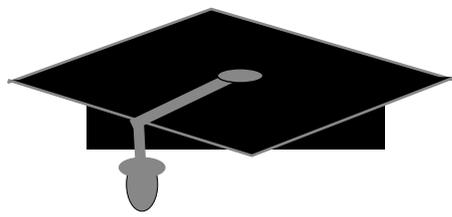


THE CRIER



Education
Commission
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK



Summer 2022

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ACROSS THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK



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Staff Success at St Edmund's

Marika Landy is our IT Technical Officer here at St Edmund's Catholic Secondary School in Dover. She is an independent woman with many talents.

Marika finds joy and harmony in singing and recently entered a competition at the Thanet Music and Drama Festival, winning three of the classes she entered!

Marika is an ex-pupil of St Edmund's and has been a staff member here for the last 4 years. Her many hobbies include long distance running, karate, stage combat and she is an aspiring classical and opera singer. She often supports the school music faculty, contributing to the singing in school masses and events.

A huge congratulations to Marika on her well-deserved success.



Inspiring 'Called, Connected, Committed' leaders of the future!



After the success of the Catholic Formation programme 'What Makes Great Catholic Schools?', the Avila Partnership is pleased to be a Delivery Partner for the National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership programme (NPQSL) in partnership with the Church of England and the Catholic Education Service.

On Thursday 10th March, participants from a variety of Catholic and Church of England schools who were successful

in applying for the course, were invited to a 'meet and greet' evening at Ursuline High School, as part of the launch of the NPQSL programme. This was an historic evening, as it was the first time that the Church of England and the Catholic church has collaborated in delivering a professional development programme for teachers.

The Avila Partnership aims to contribute to the formation goals of the Diocese in providing great Catholic education and is delighted to be offering this new course for aspiring leaders. Ms Waters, Headteacher, Ursuline High School, Wimbledon, and Ms Noone, Headteacher, St Philomena's High School for Girls launched the event prior to Mr Williams and Ms Stark, Assistant Headteachers, facilitating the programme of events. Participants also gained insight from Ms Rachel Phillips, Education Advisor for the Church of England and Southwark Diocesan Board of Education and Ms Sharon Docherty, Professional Learning Manager, and team leader for Religious Education from the Education

Commission for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark.

Thought provoking questions were posed during roundtable group discussions, regarding what makes an impactful and successful senior leader? Participants were asked to reflect on memorable, successful leaders they had come across in their lives, what traits these leaders carried and how they could discover similar traits within themselves, to make their own lasting impact as a leader. In addition, participants were invited to consider how commonalities could be found within their own personal ethos and values, and their schools' mission statement and overarching strategy, to enhance the impact of their leadership in the future.

Participants took away with them a powerful list of books on faith leadership to light their path, including *Luminaries: Twenty lives that illuminate the Christian Way* by Rowan Williams, *The Gift of Leadership* by Steven Croft and *In the Name of Jesus* by Henri J.M. Nouwen. They also received a copy of *Called, Connected, Committed- 24 Leadership Practices for Educational Leaders* by David F. Ford and Andy Wolfe.

The programme will involve 18 months of in-depth training to inspire the best leadership in Catholic and Church of England schools. We look forward to seeing our participants progress through the programme, in becoming empowered vision-focused leaders who will be instrumental in the future of our schools.

St Catherine's Catholic School recognised for their commitment to action and improvement in relation to race equality.

Congratulations to St Catherine's Catholic School who have been recognised nationally for their commitment to improving race equality and prioritising an inclusive culture where staff, students, parents and partners of all ethnicities are equally valued, by being awarded the Silver level RACE Chartermark.

Developed by SSAT (the Schools, Students and Teachers network) and Fig Tree International, the Race and Conscious Equality (RACE) Charter Mark is for schools, academies and colleges, both in the state and private sectors, in the UK



who wish to demonstrate their commitment to action and improvement in relation to race equality in all aspects of their work as educators, employers and community leaders.

To achieve the charter mark St Catherine's Catholic School completed a comprehensive package of training for governors, senior leaders and middle leaders, and submitted an evaluation detailing their work towards equality so far and an action plan pledging their commitment to ongoing development in this area.

Angelia Idun, Director of Education, SSAT said:

"I am delighted that St Catherine's Catholic School has been awarded the Silver RACE Charter mark. Their application and action plan clearly show a positive ethos and culture which champions and strives for conscious equality and inclusivity throughout the school community. We look forward to continuing to work with the school to see their strategic vision fully realised"

Ann Palmer, CEO, Fig Tree International said:

"I am absolutely delighted that St Catherine's Catholic School is receiving this recognition. This recognises their determination to make a difference, not only in their own school, but also in the local community. St Catherine's Catholic School has joined a great group of schools and colleges who are part of the RACE Charter Mark community. We applaud them for their work and aspirations to build a more inclusive society."

A Historic Blaze, St Fidelis Catholic School

Year 2 pupils at St Fidelis Catholic School in Erith put on an assembly which will forever be remembered by the pupils. They reenacted the Great Fire of London by burning model houses which they had created. The children informed the school about lots of interesting facts and information prior to the burning and treated the school to hearing 'London's burning' sung in a round. What an amazing experience for the children at St Fidelis Catholic Primary School!



The Holy Cross School awarded the nationally recognised RACE Charter Mark



The Holy Cross School is incredibly proud to have been awarded the nationally recognised Silver RACE Charter Mark. This award acknowledges the school's commitment to improving race equality and prioritising an inclusive culture where staff, students, parents and partners of all ethnicities are equally valued.

Developed by SSAT (the Schools, Students and Teachers network) and Fig Tree International, the Race and Conscious Equality (RACE) Charter Mark is for UK schools, academies and colleges, both in the state and private sectors, who wish to demonstrate their commitment to action and improvement in relation to race equality in all aspects of their work as educators, employers and community leaders. To achieve the charter mark the school completed a comprehensive package of training for governors, senior leaders and middle leaders, and submitted an evaluation detailing their work towards equality so far and an action plan pledging their commitment to ongoing development in this area.

Mrs Newman, Deputy Headteacher and Ms Santoo, Assistant Headteacher said:

"We are proud and honoured to have received this award which could not have been possible without the determination and hard work of our student diversity groups, as well as the dedication of our staff and governors. We are very grateful to SSAT and Fig Tree International for their training, support and encouragement over the past eighteen months. Diversity, equality and inclusion remain a high priority for us as a school community. We will continue to strive to ensure that all members of our community thrive in our culture of conscious equality and that we equip our students with the necessary tools to fight for social justice in wider society."

Ann Palmer, CEO, Fig Tree International said:

"I am absolutely delighted that The Holy Cross School is receiving this recognition. This recognises their determination to make a difference, not only in their own school, but also in the local community. The Holy Cross School has joined a great group of schools and colleges who are part of the RACE Charter Mark community. We applaud them for their work and aspirations to build a more inclusive society."

Archbishop John visited St Joseph's Federation

Archbishop John visited St Joseph's Federation on 28 April 2022 to celebrate the school's 150th anniversary.

The day began with Archbishop John visiting the school to bless the new oak tree planted in the Infant playground to commemorate our 150th Anniversary. He came to join the Juniors and the Community Payback group to cut the ribbon, officially opening our new Forest school. This is also home to our apiary and a wildflower garden.

His Grace spent time talking to the children before moving onto Virgo Fidelis Church to concelebrate the 150th anniversary Mass with Canon Michael, Fr. James, Fr Anthony, Fr Luke and Fr Philip.

It was an emotional day for us all, coming together to celebrate our school, and to bring together many past Headteachers, senior staff and Governors.



Laleham Lea Catholic Independent School Awarded Highest Possible Rating of 'Excellent' by Independent Schools' Inspectorate

Laleham Lea School, on Peaks Hill in Purley, is delighted to announce that it was recently awarded the highest possible rating of 'Excellent' across Focused Compliance and Educational Quality Inspection including Academic Achievement. This full inspection was carried out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

The inspection, which took place in February, reported that 'The quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent' and, 'The quality of the pupils' personal development is excellent'.



Following the inspection process which included parental, student and staff surveys, staff and student interviews, as well as observations of lessons and daily life at the school, the inspectors reported that, 'Pupils make excellent progress, achieving at levels in advance of expectations for their age and ability', 'Pupils are outstanding communicators', 'Pupils develop highly effective study skills (and) are highly enthusiastic learners'.

Along with excellent academic results and an impressive list of Senior School destinations and Scholarship Awards, Laleham Lea Catholic School is also known for and is proud of its pastoral care which was praised by the inspectors who commented that, 'The quality of the pupils' personal development is excellent', 'Pupils have high levels of self-understanding for their age and show notable resilience', 'Pupils show outstanding respect for each other and are highly inclusive' and 'Pupils develop good relationships and demonstrate excellent social skills'.

The Catholic life of the school was also recognised by the inspection team who reported that, 'Pupils show excellent development of their spiritual understanding in their everyday lives'.

Laleham Lea Head Teacher Ms Barry said, "I am delighted with the findings of the Inspection Report which validates the tremendous hard work of our students, Staff and Governors. We work alongside all our families and our whole community to provide an excellent education for each child in our school where children love to learn with their friends. This further builds on our Denominational Inspection report of October 2019 where Laleham Lea was also deemed to be 'Outstanding'."

St Thomas More Hitting High Notes

St Thomas More in Bexleyheath were the delighted winners of the Corpus Christi Bexley Choral Festival in April this year. The 18 strong choir sang two songs, Rise up and I'm Still Standing. The three piece harmonies enamored the judges who said that the entertainment provided by the choir made them stand out. Even more pleasing was the fact that both songs were unaccompanied and the voices of the children filled the church of Our Lady of the Angels Erith.

Mrs Carrie Simpson, music instructor, said "The children worked so hard to get their harmonies right on both songs, it wasn't easy but they used their own lunchtimes to practice their parts before coming together for choir, I couldn't be more thrilled!"



Parents and grandparents who joined us at the festival were equally delighted and couldn't help in sharing the joy of the children and staff. Congratulations to Mrs Simpson and the 2022 STM Choir! Grateful thanks to Mr Robinson of St Fidelis, who arranges the annual festival which is a testament to the music education in Catholic Schools in the borough.

Success of Coloma Convent Girls' Young Enterprise Students



After winning the Croydon final in April, our Coloma Young Enterprise Team 'Codybears' won the South London Young Enterprise final.

They had tough competition from Tiffin Girls', Nonsuch Girls' and 2 teams from St Pauls London!! So far these students have collected 9 awards!

The 'Codybears' now progress to the London and Kent final! We are very proud of these young businesswomen. Follow them on Instagram and TikTok @cody.bears.ye

Safeguarding Ambassadors of St Philomena's

As part of St Philomena's whole school approach, the school have introduced two new leadership groups - Key Stage 4 Mental Health Ambassadors and Sixth Form Safeguarding Ambassadors.

The Mental Health Ambassadors were a new initiative this forthcoming academic year, born from the feedback of Student Attitudinal Surveys (SAS) which stated that some students would feel more comfortable approaching other young people for emotional health guidance, rather than adults.

With this in mind, Year 10 and Year 11 students were invited to apply to become Mental Health Ambassadors, and 25 students were appointed to this role and provided with training by the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The Mental Health Ambassadors have continuously impressed their passion, ideas and commitment to improving the overall emotional wellbeing of all students in the school. Through the delivery of assemblies, daily tutor times and, most importantly, being a listening ear to younger students, the Mental Health Ambassadors have made a real and positive difference. The Ambassadors have lots of ideas for the forthcoming academic year and are looking forward to continuing to support and signpost Key Stage 3 students.



Catholic life at St. George's Cathedral Catholic Primary School



The month of May is dedicated to Our Lady, Mary. To mark this, our Spiritual Life Committee led our annual May Procession where we crowned a statue of Our Lady with a garland of flowers. It was a reverent and moving act of worship. Thank you, as always, to Fr. Dermott for leading the Rosary and to the parents and pupils for the beautiful flowers.

Crier Ceases Publication

As of Summer 2022, the Education Commission will no longer publish the Crier. Instead we will celebrate the many ways in which the schools and colleges of the Archdiocese of Southwark live out their Catholic mission by publishing the received articles in our other publications: the weekly mailout; Flame and the Maximilian.

If you would your school or college to be featured, please send articles and pictures to clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk.