



Three
Spires
TRUST

'Life in all its fullness'

TST News

December
2022

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, EMILY VEROW

As we draw closer to the end of a busy term we are reminded of how in Education we have so much to be thankful for. So much to be heartened by; an encouraging word from a teacher, a kind gesture from a friend, laughter over lunch - the academies are places of happiness, our extended family where God presides.

Yet, with gratitude for all we have to be thankful for, we are also aware of where there is suffering and hardship. We understand as Christmas approaches that there is so much that is challenging and we shouldn't take anything for granted; there are families up and down the country trying their best to find the spirit of Christmas but who are struggling day to day with the cost of living crisis and who are worried about providing for their children at this time of year.

It is right therefore, that Three Spires academies are actively focusing on creating time for moments of celebration and laughter – providing a Christmas meal, preparing for the nativity or Christmas concert, enjoying a few party games or a Christmas film. As leaders and teachers, support staff and parents we recognise that learning is so much more than a curriculum, it is learning to be kind to one another, compassionate of circumstance and developing an empathy for people less fortunate than ourselves.

As a family of academies, we move into the New Year thinking about how we can do more for our families – we appreciate how important it is to generate support for opportunities which will undoubtedly impact positively on the lives of all young people. Experiences which enhance learning and create lasting memories – trips, visits, cultural experiences. We are beginning to reach out to local businesses and to the corporate sector to engage partners in conversations about funding such enrichment opportunities in our academies, or at least to harness the expertise to develop the provision on offer. Equally, as leaders in Education, as a Trust we endeavor to stay at the forefront of education policy and conversation in order to give our communities a voice. The Trust has established a strong and resilient foundation on which we can now build. It is the Christian culture that shapes our work, which will undoubtedly equip and sustain us for the challenges and opportunities ahead and give us the courage to engage in difficult conversations on behalf of our young people.



At this time of year, I would like to acknowledge and thank the work of all the teachers and staff in our academies; and all those working in other Trusts and schools across the country. As a teacher myself, who is surrounded by a family of teachers and teaching assistants I know too well the dedication and commitment involved in the day to day work of working in schools. There seems to me, no coincidence that there is a teacher recruitment crisis and that across the sector, schools are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit to positions. Whilst the job is exceptionally rewarding and a real privilege in many ways, it is also exceptionally hard work and the demands are high.

The relationship between home and school is a really important one; I'd like to thank all those parents / carers who work in partnership with our academies reinforcing the expectations of our children in order to jointly support development which enables them to succeed in life and to flourish. I would, like to reach out to the few parents who undermine the work of our staff in our academies by only finding time to criticise. Let us make a new beginning, so that your genuine concerns can be 'learning event' for us all. As a parent myself, I know how important it is for me to educate my children to respect the rules within their respective schools – I don't necessarily subscribe to them all but I want my children to understand how important it is to be respectful.

In the New Year, the Trust is introducing a 'complaints and compliments policy' in order to enable all families to work in a mutually supportive way. The policy is a mechanism for feeding positive feedback through the system so teachers and staff in all our academies can feel the appreciation and acknowledgement of the work they do.

I trust that this will go a long way to looking after our staff and students and enable our academies to focus on providing the most meaningful learning experience for all. I am determined that Three Spires Trust will become 'an academy of first choice', where teachers want to come and work and we will see benefit for all of our students.

All it leaves is for me to say is "thank you all for your support across the autumn term. May your heart be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives. Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year".

'Life in all its fullness'

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, AIMEE WILLIAMS

The word 'story' carries with it the connotation of a piece of work which is made-up, a work of fiction or something false, perhaps. However, even in the world of theatre, particularly in the times we now live in, a 'story' is perceived to be something more, something more revelatory – a tool that reveals 'us' to ourselves. And more importantly, it can reveal others to 'us'. An act of imagination doesn't have to mean a leap into pretence; moreover, it can move us into a position of empathy.



The Christmas Story will mean different things to different people; it is a foundation of hope and faith for many; spiritually motivating for others. Whatever it is for you, it's dramatic and powerful.

Once upon a time, a baby named Jesus was born in a stable. This scene is currently being replicated across hundreds of school Nativity Plays and certainly, as I watch Mary and Joseph embrace the coming of our Lord in one of our primary school's productions, I think back to what Mary must have felt like holding the son of God. On the one hand, He, Jesus, needed her at that moment more than He needed anything else. His entire life (and our salvation) rested in the care of His mother, Mary. On the other hand, Mary needed Jesus to simply live as 'in him all things hold together' (Col 1:16-17).

The birth attracted a number of different onlookers from an array of backgrounds, all anticipating something different to what they saw – 'Is this real?' they may have thought. A few years later as a young man and on trial, Jesus is asked by Pontius Pilate 'What is truth?' Jesus doesn't answer. The answer lies in the territory of our own story; in our diversity, frailty, shared uncertainties – and how we live them out. What does it mean to be really aware of and care for another human being, and walk in their shoes? It is through these reflections that we learn what is real and what is truthful.

The Christmas story teaches us how to live and love – within a battered old stable and the shadow of a merciless Cross, we have the opportunity to care and be understood. As the autumn term draws to a close, take time to reflect on what this story means to you.

On that note, I would like to wish all of our colleagues a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year; may the celebrations and festivities infuse you with new energies, new dreams and new hopes for the future.

'Life in all its fullness'

CELEBRATING HANLEY ST LUKE'S

It is with immense pleasure that we announce the 'Good' Ofsted and SIAMs judgement secured by Hanley St Luke's this term. As an associate school in the trust, we are thankful for their hard work, fire and dogged determination to provide learning experiences that will last a lifetime.

Ofsted Key Quotes

'Pupils enjoy coming to this happy and caring school. They feel safe and learn well.'

'Leaders have made sure that a passionate belief in 'valuing all God's children' is at the heart of this school. Leaders encourage all pupils to make the most of their unique qualities.'

'Leaders are ambitious for all pupils and children. This includes those with SEND. All pupils study a broad curriculum from the start of the early years. Leaders have made sure that the curriculum builds up learning well over time. Teachers and other practitioners have good knowledge of the subjects they teach.'

'Leaders ensure that reading is a priority for all. Early reading is taught well by expert staff. This helps all pupils to become fluent and assured readers. Pupils who start to fall behind in reading benefit from specialist support. This helps pupils to build their confidence and fluency over time.'

'Enthusiastic and hardworking staff support leaders' aims for the school. Staff recognise the action taken by leaders to support their well-being. Relationships between leaders and staff are positive. Leaders' abundant energy, compassion and determination kept the school moving forward during the COVID-19 pandemic.'



SIAMS Key Quotes

'Hanley St Luke's deeply embedded Christian vision, and all its work, is firmly rooted in the Bible. This creates a highly inclusive, learning school family and community in which every individual is known, nurtured and able to flourish'

'Excellent and vibrant collective worship is at the heart of Hanley St Luke's, setting the tone for all that happens. Pupils and adults greatly value deeply meaningful opportunities for reflection, joyful singing and inspiration.'

'Religious education (RE) is effectively led enabling pupils to make good progress. Pupils' religious vocabulary is very well developed enabling them to gain a strong knowledge and understanding of Christianity and world faiths.'



Hanley St Luke's C of E Aided Primary School

Learning, Laughing, Loving at Family St Luke's

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ST THOMAS' SUPPORTS ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Anti-bullying week has reminded us of how important it is to work collaboratively and harmoniously with others.



How can you help someone who you think is being bullied?

Might give them some advice or comfort them, ask them to stop, smile at them to be positive towards them.

Makes them feel good about them self like, smile at them, talk to them regularly.

Just talk to the person who is bullying them, tell them why it's wrong and ask if they are you ok.

Be nice to them and comfort them because they might need it but don't want to ask for it.

RUMORS
teasing
gossiping
insults
threats

CYBER BULLYING
LIES
name-calling
harassment
mean words

We can help others by talking the teacher if they are scared to.

Like them just loud and some and noise these stay by making them just good.

Be might go up to them and say if they are bullying you or someone else, tell them or ask for help.

If you think your friend is being bullied you should be kind, caring and comforting.



I made my armband like this because sport should be for everyone to try. And you should be able to be yourself.



I have designed this armband like this to show that everyone is the same and that nobody should be treated differently than anybody else.



I have chose this to show that you need to love people even if they have different beliefs or look different.

BBC 100 ANNIVERSARY VISIT TO ST. PETER'S

As part of the trust's quest to provide rich and meaningful cultural experiences which spans beyond the classroom, St Peter's Collegiate has brokered wonderful relationships this year with the BBC.

BBC Radio 1Xtra presenter, Nick Bright visited St. Peter's on Wednesday along with two BBC Ambassadors, Chanise Evans and Adam Oliver, as part of their 100th anniversary 'Share Your Story' tour.

The team ran four sessions across the day for Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 during which, Adam and Chanise shared their unique and powerful studies which aimed to highlight to students that no matter your background, you can achieve anything.

Students also had the opportunity to ask questions to find out more about the ambassadors' stories and careers at the BBC and the team were inundated with excellent questions from students in all year groups.

Each session had been developed to support the PSHE curriculum in goal setting and overcoming obstacles plus the English curriculum through the power of storytelling. Students were also encouraged to share their own stories via the BBC Young Reporter initiative: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/young-reporter>

 **St Peter's Collegiate Academy**
Part of the Three Spires Trust



THE KING'S SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



Enrichment activities, which span beyond the realms of the classroom, play a fundamental role in the development and flourishing of our children. As a trust, we are thankful to the commitment of all of our staff, who work endlessly and tirelessly to provide rich and bountiful experiences.

Under 14 Netball

That ends our netball season for our U14 team, having won all of their games and finishing tonight's game with a 39-2 victory! The girls play was seamless, on most occasions it was three passes and a goal! Emily C was voted player of the match by the opposing team and a very well deserved.

Just to demonstrate the level of sportsmanship our girls have they nominated a different player from their own team each quarter to make up the numbers on the opposing team to make it fair, something they didn't have to do but choose to do. Once they had created a good lead they stopped celebrating their goals in a loud celebratory way role as they understood the effect losing can have on people and didn't want the other team to feel embarrassed. Instead they encouraged them and shook hands and ended it with three cheers.

They have been an absolute joy to coach this season and to take to fixtures, and I can't wait to see how they do in the all day tournament later on in the year.

These girls have worked so hard and they deserve all the praise you can give them!

Year 10 and 11 boys Football

On Tuesday 4th October, for the very first time, our Year 10 & 11 Boy's Football Team competed in the U16's County Cup Tournament. Having drawn Sir Graham Balfour, The King's made the trip to Stafford where they overcame their opponents in what was a thrilling encounter.

Having gone into the break a goal down, The King's showed real character and resilience to overturn the deficit and bring the scores level after 90 minutes - thanks to long range wonder-strike from Kyle B. With the game going right down to the wire, penalties were required to determine the winner of the cup tie.

Thanks to flurry of acrobatic saves from Jayden S and emphatic finishes from penalty spot, The King's prevailed as winners, with Xander S scoring the winning penalty to secure a 5-4 victory.



SIX STORM THE STAGE IN JUBILANT CELEBRATION OF GIRL POWER!

Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived.

From Tudor Queens to Pop Icons, last week the SIX wives of Henry VIII took to the stage to remix five hundred years of historical heartbreak into a joyful celebration of 21st century girl power!

The cast, consisting of students in Years 12 and 13, performed two matinees to students and two evening performances to the parents, teachers and the general public.

Talking about the event, Mrs Lacey (Performance and Musical Director) said:

“What an absolute honour it has been to work with such a committed and talented group of young ladies. Their journey throughout the rehearsal process was amazing to watch with confidence, character and movement developing every week. The staff team is so incredibly proud of the standard of performance we achieved with our performance of Six! For me the whole process has certainly been a real highlight of my career so far!”



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STUDENTS REPRESENT ST. PETER'S IN YOUTH COUNCIL

Kirandeep (Year 8) and Saya (Year 10) were officially named as members of the Wolverhampton Youth Council at a ceremony held in the council chamber at the Civic Centre last week.

Kirandeep and Saya will act as spokeswomen for our school community, sharing ideas and issues important to our students with the council at regular meetings. As part of their role, they will learn how to work with compassion and empathy, driving the voice of their peers in a whole host of arenas.

They were welcomed on to the Youth Council by Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Sandra Samuels, the cabinet member for children and young people Councillor Beverley Momenabadi, deputy leader Councillor Stephen Simkins, executive director of families Emma Bennett, deputy director of commissioning and transformation Andrew Wolverson and other councillors

We are very proud of Kirandeep and Saya and know they will do a brilliant job in their new roles.



ST THOMAS' PRIMARY ACADEMY IS GOLD AGAIN

The trust are absolutely delighted to announce that both the boys' and girls' cross-country teams in St Thomas' have been officially crowned number one in Kidsgrove, with an additional girls' team also claiming bronze. We are so proud of all our cross-country runners who have driven their teams on this year - well done all.



A HUGE shout out to these two special, special girls, who beat 60-70 other girls to be crowned GOLD and BRONZE in the individual standings.



THE KING'S REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

For Three Spires Trust, the word 'remembrance' is at the heart of our worshipping life and one which reminds us of how important care and love for others is.

Richard Marshall, the Academy Chaplain, along with some of the students at The King's hosted a memorial service on Friday 11th November in Kidsgrove, where members of the community came along to watch. Students stood in front of a crowd to recite a pray or read a passage from the Bible.



ST THOMAS' REMEMBER

Providing unique experiences beyond the curriculum, St Thomas' are on a mission this year to raise the hopes and aspirations of each of their children by inviting various members of their working community in to school.

For Remembrance Day, they invited a soldier to school who spent time explaining his job role to children and exactly what 'Remembrance Day' means to him.



The children also joined the parade on Remembrance Sunday and walked down to the memorial garden together.

ST THOMAS' CHARITY WORK

Charity work across the trust helps us to teach students how to put their faith and values into action. In November, a brilliant **£183.87** was raised by St Thomas CE Primary Academy for BBC Children in Need.



A Big **THANK YOU**



for supporting Newcastle-Staffs foodbank.

Your donations make a BIG difference to local people in crisis. A collection by St Thomas C of E Primary provided the equivalent of 648 meals.

Newcastle-Staffs foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK wide network.



Registered as a CO: 1194404 | Registered in England and Wales



...For the foodbank for harvest.

TIME TABLES ROCKS STARS

To substantiate such excellent learning in the classroom, students in year 5 & 6 at Hanley St Luke's took part in the Time Tables Rocks Stars City Wide competition this half term.

The trust is pleased to say that out of 34 schools, St Luke's achieved second place with over 5,496 correct answers registered, which is phenomenal.

Special congratulations go to 6S who were the top class in the City out of 149 classes overall. However, our shiny stars in 6S actually came top of the leader board of the whole city taking the top three spots as follows:

Roman- 1st
Abubakar- 2nd
Mussie- 3rd

Hanley St Luke's were really proud of all the effort the children put in to practice their times tables- their speed is just phenomenal!

Well done to all!



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FRENCH MEANINGFUL HOMEWORK

Homework plays an important role in the academic and personal development of students. It develops independence, initiative and stamina, all qualities necessary for life beyond the classroom. We are so pleased, here at the trust, that students see the value of homework and as a result, are being recognised for their efforts.

A number of Year 7 students at The King's were incredibly busy over half term working on their posters describing their school building in French as part of their meaningful homework schedule. The competition was tough, as the standard was extremely high. Prizes were awarded as follows:

- 1st place: Elouise B
- 2nd place: Florence T
- 3rd place: Frankie P

Bravo les filles!



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS IN THE SCHOOL CHAPEL...

To ensure as many families, less fortunate than ourselves, experience the spirit of Christmas, St Peter's students have been working hard to support Operation Christmas Child. Students, across the academy, have filled nearly 50 shoeboxes full of gifts and treats as part of the school's autumn charity mission organised by the international charity, Samaritan's Purse. These boxes will be delivered to children, from all over the world, who may never have experienced the joy of receiving a Christmas present.

The students have not only been busy buying and packing their boxes, but also praying for the children who will receive them in December. "It's one way we can show God's love to others," one student said.



YEAR 11 HISTORIANS GO BEHIND BARS!

As a trust, we recognise the importance of a good learning experience, it focusses students to be authentic, interactive and collaborative in their endeavours to develop and progress.

This month, all Year 11 GCSE historians visited Shrewsbury prison to support their work on Crime and Punishment.

Until recently, a working prison, students toured cells, the execution room and the facilities for dealing with all aspects of prison life and punishment across a 200 year period.

Students wore orange jumpsuits and had a 'warts and all' summary of life behind bars; tales of ghosts who still inhabit the prisons was a favourite past time for everyone.

One student stated that, "our trip to Shrewsbury Prison has been a great experience", and another stated that, "it was a unique experience which really enlightened my understanding of crime and justice".

It was a fantastic trip and we will definitely return again!





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