



Sharing the good news

Dear Staff, Directors, Governors and Volunteers, welcome to our first PFMAC Newsletter!

It is a wonderful opportunity to share what is happening across our schools and to celebrate with each other.

We launched our vision at the start of this academic year with Fr Jonathan Veasey – Dignity, Excellence, Unity. These three words epitomise our work as Catholic schools rooted in our communities, where everyone is cherished, supported and valued.

I would like to thank everyone involved in our schools for their hard work and dedication. This is such a busy, but wonderful, time of year and I wish everyone a happy and holy celebration of the incarnation. *Fraser Long, CEO*

from around the Pope Francis Catholic MAC



Imago

Dignity

Everyone is made in the image and likeness of God and has their own unique talents and gifts to share with the world. We treat everyone with respect, whatever their role. The best interests of the children are at the heart of everything we do.

"People have a dignity that is priceless and worth far more than things." Pope Francis

Excellence

We believe each child is unique and precious and has the right to receive the best education we can provide, spiritually, morally, academically and culturally. Together, our family of schools works to enable everyone to follow the path that God intended.

"We must live the Faith, not only with our words but with our actions." Pope Francis

Unity

Each school is part of the PFMAC family. We share collective responsibility for each other and freely offer support so that each school can grow as they learn from others. We celebrate our individual and collective successes and understand that our strength comes from our unity.

"Unity happens when we walk together." Pope Francis

www.pfmac.org.uk



Heavenly Father,
your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us,
a great sign of your love.
Guide us as we strive to walk in that love
together as a family this Advent.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas,
bring us closer to each other and to your son.
Give us the grace and strength we need
every day. Amen.

ARCHBISHOP BLESSES NEW RACHEL SMITH HALL ON BGN DAY

Archbishop Bernard Longley from the Archdiocese of Birmingham visited the school for Blessed George Napier Day to see the exciting new improvements to the school environment. Following Mass, his Grace blessed the new assembly hall, dedicated to the memory of Miss Rachel Smith, who was a teacher at BGN for many years.

Blessed George Napier Catholic School in Banbury has undergone an extensive redevelopment to provide state of the art learning and sports facilities for its students and the wider community.



CONGRATULATIONS St John Fisher: National League Trust Champions

On Thursday 21st on November, St John Fisher boys competed against 25 other schools for the chance to represent Oxford City in the National League Trust Cup finals. A long, cold day ended with a 1-0 victory on the Oxford City stadium pitch in the final against SS Phillip and James, a fantastic achievement, especially after losing the final last year on penalties.

St John Fisher will now progress to represent Oxford City against the best teams in the South-East of England for the chance to become National champions. Good luck to all the team!



SHARING OUR FAITH

Faith Ambassadors at St John Fisher met and decided that they would like a new statue outside school to share their faith to all guests as they arrive. Rye St Anthony School kindly donated a beautiful statue of Our Lady, which now sits pride of place at the front of the school.



PFMAC CONCERT RAISES THE ROOF

The PFMAC Concert featured music and joyful singing from all our primary and secondary schools, hosted in Oxford Town Hall. Special thanks to Daniel O'Connor, Headteacher at St Mary's Catholic School in Bicester for organising a fantastic event and Sean Dingly, Assistant Headteacher at Greyfriars in Oxford for rehearsing and conducting. It lifted the spirits of all who attended.

Pupils also had the opportunity to share what "Living Simply" means for them and us as we answer Pope Francis' call to be good stewards of God's creation and to care for our common home.

Please join us with a big warm welcome to all at St Mary's who join the PFMAC family of schools in January.



LEARNING THROUGH PLAY IN THE UPPER ROOM AT ST JOSEPH'S, BANBURY

The "Upper Room" is established and supporting the learning of some of the school's most vulnerable learners. The children benefit from an environment designed to encourage learning through play, whilst catering for their sensory needs.

Amongst the many imaginative activities built into the curriculum have been the soup café, the baking of gingerbread and a trip to a local farm. The children have access to our sensory garden - as well as the main playground - and have enjoyed sand, water and chalk play in this area as well as the tepee and the scooter run!

Despite not having been awarded funding for this essential enhanced pathway provision, St Joseph's have been determined to staff and resource the upper room and, with the support of governors, hope to secure some funding in the future.

Thank you to everyone all staff at St Joseph's who have been involved in this for their resourcefulness and tenacity in creating an enriching learning environment for the "Little Apostles".



CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE SALESIAN MISSION

Lyndsey Caldwell, Headteacher at Greyfriars was delighted to represent the school at the centenary of the Salesians Sisters in Elmthorpe. Inspired by St Francis De Sales, Saint John Bosco founded the Salesian order in Italy in 1859. He dedicated his life to teaching disadvantaged young people, attempting to make their lives better and developed teaching methods based on love. Wherever the Salesians work, their mission is the same, for they 'are called to be signs and bearers of God's love for the young.' The nuns in the convent in Cowley have supported children in the community in Oxford for decades.



It was an emotional event as the Sisters renewed their vows. Sister Pat, who many of the children at Greyfriars know well, exemplifies the Salesian mission to be the sign and bearer of God's love. His Grace, Bishop Bernard was delighted with the work we are doing. Tara Davies, Headteacher at Our Lady's was also there championing the Salesian mission



This was a community event and it was wonderful to see so many of our Greyfriars students there – some with little brothers and sisters at Our Lady's Cowley. Here is Gabriel meeting Bishop Bernard too after leading younger children as servers. What a joyful day in the community.



ST JOHN FISHER IS SPELLBOUND BY THE STORY MUSEUM

St John Fisher have been selected as a 'Spellbound School', a fully funded partnership with The Story Museum, which has allowed every child in the school to visit the museum and has seen one of their storytellers in school delivering a fantastic Narnia inspired workshop to each class.



St Mary's Lighthouse
Radio

Shout out to St Mary's School for the Lighthouse Radio. Produced in their school's studio, listen to hear latest music and interesting programs, as well as Wellbeing Wednesday.

Listen at <https://www.mixcloud.com/StMarysLighthouseRadio/>

DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE LEADERS

On 10th December the new cohort of current and future senior leaders met at Greyfriars school for the first of the PFMAC NPQSL training days.

Led by Fraser Long and Jane Hemery, this is the second year of the PFMAC NPQSL. Jim O'Neil, PFMAC Director and experienced former Headteacher, also contributed to the training providing a valuable input within the context of high quality, Catholic education.

Despite this course no longer being funded by the DFE for most schools, this year, the PFMAC has funded the programme so that there is no charge for our schools. The current cohort are of a very high calibre, as were last year's, and we are very fortunate to have such talent and skills within the PFMAC community.



CHRISTMAS GIVING

Paul Higgins (Headteacher of St John Fisher) looking suitably excited, to receive a huge delivery of presents from Julieann Exley (Headteacher of St Thomas More.) These presents, donated by the families at St Thomas More, will be given to families who need that bit of extra support this Christmas.

Paul was quick to point out that Thomas More and John Fisher share the same feast day and were martyred for the same cause in 1535, being held in the Tower of London at the same time.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Throughout the season of Advent, the schools have generously donated food, clothing and toiletries to be distributed to local food banks, through Father Hudson's reverse advent calendar appeal.

Tara Mawn, Assistant Headteacher at BGN said "these generous donations will bring warmth, comfort and nourishment to families and individuals in need. We believe that by coming together as a community, we can make a positive impact and spread the spirit of giving".

We thank everyone for their generosity and support.



thanks and praise



The
Pope Francis Catholic
Multi Academy Company

THANK YOU!

The Autumn term is a busy time for schools and we would like to thank each and every one of you; staff, directors, governors and volunteers, for sharing your gifts and talents as we work together in strength and unity for the pupils in our PFMAC family of schools.



Thank you to our whole school community for contributing to our sustainability mission by "Living Simply".

All schools are working towards their Cafod LiveSimply award and aim to make a positive impact on our global family, local community and school community as we reflect the teachings of Jesus, Catholic Social Teaching and Laudato Si' along the journey.

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Amen

Pope Francis shared this prayer in his encyclical calling on us to care for our common home.

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

BGN ACHIEVE NATIONAL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AWARD

Congratulations to BGN who have been recognised with a FFT National School Attendance Award for the 2023/24 academic year!

The award means that BGN are in the top 25% of all FFT secondary schools in England and demonstrates their exceptional standards in attendance compared to all secondary schools nationwide.

Mr Edmed, Deputy Headteacher said "deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this success. Together, we have shown what can be achieved with hard work, determination, and a shared commitment to excellence".



We believe each person is a unique creation made in the image and likeness of God, called by name, with a special vocation and gifts to bring to the world.

SAFEGUARDING

PFMAC SAFEGUARDING FOR DSLS with Jane Hemery

Tuesday 28th January 10am

Tuesday 25th March 10am

STAFF TRAINING. Book with Jane Hemery

NEW TO RE for ECTs or teachers new to Catholic education

Tuesday 4th January 9.30am

NPQSL with Jane Hemery and Fraser Long

Tuesday 11th January 9am

English Subject Leaders Meeting

Wednesday 15th January 1.30pm

English Network TA Training

Tuesday 21st January 1pm and 3.30pm

Writing Moderation for Y6

Tuesday 25th February 9.30am

Writing Moderation for Y2

Tuesday 25th February 1pm

RE Cluster Group

Thursday 6th March 9am

Headteacher CPD

Tuesday 11th March 10am

Modern Foreign Languages with Elspeth Morgan, BGN

Thursday 13th March 2pm

GOVERNOR TRAINING. Book via GovernorHub

SPRING GOVERNOR BRIEFING

Wednesday 29th January 7pm

GOVERNOR INDUCTION

Monday 10th February 7pm

LGB CHAIRS FORUM

Wednesday 26th February 7pm

BUDGET SETTING FOR GOVERNORS

Wednesday 5th March 7pm

SCHOOL SECURITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Thursday 20th March 6.30pm



Celebration Evening
in the
Rachel Smith Hall
Saturday 1 February 2025
£35 per head

Drinks reception from 7 pm
Hot buffet served at 7.30 pm
Followed by live music and dancing

Proceeds in aid of the
Rachel Smith Memorial Fund
and
The Friends of BGN

Tickets now available from
BGN's School Shop on the
link below.
<https://www.blessedgeorgenapier.co.uk/page/?title=Online+Shop&pid=82>

*Wishing you and your families
a holy and blessed Christmas*

