



**OUR VISION**  
"We are a Catholic family of schools, working as one, transforming every individual, their family and our Trust community through the building of God's Kingdom, caring for our environment, today rather than tomorrow."

## Our Journey Together

- news from across the St Ralph Sherwin Trust

Lent 2022

ISSUE 18



I hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to your Easter break.

We have had lots of exciting initiatives take place this term

including our Pupil Olympics and Pupil Parliament.

It was fantastic to see hundreds of our students taking part in the Pupil Olympics, being given the opportunity to be active together. Our Pupil Parliament is gathering momentum and the engagement, enthusiasm and

ideas are truly inspiring. I am genuinely excited about the direction we are going in.

You may already be aware that at the end of the summer, in August 2022, I will be retiring from my post as CEO at St Ralph Sherwin CMAT.

I have decided to take a step back and prioritise other things in my life; family and health being two of them.

It has been the greatest privilege to be CEO of SRS Trust and the highlight of my 32-year career, something I shall always treasure.

I have worked with some amazing, talented, great people: staff, pupils, governors and trustees, they have all

helped create this wonderful Trust we have.

The Trust Board is currently working on the recruitment process and will be conducting an expansive search to find my successor.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and our Trust which, I am sure, will continue going from strength to strength.

**Sean McClafferty**  
Chief Executive

# Two schools celebrate Good Diocesan Canonical Inspections



## Catholic Life and Collective Worship were both graded Outstanding at Holy Rosary CVA

Blessed Robert Sutton and Holy Rosary, both in Burton, have achieved Good ratings overall in their Diocesan Canonical Inspections.

Inspectors from the Diocese of Nottingham said that the quality of Catholic Life and Collective Worship at Holy Rosary was outstanding and they graded RE education as good.

Inspectors said: "Holy Rosary is a good and effective school which has improved significantly since the last inspection.

"Here, the school's character behaviours, and the gospel values chosen, permeate every aspect of school life and are confidently articulated by pupils, staff, parents and governors alike: everyone concerned is visibly proud to be

part of this school community."

At Blessed Robert Sutton, many areas in which the school excels were highlighted. The report praised 'The Sutton Way'



**Blessed Robert Sutton**

and inspectors described behaviour as excellent.

Teaching and learning in RE at Blessed Robert was praised, with inspectors saying: "Behaviour in lessons is excellent: there is a warm and positive relationship between teachers and pupils."

The wider personal development of pupils and preparation for life after Blessed Robert Sutton was identified as another strength of the school. The report stated: "All pupils benefit from the emphasis on personal development with the pupil leadership and enrichment opportunities."

Sean McClafferty, Trust CEO, congratulated both schools. He said: "We are all hugely delighted and proud of the outcome of both inspections. Both reports fully reflect the hard work, dedication and commitment of all staff, governors, parents and pupils."



**Holy Rosary**

# Sustainability on the agenda at Pupil Parliament meeting



Campaigning for the introduction of eco-friendly initiatives was the subject at the heart of our latest Pupil Parliament meeting. Students were given advice about how they can contact their local councillors, authorities and bus companies in order to bring about change across our Trust and their communities. They also talked about actions they will be taking forward in their own schools as a result of discussions within Pupil Parliament sub-committees which are titled Pupil Community, Local Community, Fundraising, Sustainability and Inclusivity. Our next meeting is being planned for June.

## Hundreds of students take part in Trust Pupil Olympics



Boys and girls from Saint Benedict, Saint John Houghton, St Thomas More, Blessed Robert Sutton and St Philip Howard took part in two football tournaments as part of our Trust Pupil Olympics programme. One tournament was held for Years 7

and 8 and another for Years 9 and 10. A tournament for primary pupils took place before Christmas. Well done to everyone involved and to our Trust Pupil Olympics Lead Dominic Harrison for bringing our Trust together.



# Lead Lay Chaplain gets on his bike and raises over £4,500

On February 16th, my friend Mark and I set off on our three day 'Tour de St Ralph'. Our plan was to ride to all of the academies in our Trust in order to raise money for the Disaster Emergencies Committee Afghanistan appeal. We were slightly trepidatious before setting off as the weather was predicted to be pretty horrendous, with Storms Dudley and Eunice arriving during the ride. As a result we decided that our original plan to sleep outdoors was probably not wise, so found some inside spaces to stay overnight.

At the end of day one we did get very rained on and blown about after visiting Saint John Houghton, St Thomas', the Priory, St Elizabeth's, Christ the King and St Joseph's in Matlock. On the second day we visited St Phillip Howard, Saint Mary's in Glossop, All Saints, St Charles', St Margaret's, St Mary's in Marple Bridge (even though they were on 1/2 term), Saint Mary's in New Mills, St Thomas More and St Anne's. We had to deal with a fairly heavy hailstorm as we rode out of Buxton towards the Tissington Trail. Luckily the wind was on our backs so we weren't getting hail in our faces and were getting a free ride out of the tail wind.

Unfortunately, the weather predictions for the Friday didn't look good so we made the decision to postpone the last leg of the Tour and



head straight home to Nottingham. It was a tough decision but one we felt was the safest. It was a brilliant experience, not withstanding some of the biggest hills I've ever ridden up. We received some brilliant welcomes and motivating send offs which really helped us move from place to place.

The thought of those suffering in Afghanistan really did put our uphill struggles into perspective, as did the memories of two courageous young men that I taught in my last school. The thought of the struggles they faced before they died, and of the sadness consuming their families really did keep our legs moving.



I will definitely finish the last leg and go to all of the remaining schools, hopefully when the weather is slightly more clement.

I would like to say a huge thank you to anyone who may have donated, so far the total stands at £4,503. Finally, I have to say that the words of St Ralph Sherwin, 'Today rather than tomorrow', really were the motivation for doing this ride.

SAINT MARY'S



## Walk Against Hunger challenge inspires schools

Schools across our Trust are being invited to take part in CAFOD's Walk Against Hunger this Lent. CAFOD is inviting schools to set up a JustGiving page and set a Lent walking target which will contribute to the charity's overall target of walking 40,000km around the world. Schools can walk on Lent Family Fast Day, as part of a school event or with family and friends.

**Pictured left are staff and pupils from Saint Mary's in New Mills during their Walk Against Hunger.**

# Schools provide support for Ukrainian refugees



Schools across our Trust have rallied to support Ukrainian refugees. St Thomas More (left and top right) joined with St Anne's, both in Buxton, to collect donations which will be distributed by Buxton Baby Bank. St Elizabeth's in Belper (bottom right) was also overwhelmed with donations which have been delivered to the Presentation Sisters Convent in Matlock. Meanwhile Saint Benedict in Derby held a three-minute silence and asked students for a 20p donation.



## Celebrations for World Book Day



Saint Benedict



St Joseph's Derby



St George's

St Alban's

St Charles'



St Thomas More



St Margaret's



## ST PHILIP HOWARD COLLECT DONATIONS FOR GHANA

Students at St Philip Howard in Glossop have collected donations for communities in Ghana. Shoeboxes were collected by The Hummingbird Project, which organised the project and ensured the donations reached Ghana.

