

Journey with Emmaus CAT...



Welcome to our newsletter



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DIOCÈSE OF  **SALFORD**



EMMAUS
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Humility • Faithfulness • Service

"Many Parts, One Body – Walking the Emmaus Road Together"

Dear colleagues

As one family, one community, Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust came together to celebrate and give thanks for another year of shared mission, achievement and service. It was a fitting opportunity to reflect on all that we have accomplished together and to mark another significant milestone in the continuing story of our family of schools.

This year's celebration of Mass brought together children and colleagues from across all 38 of our schools, alongside some of our parish priests, parishioners, local governors, directors and central team colleagues for a joyful and memorable occasion. Holy Mass provided a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together in faith, reflection, and celebration.

Each school created and brought a beautifully decorated 'Emmaus cross' featuring photographs of all the children from their school community, ensuring that every child was represented and included in this special celebration. Displayed around the altar, these unique crosses served as a powerful symbol of the unity, diversity, and shared faith that connects our schools, with Christ and children at the heart of our mission. As part of the celebration of Mass, Canon Paul blessed each of the crosses, reinforcing the sense of belonging and togetherness shared across our community.

A sincere thank you goes to Canon Paul and the community of St Patrick's RC Primary School for hosting our Mass, and the students and staff from St Matthew's RC High School for leading the music.



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.

During the Mass, we also took the opportunity to recognise and thank those valued members of our community who, after many years of dedicated service, have made the decision to retire at the end of this academic year.

It was a fitting occasion to celebrate their unwavering commitment, and the lasting contribution they have made to Catholic education. We give our sincere thanks for the care, love, dedication and service of our colleagues.

Pauline Allen, English Martyrs' RCPS

Mandy Harris, St John Fisher RCPS (retiring as Headteacher)

Angela Taylor, St John Fisher RCPS

Rita Hawsworth, St Mary's RCPS, Failsworth

Helen Sloan, St Mary's RCPS, Failsworth

Carol Hollins, Our Lady of the Rosary RCPS

Michelle Cook, Our Lady of the Rosary RCPS

Linda McCombe, St Theresa's RCPS (retiring as Headteacher)

Judith Leach, St Edward's RCPS

Karen Maloney, St Margaret Mary's RCPS

We give thanks for the positive impact they have had on the lives of so many children, families and staff, and we wish them every happiness and blessing as they begin this new chapter of their lives.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued hard work and commitment to Catholic education and for your support and collegiality. You should all be incredibly proud of everything you have achieved this academic year and the positive impact on the lives of the pupils in our schools.

We wish everyone a safe, restful, and joyful summer break.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Copley

CSEL/CEO



Holy Family RC Primary School

Address: Lime Green Road, Limehurst Village, Oldham, Lancashire, OL8 3NG

Unique reference number (URN): 149454

Inspection report: 17 March 2026



OFSTED Inspections

We are delighted to share an excerpt from the recent Ofsted report for Holy Family RCPS, Oldham.

We are sure you will agree that the report reflects the dedication, hard work and commitment shown by the entire school community in achieving this outstanding outcome.

We are thrilled for everyone at Holy Family and would like to thank all staff, governors, pupils, families and the wider community for their unwavering support and commitment over the past few years. This is a richly deserved recognition of the collective effort invested in making the school such a wonderful place to learn and flourish. Congratulations to all involved!

What it's like to be a pupil at this school

Pupils enjoy a real sense of belonging at this school. Some describe it as feeling like being part of a family. They are safe and cared for well in this warm, welcoming environment.

Pupils typically achieve well. They benefit from a well-taught curriculum. Leaders and staff are considerate of pupils' individual needs, which means that their barriers to learning are often reduced. As a result, most pupils make positive progress through the curriculum from their own starting points.

Pupils get along well with each other. They enjoy each other's company and make a conscious effort to include their classmates in activities, particularly when someone has physical or social barriers that make participation more difficult. Their attitude is that no one should be left out. Pupils are kind and tolerant of other people's differences. They rarely experience bullying or harassment at school thanks to their respectful attitudes towards others. Leaders act quickly when occasional issues arise.

Pupils are well behaved. This includes children in the early years. Pupils move through school sensibly, often greeting adults with a smile or sometimes even a handshake. In their lessons, pupils conduct themselves well and engage positively in their learning. Pupils have a positive attitude to their education. Pupils typically attend school regularly, which means that they do not miss out on important learning.

Pupils are prepared for life in modern Britain. They engage in a wide range of pupil leadership opportunities to make positive contributions to their school and community. For instance, they perform in local carol singing services and actively support various charities, which develops their sense of community spirit.

Pupils' schooling is enriched through a range of broader experiences. These include visitors, educational trips and a residential visit. Pupils access a positive extra-curricular offer that includes sporting clubs, choir and eco club.



CSI Inspections



ST STEPHEN'S
RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
INSPECTORATE

Towards the end of the Spring term, St Stephen's RC Primary School in Droylsden welcomed a Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) inspection and was awarded an overall judgement of **Good**. This outcome reflects the commitment, dedication and shared sense of purpose that runs throughout the school community. Inspectors recognised the passion, focus and determination of school leaders as they continue to drive improvement, ensuring that every child is supported to thrive. Through this leadership, St Stephen's has nurtured a highly inclusive environment where outstanding care for pupils and vulnerable families sits at the heart of school life and strengthens the strong sense of community for which the school is known.

Inspectors also highlighted how deeply the school's mission is understood and lived by its pupils. With Christ firmly at the centre of school life, children spoke confidently about the values that guide them and demonstrated a clear understanding of their faith in action. The strong partnership between the school and parish further enriches this work, creating a community that walks together in faith and shared purpose.

School leaders, governors, staff, pupils and families continue to work alongside one another, building a culture rooted in compassion, respect and genuine care for the wellbeing of all. This collective commitment has created a supportive and faith-filled community where every individual is valued and encouraged to flourish. The inspection outcome is a fitting recognition of the hard work, collaboration and dedication of the entire St Stephen's community and reflects the positive impact of everyone working together to support the mission of the school.

English Martyrs' in Trafford has also recently welcomed inspectors, and we now look forward to receiving the final report. While we await the formal outcome, the feedback shared during the inspection process was extremely encouraging and gives us every reason to be optimistic about a positive report. This reflects the dedication, commitment and hard work demonstrated each day by leaders, staff, pupils and governors.



ENGLISH MARTYRS'
RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

As a family of schools, we take great pride in walking alongside one another, sharing expertise, supporting improvement and celebrating success together. These positive outcomes are not only a testament to the excellent work taking place within the schools themselves, but also highlights the collective strength, collaboration and shared mission that underpin our wider community. We look forward to celebrating the English Martyrs' report when it is published and recognising the many contributions that continue to help our schools flourish.

Summer Term Across Emmaus CAT

Mount Carmel RC Primary School, Manchester

Careers and
Aspirations
Day:
Journey into
Jobs

Mount Carmel's Careers and Aspirations Day was a truly inspiring celebration of ambition, possibility, and the message that every child can forge their own path. Pupils spent the day meeting an exceptional range of visitors who generously shared their experiences, career journeys, and the lessons they learned along the way. We were deeply grateful to the many parent volunteers who supported the event and offered pupils real insight into the world of work.



Visitors represented an exciting mix of professions, including a dentist, journalist, TV camera operator, local councillor, business owner and CEO, neighbourhood officer, software engineer, A&E doctor, representatives from Barclays bank, and a chef. Each speaker highlighted the different routes they took, encouraging pupils to ask questions and explore the skills, qualifications, and personal qualities needed in each field.

The day concluded with an inspiring assembly from Joe Ferguson, Team GB sprinter and World Championship medallist. Joe's story of perseverance, dedication, and positive mindset captivated pupils and reinforced the central theme of the day: achievement is possible for everyone, whatever challenges they may face.

By the end of the event, pupils left feeling motivated, informed, and excited about their futures. They learned that success can take many forms, opportunities can appear in unexpected places, and it is never too late to try something new.



St Joseph's RC Primary School, Stockport

St Joseph's are incredibly proud of Amelie in Year 6 for receiving the 'Heart of Gold' Award at the Stockport Young Carers Awards. This is a truly special achievement and a fitting recognition of her kindness, compassion and selflessness. Amelie is an inspirational young lady who consistently puts others before herself, showing care and empathy beyond her years. She is a wonderful role model for St Joseph's school community, and they are delighted to celebrate this well-deserved honour. Congratulations, Amelie!

St Herbert's RC Primary School, Oldham

As another successful academic year draws to a close, St Herbert's give thanks to God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon their school community. It has been a joy to celebrate their sacramental children as they received their First Holy Communion, marking an important milestone in their faith journey.

St Herbert's pupils have represented the school with pride, with their netball team finishing as runners-up in a local competition, successful Sports Day celebrations, and both Class 3 and Class 7 winning their annual Choral Speaking Festival. Learning was enriched through visits to York, Eureka!, Blue Planet Aquarium and Reddish Vale Farm.



This year, they also said a heartfelt farewell to Mrs Edwards and Mrs Dilkes, thanking them for their many years of dedicated service and the lasting impact they have made on the school community. As they wish all school leavers across the Emmaus family every success for the future, they look forward to the new academic year with faith, hope and love in their hearts.

St Dunstan's RC Primary School, Manchester

Election Week at St Dunstan's

As a proud UK Parliament School, St Dunstan's enjoyed an exciting Election Week! Pupils who wished to stand for election created their own manifestos, sharing their ideas and explaining how they would make a positive difference to their school community. On Election Day, all children had the opportunity to visit the polling station and cast their vote, experiencing the democratic process first-hand. It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to learn about democracy, citizenship and the importance of having their voice heard. Congratulations to everyone who took part, especially their newly elected representatives!



Year 6 Leavers' Mass

This week, St Dunstan's came together as a school family to celebrate their Year 6 Leavers' Mass. It was a beautiful and reflective occasion, giving their pupils the opportunity to look back on their journey through St Dunstan's and give thanks for the memories, friendships and achievements they have made along the way. The school motto, '*We journey with Jesus beside us*', truly shone through as the children reflected on how they have grown in faith, learning and confidence. We wish all of their Year 6 pupils every blessing and success as they begin the next stage of their journey.



St Mary's RC Primary School, Levenshulme

What a fantastic year of willow weaving!

St Mary's are incredibly proud that their willow sculpture is on display at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, as part of the *Beneath the Great Wave: Hokusai and Hiroshige* exhibition. It is wonderful to see their pupils' creativity showcased alongside such fantastic artists.

This is part of an inspiring three-year, Arts Council-funded project, giving their children the opportunity to develop new artistic skills, work collaboratively, and create something truly special. More Willow weaving projects ahead!

If you are visiting the Whitworth this summer, be sure to look out for their sculpture!



St Christopher's RC Primary School, Tameside

St Christophers' Year 3 children celebrated their First Holy Communion last week. Over the past few months, they have been learning about the Sacrament of Holy Communion and preparing thoughtfully for this very special occasion.

The children conducted themselves beautifully throughout the service and were a real credit to themselves, their families and their school community. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.



St Christophers' PTA organised a fantastic Summer Fair, which was a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by everyone. They think it may be the first time they have ever said it was *too* hot! The atmosphere was amazing, with families, staff and children enjoying a wide range of stalls, bouncy castles and games.

One of the biggest attractions of the day was the ever-popular Human Fruit Machine, which proved to be a huge hit with children and adults alike. Thanks to the incredible support of their school community, they raised an amazing amount of money that will help fund future opportunities and resources for their pupils.

During the first half of the Summer Term, St Christopher's enjoyed a fantastic Arts Week. Every class took part in a variety of creative activities led by different teachers, giving the children the opportunity to explore a range of artistic styles and techniques.



This year's theme was **Graffiti Art**, with inspiration taken from three famous artists:

- **Banksy** – renowned for thought-provoking street art with powerful messages.
- **Keith Haring** – famous for his bold, energetic figures.
- **Yayoi Kusama** – celebrated for her colourful use of dots and repeating patterns.



Holy Family RC Primary School, Oldham

This term, Holy Family have been incredibly proud to celebrate the many talents, cultures and voices that make their school community so special.

For the first time, the Holy Family school choir and Upper Key Stage 2 clarinet players took part in the Oldham Music Festival. This was a wonderful opportunity for their pupils to perform beyond the school setting and share their musical talents with a wider audience. Holy Family were extremely proud of the children, not only for the quality of their performances but also for the confidence, enthusiasm and teamwork they showed throughout the event. It was lovely to receive such positive comments from the judges and to see the children recognised for their hard work.

Holy Family have also enjoyed their annual Culture Week, which is always a highlight of the school year. Throughout the week, pupils celebrated the rich diversity within their school family by wearing traditional clothing or colours linked to their family's heritage. They were also delighted to welcome parents and pupils into school to lead assemblies and share stories, traditions and information about their family countries. These moments were a powerful reminder of the importance of belonging, respect and learning from one another.



Both events, in different ways, reflected the very best of the school: children feeling proud of who they are, sharing their gifts with others and celebrating the richness of the community around them.

The Holy Family school mission was lived out beautifully this half term, as pupils were given the opportunity to live, learn and love in His way through music, celebration, respect and joy.

Holy Rosary RC Primary School, Oldham

On Tuesday 16th June, the Holy Rosary Faith Team and Laudato Si' Group led the school community in a meaningful day of prayer, reflection and action.



Through a series of prayer stations, children explored the themes of caring for creation and our shared responsibility to protect the environment, linking their learning to World Earth Day and the Feast of St Francis.

The pupils led calm and thoughtful reflections, provided opportunities for worship and organised an orienteering activity with an important environmental message. Families also kindly donated plants, which were used to begin creating their school logo in flowers—a lasting symbol of their commitment to caring for our common home.





"Called to Love as God Loves"

St Mary's RC Primary School, Failsworth

St. Mary's would like to say a huge thank you to **Rita Hawksworth** their Senior Midday Supervisor who has given the school 46 years of support and service. She will be retiring at the end of the summer term. Also, **Helen Sloan** their amazing Y6 HLTA who is retiring after 25 years of service. St Mary's owes both members of staff a great debt of gratitude. They will be sorely missed. Congratulations ladies and very best wishes for the future!

St Margaret Mary's RC Primary School, Manchester

Congratulations to St Margaret Mary's Year 6 pupils, who achieved outstanding success in the 2026 Greater Manchester Mock Trial Competition. After winning the Manchester Local Heat in March, the team progressed to the Grand Final at Hemsley House in Salford in June.



The Mock Trial Competition gives pupils the opportunity to experience a real courtroom by taking on roles such as magistrates, solicitors, witnesses and court officials. Competing at Manchester Coroner's Court, the team impressed judges with their teamwork, preparation and persuasive legal arguments in a case centred on cyberbullying.



The competition helped pupils develop valuable skills in public speaking, critical thinking and teamwork. A visit from a local magistrate earlier in the year gave Year 5 and Year 6 pupils a fascinating insight into the justice system and helped prepare them for the challenge.



At the Grand Final, the children tackled a brand-new legal case and also took part in interactive activities led by Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, and Transport for Greater Manchester. A special congratulations goes to **Zemy Ewemade**, who received an individual award for outstanding performance.

Well done to all the pupils and staff involved on a fantastic achievement and an unforgettable learning experience.



Bishop John Celebrates Newman's Faith in Action:
On Tuesday 7th July, Newman were delighted to welcome Bishop John back for the second time this academic year. He celebrated Mass with some of the GIFT Chaplains receiving their Faith in Action Awards. The Newman GIFT Chaplains have worked tirelessly this academic year (as always!) to serve their school family and the wider community. This year they had bronze and silver awards achieved, as well as six of their GIFT Chaplain's receiving the Gold award for their contribution to Faith in Action both inside and outside of Newman. It was wonderful to celebrate with Bishop John, Father Joel and the families of the GIFT Chaplains. They shine each day and continue to live out their mission, as our Patron tells us.



Debate Mate Success:

After another busy year for our Debate Mate Team, including lots of opportunities to showcase their talents, they've had another great success. On 26th June, our Debate Mate team competed in the Urban Debate League Final, debating the motions *This House Regrets Technological Integration*, *This House Would Ban Anonymous Profiles*, and *This House Would Destroy Evidence of the World Ending to Hide It from the Public*. After an exciting day of debating, they finished 3rd place, missing out on second by just three points. The competition helped them develop valuable skills including public speaking, teamwork, critical thinking, rebuttal, and confidence. A massive well done to everyone involved on an excellent achievement



Sporting Successes for Newman:

This academic year Newman's sporting teams have gone from strength to strength, representing the school with such dignity and courage. Some of their recent highlights include - Year 7 Rounders Team are now Manchester Catholic Schools Rounders Champions; Year 9 girls Netball Team are Manchester Catholic Schools Silver Medallists; Year 7 boys are Oldham's Schools A League Champions; Year 10 boys Football Team are Champions of Oldham; and a number of gold, silver and bronze medals, as well as school records beaten, in the GM County Athletics Championships; just to name a few. Newman are so incredibly proud of all of their young people who take part in their sporting extra-cùrricular, and the staff who make it possible for them.



Sacramental Journey - Confirmation:

During June, after celebrating Pentecost and the gifts the Holy Spirit brings, 35 of Newman's young people were confirmed at SS Aidan and Oswald, by Bishop John. After weeks of preparation for the young people, they took the next step in their Sacramental journey and celebrated with their family and friends. They were also joined by Father Joel, Father Gavin and Father Callum, bringing their Parish and school relationship even closer. They then celebrated the young people in school with a special lunch.

New Leaders at Newman:

Newman's Student Leadership team was chosen in February and have jumped straight into their roles. In March, they held their Prefect Commissioning Mass in their school chapel. This Mass was dedicated to the Year 10 students as they stepped into their new roles as leaders within the school community. Newman were delighted to welcome their parents and families to join them in celebrating such a committed group of student leaders. Newman look forward to seeing them flourish and grow in their responsibilities over the coming year.

St Edward's RC Primary School, Oldham



Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from St Edward's took part in a production of The Lion King, which was absolutely outstanding. It was wonderful to see every child shine.

Some pupils represented the school at the Emmaus end-of-year Mass at St Patrick's Church in Collyhurst. It was lovely to see so many schools together as part of the Emmaus family.

St Edward's enjoyed a guitar assembly to showcase how much the children have progressed this year in their music.

Finally, the whole school attended the Leavers Mass at St Edward's church to say goodbye to the year 6 pupils and those staff retiring and those leaving the school.



St Cuthbert's RC Primary School, Manchester

The St Cuthbert's GIFT team attended the Emmaus end of year Mass along with their headteacher. They found that they received a warm welcome and the pupils talked how much they felt part of a wider family now. They particularly enjoyed the singing!

SS Aidan and Oswald RC Primary School, Oldham



SS Aidan and Oswald are incredibly proud of their Year 6 children and all that they have achieved this year. They have been a shining example of what it means to be part of their school community: enthusiastic, responsible, kind and ready for the next chapter of their journey.

This term, the children took part in their Year 6 residential where their behaviour was exemplary throughout. Members of the public went out of their way to comment on how polite and respectful they were — a testament to their character and the values they live out each day.

They also performed 'School of Rock' to their families, and it was absolutely fabulous. Their talent, confidence and teamwork shone from the stage, and they delivered a performance that will be remembered for a long time. They are a truly gifted group of children.





St John Fisher RC Primary School, Tameside

On the 22nd June each year the school community celebrates the feast of St John Fisher and St Thomas More. Every year the school make the whole week their SJF mission week. They share a Celebration of the Word as a school community and look at the lives of these great saints and their school mission, "Come follow Me and I will make you Fishers of Men," and how they can truly live that mission and spread the word of God.

Throughout the day, friendships were strengthened as children from the three schools worked side by side, learning from one another and caring for the world around them. St John Fisher are incredibly proud of how well the children embraced every challenge with such positivity, kindness and determination

St John Fisher were delighted to welcome children from St Anne's and St Thomas More to join them for a wonderful Laudato Si' Mission Day, celebrating faith, friendship and our shared responsibility to care for God's creation. The day began with a Celebration of the Word, reminding us to open our eyes to God's presence in nature and to recognise that all creation is a precious gift. Inspired by the message of Laudato Si', the children spent the day learning how they can be protectors of our common home

Working together despite the hot weather, the children showed fantastic enthusiasm, teamwork and creativity as they took part in a wide range of activities including:

Plastic shredding and recycling
Building bug hotels and creating wildlife habitats
Creating artwork using recycled plastics to make a cross

Tree maintenance and environmental care
Making and enjoying s'mores together
Designing templates for injection moulding

St Anne's RC Primary School, Tameside



On Monday 29th June, the entire St Anne's community came together after school for a memorable charity football match, as a team of dads took on a team of local priests in a 'Fathers vs Fathers' football match! The clergy team was captained by their own Parish Priest, Fr Churchill, and the event proved to be a fantastic celebration of community spirit, friendly rivalry and raising awareness of an important cause.



The match was organised to raise awareness of men's mental health while also fundraising for 'Once Upon a Smile', a charity that supports children who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The cause was particularly meaningful to our school community following the challenges we have faced during this academic year.

The support from local organisations and the wider community was incredible. Aldwinians RUFC generously marked out and prepared the pitch for us, while Stretford Paddock FC kindly donated a brand-new football kit for the parents after discovering that the priests already had their own team kit and were clearly taking the match very seriously!

Adding to the occasion, they were delighted to have a professional referee officiate the game, leading both teams onto the pitch alongside their young mascots. It was a competitive and entertaining match throughout. The score was finely poised at 1-1 at half-time before the parents pulled away in the second half to secure a 3-1 victory.

The atmosphere around the pitch was just as memorable as the football itself. Families, friends and supporters lined the sidelines with homemade banners, while some of the mums embraced the occasion by arriving as glamorous "WAGs", cheering on their husbands in style. The laughter, encouragement and community pride made the evening one to remember for everyone involved. St Anne's hope that this will become an annual fixture!

St Stephen's RC Primary School, Tameside



The St Stephen's 'Nurture by Nature' group marked a successful year with a special garden party. This weekly Forest School programme provides their children with SEND opportunities to develop their communication and social interaction skills while enjoying sensory-rich activities in the outdoors. It has been wonderful to see the children's confidence and friendships flourish throughout the year.

St. Stephen's also held an exciting 'World Cup Day', where each class explored and celebrated a different country from around the world. Children immersed themselves in a range of cultural activities, learning about traditions, food, music and geography while celebrating diversity across their global community

The school were delighted to welcome the Friendship Baton to St Stephen's as part of the Tameside Sports Day celebrations. It was a fantastic opportunity for their pupils to celebrate teamwork, friendship and the joy of taking part in sport alongside schools from across the borough.

St Winifred's RC Primary School, Stockport

St Winifred's Caritas Team held their first "Refill with Winnies"!

Many of the school's parents and grandparents supported the children's refill stall by bringing along empty plastic bottles to refill with hand soap or washing-up liquid. This simple but effective initiative encouraged everyone to reduce waste by reusing containers rather than buying new ones.

Despite a dramatic thunder and hailstorm, the wonderful children of St Winifred's kept smiling and continued serving customers with enthusiasm throughout the event. They also encouraged visitors to bring along their own empty containers, helping to promote the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling within their school and the wider community. Well done to everyone involved!



St Anne's RC Voluntary Academy, Stockport



Over the course of the programme, pupils completed the three core sections, **Volunteering, Physical and Skills**, before tackling the final assessed expedition. In the Volunteering strand, students supported local community projects and school initiatives, contributing meaningful hours to causes that benefit others and embodying St Anne's commitment to service. The Physical section saw many students improve their fitness and stamina through organised sports, fitness programmes and community clubs, while the Skills element encouraged pupils to develop practical interests. Together, these activities helped pupils build confidence, responsibility, and new talents.

The assessed expedition formed the climax of the Bronze Award. In mixed teams, pupils planned routes, used map and compass skills to navigate our local countryside and completed two full days of walking. They camped overnight in adverse weather, prepared and cooked their own meals, and managed kits and time under real conditions. The expedition tested physical endurance but, more importantly, offered daily opportunities for students to practice leadership, solve problems, and support one another under pressure.

As part of the wider programme, students also experienced locally provided adventurous activities such as zip wiring, abseiling and climbing.

St Anne's Students Successfully Complete Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.



St Anne's Year 9 students have achieved a significant milestone after successfully completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award, demonstrating resilience, teamwork and a strong commitment to personal development.

These challenges encouraged many to step outside their comfort zones, grow in confidence, and develop resilience in new environments. Staff and external instructors reported strong attitudes to learning and a willingness from students to try new skills and encourage their teammates.

Throughout the programme the cohort displayed notable perseverance: persistent wet weather during the expedition tested plans and resolve, but every participant demonstrated a positive mindset and a readiness to adapt. Their behaviour, mutual support and determination were widely praised by staff, volunteers and expedition assessors, and reflect the school's wider ethos of service, care and high expectations.

Completion of the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award is an important achievement for these Year 9 students, and a clear demonstration of the values St Anne's seeks to develop. Headteacher Julie Sutcliffe commented: "We are incredibly proud of our students. The Bronze Award has given them practical skills, confidence, and a real sense of achievement. Many are already looking forward to progressing to Silver." *Gift of talent within the school. From expressive acting and confident singing to highly polished* Congratulations to all the students who took part. Their accomplishment is a testament to hard work, teamwork and the supportive culture at St Anne's, qualities that will serve them well as they continue their educational journey.



Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School, Trafford

The Eco Team at Our Lady of the Rosary attended the Green Summit, helping to plant new trees.

The Our Lady of the Rosary Netball team won the League and North Trafford Tournament.

Children enjoyed spending time in the school's new sensory garden, where they gathered each week during May to pray the Rosary together.

Reception Class loved watching the chicks grow as part of their life cycle topic. This hands-on experience gave the children a wonderful opportunity to observe how chicks develop.



English Martyrs' RC Primary School, Trafford

On Thursday 9th July, English Martyrs' were proud to host the third annual Jude Anderton Memorial Cup, a special rounders tournament held in memory of former pupil Jude Anderton, who sadly died from bone cancer.

The event brought together local schools, families and members of the wider community to enjoy a game that Jude and his family loved. Around 150 children and adults were there, creating a wonderful atmosphere of friendship, fun and healthy competition.

More importantly, the tournament gave everyone the opportunity to remember Jude, celebrate his life and raise money to support bone cancer. It was lovely to see so many people come together for such a meaningful cause, and the support shown by all those who attended was truly appreciated. The day was once again a great success and a fitting tribute to a much-loved young person. English Martyrs' are grateful to everyone who played, helped to organise the event, donated or came along to support. Jude's memory continues to bring their community together, and they look forward to continuing this special tradition for many years to come.



St Kentigern's RC Primary School, Manchester



St. Kentigern's Rights Respecting Team and the Eco Team joined their local Councillors for their Clean Air Day. Closing the road outside school is designed to encourage families to consider walking or cycling to school instead of driving.

These days are always well supported by their school community, as they all share the goal of keeping their children safe and active



St. Kentigern's families donated flowers for their Crowning of Mary service. Families and parishioners were invited into the Prayer Garden at the end of the school day to see their beautiful statue of Our Lady adorned in flowers and to offer a prayer to Mary for their personal intentions.



Centenary Celebration Week!

St. Kentigern's celebrated 100 years of their parish and school community with lots of exciting activities!

St Kentigern's reflected on special memories from the past, created beautiful artwork together, explored the importance of faith, love and kindness, and shared their hopes and dreams for the future.

It was a joyful week that brought their school and parish family together to celebrate this very special milestone.

St Francis RC Primary School, Manchester

This term has been packed with exciting sporting opportunities at St Francis, giving their pupils the chance to develop new skills, represent the school and enjoy being active. Their teams proudly competed in netball, tag rugby, football and cycling competitions, showing fantastic determination teamwork and resilience throughout the year.

St Francis have also enjoyed a range of PE events hosted at St Peter's, St James', Manchester College and Gorton Monastery, where pupils embraced new challenges, worked alongside children from other schools and represented St Francis with pride.

The year concluded with a fantastic live dance festival, where their performers impressed the audience with their confidence, energy and creativity. One of the standout moments of the year was the girls' cricket competition, organised by Lancashire Cricket. Designed to encourage more girls to get involved in sport, the event inspired pupils who had never played cricket before. Despite being complete beginners, the girls showed incredible enthusiasm, scored lots of runs and supported one another brilliantly. Their natural talent and positive attitude caught the attention of many spectators, with several adults coming over to congratulate them on their performance. It was a wonderful example of confidence, teamwork and the joy that comes from trying something new.





Big Sing at the Bridgewater Hall and a visit to the Zoo

In June, the Year 5 & 6 pupils took part in the Big Sing at Bridgewater Hall. They came together, with other schools from across Manchester, to perform songs that they had been practising in school. Despite the intense heat, they sang their hearts out and loved performing at a world-famous venue.



St Edmund's Early Years pupils went on a visit to Blackpool Zoo. They enjoyed walking through the dinosaur trail, before seeing lots of animals, including the new baby elephant. The most popular animals were the giraffes and the penguins, who put on a show in the water for the children



Year 2 children from St Patrick's went on a school visit to Bewilderwood this term. They enjoyed a day of high activities, climbing and slides among the trees. The trip was designed to improve the children's cooperation and teamwork in a fun, outdoor environment and they were thankful for the shade during the recent hot weather!



This year, St Patrick's have benefitted from being part of the Children's Book Project. As part of this project, each child has received two new or pre-loved books for them to take home and enjoy. The children have also been able to leave book reviews and swap books with their peers, as part of the project. Last week, they received their final two books of the year, choosing them in the hall. St Patrick's Year 6 children helped the younger children choose a suitable book.



It has been another exciting and successful term at St Chad's, with pupils taking part in a wide range of activities that have enriched their learning beyond the classroom.

One of the highlights was welcoming **Doctor Bike** into school. Pupils had the opportunity to have their bicycles professionally checked and repaired while learning about the importance of bike maintenance and road safety. The event encouraged active travel and promoted healthy lifestyles, ensuring children can continue to cycle safely and confidently.

St Chad's Year 6 pupils also embraced the challenge of the **Brownlee Brothers Triathlon**, demonstrating resilience, determination and excellent teamwork throughout the event. Every child represented St Chad's with pride, showing perseverance and encouragement for one another as they completed the swim, cycle and run challenges.

The term concluded with their much-anticipated **Summer Fair**, which brought together pupils, families, staff and members of the wider community for an afternoon of fun and celebration. With games, activities and refreshments on offer, it was wonderful to see the school community enjoying time together while raising valuable funds to support future opportunities for the children.

These experiences reflect St Chad's commitment to providing pupils with opportunities that develop confidence, promote healthy lifestyles and strengthen their school community. They are incredibly proud of their children for the enthusiasm, resilience and kindness they continue to show in all that they do.





St Antony's Roman Catholic School, Trafford



Some Year 10 students from St Antony's RC School had the fantastic opportunity to attend the first-ever Made in Manchester event!

They spent the morning listening to inspiring conversations from a panel of successful Mancunians, including Liam Fray (Courteeners), Tim Heatley (Capital&Centric), James Keegan (professional dancer), and Cynthia Murphy (author). Each speaker shared their personal journeys and emphasised the importance of confidence, resilience, and embracing opportunities.

This inspiring experience encouraged the students to think positively about their futures and reminded them that success comes in many forms.

St Antony's RC School are thrilled to celebrate the incredible achievements of some of their talented girls from Years 8, 9, and 10 who represented the school at the Future Lionesses Talent Identification Day at Hyde FC!

Throughout the day, they showcased outstanding attitude, determination, and teamwork, playing with great spirit, aggression, and competitiveness. The teams enjoyed a highly successful day, winning the vast majority of their matches against strong opposition. Most importantly, several of their players impressed the FA talent coaches and were identified as potential players for the Future Lionesses pathway!

St Antony's are immensely proud of all the girls for the way they represented both themselves and the school. Keep shining, future stars!



St Patrick's RC Primary School, Oldham

Congratulations to the children and staff at St Patrick's RC Primary School, Oldham, on achieving the Gold School Games Mark Award!

This fantastic achievement recognises the school's outstanding commitment to sport and physical activity. From developing sports leaders and participating in external competitions to organising exciting in-house tournaments and promoting healthy lifestyles, St Patrick's continues to inspire pupils to be active, confident and engaged.

This award is a testament to the hard work, enthusiasm and dedication of everyone involved. A huge well done to all at St Patrick's RC Primary, Oldham; a truly well-deserved achievement!



Growing Inclusion at St Matthew's: A New Outdoor Space for Every Learner

This year, St Matthew's RC High School is proud to celebrate the completion of their new SEND Outdoor Learning and Regulation Area – an exciting addition to their Inclusion Department that reflects their commitment to ensuring every child has the opportunity to flourish.

Designed to support pupils accessing their Hive, Beehive and ReHive provisions, the space has been carefully created to provide a calm, structured and nurturing environment where young people can regulate their emotions, develop independence and build positive relationships.

The project was developed in response to the growing need for low-arousal outdoor environments that offer safe opportunities for social interaction, emotional regulation and outdoor learning.

Rather than simply creating another outdoor area, they wanted to develop a purposeful space with distinct zones to meet the diverse needs of their pupils.

The completed area now includes:

- A calm seating area for quiet reflection and supported group work.
- A sensory wall providing structured tactile experiences.
- A reading cabin offering a peaceful retreat for regulation and nurture.
- Raised planting beds to support their life skills curriculum.
- Active sensory equipment encouraging movement-based regulation.
- Environmental features including bug hotels and bird boxes to promote biodiversity and outdoor learning.

The outdoor area will become an invaluable extension of their classrooms. Pupils will use the space to develop communication skills, practise emotional regulation strategies, engage in gardening and life skills activities, and enjoy structured social opportunities in an environment that feels safe, predictable and welcoming. These experiences will help pupils build confidence, independence and readiness to learn while supporting their wellbeing every day.

This project perfectly embodies St. Matthew's commitment to inclusion, ensuring that every child is known, valued and supported to achieve their potential. By investing in environments that remove barriers to learning, they are creating opportunities for pupils with SEND to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

At St Matthew's, their mission is simple: **We Pray, We Care, We Achieve.** Their new outdoor inclusion space is a wonderful example of these values in action, providing a place where every pupil can feel a sense of belonging and experience success in ways that meet their individual needs.

St Matthew's look forward to seeing the impact of this space continue to grow as their pupils learn, develop and flourish together.



Creating Calm: Introducing "The Nook"

By Emilee, Year 10 Student Leader

As part of my role in the *We Care* student leadership team, I wanted to make a positive difference to students who, at times, find the dining hall too loud or overwhelming.

How The Nook Began

To turn this idea into reality, I attended a meeting with Mr Nightingale, our headteacher, where I shared my own experiences of occasionally feeling overwhelmed in busy school environments. I also spoke about how I've noticed other students experiencing similar feelings.

I explained why I felt it was important to create a quieter, more supportive space at lunchtime, and I presented my idea for "The Nook" — including how it would run, what it would offer, and how student leaders could help support it. With his support, I was able to plan and set up the space ready for students to use.

What is The Nook?

The Nook is a calm, safe space where students can come during lunchtime to relax and recharge in a way that works for them.

Led by student leaders, it offers a flexible and welcoming environment where students can:

- Take part in mindfulness or calming activities
- Enjoy quiet reading or independent focus
- Get involved in creative activities
- Socialise gently in a low-pressure setting

There is no expectation to join in — it's simply a space where students can feel comfortable being themselves.

The Impact

Since starting The Nook, we've had an average of 5–8 students attend each lunchtime, showing there is a real need for a quieter space in school. It has been really rewarding to see students feeling more relaxed, settled, and included.

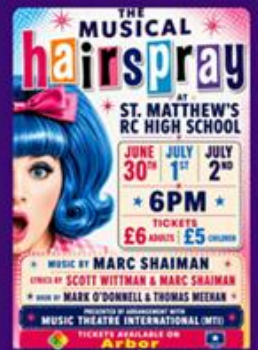
Creating The Nook has helped me develop my confidence and leadership skills, and it has shown me how sharing personal experiences can lead to meaningful change. I'm really proud of what it has become and hope it continues to support more students across the school community.



SMRCHS Performing Arts Presents...

Hairspray

A huge well done to all the pupils and staff involved, the dedication and effort that goes into these shows is outstanding.



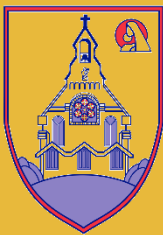
Year 5 visits.

St Matthew's had a wonderful week of welcoming year 5 pupils from Mount Carmel, Christ the King and St John Bosco. The St Matthew's student leaders were outstanding ambassadors for the school throughout the visits; from answering questions and sharing their experiences to assisting with the activities, with enthusiasm, support and leadership.

The Art and Science Departments ensured that these special guests enjoyed an engaging, exciting and memorable taster lesson with their hard work, planning and presentation.

St Matthew's looks forward to welcoming many of these pupils back in the future.

St Mary's RC Primary School, Stockport



St Mary's (Stockport) Reception Class of 2026 enjoyed a fantastic end-of-year trip to St Anne's Beach to celebrate the incredible progress they have made throughout the year. Blessed with beautiful sunshine, the children had a wonderful time exploring the beach, playing together and cooling off in the sprinklers. For some of the children, it was their very first visit to the seaside, making the experience even more special. It was a day filled with laughter, joy and unforgettable memories; an experience we know they will treasure for years to come. St Mary's are so proud of everything they have achieved this year – a truly special day. Well done Miss Preston!

St John Bosco RC Primary School, Manchester



St John Bosco RC Primary School lost a dear colleague and friend; Roisin Glean, in December 2025 and they miss her every day. The school wanted to do something to both celebrate her life as well as make a small difference to others suffering with cancer. Many staff participated in the Race for Life in Heaton Park raising over **£4,000** for Cancer Research!



St Malachy's RC Primary School, Manchester

St Malachy's is delighted to have been named the winner of the Laudato Si' Group Award in recognition of their school composting project.

Pupils collected food waste, singing their compost song each day as a reminder of the important role they play in caring for God's creation. The waste is transformed into nutrient-rich compost to grow produce in the school gardens, with the harvest supporting their partnership with Caritas by providing fresh food for those in need.

The project has inspired passionate young environmental leaders and has even encouraged other organisations to begin their own composting journey. St Malachy's are incredibly proud of their pupils for demonstrating how small actions can make a big difference for their community and the environment.



Corpus Christi RC Primary School, Oldham



Before embarking on the next stage of their educational journey, Corpus Christi Year 6 pupils celebrated the completion of their statutory assessments with an unforgettable four-night trip to France.

The visit combined history, culture and fun as pupils explored the battlefields of the Somme and visited the Albert Museum, deepening their understanding of significant historical events. They also experienced some of France's most iconic attractions, including a trip to the top of the Eiffel Tower, a scenic cruise along the River Seine, and an exciting day at Disneyland Paris. The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to celebrate their achievements, strengthen friendships and create fantastic memories that will last a lifetime.



The whole school enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day, filled with energy, enthusiasm and plenty of team spirit. Throughout the day, pupils took part in a wide range of sporting events and challenges, demonstrating determination, resilience and excellent sportsmanship. From exciting races to fun team activities, every child gave their best and enthusiastically cheered on their classmates, creating a wonderful atmosphere of encouragement and celebration.

Corpus Christi were delighted to celebrate the First Holy Communion of their children, a truly special milestone in their faith journey. The children prepared thoughtfully and prayerfully for this important sacrament, demonstrating a deep understanding of its significance and embracing the occasion with reverence and joy.

Year 4 had a fantastic one-night residential visit to Gulliver's World, enjoying an exciting mix of adventure and learning. Alongside the rides and attractions, the visit provided valuable opportunities to develop teamwork, resilience, confidence and problem-solving skills through educational activities beyond the classroom. The children were a credit to the school, showing excellent behaviour and creating wonderful memories together.

St Monica's RC Primary School

Over recent seasons St Monica's girls have won three School of Play football tournaments and St. Monica's have been awarded Equal Access School from the Girl's Football Partnership and a Special Recognition Award from Greater Manchester Football.

Some of St Monica's Year 5 children took part in the St Antony's Roman Catholic School production of Mary Poppins. What a brilliant experience for our children



Congratulations to the children who represented St. Monica's at The Jude Anderton Rounders Tournament. St. Monica's came out as tournament winners and they have now won the trophy for three consecutive years. Well Done!



Successful Folk Group The Young'Uns and St Monica's children created their own folk song based on the schools Curriculum Golden Threads. They spent the day creating lyrics and a tune that was then performed in an assembly at the end of the day.

St Anne's RC Primary School, Oldham



St Anne's are delighted and extremely proud to share that they have won the Laudato Si' Award for living out Pope Francis' message

Following their nomination and shortlisting, children from St Anne's Primary School attended a special celebration at Wardley Hall, where they had the opportunity to meet the Bishop. They were thrilled to find out that they had been chosen as the overall winners out of 130 schools across the Diocese.



This wonderful achievement reflects the commitment of their pupils to putting faith into action and living out the values inspired by Pope Francis.

Throughout the year, children have taken part in a wide range of activities, including litter picking, tree planting, toilet twinning campaigns, Back to Basics Day, Fairtrade initiatives and fundraising for a variety of charities. These experiences highlight their passion for caring for our common home and supporting others locally and globally.



St Anne's are incredibly proud of all their children and especially the dedication shown by those who represented St Anne's so brilliantly at the event.

Saint Joseph's RC Junior, Infant & Nursery School

St Joseph's Habitats of Hope project has been a wonderful celebration of faith, creativity, care for creation and our shared responsibility to protect our common home. Inspired by our Catholic mission to love to learn and learn to love, pupils have worked together to transform areas of the school grounds into welcoming habitats where wildlife can flourish.

As part of the project, children have learned about the importance of biodiversity and explored practical ways in which even small actions can make a meaningful difference. Their pupils have enthusiastically created habitats for wildlife, including making bat boxes for our furry, flying friends and developing spaces that encourage insects, birds and other creatures to thrive.

The project has brought together learning, faith and action in a way that has captured the imagination of their children. It has encouraged them to become responsible stewards of God's creation and to understand that hope is something we actively create through the choices we make and the care we show



Habitats of Hope Project



The school community are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, teamwork and compassion their pupils have demonstrated.

Habitats of Hope is more than an environmental project: it is our mission in action and a wonderful example of their children living out their faith with purpose, joy and hope.

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



SS Aidan and Oswald RC Primary School, Oldham, St Theresa's RC Primary School, Oldham, St Cuthbert's RC Primary School, Manchester, St John's RC Primary School, Manchester, St Malachy's RC Primary School, Manchester and St Mary's RC Primary School, Manchester all joined Emmaus CAT on the 1st July 2026.

SS Aidan and Oswald RC Primary School

SS Aidan and Oswald's is a Catholic school where their Christian mission is at the heart of everything they do. While they primarily serve families from the parish of SS Aidan and Oswald's, they warmly welcome families from a wide range of cultural and faith backgrounds, creating a diverse, inclusive, and harmonious school community. Their commitment to excellence is reflected in the many awards and achievements earned across the school.

St Cuthbert's RC Primary School

St. Cuthbert's is a vibrant, family-centred Catholic school where every child is valued, nurtured and encouraged to achieve their personal best. Rooted in faith, their rich and engaging curriculum provides a wide range of opportunities, including sports, cultural activities, fundraising, trips, visitors and parish events, helping children develop their God-given talents and reach their full potential.

St Malachy's RC Primary School

St. Malachy's is a caring and inclusive community where children learn, pray, play and grow together in faith. Inspired by the example of Jesus, they nurture each child's unique gifts and talents, helping them to flourish academically, socially and spiritually. With a strong family ethos, they ensure that every child feels valued, supported and respected.

St Theresa's RC Primary School

St Theresa's is a high-achieving Catholic school where Gospel values are at the heart of everything they do. Guided by their mission statement, the family of St Theresa's loves, learns and grows together as followers of Jesus and they provide a happy, caring environment in which every child is encouraged to achieve their very best. High standards are achieved through high expectations, self-belief, challenge, encouragement and praise, enabling every child to thrive and grow.

St John's RC Primary School

St John's is a joyful, welcoming Catholic school where every child is valued, inspired and encouraged to flourish. Guided by their mission of *nurturing hearts and inspiring minds*, they place children at the centre of everything they do, providing a broad, ambitious curriculum that fosters confidence, curiosity and a love of learning. Their exceptional outdoor environment and wide-ranging enrichment opportunities help children discover and develop their unique talents.

St Mary's RC Primary School

St Mary's is a vibrant, family-centred Catholic school where children are encouraged to grow, achieve and enjoy a wide range of experiences both in and beyond the classroom. Through sport, cultural activities, fundraising, educational visits, parish events and more, they provide opportunities for every child to develop their talents and interests.

In the Spotlight....

Primary Education News

On behalf of the Primary Education Team, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to every one of our Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust primary schools for your unwavering commitment to collegiality, collaboration and our shared mission throughout another exceptional year.

Your willingness to work together, embrace new initiatives and support one another has enabled us to continue strengthening our community, always keeping Christ and children at the centre of everything we do. Whether through Development Boards, the Belong Project, our partnership with Whole Education, or your wholehearted engagement with our SEND, EYFS and Safeguarding Reviews, your professionalism and openness have driven meaningful improvement across our family of schools.

Thank you for sharing your expertise so generously, welcoming opportunities to learn from one another, and embracing research-informed practice to improve outcomes for every child. Your commitment to curriculum development, inclusion, Catholic Life and Mission, and professional learning demonstrates the power of working as one Emmaus family.

We are incredibly grateful to headteachers, governors, teachers, support staff and every member of your school communities for the dedication, resilience and compassion you show each day. It is a privilege to walk alongside you as partners in this shared mission.

Together, we have achieved so much, and we look forward to continuing this journey, strengthening our schools, serving our communities and ensuring every child flourishes through an exceptional Catholic education.

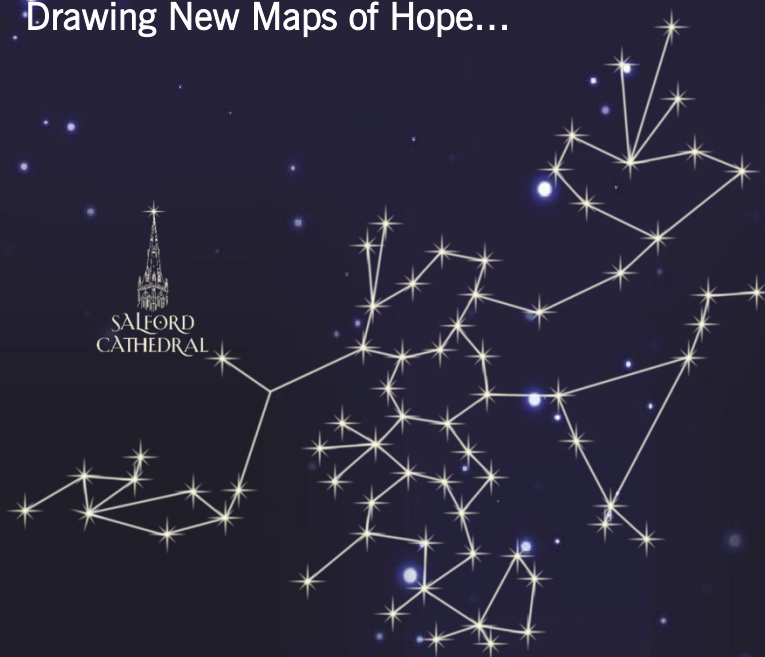
Following a recent OFSTED inspection, **St Chad's RCPS in Cheetham Hill** have received a positive outcome and we cannot wait to share the full report with you very soon. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the dedication, hard work and commitment of our entire school community.

This success belongs to everyone who makes St Chad's such a special place; the pupils, staff, governors, parents and carers, and our wider Emmaus CAT family. Together, we have continued to create an environment where children are encouraged to flourish academically, spiritually and personally.

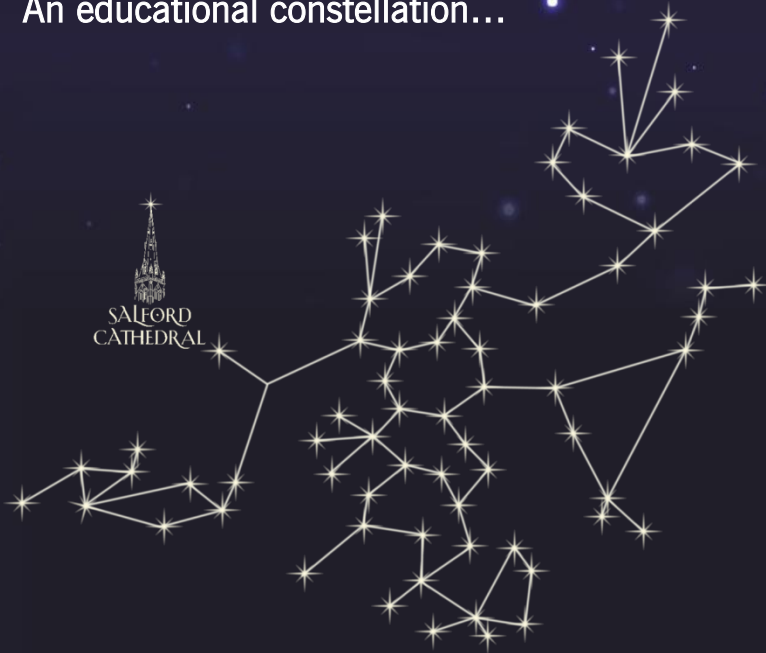
While we are unable to share the full details just yet, we are looking forward to publishing the official inspection findings in the Autumn term. We are confident that the report will showcase the many strengths of St Chad's and celebrate the values that underpin everything we do as a family of Catholic schools.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the life of St Chad's, and every school within Emmaus, each and every day. Your support, encouragement and belief in our community make achievements like this possible.

Emmaus CAT Drawing New Maps of Hope...



Emmaus CAT An educational constellation...



In the Spotlight....

Secondary Education News

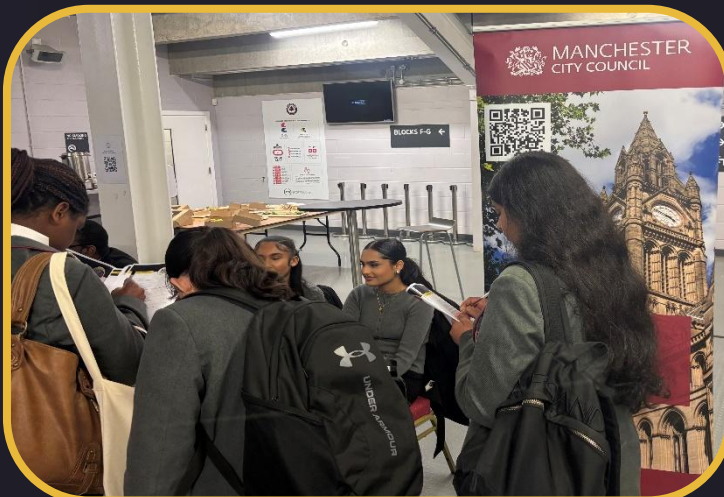
Congratulations to all the **St Antony's** Year 7 and 8 students who took part in the UKMT Maths Challenge this year. This is an extremely prestigious and demanding competition, and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, resilience, and mathematical talent shown by everyone involved. A large number of students achieved Bronze and Silver awards, which in itself is a fantastic accomplishment. A very special mention goes to Felix Lin Y8, who achieved a Gold award. Felix has been selected for the next stage of the competition; an outstanding achievement and the first time this has ever been accomplished at St Antony's. Very well done to all involved!

More than **315 Year 9 pupils** from **four Emmaus CAT secondary schools** came together for the first-ever **Emmaus CAT Futures Day**, an exciting careers event designed to inspire ambition, raise aspirations and support pupils as they prepare to make important GCSE option choices and prepare for work experience next academic year.

Held at the National Speedway Stadium in Belle Vue, the event welcomed pupils from St Anne's RC Voluntary Academy, St Antony's Roman Catholic School, St Matthew's RC High School and Saint John Henry Newman RC College. Throughout the day, pupils engaged with representatives from 18 employers, ranging from well-known national organisations to thriving local businesses, giving them first-hand insight into a wide variety of careers and industries.

Alongside an inspiring keynote address from communications specialist Dan McNicholas, pupils took part in interactive workshops using the Unifrog careers platform, helping them explore future pathways, work experience opportunities and post-16 options.

The event showcased the strength of collaboration across the Emmaus community, creating opportunities that no single school could have delivered alone. By connecting pupils with employers, role models and practical careers guidance, the Emmaus CAT Futures Day has equipped hundreds of young people with the confidence, knowledge and inspiration to think bigger about their futures.



In the Spotlight....

IT Transformation – A Case Study St Chad's RC Primary School, Manchester

Since joining Emmaus CAT Central IT Services in Summer 2025, St Chad's RC Primary School has transformed its technology environment, become Emmaus CATs first fully cloud-based school and created a more secure, reliable and flexible digital experience for staff and pupils.

A review of the school's technology identified opportunities to improve connectivity, cyber security, safeguarding and classroom technology, while ensuring compliance with Department for Education Digital Standards and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) requirements.

Emmaus Central IT Services has led a comprehensive programme of improvements across the school. Broadband and web filtering services were migrated to LGfL, enhancing both safeguarding and cyber security. Through the Connect the Classroom programme, the school's network was modernised with Cisco Meraki wired and wireless infrastructure, simplifying the technology estate, removing unnecessary complexity and delivering fast, reliable connectivity throughout the site.

St Chad's also became Emmaus CAT's first fully serverless school, with core services migrated to Microsoft 365. This transformation eliminated significant cyber security risks associated with legacy on-premises infrastructure, including virtual hosts exposed through Remote Desktop Services, while providing staff with secure access to systems from any location.

Reflecting on the school's transformation, Donna Malcolm, headteacher at St Chad's RC Primary School, said

'The support provided by Emmaus CAT Central IT Services throughout this transformation has been exceptional. Dave, Gary, Beau and Matt have worked alongside the staff at St Chad's every step of the way, providing responsive, knowledgeable support and building the confidence of colleagues across the school to embrace new technology. The move to a fully cloud-based environment has transformed the way we work, giving staff seamless and secure access to school systems from any location, making collaboration through shared documents straightforward and enabling teams to work more efficiently together. It has also strengthened the resilience of our systems, improved cyber security and safeguarding, and provided staff with the confidence that the technology will simply work when they need it.

They have been a constant source of support for colleagues across the school, particularly our office team, and have always been on hand whenever help has been needed. During our recent Ofsted inspection, they were available throughout to provide immediate technical assistance, giving staff the reassurance that any issues would be resolved quickly and allowing us to focus fully on the inspection itself. Their professionalism, expertise and commitment have been instrumental in helping St Chad's create a modern, secure and reliable digital environment that genuinely supports teaching, learning and the efficient running of the school.'

Welcome to the Central Team

Why is our central team growing? At Emmaus CAT, we continue to demonstrate to the Department for Education that we have the leadership, expertise and capacity to support schools across our community. By walking alongside our schools, we provide the strategic guidance, specialist knowledge and practical support needed to help them thrive, whether they are facing significant challenges or joining Emmaus as part of the Diocesan Growth Plan.

To strengthen this support even further, Emmaus CAT is introducing new and exciting roles across the Central Team. These roles will enhance our ability to work in partnership with schools, build capacity across our community and deliver our shared vision of a strong, flourishing Catholic Academy Trust where every school, pupil and community can succeed.

Lewis Reid IT Technical Manager

Lewis brings more than six years of experience in IT infrastructure, cybersecurity, and service delivery to the team. Lewis has successfully supported multiple sites whilst previously working within a large Multi Academy Trust and has played a key role in delivering major technology projects, including the transformation of fragmented and outdated systems into a secure, modern Microsoft 365 environment. With extensive experience managing relationships with managed service providers and leading IT improvements, Lewis will be a valuable addition to the Emmaus CAT central IT team.

Mohammed Anwar Mobile IT Technician

Anwar is passionate about delivering high-quality IT support that empowers both staff and students to succeed. He holds a degree in Computing and Network Technology and brings several years of professional IT support experience gained across the education, healthcare, and corporate sectors. His strong technical expertise, combined with a customer-focused approach, enables him to provide effective solutions and excellent service in a wide range of environments.

Matt Edwards Mobile IT Technician

Matt joins us from a secondary school in the South of England, where he gained valuable experience supporting and managing a wide range of technology services. He brings with him a strong technical background, extensive hands-on experience in IT management, and a genuine passion for technology. Committed to continuous professional development, Matt has successfully completed a variety of IT training courses and certifications to further enhance his knowledge and skills. His proactive approach to learning, combined with his enthusiasm for delivering high-quality technical support, will be a great asset to our family of schools.

Jacob Murphy Cluster IT Apprentice

Jacob joins Emmaus from the hospitality industry, bringing with him a strong passion for IT and digital systems. He is embarking on an 18-month apprenticeship programme, a scheme which has already proved highly successful within our Central IT team. With a degree in Game Design and a solid understanding of technology, Jacob has a strong foundation on which to build. Throughout his apprenticeship, he will further develop his skills through a combination of hands-on experience across our family of schools and structured academic study. We are delighted to welcome Jacob to the team and look forward to supporting his development and success.

Autumn Term Key Dates

Monday 7th September – Friday 25th September

Annual Standards Review Meetings

Tuesday 8th September

Chair of Local Governing Body Professional Network
Attendance Professional Network
Diocese of Salford CSI Training

Thursday 10th September

Governors Training – Suspensions and Exclusions

Monday 14th September – Friday 3rd October

LGB Meeting Window

Tuesday 15th September

DSL Professional Network

Thursday 17th September

Governors Training – Safeguarding and SEND

Tuesday 22nd September

Primary and Secondary Headteachers Updates
PTI Hub 1

Wednesday 23rd September

Aspiring Pastoral Leaders Professional Network
PTI Hub 2

Thursday 24th September

EAL Professional Network
Diocese of Salford Primary RE Leads PLD Day

Friday 25th September

Diocese of Salford Secondary Heads of RE

Tuesday 29th September

Secondary Personal Development Professional Network
DHTs Professional Network

Wednesday 30th September

GDPR Professional Network
ECT Professional Learning Network

Thursday 1st October

Reading Development Board

Monday 5th October

Belong Programme Induction

Tuesday 6th October

Behaviour Professional Network Meeting
Diocese of Salford New to Headship

Wednesday 7th October

Diocese of Salford Considering Middle Leadership
Diocese of Salford Secondary Chaplaincy Leads

Thursday 8th October

Subject Leadership Professional Network

Friday 9th October

Diocese of Salford Primary Deputy Heads

Monday 12th October

Diocese of Salford Governance Formation

Tuesday 13th October

Diocese of Salford New to working in a Catholic School

Wednesday 14th October

People and Culture Professional Network
SEND Conference
Primary Maths Professional Network
Safer Recruitment Training

Thursday 15th October

Pedagogy Development Board
Secondary Science Professional Network
DSL Professional Network
Diocese of Salford Primary ECT

Friday 16th October

Diocese of Salford Governance Formation

Tuesday 20th October

Secondary English Professional Network

Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd October

Diocese of Salford Senior Leadership Conference

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... an educational constellation



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