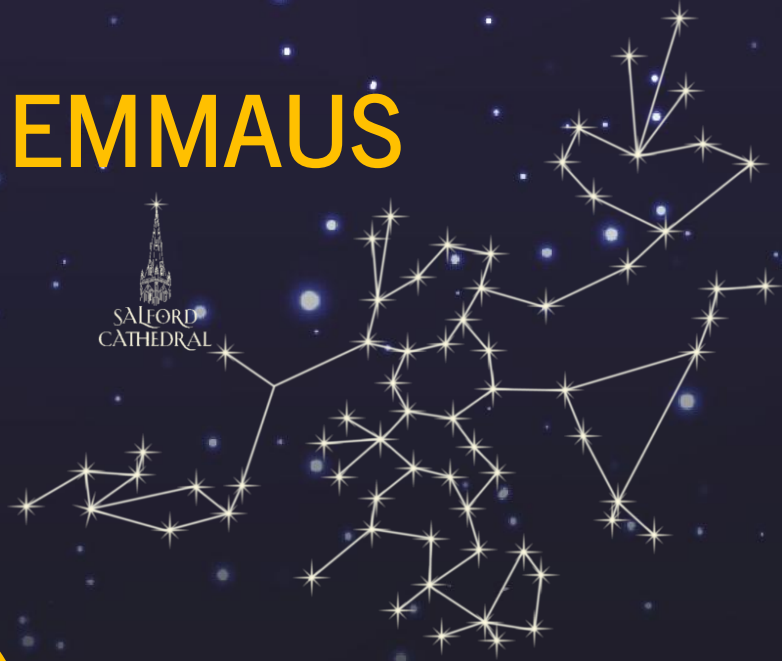


JOURNEY WITH EMMAUS CAT...



Welcome to our newsletter

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Humility ● Faithfulness ● Service

“Many Parts, One Body – Walking the Emmaus Road Together”

Dear colleagues

We would like to begin by wishing you all a happy Eastertide. Within the Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust family of schools, we focus on those called to education and leadership. Each of us brings different gifts, experiences, and responsibilities, yet we are united in one shared mission serving the children God places in our care:

- To assist in the mission of making Christ known to all people;
- To assist parents, who are the prime educators of their children, in the education and religious formation of their children;
- To be of service to the local Church – the Diocese – the Parish and the Christian home;
- To be of service to society.

As we begin the summer term, we remind ourselves that children sit at the heart of Emmaus –

Some children come to us joyful and ready to learn.

Others arrive anxious, fragile, or burdened.

Some need academic challenge; others need consistency and emotional safety; all need love, dignity, and hope.

This term, in our prayers and interactions, let us hold in mind:

- the vulnerable child who needs us to notice them
- the child whose uniform tells a story
- the child who has never been on a trip
- the child who waits for a smile
- the child who finds learning hard
- the child who needs a fresh start
- the child who looks to us for Christ’s love, even if they cannot name it

This is why we exist as Catholic schools within the Emmaus family. In this Easter season, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we walk together with the Risen Christ — as educators, as staff, as leaders and governors, and as witnesses of hope.



DIOCESE OF  SALFORD



Emmaus CAT Prayer

Meet us, Lord, on the road to Emmaus,
Guide us on our path toward our
destination, and renew our strength as we
continue to walk and commune with you.

Open our eyes, so we see the signs of your
presence around us;

Open our hearts, so we may receive your
peace and love;

And empower us to pass on to others the
grace you have shared with us so freely.

Amen.

The Emmaus Story (Luke 24:13–35) – A Journey of Resurrection, Leadership, and Service

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognising him. He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?'

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?'

'What things?' he asked.

'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.'

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus walked with them, listened to them, and opened the Scriptures to them. When he was at table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and they returned renewed to share the good news: 'The Lord has risen.'

In the Easter season, the Emmaus story speaks powerfully to those in education and those in leadership. The disciples moved from uncertainty to clarity, from disappointment to renewed purpose. Christ was present in the walking, the listening, the teaching, and the shared table.

The Emmaus story is our story as educators, school leaders and staff:

- We walk with pupils, families, and colleagues, especially in times of challenge.
- We recognise the Risen Christ in everyday encounters — in classrooms, corridors, meetings, and playgrounds.
- We lead with hope, returning each day renewed in our commitment to serve.

At the heart of the Emmaus story is community — a shared journey, a shared mission, and shared responsibility.

Just as the human body depends on its many different parts, our schools depend on the contribution of every member of staff. Teachers, leaders, support staff, site teams, and administrators each play a vital role in creating schools where children can flourish.

Those in leadership carry particular responsibility: to hold vision, to ensure consistency, to support and challenge, and to create the conditions in which others can flourish. Much of this work happens quietly, through decisions made with care, values lived with integrity, and relationships built on trust.

Unity in our schools does not mean uniformity. It means shared purpose. As leaders, educators and staff, united by faith and mission, we work together so that every child receives an education rooted in Gospel values and alive with Easter hope.

To serve every child well, we commit ourselves to working as one body. Therefore, we ask God:

- To give us the courage to listen deeply and lead with humility.
- To help us place children at the heart of every decision we make.
- To help us work together with honesty, respect, and trust.
- To help us hold ourselves and one another to the standard our children deserve.
- To help us rejoice in the success of every school community, every colleague, and every child.

Like the disciples who returned to Jerusalem filled with Easter joy, we return to our schools renewed and re-focused — ready to lead with compassion, courage, unity, and the love of the Risen Christ in all that we do.

Stay with us, Lord, as we lead and serve.

Daniel Copley
CEO





 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
INSPECTORATE



Earlier in the term, St Anne's RC Primary School in Audenshaw underwent a CSI inspection and was awarded an overall judgement of **Good**. Inspectors highlighted the exceptionally strong relationships across the school, noting a nurturing community firmly rooted in respect, care, and Gospel values. They found clear evidence that the school's mission statement is genuinely lived out, with the entire community consistently guided by the rule of love.

Children play an active role in leadership across the school, and their contributions significantly enrich the Catholic life and mission of St Anne's. Children were seen to enjoy their religious education, engaging enthusiastically in lessons that deepen both their understanding and their faith. Inspectors also recognised the strong partnerships with parents and the parish, which play a vital role in supporting the prayer life of the school and strengthening the wider Catholic community. The inspection report reflects the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

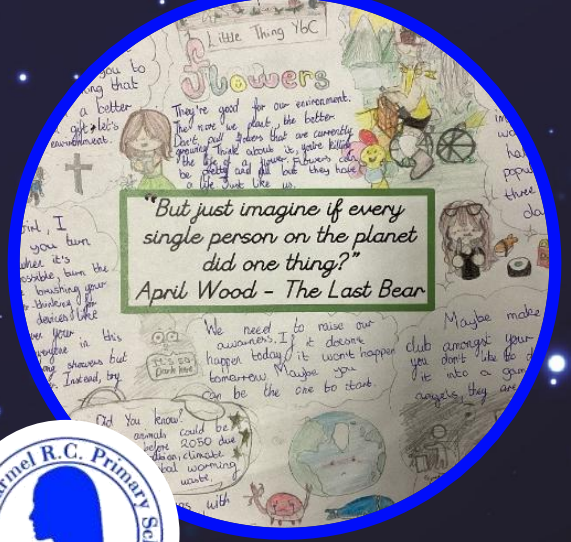
St Christopher's RC Primary School in Ashton also underwent a recent CSI inspection and was awarded an overall judgement of **Outstanding**. Inspectors praised the school's leaders and governors, describing them as inspirational in their pursuit of the highest possible standards. They noted that pupils' behaviour and attitudes were exemplary, contributing significantly to the excellent outcomes achieved across the school. Inspectors highlighted that strong, nurturing relationships lie at the heart of the school's success, with care, compassion and a deep commitment to the wellbeing of pupils, staff and parents evident in every aspect of school life. Catholic Social Teaching was clearly woven throughout the school community, and prayer was recognised as central to its vibrant faith life, with the whole community engaging with genuine enthusiasm. This outstanding judgement is richly deserved and reflects the exceptional work taking place throughout the school.

Spring Term Across Emmaus CAT

Mount Carmel RC Primary School, Manchester

This Lent, the children at Mount Carmel led a series of thoughtful social justice projects inspired by Catholic Social Teaching.

Each year group designed its own campaign, learning about justice, dignity and care for creation while making a real impact in their community.



Nursery and Reception raised funds for Mary's Meals through their weekly juice and biscuit sale, while Years 1 and 3 collected generous donations for the local foodbank. Year 2 supported Caritas with a popular "Guess the Marbles" fundraiser, and Year 4 organised a successful pre-loved toy and book sale to help families in need.

Year 5 carried out a large litter pick around school and the local area, promoting care for the environment, and Year 6 created inspiring "One Little Thing..." posters encouraging simple actions to protect our common home.



St Joseph's RC Primary School, Stockport

This Year St Joseph's Sacramental children in Year 3 and their Faith Leaders were blessed to take part in a retreat led by the Marist Sisters. Through prayer, reflection and thoughtful activities, the children deepened their understanding of the Eucharist and what it means to welcome Jesus into their lives.

St Herbert's RC Primary School, Oldham

During the holy season of Lent, St. Herbert's has begun their special 'Stay and Pray' mornings, offering families a gentle way to start the day together in reflection and prayer.



Each Friday before school, a different key stage is invited to attend, with parents and carers warmly welcomed to join their children. Families spend time together taking part in simple crafts and art activities linked to the themes of Lent, before sharing in a short moment of prayer and reflection.

These peaceful gatherings have been a lovely opportunity for their school community to come together, pause from the busyness of the morning, and reflect on the meaning of the Lenten season. They look forward to welcoming more families in the weeks ahead.





St Dunstan's has been full of energy and joy this term, with many opportunities for reflection, celebration, and community engagement. Throughout the school, there has been a real sense of togetherness as pupils, staff, and families have come together to share in the life of their school.



St Dunstan's have also enjoyed a fantastic celebration of World Book Day. The children made a tremendous effort with their costumes, coming dressed as a wide variety of characters and authors. The day was filled with excitement as pupils explored new stories, shared their favourite books, and celebrated a love of reading together.

During this special season of Lent, St Dunstan's have been taking time to pause, reflect, and grow in their faith. Their worship has been particularly meaningful, encouraging the children to think about kindness, sacrifice, and helping others. These moments of quiet reflection have created a calm and respectful atmosphere across the school. It has also been a pleasure to welcome parents and family members into school for their "Stay and Pray" sessions.



On 20th March, St Dunstan's proudly marked Neurodiversity Day by wearing blue. This was a meaningful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the fact that everyone is unique. Through discussions and activities, the children were reminded that we are all wonderfully made in God's image, and that our differences are something to be valued and respected.

These gatherings have been a wonderful way to strengthen the link between home and school, allowing families to join the school in prayer and experience the spiritual life of St Dunstan's firsthand.

Their dedicated Caritas Ambassadors have been working hard in preparation to lead the Stations of the Cross. They have shown great maturity and reverence as they take on this important role, helping others to understand and reflect on this significant part of the Lenten journey.



Looking ahead, the school are excited to begin their new "Learn With Me" sessions. These sessions will give parents the chance to come into school and learn alongside their children, gaining a deeper understanding of the curriculum while sharing in the learning experience. St Dunstan's hope this initiative will further strengthen our school community and create even more opportunities for collaboration. Overall, it has been a vibrant and enriching term at St Dunstan's, and they look forward to all that is still to come.



St Christopher's RC Primary School, Tameside

Years 1 and 3 have chosen to support the Glossopdale Charity Crafters, who raise funds for local causes. This year, the group is focusing on dementia charities. To help, the children have completed a sponsored walk around the reservoirs. As well as raising money they stayed active while supporting an important cause.

As part of St Christopher's Lenten focus on, giving, acting and praying each year group at school has chosen a local charity to support.

The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm, creativity, and kindness as they planned their local fundraising activities. Here's a look at what all the classes have been up to.

Their youngest children took part in a Sponsored P Day! They dressed up in purple and enjoyed a whole host of activities beginning with the letter P — from 'pass the parcel' to 'party dancing' and plenty more. They are raising money for Scope, a charity that supports disabled people and their families in our local area and at school.

Year 2 are raising money for Willow Wood Hospice by taking part in a fun run. The children were full of energy and determination as they took part in a fun run for a local charity that carries out amazing work in the Ashton community.



Year 4 have chosen Young Minds, a charity dedicated to supporting children's mental health. They completed a sponsored walk to Knott Hill Reservoir and showed great teamwork and resilience along the way.

Their oldest pupils are raising money for the World Wildlife Fund. They are carrying out litter picking in the local community, helping both the planet and our neighbourhood while raising awareness of global environmental issues.

Year 5 are also supporting Willow Wood Hospice. They completed a wacky costume walk around the local area — and certainly turned heads. Their colourful outfits and big smiles brought joy to everyone who saw them. The children counted over 50 horn beeps!



Holy Family RC Primary School, Oldham



The Holy Family Forest School provision is bringing learning to life in powerful and memorable ways across the curriculum. A particularly striking example can be seen in Year 6, where pupils drew on their Autumn term learning about the Mayan civilisation to create a fully functioning outdoor “community.”

Inspired by their understanding of how the Mayans evolved from nomadic groups into settled societies, pupils independently established a village space within the school grounds. Over time, this developed to include shelters, a communal gathering area, crop planting and even a simple trading system. Roles emerged organically, with pupils taking on responsibilities such as leadership, engineering, farming and security. What has been most notable is the sustained collaboration, problem-solving and shared sense of ownership, all achieved with minimal adult direction.



Pupils have applied their knowledge in practical contexts, working collaboratively outdoors to explore concepts introduced in the classroom, strengthening both their engagement and retention.

Similarly, in Year 3, Forest School has been used to deepen curriculum understanding through hands-on, experiential learning.

Across both year groups, Forest School is supporting pupils to develop teamwork, resilience and independence while embedding curriculum knowledge in a meaningful, real-world context.

It is a strong example of how outdoor learning can enrich the curriculum and foster a genuine love of learning.



Holy Rosary RC Primary School, Oldham

Holy Rosary's recent Mother's Day Cream Tea was a truly lovely occasion, with over 130 parents and family members joining the staff in school to enjoy a drink and cake alongside their child, grandchild, niece or nephew.



The hall was filled with smiles, laughter and warm conversations as families spent special time together celebrating the important people in our children's lives.

It was a gorgeous event that beautifully celebrated family and community, and it was wonderful to see so many members of their school family sharing such a happy moment together.



St Mary's RC Primary School, Failsworth



St. Mary's Year 5 children have recently taken part in the Oldham Choral Speaking event and received the John Cleary Trophy and a distinction plus for their performance.

St Margaret Mary's RC Primary School, Manchester

The Eco Team from St Margaret Mary's attended the Greater Manchester Green Summit, held at the Coop Live Arena. This is the second year that they have been invited to attend the summit and had the opportunity to find out about the wonderful 'green projects' and environmental initiatives taking place within our region.



Pupils met people from a range of organisations and industries such as United Utilities, National Trust and Canals, River-Ways Trust, Bee Network and many more. During the event they completed workshops and looked at how the school and community could use simple ideas to make small changes to have a big impact.

The Eco team shared information about the Eco-Refill Shop they plan to hold at school, as well as meeting Mayor Andy Burnham.

The children had a fantastic day!

St Mary's RC Primary School, Stockport

Some of the children at St Mary's had some of their own artwork selected and displayed in the War Memorial museum.

They took a day trip to see their own artwork and that of many different artists.





On Holocaust Memorial Day, Newman were delighted to host Oldham's official memorial event. As a school they welcomed the Major and Mayoress of Oldham, Oldham Councillors, Oldham Council, Oldham Youth Council and members of the Inter-Faith Forum to celebrate our event.

They also welcomed Marianne Phillips, a first-generation survivor to share her story and accounts of living through the Holocaust. Their Year 10 History students joined the event, as well as some of their Year 9 poets who shared their own poems on the need to bridge generations and remember the past. It was a truly inspirational day and one their students present will not forget.



Some of Newman's Year 8 students and staff went on pilgrimage to Rome in February. They travelled to a number of different sites including Santa Maria Maggiore, where they paid their respect to Pope Francis; St Peter's Square, where they explored the Vatican and the Vatican Museums; and the Basilica di San Giovanni, the first basilica in Rome. They also explored the wonderful sights of the Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain and the beautiful sights of Rome.

Newman have begun the process of selecting their new prefect team from Year 10. Students in year 10 have been busy with their applications, sharing their views and commitment to the school's missions, values and leadership, as well as their own vision for change and student voice across their school family. 42 students were successful in becoming new Newman Prefects.

These students are currently busy filling in their applications for the leadership positions of head student, deputies and senior prefects. All students were commissioned by Father Joel in a special Mass on the 19th March, with their families present. The school cannot wait to see how this committed group of students serve their school and community.

A number of Year 11s were delighted to visit Oxford University at the end of February. They went to experience a taste of what it would be like to attend Oxford. They learnt about the application process, took part in question-and-answer sessions with first year undergraduates, enjoyed a tour and participated in an interactive lecture around philosophy. The students thoroughly enjoyed their visit.



St Edward's RC Primary School are delighted to share that they have recently been awarded the School Mental Health Award at the Gold standard level—the highest accolade—by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools.

The School Mental Health Award, created in 2017 by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools and Minds Ahead, supports schools in improving pupils' mental health. It encourages positive change across the UK education system to enhance student wellbeing, outcomes, and life chances.

This prestigious recognition celebrates the school's unwavering commitment to fostering a supportive and nurturing environment for both pupils and staff. St Edward's offers a wide range of initiatives to promote wellbeing, including a specially designed sensory room, a calm down area, extensive staff wellbeing benefits, and a highly trained Pastoral Lead dedicated to children's social, emotional, and mental health.



This achievement reflects the dedication and consistent effort of the entire staff team in supporting pupil wellbeing and enriching the school community. It acknowledges the hard work, commitment, and compassionate approach cultivated to create a culture where mental health is openly valued and actively supported.

The school continues its journey with a strong focus on ensuring every child feels safe, heard, and empowered to thrive emotionally and academically.

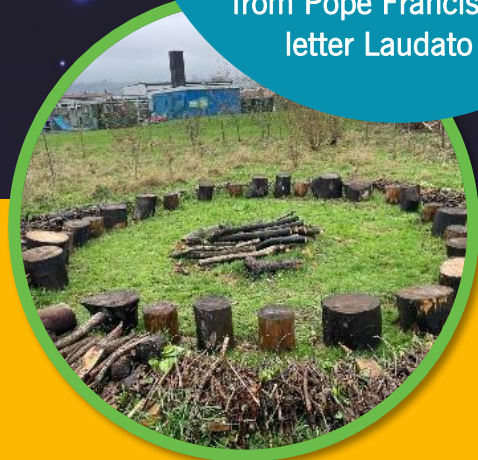
St John Fisher RC Primary School, Tameside



Children from St John Fisher have been working with Mr Nolan from Recycle Bees who is an environmental educationalist. Mr Nolan and the children have been responding to the mission from Pope Francis' Paper letter Laudato Si.

The children have enjoyed planting seeds, taking care of the many young trees they have in their school grounds, planting new trees where some of the old ones did not take and creating a new fire pit circle for their whole school to enjoy. The school are lucky enough to have a plant incubator, which has sparked lots of curiosity and discussion about how quickly plants can grow and what they need to thrive.

Through these hands-on activities, the children have learned about caring for living things, being patient, and taking responsibility for our environment. This links beautifully to 'Laudato Si', where we are reminded of our duty to look after God's creation and to nurture the world we have been given. By planting seeds today, their children are learning that even small actions can help care for our common home.



Further work involved asking the school community to collect bottle tops for a recycling project. They responded by sending hundreds of bottle tops within a couple of weeks. The children have then sorted and shredded the plastic bottle tops. The shredded pieces can then be melted into moulds and they can then make brand new objects. Design ideas have included making class crosses.

St Anne's RC Primary School, Tameside

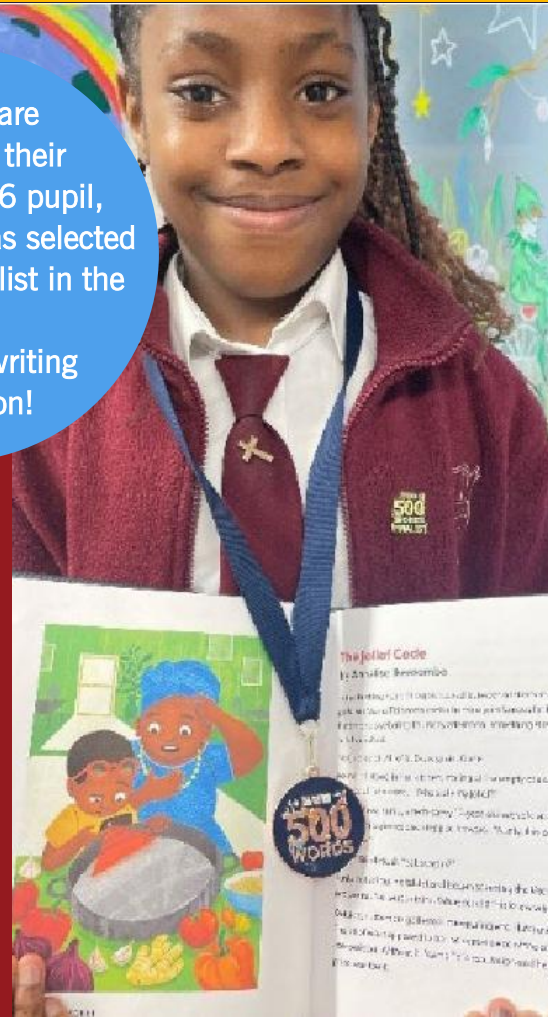


Annalise travelled to Windsor Castle to celebrate this incredible achievement and even appeared on The One Show, standing beside Her Majesty The Queen! Her story has been professionally illustrated and published - an amazing accomplishment. She has truly inspired us all with her love of writing!

St Anne's are so proud of their superstar Year 6 pupil, Annalise, who was selected as a Top 50 finalist in the BBC 500 Words writing competition!

The St Anne's choir has had an unforgettable experience as the official choir for Manchester City's Champions League fixtures. For each match, the choir learns and performs the visiting team's anthem to welcome them to the Etihad Stadium. For the recent game against Galatasaray, their pupils rose to the challenge by performing the anthem in Turkish - and the response was incredible! The visiting Galatasaray delegation were truly blown away and showed huge appreciation for the choir's effort and talent.

The moment quickly captured hearts online. Videos of the St Anne's choir singing, shared on Galatasaray's official page, have gone viral with more than 11 million views and counting! To top it all off, members of the choir were invited onto BBC Radio Manchester to talk about their amazing experience. It has been a fantastic opportunity for their children - one filled with pride, excitement, and memories that will last a lifetime.



St Stephen's RC Primary School, Tameside



The tunnel invites prayer, reflection, and discovery, and it has been wonderful to see how much the children have loved exploring it - stepping inside with curiosity, reverence, and a growing sense of connection to both faith and the world around them.



St. Stephen's new St Francis' Peace Tunnel is a joyful and inspiring addition to their school, thoughtfully created to guide children through the Stations of the Cross in a meaningful and engaging way.



Each station has been beautifully linked to an element of *Laudato Si'*, helping children reflect not only on the journey of Jesus but also on their responsibility to care for our common home.

St Winifred's RC Primary School, Stockport



Some members of St Winifred's Caritas Team represented the school at Stockport Town Hall at the Youth Climate Assembly.

They took part in a debate with 8 other schools, listening to proposed ideas and providing counter arguments and opinions.

At the end of the debate, they saw democracy in action; ballot papers were handed out to everybody to cast a vote for the idea that they would like Stockport Council to act on. St Anne's posted their votes in an official ballot box and will find out the results later this term. The three children attending represented the school amazingly.





After more than a decade away from large-scale performing arts productions, St Anne's made a triumphant return to the stage on 10 and 11 February with a stunning performance of Matilda. The long-anticipated show not only marked the school's first major production in over ten years, but also sold out every single performance, an achievement that reflects the hard work, enthusiasm, and extraordinary talent of students.



The school's commitment to community and service was also on full display. The RE Caritas team volunteered each evening to run refreshments for families and guests. All proceeds contributing to St Anne's Lenten appeal, raising funds for The Christie, one of the UK's leading cancer centres. Their efforts added a meaningful charitable dimension to the event, demonstrating the school's Catholic values in action.

The overwhelmingly positive response from families, staff, and visitors highlighted just how much this production meant to the school. Matilda symbolised a vibrant revival of the arts at St Anne's and students rose to the challenge with passion and professionalism, creating a show that will be remembered for years to come.

Buoyed by this success, excitement is already building for next year's production: Bugsy Malone. If Matilda is anything to go by, audiences can expect another outstanding showcase of the school's creativity, teamwork, and spirit.

With sold-out shows, enthusiastic audiences, and a school community united in celebration, St Anne's has firmly re-established its place on the local performing arts scene - and its star is shining brighter than ever.

In a celebration of collaboration and creativity, the production brought together the entire school community. Two separate casts performed across the two evenings, giving even more students the chance to shine and showcasing the breadth of talent within the school. From expressive acting and confident singing to tightly polished choreography, both casts delivered performances that delighted and impressed audiences.

During the days leading up to the evening shows, St Anne's welcomed pupils from St Joseph's RC Primary School and St Thomas' Primary School for two special matinee performances. These younger audience members were captivated by the lively energy of the show, and many left feeling inspired after seeing what can be achieved through dedication and teamwork in the performing arts.

A standout feature of the Matilda production was the extraordinary effort behind the scenes. The Art and Technology departments worked tirelessly to design and construct the imaginative sets and props that brought Roald Dahl's world to life. From the infamous Chokee to the magical disappearing cake, each piece was crafted with precision, creativity, and flair. Their work added depth and atmosphere to every scene and played a vital part in immersing audiences in the story.

Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School, Trafford

OLOR held their annual Wax Works afternoon, where all children in Year 6 were invited to dress up as an inspiring individual from the past. They spent time learning about their chosen figures and then shared their knowledge by reciting information to their parents and families. All children in the school also had the opportunity to visit and enjoy the event.



The school's Eco Team continue to work hard to engage with new initiatives and promote being an eco-friendlier school. They were invited to the Green Summit at the Co-op Live and even had their picture featured on the website. They had a great day and returned to school buzzing with new ideas!

After Mass, the children walked the 1km back to school with staff and then enjoyed breakfast together. The school also linked this to CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and have already raised £450 for CAFOD. They are averaging around 115 pupils each week, which is incredible!

Jude's Garden is named in memory of a former pupil, Jude Anderton, who sadly passed away in 2018 due to bone cancer.

English Martyrs' RC Primary School, Trafford

English Martyrs' RC Primary have been working with parents, governors and parishioners to restore their prayer garden.

Jude's Garden is a quite haven in the playground for prayer, reflection and regulation. With support from parents, Governors and the Year 6 children they have begun a transformation. Their Year 6 pupils planted plants which are orange in representation of the Bone Cancer Trust, an organisation that the school support.

The pupils worked together to create a refreshed garden ready for the rest of the school to enjoy. Although their work is not yet complete, they are living out one of their school values of working together to ensure that the area stays a special space for many years to come.



St Kentigern's RC Primary School, Manchester



St Kentigern's was represented at St Patrick's RC Church, visiting the Relic of Saint Carlo Acutis. This was such a beautiful and emotional service, one that will no doubt stay in the memories of all who attended. St Kentigern's were given the opportunity to venerate the relic.



In so doing, they prayed for all the families and parishioners of St. Kentigern's. These petitions will be taken to Assisi and you will all be remembered and prayed for in the celebration of Mass by Monsignor Anthony Figueiredo.

There was HUGE excitement with Marley Fenton, the lead in Hamilton's UK tour, visited the choir this week. Marley previously sent a video message to the school choir, encouraging their musical talents. This week, he went one better and actually came into school and sang with the choir!

St Francis RC Primary School, Manchester

This term, St. Francis have been delighted to welcome Sister Anne and Mrs Tipper to launch The Jubilee Year of St Francis.

St Francis lived out the very principles of our modern day Catholic Social Teaching, showing through his life what it means to love the vulnerable and honour all of God's creation.

Sister Anne and Mrs Tipper then worked with each class looking at ways we can live in the footprint of St Francis using the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. It was a wonderful celebratory day.





What a fantastic celebration of all things reading!

The children looked fantastic and enjoyed their World Book Day activities and had the opportunity to listen to our visitors to learn all about the opportunities that are available to them as they get older and how they can make their aspirations a reality!



In February, some of the children in Year 5 & 6 represented the school in a dodgeball tournament at St Matthew's High School. They won the tournament and played fantastically. It was great to play against some of their friends in other Emmaus schools.

This included a Zoom 'Question & Answer' with an RAF fighter pilot and each class did some work around the book 'When I Grow Up' by Rod Liddell

To celebrate Safer Internet Day, Year 6 took part in a BBC live lesson all about Ai and chatbots. They looked at how chatbots work and how they have to be careful with the information they receive from Ai about whether it is reliable or not.



The school's Digital Leaders went around to show the children how to keep ourselves safe online and have explored the safe and responsible use of Ai. Here are some helpful tips to stay safe online from their Digital Leaders:

- Don't share any private information online
- Do not trust everything you see or read as not all information online is true.

At the start of this 1/2 term, 6 of the school's Year 6 pupils from both schools took part in the local heats for this year's mock trials ran by the Greater Manchester Magistrates Association! The children were fantastic in their roles as the prosecution; they spoke confidently and showed a great understanding of the different roles of the court.



Caritas in
Action –
Supporting
Early
Essentials

Strengthening
Early Writing
Through
Research and
Partnership

The St Chad's Caritas Team proudly presented their latest collection to Early Essentials, continuing their long-standing commitment to supporting families within their local community. The charity representative expressed her sincere gratitude and asked that the school pass on her thanks to their parents and families. She shared that the continued generosity of St Chad's families over the years has made a significant and lasting difference to local children and parents in times of need.

Through this work, their pupils actively live out Catholic Social Teaching — standing in solidarity with others and responding to need with compassion and dignity. The school are incredibly proud of the leadership shown by their Caritas Team and of the unwavering support from their school community.

St Chad's welcomed parents from across their Early Years provision to a workshop focused on Early Writing Development. The session explored how mark-making, gross motor development and early physical control underpin successful writing, enabling parents to better support their children at home.

Alongside this partnership work, their EYFS team were invited to present at the Manchester Write Beginnings seminar, sharing the research-informed approach they have developed around the role of crawling and core strength in early writing progression. Their work demonstrates how carefully sequenced physical development supports fine motor control, pencil grip and ultimately independent composition.

St Chad's are incredibly proud that their Early Years practice is not only strengthening outcomes within school but also contributing to professional dialogue and system leadership across Manchester.





St Antony's Roman Catholic School, Trafford



Change Y7 and 8 students recently visited the Laudato Si' Centre at Wardley Hall in Salford, with students from the school's Eco Group and GIFT Team taking part. During the visit, pupils saw the relic of Carlo Acutis and explored the beautiful grounds of the centre and participated in a range of activities inspired by the message of Laudato Si' and the school's core values.

Throughout the day, students learned about caring for the environment, reflecting on how they can be good stewards of God's creation. The activities encouraged teamwork, reflection, and a deeper understanding of sustainability and responsibility for the world around us.

The students had a fantastic day, enjoying the opportunity to learn outdoors, work together, and strengthen their commitment to living out the values of St Antony's RC School.

The Eco group also recently planted trees on the school site that were gifted by the Woodland Trust, putting our faith into action by caring for the environment and supporting God's creation



St Patrick's RC Primary School, Oldham

St Patrick's Year 5 pupils have been developing their cycling skills by riding their bikes both within the school grounds and on local roads surrounding the school. These sessions were delivered with the support and expertise of the 'Bikeability Team', helping children to build confidence, improve road safety awareness, and learn how to cycle responsibly in real-life situations.

Their D.T. Ambassadors had the challenging task of judging over 50 creative projects made by their pupils using materials that would otherwise have been thrown away. The standard was exceptionally high, with many imaginative and innovative designs on display. There were some truly fantastic ideas, and St Patrick's would like to say a big well done to everyone who took part for their creativity, effort, and commitment to sustainability.



This year, St Matthew's Year 10 student leadership team played a central role in shaping the week. They delivered assemblies exploring the importance of culture and produced powerful video testimonies from both staff and students, sharing personal reflections on what culture means to them. Their leadership ensured the week felt authentic, purposeful, and truly student led.



St Matthew's RC High School proudly celebrated its annual Culture Week, a vibrant and uplifting reflection of the diverse community they serve.



Throughout the week, students experienced a range of cultural opportunities. Working alongside our catering provider, we offered a variety of dishes that celebrated the rich cultural backgrounds within our school community. As always, the highlight of the week was our Cultural Dress Day. Students arrived wearing traditional attire or colours representing their national flags, creating a striking visual celebration of identity and pride.

Across the school, there was a real sense of togetherness. Students painted flags on faces, shared cultural items, and created experiences that brought their heritage to life. Highlights included henna hand designs, cultural jewellery stalls, and the sharing of traditional foods between students and staff. At lunchtime, we were treated to a moving performance from our *Soulful Voices* Gospel Choir, led by Mr Millington and the music team. The week concluded with our much-anticipated live-streamed fashion show, shared with every classroom. This year featured a student group performing a choreographed dance to a range of cultural music, alongside a dynamic routine from our cheerleading team, led by Ms McMullen. A standout moment came from one of our Year 10 students—an Irish dancing champion—whose live performance captivated the entire school. It was a moment of real courage and joy.

Support from Shelter

On Tuesday 10th March, St Matthew's RC High School hosted a dedicated Housing Support Event designed to help families access essential advice and guidance around rented accommodation.

The session was extremely well received by the St Matthew's community, with 19 families receiving direct one-to-one support from Shelter, Manchester City Council services, and Citizens Advice.



As part of their ongoing commitment to strengthening pastoral care, Shelter will also be delivering specialist training to our pastoral leaders next term, ensuring staff are fully equipped to guide students and their families towards the right help.

Events like these play a vital role in offering early support and intervention, helping families address housing concerns before they escalate into more complex challenges.



Corpus Christi RC Primary School has enjoyed a busy and enriching half term, with many opportunities for pupils to live out their values of faith, service and curiosity.

Their Mini Vinnies have been particularly active in their charitable work. They organised a Pyjama Day to collect donations in support of the Manchester Children's Hospital MediCinema campaign, which is raising funds to build a cinema within the hospital to provide entertainment and comfort for young patients and their families.

The group has also been raising money for Francis House by selling beautifully knitted chicks filled with Cadbury's Creme Eggs, an initiative which has been warmly supported by the school community.

"Be kind and loving to each other. Forgive each other the same as God forgave you in Christ."
Ephesians 4:32



Science Week was another highlight of the half term, with a strong focus on practical science. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed taking part in hands-on investigations, including making slime and designing working rockets. These engaging activities helped to spark curiosity and deepen the children's enthusiasm for scientific learning.

During this Lenten season, it has also been wonderful to see so many families taking home their Lent prayer bags. These have provided a meaningful opportunity for prayer and reflection, enabling families to share special moments of faith together at home.

St Monica's RC Primary School

As part of their Golden thread in their curriculum this term, the children of St Monica's have been learning about faith and charity and how to help others. Y5/6s had been learning about the charity Barnardo's and wanted to do something to help. They had a 'sleep out' in the school hall to help raise money for Barnardo's.

They raised £912

St Monica's were very proud to receive the Equal Access School award for 2025 from English Football and Barclays. This award recognised their efforts to promote sport for all, but particularly in the area of girls football.



St. Monica's participated in [Therme Manchester's Artists of the Future](#) drawing competition! They received an incredible 639 entries from eight schools across Trafford and Salford, as well as two local youth art centres. They were so impressed by the students at St. Monica's RC Primary School who took part and by the talent on display. St Monica's are absolutely delighted to share that the judges have selected Hayden's and Lochlann's entries as two of the 22 winning artworks that will be printed at large scale and displayed as part of Therme Manchester's outdoor gallery.

St Anne's RC Primary School, Oldham

Pupils in Year 3 at St Anne's RC Primary School recently took part in a sponsored walk in support of the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital — a charity that is particularly close to their hearts.

This has been especially meaningful following the recent admission of one of our Year 3 pupils, who received care there and had regular visits.



St Anne's are incredibly proud of their pupils and grateful to everyone who has supported this special cause.

The children demonstrated fantastic determination and teamwork as they completed an impressive 5km route. A well-earned stop at Waterhead Park gave them the opportunity to rest and recharge before finishing the walk with great enthusiasm.

Thanks to the generosity of their families and wider community, the event has already raised over £300, adding to the £150 raised at their Teddy Bear Bonanza sale earlier in the year. This is just one example of the charitable work that is undertaken at St Anne's RC as part of our Catholic mission, where they strive to support others, show compassion, and live out their values in meaningful ways.

Saint Joseph's RC Junior, Infant & Nursery School

At Saint Joseph's, Shaw, we believe that some of the most powerful learning happens when children step beyond the classroom and experience the world first-hand. Recent weeks have been full of rich opportunities that have deepened knowledge, strengthened character and nurtured faith.

Throughout school and especially in Early Years, the excitement of watching ducklings hatch has provided a real-life science experience, developing curiosity, observation skills and a sense of responsibility for living things.

Year 5 travelled by tram to the Imperial War Museum, bringing their history learning to life through powerful artefacts and immersive exhibits that deepened their understanding of conflict and remembrance. Meanwhile, their Saint Joseph's Workers have been leading thoughtful reflections on the Stations of the Cross each Thursday during Lent, strengthening pupils' confidence, spiritual understanding and leadership skills.

St Joseph's Habitats of Hope project, supported by an RHS grant, has encouraged pupils to care for creation by improving biodiversity across their site.



Imperial War Museum

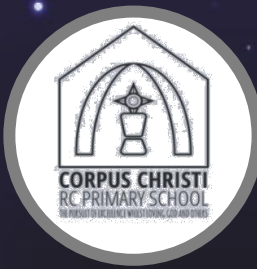
These experiences enrich the school's curriculum, build cultural capital and help our children grow academically, socially and spiritually.



Year 2 pupils visited Tandle Hill Country Park to plant bulbs and take part in litter picking, learning first-hand about environmental stewardship and community responsibility.



During the spring term we have welcomed further schools into the Emmaus CAT family of schools



Corpus Christi RC Primary School, Oldham, St Anne's RC Primary School, Oldham, St Joseph's RC Junior, Infant and Nursery School, Shaw and St Monica's RC Primary School, Urmston all joined Emmaus CAT on the 1st February 2026.

Corpus Christi RC Primary School

Corpus Christi is proud to be part of the Parish of the Divine Mercy in Oldham, rooted in a strong Catholic tradition and deeply committed to building a high-achieving, faith-filled community. The school's mission statement sits at the very heart of its identity, guiding every decision, action, and interaction within the school. At Corpus Christi, the community loves, learns, and grows together as followers of Jesus. This shared sense of purpose creates a joyful and flourishing environment where children feel valued, supported, and inspired. The school is a happy, thriving place where every child is encouraged to strive for excellence, discover their strengths, and develop a lifelong love of learning. With Gospel values woven into daily life, Corpus Christi nurtures confident, compassionate, and resilient young people who are prepared to make a positive difference in the world.

St Monica's RC Primary School

At St Monica's, every child is valued as an individual, and their needs are placed at the centre of all that they do. Rooted in their Catholic faith, their school is dedicated to nurturing the spiritual and moral growth of each pupil, alongside their academic, physical, social, and creative development. Their experienced and passionate staff work tirelessly to inspire, support, and challenge children throughout their learning journey. Together, they create a welcoming and vibrant environment where every child is encouraged to thrive, discover their gifts, and achieve their very best.

St Anne's RC Primary School

At St Anne's, they guide children in understanding and living out their Catholic faith, embracing an inclusive approach that supports the spiritual journey of everyone within their school community. Here, children play, learn, and pray together, growing in an environment rooted in love, responsibility, and respect. These core values enable every member of their community to embody their mission statement: **"We grow together in God's love."** Children are at the heart of everything they do, and they place equal importance on their emotional well-being and academic success. At St Anne's, every child is nurtured, valued, and encouraged to thrive in a caring and faith-filled environment.

St Joseph's RC Junior, Infant and Nursery School

At St Joseph's, they inspire every child to grow into the very best version of themselves, recognising that each one is a star who shines with Christ's love. Their vision is to guide children as they discover their place in the world, deepen their faith, learn with hope, and feel a genuine sense of belonging within their school community. They provide a nurturing and supportive learning environment where every child is valued and encouraged to flourish. At St Joseph's, they are committed to both academic excellence and personal development, celebrating the unique gifts and talents that each child brings.

In the Spotlight....

Primary Education News

The Emmaus CAT Central Team has been delighted to work in close partnership with our newest primary schools: Corpus Christi RCPS, St Anne's RCPS, St Joseph's RC Junior, Infant and Nursery School, and St Monica's RCPS. We value the strength of these developing relationships and are pleased to welcome each school into the Emmaus family.

We were particularly privileged to walk alongside St Anne's RCPS, Audenshaw, and St Stephen's RCPS during their recent CSI inspections, all of which were highly successful. Our warmest congratulations go to these schools for their well-deserved outcomes, which reflect the dedication and commitment of their leaders, staff, governors, and wider school communities. In addition, we were proud to support Holy Family during their recent Ofsted inspection, once again demonstrating our collective commitment to collaboration and mutual support at key moments. We remain steadfast in working alongside all of our schools as trusted partners, especially during pivotal and high-stakes periods.

Our programme of SEND reviews is now well underway, and, as always, leaders, staff, and governors are engaging with the process wholeheartedly and reflectively. This strong level of participation is a clear testament to Emmaus CAT's unwavering commitment to placing inclusion at the heart of its ambitions for all pupils, particularly those with SEND, ensuring that every child is supported to flourish.

In March, our termly headteachers' professional network brought together leaders from over 30 schools at the Village Hotel in Ashton. The strength of shared purpose, professional generosity, and mutual support among school leaders was clearly evident throughout the day. The gathering began with a thoughtful and prayerful Lenten reflection, inviting us to pause, find stillness, and create space for prayer and reflection amid the busyness of school life as we journeyed towards Easter. We also benefitted from informative and impactful contributions from the Manchester Violence Reduction Unit and POL-Ed. These valuable sessions will further enhance and strengthen our safeguarding provision across Emmaus CAT schools, reinforcing our shared commitment to the safety and wellbeing of every pupil.

Emmaus CAT Drawing New Maps of Hope...



Emmaus Institute of Professional Learning

We are pleased to share that our cohort of ITT trainees have successfully completed their first placements and have now moved to their second schools, where they will complete their PGCE training across the rest of the year.

Thank you to all mentors, tutors and school staff who have been involved in supporting trainees on their journey towards QTS.

Our Professional Learning Networks (PLNs) continue to be well attended as we look to share the practice that is taking place across Emmaus CAT. Thank you to our schools who have hosted our many events and learning walks this term. See upcoming events to get involved in [here](#).



Emmaus CAT-wide INSET Day; SEND and Inclusion

Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust came together as a family of schools for our inaugural CAT-wide INSET day on 6th February 2026, uniting colleagues from all schools for a powerful day of shared learning, inspiration and reflection.

This year's event delivered exceptional, evidence-informed professional development with a focus on Special Educational Needs and Inclusion, reaffirming our commitment to ensure we have great schools, strong in faith, serving society and delivering the best formation for all our pupils.

The INSET day featured five nationally acclaimed keynote speakers, recognised for their expertise in SEND, leadership and improving outcomes for all learners. A particular highlight was the contribution of Gary Aubin of the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). As a leading national voice in SEND practice, Gary's influence and credibility brought significant value to the day. His session offered colleagues deeply practical, research-rich insight into effective inclusive pedagogical strategies, strengthening our shared belief that high-quality teaching benefits every learner.

Colleagues were also inspired by David Bartram OBE, Maxine O'Neill, and Frances Akinde, who each brought powerful messages around leadership, inclusion and the structures that enable all children to thrive. Their contributions challenged and motivated staff, reinforcing our CAT-wide commitment to excellence and inclusion.

Alongside the keynote programme, St Antony's Roman Catholic School played host to an extensive and highly tailored professional development offer for Teaching Assistants. With 22 carefully designed workshops, the programme responded directly to identified school needs, ensuring every session was practical, relevant, and immediately applicable to day-to-day work with our pupils.

This offer not only strengthened TA practice but also celebrated their significance within our schools and the recognition of the vital impact our TAs make every single day on pupil progress, inclusion and wellbeing.

A sincere thank you goes to St Matthew's RC High School and St Antony's Roman Catholic School for generously hosting this year's INSET day and creating welcoming, well-organised spaces for colleagues to learn and collaborate. We also extend our thanks to all colleagues across Emmaus CAT for their positive engagement throughout the day.



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...pils with SEND
...that you have in your
...school.
What does it look
like?
How do y... best of what y...
ve?



Following the success of this year's event, we are pleased to confirm that the Emmaus CAT-wide INSET Day will continue annually, taking place on the last Friday before the February half term. This provides a consistent opportunity for colleagues to come together, develop shared understanding and mission and strengthen collaboration across all our schools.

In the Spotlight....

IT News

Driving a Unified Digital Future with Microsoft 365

The move to a centralised Emmaus Microsoft tenancy is one of the most impactful digital improvements we are delivering. Previously, schools worked within different platforms and systems, making it challenging to seamlessly share resources, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively across sites. This migration removes those barriers.

IT Support and Projects: Microsoft 365 Transformation

This term has been an incredibly busy, productive, and exciting period for the central IT team. Alongside launching the new Emmaus central IT support offer, a major focus has been the continued rollout of our Microsoft 365 migration programme—a transformational project that will significantly strengthen collaboration, communication, and efficiency across Emmaus.

Key benefits of transitioning to Microsoft 365 include:

- A single, secure digital environment for all Emmaus colleagues
- Improved communication through unified Outlook email and Teams
- Easier sharing and collaboration using SharePoint, OneDrive, and shared document libraries
- Stronger data protection and oversight, aligned with DfE digital standards
- Access to a consistent set of productivity tools for staff across all schools
- Reduced administration and duplication, enabling more efficient working

Currently, 15 schools are now fully operating within the central Microsoft 365 tenancy, with noticeable improvements in communication and collaboration. Delivering all these migrations since May 2025 represents a significant progress within this project.

A Phased Approach for All Schools

Every school within Emmaus CAT will move to the Microsoft 365 tenancy through a phased and carefully planned migration schedule.

This approach ensures:

- Minimal disruption to day-to-day school operations
- Adequate preparation time for each site
- Dedicated guidance and hands-on support from the central IT team
- Full data security and continuity across the transition

Schools joining later in the programme will still benefit early, as login access to the developing Emmaus intranet—a central hub for trust-wide resources and updates—will be provided ahead of their formal migration.

Emmaus Intranet

As part of this wider programme, we are also developing a brand-new Emmaus CAT intranet, which will serve as a central hub for resources, updates, policies, and key information for all colleagues across Emmaus. This platform is being designed to make it easier than ever for staff to stay informed, connected, and supported in their day-to-day work. Schools that have already migrated to the Microsoft tenancy will soon see the intranet set as their default browser homepage, giving them instant access to the tools and information they need.

Importantly, schools that have not yet migrated will also be provided with login access, ensuring they can benefit from the growing range of content and functionality as the site continues to develop. This is an exciting step forward in strengthening communication across the Emmaus family of schools.

Welcome to the Central Team

Why is our central team growing? Emmaus CAT continues to demonstrate to the Department for Education that we have the capacity within our central team to support schools in our footprint. This includes schools in challenging circumstances as well as schools who join Emmaus as part of the Diocesan Growth plan. We are continuing to add new and exciting roles to the central team so that we can continue in our vision of building a strong flourishing Catholic Academy Trust.

Niki Duffy
Finance
Business
Partner



Niki joined the Finance Team as a Finance Business Partner in January 2026.

After starting her career in practice, she spent over 20 years in industry working as a Management Accountant for a large Insurance Underwriting company, preparing budgets, forecasts and producing monthly management accounts. Niki has been a Foundation Governor for a local primary school and is passionate about ensuring that all children are given the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential in a supportive environment.

Niki is immensely excited to join the finance team and to support continuous development in Catholic education by ensuring effective financial management supports educational outcomes across Emmaus CAT.

Andrew Preston
Apprentice
Finance
Assistant



Andrew joined Emmaus CAT as an Apprentice Finance Assistant in March 2026.

He is enthusiastic about starting his career in finance and is looking forward to beginning the AAT apprenticeship offered by the central finance team.

Asma Shakeel
Finance
Business
Partner



Asma has worked in finance within the education sector since 2016.

She has worked in finance within the education sector since 2016. Asma completed her AAT Level 3 qualification in 2020 and has continued her professional development in finance and accounting, achieving the ACCA Advanced Diploma in Accounting and Business. Throughout her career, she has worked extensively on school budgets, forecasts, and management accounts, supporting effective financial planning and decision-making. Asma is committed to supporting organisations that ensure all children have access to a high standard of education in a safe learning environment.

Sarah Phoenix
Central Operations
Business
Manager



Sarah joins Emmaus CAT as a Central Operations Business Manager with over 4 years' experience as a primary school Business Manager.

Sarah will support Gemma with the onboarding of new schools, training and mentoring of SBMs as well as supporting during times of recruitment. As well as extensive experience as a Business Manager, Sarah has over a decade's financial management experience and has played a key role in supporting the Headteacher and Governing Body at her previous school.

Sam Dootson
Safeguarding
Support Officer



Sam joins Emmaus CAT a Safeguarding Support Officer.

Sam is a passionate pastoral leader with a strong background as a designated safeguarding lead in primary education, spanning more than 5 years. Sam is excited to be joining the Emmaus safeguarding team.

Summer Term Key Term Dates

Tuesday 28th April

Secondary DSL Professional Network Meeting

Thursday 30th April

Governor Training – Suspensions and Exclusions

Tuesday 5th May

Research Champions Professional Learning Network

Wednesday 6th May

Estates Professional Network

Thursday 7th May

Reading Development Board

Governor Training – Safeguarding/SEND

Thursday 19th May

Primary and Secondary Headteachers Updates

PTI – Professional Learning Network; Writing Non-fiction

Primary Science Professional Learning Network

Wednesday 20th May

PTI – Foundation Subjects Professional Learning Network; Computing

HR Professional Network

Thursday 21st May

Pedagogy Development Board

Thursday 21st May

Pedagogy Development Board

Tuesday 2nd June

Attendance & EBSA Professional Learning Network

ECTs Professional Learning Network (SL)

Secondary Science Professional Network Meeting

Tuesday 9th June

Chair of Local Governing Body Professional Network

Wednesday 10th June

ECTs Professional Learning Network (online)

DSL Training

SEND Professional Network Meeting

Tuesday 16th June

Secondary Behaviour Professional Network Meeting

Governor Training - HR

Wednesday 17th June

Primary Professional Network Meeting

Thursday 18th June

Transition Development Board

Primary Maths Professional Learning Network

Monday 22nd June

EYFS Professional Network Meeting

Tuesday 23rd June

Teaching Assistants Professional Network Meeting

Wednesday 24th June

IT Professional Network Meeting

Thursday 25th June

Secondary Maths Professional Network Meeting

Primary Writing Professional Learning Network

Monday 29th June

Secondary English Professional Network Meeting

Tuesday 30th June

Secondary Behaviour CPD

Finance Professional Network Meeting

Wednesday 1st July

Secondary Professional Network Meeting

Aspiring Pastoral Leaders Professional Learning Network

Thursday 2nd July

Pedagogy Development Board

Primary DSL Professional Network

Friday 3rd July

Safer Recruitment Training

Tuesday 7th July

Primary and Secondary Headteachers Updates

Secondary DSL Professional Network Meeting

Wednesday 8th July

Estates Professional Network Meeting

Thursday 9th July

Reading Development Board

End of Year Mass

Wednesday 15th July

Data Professional Network Meeting

For further information sign up to receive our fortnightly e-briefing or contact

admin@emmauscat.com to book on any of these events.



EMMAUS
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust... an educational constellation



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