseph, transformed what had been a moment of despair into one of hope and solidarity.

Moved by the damage and the school's commitment to environmental education, one parent who was unable to attend the clean-up operation due to work commitments launched a GoFundMe campaign to help cover the cost of repairs. The initial target of £750 was met within an hour and quickly surpassed. Within two days, over £2000 had been raised. Thanks to this generosity, damages have since been repaired, new equipment purchased and the Forest School is once again thriving—with a few welcome upgrades, including improvements to the bunny enclosure.

The individuals responsible for the damage have come forward and offered apologies. But more importantly, this moment became a testament to the strength, unity and compassion of the St Mary Magdalene's community. As Miss Gore reflected, "Our sense of community has never felt so strong. Good always prevails."



"THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT." — John 1:5

THANK YOU AND SEE YOU SOON

Thank you for sharing in our celebration of the many achievements you've had across the 2024/2025 academic year. We received so many entries we had to choose two articles per school; this is a testament to the level of success you have all experienced this year. As Katy mentioned in her opening message, we will be sharing a celebration newsletter every term from this point forward to regularly share in your celebrations and successes, so please do send your good news stories in as and when they happen.

From small acts of kindness to national achievements, each story shared in this edition is a powerful reminder of the strength and spirit of our Catholic family of schools; your generosity, resilience and joy have filled our classrooms, sports fields, chapels and communities with the light of the Gospel. You have reminded us that Catholic education is rooted in love, dignity and purpose.

As we look forward to the summer and the new school year ahead, we do so with confidence in the unique potential within every child and the unwavering commitment of the staff who guide them. May your summer be joyous, restful and safe – we look forward to seeing you again in September.

With our prayers and warmest wishes,

The Central Team at Romero Catholic Academy Trust