



Stronger together for the common good

Autumn / Winter 2023



I am thrilled to share our autumn and winter newsletter with you all which is packed full of content from all of our school communities. It has been another busy term as we have welcomed two new secondary schools to the All Saints Multi Academy Trust (ASMAT) family.

Hope Academy in Newton-le-Willows and St Margaret's Church of England Academy in Aigburth, Liverpool, brings us to four secondary schools in total, plus an additional sixth form college.

I must congratulate Hope Academy on its recent Educate Awards win. It was truly wonderful to see the school team honoured with the Careers & Enterprise Award at the Liverpool Cathedral in November.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter and on behalf of everyone within ASMAT, I wish you a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Kind regards
Heather Duggan



TRUST LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

- Mrs Heather Duggan – CEO
- Mrs Annemarie Robb – Chief Finance and Operating Officer
- Mr Dave Smith – Trust Education Director (Primary)
- Mrs Jeniffer Sing – Executive Headteacher and Director for Education (Secondary)
- Ms Jo Leech – Headteacher of The Academy of St Francis of Assisi
- Mr Gary Lloyd – Headteacher of The Academy of St Nicholas
- Mr Stephen Brierley – Headteacher of St Margaret's Church of England Academy
- Mrs Marie Adams – Headteacher of Hope Academy
- Ms Sarah Williams – Headteacher of Faith Primary Academy



TWO PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO JOIN IN FEBRUARY

The Trust is pleased to announce that The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools will be joining its family of growing schools in February 2024.

Located in Newton-le-Willows, The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools is made up of a two-form entry infant school and a junior school. The infant school is situated on Barn Way, while the junior school is located on Victoria Road.

The infant school caters for children aged 3-7 across the nursery provision and classes of reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. The junior school caters for children aged 7-11, with two classes for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools is a secure, friendly and faith-centred community where they seek to realise the full potential of all its family through the living love of Christ. The schools' core values include 'Compassion', 'Respect' and 'Resilience'.

Mrs Heather Duggan, CEO of ASMAT, said: "We are excited to welcome The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools into the Trust in February.

"The schools are perfectly aligned with All Saints Multi Academy Trust's Christian ethos and values and we look forward to working closely with the communities they serve."



EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER SET TO JOIN THE TRUST

In January, Samantha Birchall will be joining the Trust as executive headteacher.

As executive headteacher, Samantha will have overall strategic responsibility for The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Infant School and St Mary's Catholic Junior School

Samantha Birchall has been headteacher of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School and Nursery in Rainford, St Helens, since 2015.

With a wealth of experience in educational Catholic leadership and a proven track record of driving positive change, Samantha will bring a dynamic and innovative approach to the Trust and support the delivery of an outstanding learning environment for children within the two schools.

CEO of ASMAT, Mrs Heather Duggan, commented: "We are thrilled to appoint Samantha Birchall as executive headteacher. She has had an extensive career in teaching and a proven track-record of success in Catholic schools. We look forward Samantha playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of education within our trust."



SAFE PROJECT

ASMAT is proud to be leading on a city-wide initiative called 'SAFE Project' which brings together schools and relevant partners to commission evidence-based interventions to support young people with challenging behaviour, enabling them to attend school regularly, fulfil their potential and exceed their expectations.

The purpose is to make a tangible difference in young people's lives, through which tackle serious violence either directly, or through improved behavioural/attitudinal indicators and increased engagement.

ASMAT has developed six intervention strategies to support students. 66% of the students that took part said violent crime is a major issue in Liverpool. So far, the interventions have had a real impact and 100% of students have enjoyed the sessions, 97% said the sessions have helped them and 75% said they have changed something about themselves for the better.

One student said: "When I feel angry I go straight to the SAFE worker and she calms me down. I give less back chat and my behaviour is better because I feel calmer."

ASFA HEADTEACHER SITS ON ROUNDTABLE AT THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE 2023

Ms Jo Leech, headteacher of The Academy of St Francis of Assisi, was invited to participate in a roundtable at this year's Labour Party Conference, to discuss improving refugee and asylum-seeking pupils' wellbeing and outcomes.

In October, Liverpool hosted the four-day Labour Party Conference 2023, consisting of inspiring speeches, invaluable training and a packed schedule of events.

Ms Leech was contacted by the Education Policy Institute to sit on a roundtable which brought together policymakers and third sector organisations to consider the current challenges faced by this pupil group.

The Academy of St Francis Assisi is very proud of its diverse community. As a 'School of Sanctuary', it welcomes a number of children who are new to the country, some of whom are asylum seekers or refugees.

The private roundtable discussed practical solutions on how to share best practice, generate collective action and develop education policy within the framework of 'safety, belonging, success and celebration'.

Ms Leech said: "The Academy of St Francis Assisi is a wonderfully vibrant school, and we are pleased to welcome students from all over the world, particularly those who are seeking sanctuary. There are over 60 different languages spoken here and we celebrate each and every one."

"As headteacher, I understand some of the hardships these students have faced and what challenges and barriers they are up against in the education system. I hope by drawing upon my own experience and knowledge during the roundtable, we can work towards achieving better outcomes for refugee and migrant students around the UK."



CELEBRATING CULTURES

The Academy of St Francis of Assisi recently held a special 'Culture Day' that brought students and staff together in a joyous display of cultural diversity.

ASFA is proud of its vibrant school community with students from all over the world accessing its broad and ambitious curriculum.

Over 60 different languages are spoken within the school and staff ensure each and every student has the chance to have their voice heard.

The Culture Day was jam-packed full of activities which gave students from different cultural backgrounds a unique opportunity to celebrate and share an insight into their own heritage, while also learning about others.

Students set up stalls showcasing their countries and brought in artefacts and food from their homelands.

The school was a hub of activity all day with music and dancing taking place throughout. Inside the classrooms, each subject covered work about different cultures during lesson time.

The event was a resounding success, reinforcing the academy's commitment to fostering an inclusive and globally-minded community.

One student said: "Culture Day was amazing! I loved showing my friends all different aspects of my culture. I really enjoyed tasting different foods."



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Academy of St Nicholas has come together with the Palm House in Sefton Park to create bespoke bird tables for care homes around the city.

The Garston academy successfully applied to be part of the project when head of design and technology, Miss Katie Bell, saw the opportunity on X (formerly known as Twitter). She offered her expertise and skill set of her talented students, citing how working in the community is a key aspect of school life.

Thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, The Academy of St Nicholas will be able to produce 10 bird tables for 10 residential care homes in Liverpool, using the state-of-the-art workshops in school. The tables will be donated alongside a wooden gift box, which the academy has also offered to make for the project.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund helps support projects of all sizes that connect people and communities to the UK's heritage.

Kate Martinez, head of external relations at the Palm House, said: "The application submitted by Miss Bell from The Academy of St Nicholas was incredibly compelling. We selected the proposal to fulfil the brief as we loved the idea of local children being part of this funded project. It is a wonderful chance to bring generations together."

During a recent visit to the academy, Kate Martinez was able to see for herself how the bird tables will look after Year 9 student, Cody, showcased his own creations, highlighting his superb level of craftsmanship. As a budding carpenter, Cody designs and builds bird tables in his spare time with his family.

Kate added: "When we saw the quality of the bird table, we were overwhelmed. To say I am delighted that such a simple idea has grown and flourished, is an understatement."

The 10 residential care homes and the academy will be invited to the Palm House on 6 March 2024, where students will present the care home residents with the gifts they have made.

Mr Gary Lloyd, headteacher, said: "As a school with strong Christian values, working within the local community is something that is very important to us and building these relationships ensures our students are always thinking about others."



GIVING BACK TO GARSTON

Community groups, charities and organisations are being invited to apply for a share of £25,000 funding, made available using money seized from criminals.

Community groups operating in Garston, or intending to use the funding within this area, can apply for grants of up to £5,000 to deliver a project focused on youth engagement and intervention.

With the focus on projects which aim to reduce and prevent crime and antisocial behaviour through youth engagement and interventions, bidding groups will have to go back to the classroom and pitch their ideas to a group of schoolchildren from primary and secondary schools.

They will decide who receives a share of the £25,000 funding pot at the Giving Back to Garston participatory budget event in February 2024. It will take place at The Academy of St Nicholas and bring together students from the academy and five local primary schools to take part in the voting – St Austin's, Garston CE, Banks Road, Gilmour Juniors and Holy Trinity.

Inspector Nicola Hamilton, from the local policing team said: "Using funds seized from criminals, we can now offer grants to community groups operating in Garston, or intending to work within this local area, to engage and work with our local youths."

"Alongside our ongoing proactive work to tackle criminality, we are passionate about working with partners and local community members to amplify their initiatives and improve where they live."

"The Giving Back to Garston event will give the young people living in the area the opportunity to vote for the projects they want to see happen. We are giving young people a voice as to where they want the funding to be spent to directly impact them and the area they live in. We are excited to have them involved and reward funding to worthwhile youth initiatives."

"This is a brilliant opportunity for any voluntary or grassroots organisation to benefit from a funding boost. The money can be used to develop existing projects or start something new. I would urge anyone who thinks they have an idea to get in touch so we can support you with your application."

Headteacher, Mr Gary Lloyd said: "As an academy, we are delighted to be both hosting and participating in this exciting initiative which brings together many different elements of the Garston community to give the young people of our community a voice in shaping the direction of the community projects."

"We are looking forward to hearing the proposals and providing students with an opportunity to exercise their democratic vote in deciding the winners."



SCHOOL PARLIAMENT

St Margaret's Church of England Academy (SMA) has launched its very own parliament in school, with involvement from across all year groups.

Miss Evans, teacher of history and politics, won a highly coveted place on the Parliamentary Ambassador Programme in the summer. She spent three days in parliament and had training and meetings with key figures, including Sir Lyndsey Hoyle.

Inspired by the unique programme, Miss Evans worked with headteacher, Mr Brierley, to transform its current student council into a full parliament.

This term, the new parliament was officially launched, and each form elected an MP, who made up the House of Commons. Sixth form students, or hereditary peers, formed the House of Lords.

The parliament has a speaker of the house and a number of committees including eco, fundraising, diversity and petitions. The monarch is Mr Brierley.

Already a number of motions have been passed and a meeting with Mr Brierley about how to move forward has taken place. In particular, the school has had the value of its 'Golden Ticket' (lunch reward) increased, have proposals for a prom and have worked on 'Environment Day' which will see the eco committee deliver a range of assemblies in January.

Miss Evans said: "Our students have learned a lot about the Westminster Model, Parliamentary Democracy and public speaking. They have been really enthusiastic, and we've already started to make changes!"



LEST WE FORGET

In November, SMA students and staff gathered to commemorate the passing of so many people, including a significant number of St Margaret's students, in the two World Wars and in subsequent conflicts.

The academy was honoured that Diocesan Advisor, Jane Griffiths, joined them for the short act of remembrance.

There wasn't room to sit, so the students stood for the duration of the event - the academy felt it was appropriate to 'stand for the fallen'.

It was a very moving occasion and reminded the SMA community of the great debt that is owed to all those who have given their lives for the freedom that too often is taken for granted.



HOPE WIN AT THE EDUCATE AWARDS!

In November, Hope Academy won the Careers & Enterprise Award at the Educate Awards.

Taking place at the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, the Educate Awards is now in its twelfth year, and showcases the hard work and creativity in the education sector, from STEM and performing arts to sports and literacy.

The awards also recognise the individuals who bring schools and colleges to life, from inspiring teachers and dedicated support staff to strategic leadership teams.

The Careers & Enterprise Award, sponsored by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Careers Hub, recognises schools, academies and colleges that are preparing young people the best they can for their future careers. Judges look for excellent examples of career-related learning about the range of pathways and opportunities available to students, as well as the focus on developing a spirit for enterprise amongst students, whether this be through partnerships, work experience opportunities or other methods.

At Hope Academy, there are a range of careers and enterprise programmes embedded in day-to-day life, which amazed the judges. Career-related learning is emphasised throughout the school, and Hope's compelling award entry highlighted strong links to the Gatsby benchmarks, demonstrating student engagement

as well as great content from the academy.

Visits from guest speakers, workshops during the school year, collaborative work with local and national employers also allow students at Hope to embrace and think deeply about their future careers.



NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOPE STUDENTS

Hope Academy students have secured places at some of the UK's leading independent and boarding schools, thanks to Hope Opportunity Trust.

Hope Opportunity Trust (HOT) is a charitable incorporated organisation with a mission to provide life changing opportunities for young people that they would not normally have access to.

HOT offer students fully-funded bursary places at some of the leading independent and boarding schools in the UK. These bursaries are funded by the Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation and direct funding from the host schools. Since 2013, HOT has secured over £10m worth of bursary places for over 110 students.

This year, eight students from Hope Academy have been matched with a boarding school. After successfully passing the interview stage at St Peter's School, York, four students

have been awarded a place at the following boarding schools:

- Kadie at Stoneyhurst College
- Maada at Rossall School
- Mia at Shrewsbury School
- Keira at Rugby School

The remaining four students, Hanna, Angel, Dylan and Jasper, will find out their places in the New Year.

Mr Charlie Wignall, careers adviser at Hope Academy, said: "Congratulations to our wonderful students who have secured places at some of the UK's top boarding schools. I know they will go on to do amazing things. We wish them the best of luck for the future."

Hope Academy has worked with the organisation since 2017 and has successfully placed 20 students during this time. Previous students have benefitted greatly by the bursaries including:

Ibrahim, who after studying for his GCSEs at Hope Academy, went on to study A-levels at Warwick School. After his receiving his A-level results, he enjoyed a gap year and explored the world. He will be begin a degree in dentistry at the University of Leeds this year.

Kimalin, who also studied for her GCSEs at Hope Academy, went on to study A-levels at Pocklington School. She achieved amazing results (A*/A*/C) and then studied a foundation course in art. She will be starting a degree in Art at Falmouth University this September.



A SUCCESSFUL OPEN EVENING

All Saints Sixth Form College celebrated a record number of attendees at its open evening on Thursday, 14 December.

The sixth form team welcomed prospective students from secondary schools within the Trust, and from across the city, who are looking to study A-level and vocational courses.

September's intake totalled an incredible 250 students, and the sixth form is once again predicting high admissions for next year.

Mr Grant Sibbald, head of sixth form, commented: "All Saints Sixth Form College is going from strength to strength, and we are really pleased with how the post-16 provision is growing.

"To ensure we promoted the open evening far and wide, we rolled out a digital billboard campaign on Speke Road for two weeks. We received some really great feedback and we have already received applications from students for 2024."



THE NATIONAL SCHOOL & COLLEGE LEAVER FESTIVAL

100 students from All Saints Sixth Form College visited The National School & College Leaver (NSCL) Festival at the beginning of November.

NSCL Fest showcased all opportunities including apprenticeships, further and higher education, entry-level roles, and general employment, offering visitors the chance to engage with England's top employers, universities and training providers in a face-to-face, interactive environment.

The festival provided the perfect opportunity for students to discover more about post-college opportunities across England.

Students spoke confidently to university representatives to find out more about courses and what university life is like as a fresher. They also engaged with individuals from organisations in a wealth of industries, asking them key questions about apprenticeships and entry-level positions that interested them.

One student said: "The trip to NSCL Fest was great! There was lots of information and advice on offer and it was a really good opportunity to learn about what options are available to me after my time at All Saints Sixth Form College."

NEW BEGINNINGS FOR RECEPTION PUPILS



Faith Primary Academy held a special welcome service for its new intake of reception pupils in September.

The service brought together the new starters and their families as they embark on their exciting journey with the school and the Trust.

The service began with introductions from Faith Primary Academy's RE lead, Ashleigh Martin, and then several Year 6 pupils reflected on 'New Beginnings' and their time at the school.

The group gathered together in prayer and then reception performed the song 'This Little Light of Mine' for their parents. Afterwards, the children and their families were invited to light a candle to symbolise their new academic and spiritual journey.

During the service, Fr. Chris McCoy, the new parish priest of St Francis Xavier's Church and Rev. Mikey Ferguson, the new vicar of St Peter's Church, were also welcomed into the All Saints Multi Academy Trust family with a reflection and a blessing.

Following in the footsteps of their predecessors, Fr. Chris McCoy and Rev. Mikey Ferguson will continue to support Faith Primary Academy by providing spiritual guidance and support to the children, families and staff through whole-school worship, community projects and curriculum enhancement.

Ashleigh Martin said: "We have always been incredibly fortunate at Faith that the relationships between parish and school have been strong. We have been blessed with clergy who see the value in instilling Christian values and developing spirituality in our children. We know that this will continue with both Father Chris and Father Mikey, who have already started working alongside us and we look forward to this continuing."

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER INVITED TO SHARE BEST PRACTICE AT CONFERENCE

Deputy headteacher of Faith Primary Academy, Miss Danielle Fox, was recently invited to host a workshop at the National IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark) Inclusion Conference in Birmingham.

Danielle Fox has worked at the school for five-and-a-half years. During this time, she has worked tirelessly with staff to ensure pupils feel safe, loved and secure, and they are supported to gain confidence, resilience, emotional literacy and have the skills to contribute positively to society in the long run.

Faith Primary Academy is proud to offer a sanctuary of calm and nurturing for children.

In 2021, it was honoured with flagship school status for the IQM Inclusive School Award and is a beacon in the region for its all-encompassing inclusive ethos. IQM has been recognising and celebrating the work of schools invested in inclusion since 2004.

As part of her workshop, Danielle shared valuable insight into the schools' inclusive

strategies for managing emotions and behaviour. She presented two workshops to over 60 people from all around the UK, including a mixture of primary, secondary and special schools.

She revealed how the behaviour policy and systems in school are all based on 'Zones of Regulation' and restorative practice. The intervention helps children manage difficult emotions and aims to teach them strategies to cope with these feelings so they can get back to feeling calm and ready to learn.

Danielle shared how they ensure consistency and the ongoing success of this approach, detailing how there is high-quality training for staff and pupils, and how the language of self-regulation is woven into curriculum delivery alongside its teaching model.

During the workshops, Danielle provided attendees with a range of tools and strategies to use within their own schools.

Danielle Fox said: "I was extremely proud to be invited to host two workshops at the National

IQM Inclusion Conference. As a school, we have worked hard to create an environment and curriculum which is fully inclusive, and this means supporting our children with managing their emotions.

"I received some really great feedback following the workshops and I hope the strategies I shared will make a difference in other schools around the country."

