

# Faith in Action

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy Company Newsletter



Summer 2025

**Dream | Believe | Achieve**



## Inside this issue:

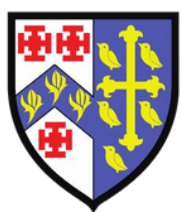
Page 3 : MAC Sports Day

Page 5: ABI Pupils journey to Peru

Page 8: The Rosary School Wins  
Social School Impact Award

Page 10: Refugee Week at Holy  
Trinity

Page 12: Holy Souls welcome MP  
Jess Phillips



**Archbishop Ilsey**  
Secondary Catholic  
School



**Holy Souls**  
Catholic Primary  
School



**Holy Trinity**  
Secondary Catholic  
School



**St Chad's**  
Catholic Primary  
School



**St Joseph's**  
Catholic Primary  
School



**The Rosary**  
Catholic Primary  
School

# Welcome to Faith in Action - Summer Edition

As we draw this academic year to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our pupils, staff, and families for the dedication, perseverance, and faith you have shown throughout the term. It has been a year filled with challenges and triumphs, and through it all, our community has remained steadfast in its commitment to learning, service, and the Gospel values that guide us.

To our pupils—your hard work and determination have not gone unnoticed. As we await exam results, I encourage you to remember that your worth is not measured by grades alone, but by the kindness you show, the effort you give, and the faith you carry in your hearts. You have made us proud.

To our staff— Your dedication, compassion, and faith continue to shape our pupils in ways that go far beyond the classroom, leaving a lasting impact on both hearts and minds.

This summer, I hope each of you finds time for rest, renewal, and joy with loved ones. May it be a season of peace and reflection.

Looking ahead, we are filled with excitement and anticipation as we prepare to welcome six new schools into our MAC family: St Vincent's, St Clare's, St Ambrose Barlow, St Augustine's, St Teresa's, and St Francis. We are blessed to grow together in faith and mission, united in our calling to serve and educate in the spirit of Christ.

With warmest regards,

**Professor Paul Ryan**



# Inaugural STOC MAC Sports Day – A Celebration of Team Spirit and Talent!

On Thursday, June 13th, the energy was high at Alexander Stadium as we hosted our first-ever STOC MAC Sports Day—a fantastic celebration of athleticism, teamwork, and unity across our school community.

Pupils from Year 4 to Year 6 representing Holy Souls, St Joseph's, St Chad's, and The Rosary were joined by enthusiastic participants from our incoming schools: St Clare's, St Vincent's, and St Teresa's. The day was filled with exciting races, relays, and field events, all showcasing the incredible talent and determination of our young athletes.

One of the most heartwarming aspects of the day was the outstanding sportsmanship shown by all pupils. Whether they were racing to the finish line or cheering from the sidelines, the children consistently encouraged one another with enthusiasm and kindness.

It was inspiring to see competitors congratulating each other, offering high-fives, and celebrating each other's efforts—regardless of the outcome. This spirit of mutual respect and support truly captured the essence of the STOC MAC community.



We are also incredibly proud of the students from our secondary schools, Holy Trinity and Archbishop Ilsey, who played a key role in organising the day. Their leadership, encouragement, and support helped ensure the event ran smoothly and joyfully.

A huge congratulations to St Clare's, who were crowned overall champions and proudly took home the STOC MAC Sports Day Trophy, with medals and the trophy kindly sponsored by MPC Consultancy Ltd. Holy Souls came second, and St Joseph came third. A fantastic effort from all schools!

From start to finish, the day was a resounding success, filled with smiles, determination, and unforgettable moments. A wonderful day was had by all, and we look forward to making next year's event even bigger and better!



# ABI Students Make a Lasting Impact in Peru

This June, a group of dedicated Year 12 students set off on an unforgettable journey to Peru as part of a service-learning programme coordinated by the FutureSense Foundation and Challenges Abroad. More than just a typical school trip, this immersive experience was rooted in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, aiming to foster global citizenship, community solidarity and transformative education.

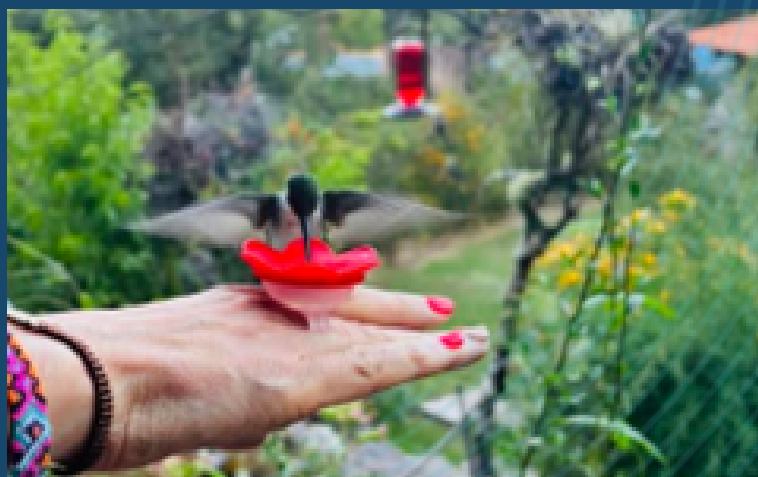
The heart of the trip lay in the students' hands-on work with local schools in the Sacred Valley region. Divided into small teams, the students spent their days supporting educational initiatives designed to teach primary school pupils the importance of health and hygiene. From teaching basic English, to running creative workshops and sports activities, their presence brought energy, encouragement, and much-needed support to the pupils.

Throughout the programme, the group engaged with key principles of Catholic Social Teaching—particularly the dignity of the human person and the call to community; students committed themselves to service that respected the cultural identity and lived experience of the Peruvian people. Alongside teaching, our students planted vegetables in the school garden and painted social areas, designing murals to support their teaching and leave a lasting impression in after their work had been done.



Students also took part in reflection sessions, considering how their actions aligned with the Gospel values of justice, peace, and stewardship. These daily reflections helped turn their experiences into lessons for life, challenging them to return home as agents of change within their own communities.

Alongside the hard work, students also had the opportunity to witness Peru's breath taking landscapes and rich cultural heritage. The trip included time to explore Machu Picchu, the iconic Incan citadel nestled high in the Andes, which left many students in awe of both nature and history. They also visited Cusco, the former capital of the Inca Empire, and experienced traditional Andean culture through local cuisine, music, and markets.



By the end of the two-week journey, the students returned not only with memories and photographs but with a renewed sense of purpose and a global perspective. The partnership with the FutureSense Foundation and Challenges Abroad had provided a platform for meaningful contribution while encouraging personal growth, empathy and leadership.

The Peru programme is a testament to the power of faith in action, education through experience, and the enduring importance of human connection in our global family.



## KS2 Colour Run Brings Joy and Laughter

The KS2 Colour Run was a vibrant and unforgettable event, filled with fun, energy, and smiles all around.

A huge thank you to King Edward School Sports Partnership for organising another fantastic afternoon of excitement and colour. We can't wait for the next one!



## This Term at St Joseph's

### Eco Committee visits Birmingham Council House



In June, members of our Eco Committee had the exciting opportunity to visit the historic Birmingham Council House. During the visit, students were given a guided tour of the building, learning about its rich history and the important work that takes place within its walls.

A highlight of the day was the chance to meet with a local councillor. The committee asked thoughtful questions about environmental issues affecting our community, including sustainability initiatives, green spaces, and how young people can get involved in shaping a greener future.

The visit was both inspiring and educational, reinforcing our commitment to making a positive ecological impact in our school and beyond.

## Author & Illustrator Inspires Year 3 and 4!



Our Year 3 and 4 pupils were treated to a special visit from the talented author and illustrator Diane Ewen. Diane shared her latest book with the children, captivating them with her storytelling and vibrant illustrations.

Following the reading, she led an exciting illustration workshop, showing the children how to bring their own pictures to life. It was a fun and creative session where everyone learned new skills and enjoyed expressing themselves through art.

A huge thank you to Diane for such an inspiring and memorable experience—we had a fantastic time!



## The Rosary School Wins Social School Impact Award

We're proud to announce that we have been awarded the Social School Impact Award by SuperKind.org—a platform dedicated to educating, inspiring, and empowering children to make a difference through social action and philanthropy.

This prestigious award celebrates schools that go above and beyond in nurturing compassion, leadership, and community engagement among students. The Rosary has demonstrated outstanding commitment to these values, encouraging pupils to take initiative, support causes they care about, and become active changemakers in their communities.



Congratulations to all the students, staff, and families who helped make this achievement possible. Your dedication to kindness and action is shaping a brighter future!

## The Rosary Roundup

### Coming Together as Pilgrims of Hope

On 26<sup>th</sup> June, the entire school community came together for a truly special retreat day themed "Pilgrims of Hope." It was a day filled with reflection, joy, and a shared mission to go out into the world and spread hope.

We were delighted to be joined by One Life Music, whose uplifting presence and thoughtful guidance made the day both memorable and inspiring. Their energy helped bring the theme to life and left a lasting impression on everyone involved.



We were also thrilled to welcome our friends from Holy Souls, who joined us on this journey of faith. Together, as part of the St Teresa of Calcutta MAC, we walked in unity and hope, strengthening the bonds that connect our school communities.

Thank you to everyone who made this day so meaningful. Let us continue to walk forward as Pilgrims of Hope!



## Young Hearts Connect Generations at St Anne's Club

In June, Children from Years 5 & 6 brought joy and creativity to the Irish Welfare Association Dementia Help Group during a heartwarming visit to St Anne's Club in Digbeth. The young visitors spent quality time chatting with older members of the community, but the highlight of the day was a collaborative arts and crafts activity. Children and seniors joined forces to create vibrant sunflower decorations. The cheerful artwork symbolised warmth and connection, reflecting the spirit of the event.



This meaningful interaction not only brightened the day for those living with dementia but also gave the children a valuable opportunity to learn about empathy, kindness, and the importance of community.



# Shining a light on St. Chad's



## RAF Inspires Y6 with Creative Shelter-Building Workshop in Minecraft



A huge thank you to the Royal Air Force for delivering an exciting and educational workshop for our Year 6 students! The session, run by RAF Youth STEM Team, gave pupils the chance to explore engineering and survival skills by designing and building shelters in Minecraft.

The workshop sparked creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving as students tackled real-world challenges in a virtual environment. It was a fantastic opportunity to blend STEM learning with fun, and we're incredibly grateful for the RAF's time and enthusiasm.

Well done to all our budding engineers!

## Vocations Week Inspires Future Careers

This year's Vocations Week was packed with exciting talks and hands-on experiences that opened students' eyes to a world of career possibilities. Year 5 welcomed Abu, a respiratory scientist, who explained his role in healthcare and even let students try a breathing test. Year 6 met a BBC Sports TV Producer who described TV as "telling a picture through stories," and a Vodafone Sales Director who uses SIM cards to power drones—both talks sparked lots of curiosity!



Inspiring Aviation gave a glimpse into careers in flight, while Helen and Adam from The Alexandra Theatre shared the many behind-the-scenes roles that bring productions to life. Niamh and Nikesh made finance fun with a lively session on insurance and investments. Meanwhile, Year 3 enjoyed a visit from two doctors who spoke about the skills needed in medicine.

A huge thank you to all our visitors for making the week so engaging and inspiring!

## Creativity and Imagination in Nature



Outdoor Learning Week sparked creativity and exploration across the school, with each year group embracing nature in unique ways.

Year 5 took inspiration from Wassily Kandinsky, creating a collaborative outdoor artwork full of bold shapes and vibrant colours after an engaging introduction by Mr Paine.

Year 2 began the week with a forest school session, stepping into the world of The Selfish Giant. They explored the garden, imagined themselves as story characters, and collected vivid vocabulary to describe the enchanting setting.



The week offered a wonderful chance for students to connect with nature, express themselves, and learn in exciting new ways.



### Sharing Faith and Unity at Holy Souls

Earlier this term, we had the pleasure of visiting Holy Souls Primary School during Multi-Faith Week. Our students took center stage, sharing heartfelt reflections on their personal faith journeys—where their beliefs began, the practices they follow, and why their faith is such a vital part of their lives.



It was a wonderful celebration of diversity, understanding, and mutual respect. Each story highlighted the unique ways faith shapes identity, builds community, and offers strength and purpose. From prayer traditions to acts of service, students spoke with sincerity and pride, creating a space of learning and connection for all.

A huge thank you to everyone at Holy Souls for welcoming us so warmly and for fostering such a thoughtful and inclusive environment.

## Whats happening at Holy Trinity?

### Students Shine During World Refugee Week

This World Refugee Week, the school community came together in powerful and heartwarming ways to celebrate the strength of welcome and the beauty of belonging.

The highlight of the week was a shared community lunch, where students and staff gathered around a family-style meal inspired by the diverse cultures that shape our school. It was more than just food—it was a true taste of belonging, a moment of unity that reflected the richness of our shared humanity.

Inspired by the week's message, students also launched a simple but meaningful initiative: free fruit for all.



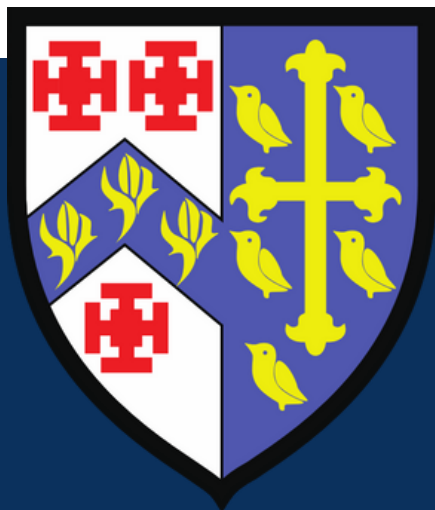
Throughout the week, student-led assemblies brought stories of resilience to life, exploring this year's theme "Community as a Superpower." These powerful moments reminded us that empathy, understanding, and solidarity are the foundations of a brighter future.

Together, we are living out love through community—one welcome, one story, one shared meal at a time.

### Year 9 Lead with Hope in Envision Project

This term, Year 9 pupils took part in the Envision programme, creating a social action project called the 'Week of Hope'. Inspired by the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee theme, the group led well-being activities during form time and presented their work in a school competition—boosting confidence, teamwork, and public speaking skills. Their team, 'Hopeful Trinity', shone at the Envision Programme final on June 4th, where they proudly presented their project promoting positivity and well-being to a wider audience.





## Unity in Diversity: Culture Day at ABI

This year's Culture Day was a vibrant and joyful celebration of our school's rich diversity. Pupils came dressed in traditional clothing from across the globe—from England football shirts and Irish tricolours to abayas, kurtas, banas, and salwar kameez—showcasing the rich heritage of our school family.

Students shared stories behind their outfits and brought in traditional foods to enjoy with friends, creating a joyful and inclusive atmosphere throughout the day.

A charity collection led by our Sixth Form students, raising over £100 for CAFOD during morning lessons.

Culture Day truly embodied the spirit of unity in diversity, and excitement is already building for next year's celebration!



# Inside Archbishop Ilsey

## ABI Nears Prestigious LiveSimply Award

We are proud to be on the verge of earning the esteemed LiveSimply Award—a recognition granted to schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to charitable fundraising and environmental stewardship.

Throughout June, our students have been actively involved in keeping the school grounds clean. Working alongside our dedicated site team, pupil groups have taken part in regular litter-picking efforts, ensuring that rubbish is properly disposed of and our environment remains tidy. These efforts have been supported by tutor time lessons focused on caring for our planet, which have helped foster a deeper sense of responsibility among students.



A special mention goes to our incredible Chaplaincy Team, who extended their efforts beyond the school gates. Led by Mr. Foley and Mr. Koryl, along with 15 enthusiastic volunteers, the team organized a series of litter-picking walks along Acocks Green High Street. Their work was met with heartfelt appreciation from members of the public, many of whom stopped to thank them for their contribution.

We hope the Chaplaincy Team's inspiring initiative will encourage others in the wider community to take pride in keeping our local streets clean and litter-free.

## Exciting First Steps for Our Future Year 7s!

Earlier this month, school was buzzing with excitement as we welcomed our future Year 7 pupils for their transition day. As part of their visit, the students took part in a fun and creative session with DT, tackling the famous Egg Drop Challenge. It was fantastic to see their teamwork, problem-solving skills, and enthusiasm in action!



Pupils also gathered for their very first assembly with Miss Brady, where they were officially welcomed into the Archbishop Ilsey community.

We're thrilled to have had the opportunity to meet our new Year 7s and are already looking forward to welcoming them back in September as they begin their exciting journey with us!



## Year 6 Welcome MP Jess Phillips to Talk Knife Crime

Year 6 pupils recently wrote to local MP Jess Phillips to share their concerns about knife crime. To their excitement, she replied—and even visited the school!

Jess spoke with the children about their worries and answered lots of questions with warmth and humour. Her visit left many feeling inspired, with some even dreaming of becoming future politicians or Prime Minister!

We're proud of our students for speaking up and grateful to Jess Phillips for taking the time to listen.



# Holy Souls Highlights!

## Our Year 6 Pilgrims of the Future - Who is God Calling you to be?

As our Year 6 pupils prepare for the next step in their education, a highlight of the term was the inspiring My Future Me week, part of our Careers Curriculum. We welcomed a fantastic range of visitors—including a soldier, journalist, business owner, priest, solicitor, physiotherapist, paramedic, professional footballer, engineer, and construction director—who shared insights into their careers and journeys.



The children were brilliant: curious, respectful, and full of thoughtful questions. A common message across all talks was the value of respect, perseverance, and making the most of opportunities. It was inspiring to see how engaged the pupils were—we may well have future doctors, solicitors, and engineers among them!

A huge thank you to all our visitors for making the week such a success.

## A Century of Faith: Sacred Heart and Holy Souls Church Celebrated 100 Years

Sacred Heart and Holy Souls Church recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

To mark the occasion, pupils from Holy Souls visited the church to reflect on its history. Year 5 spent time in quiet reflection, while Year 6 explored a timeline of the parish's past and viewed historic photographs.

These visits gave students a chance to connect with the church's legacy and appreciate the generations who built and nurtured the parish community.





### Events coming soon:-

MAC Year 6 Residential -  
Whitemoor Lakes  
24-26th November 2025

MAC Christmas Carol Concert -  
TBC - December 2025

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy Company  
1157 Warwick Road  
Acocks Green  
Birmingham  
B27 6RG  
[info@stocmac.org.uk](mailto:info@stocmac.org.uk)