

Easter 2026

Welcome to our Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT's newsletter
for our 36 primary and secondary schools across
Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City

Newsletter

Education Secretary praises our schools



We're incredibly proud to share that six of our schools have received personal congratulations from the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, for their exceptional outcomes for disadvantaged pupils this year.

A huge congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the teachers, support staff and leaders at:

- St. Teresa's, Aspley
- The Trinity School, Aspley
- The Becket School, West Bridgford
- St. Augustine Webster's, Scunthorpe
- St. Mary's, Nottingham
- St. Mary's, Brigg

It really highlights the everyday commitment and skill of our staff and the inclusive environment they've put so much effort into creating.

We're also delighted to share that Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT has been ranked 25th out of 817 Multi-Academy Trusts nationally for Attainment 8.

Even more encouraging, when looking specifically at outcomes for disadvantaged pupils, we are ranked

18th nationally. This is a testament to the dedication and hard work across all six of our secondary schools across Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.



What is Attainment 8?

Attainment 8 is a national performance measure that calculates the average achievement of pupils across eight key subjects at GCSE.

It provides a broad picture of how well pupils are performing across a balanced curriculum.

Thank you to all our staff, pupils, families, and governors for the commitment that makes achievements like this possible.



Playtime Transformed Through OPAL

Schools across our Trust are celebrating remarkable achievements in the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme, a nationally recognised approach that transforms playtimes by encouraging creativity, problem solving and high quality outdoor experiences for every child.

St. Augustine's, Nottingham

Congratulations to St Augustine's, Nottingham, for achieving an OPAL Platinum Award.

This reflects the dedication and teamwork of staff who have created exceptional play opportunities despite having no traditional green space. Their imaginative approach has transformed the environment and ensured every child enjoys rich, engaging play.

Special thanks go to Sarah Rice for her leadership and commitment.

Blessed Robert Widmerpool

Congratulations to Blessed Robert Widmerpool who achieved the OPAL Gold Award, recognising significant improvements in outdoor play provision.

The school's Play Team, supported by parents and carers, has created inclusive, creative spaces that enhance wellbeing and teamwork.

The award celebrates the positive impact OPAL has had on pupils since the school began its journey.

The Good Shepherd

Congratulations to The Good Shepherd who has also achieved a OPAL Platinum Award.

The final audit highlighted impressive outcomes, including a 65% reduction in first aid incidents and an 85% decrease in behavioural incidents. More importantly, children now enjoy rich, child led play that encourages risk taking, imagination and problem solving.

Special thanks go to Mrs Dickson, Mrs Remzi, Mrs Buxton, the Play Leader Team, the PTA and all families who have supported the initiative.



New Nursery At St. Edmund Campion



We're pleased to share that St. Edmund Campion, West Bridgford will be opening a new nursery on their school site ready for September 2026.

This is part of the national Best Start programme, funded by the Department for Education to give every child a strong start and improve early years provision, including for children with SEND.

Please also keep an eye on their website: www.stedmundcampion.com for updates including how to register your interest (for children who turn 3 from September) details about the nursery environment, staffing and how admissions will work.

CTK Cambridge Opportunity Accepted

Huge congratulations to Christ the King Sixth Form student Josh Konyani on being accepted onto the Black Brilliance Residential run by Corpus Christi College at the University of Cambridge.

During the residential, he will take part in academic taster sessions, a Q&A with the Cambridge African Caribbean Society, a formal dinner, and application support sessions designed to help students explore and prepare for studying at Cambridge.

Well done Josh! We hope you have an inspiring and rewarding experience.



Pupils Brighten Wards with Readings



To mark World Book Day, pupils at St. Mary's, Grantham and Our Lady of Lincoln visited their local hospitals to read with patients.

At Grantham and District Hospital, children from St Mary's spent the afternoon chatting, reading stories, and brightening the Harrowby Ward with their warmth and enthusiasm. The visit was hugely appreciated by patients and staff alike.

Louise Adlington, Ward Sister at Harrowby Ward, said: "Everyone has had smiles on their faces, it was good to see the younger generation meet our eldest patients and bridge that generation gap."

Meanwhile, at Lincoln County Hospital, the Mini Vinnies and the school chaplaincy from Our Lady of Lincoln visited elderly patients on the Lancaster Ward. They shared stories and provided companionship for those in need.

Ward Sister Jodie-Leigh Page shared: "It has brought a sense of familiarisation to our patients. Many do not have contact with their grandchildren as often as they would like, so they really appreciated this visit and would love the children to visit again."

A huge thank you to both schools for representing your communities with such compassion and joy.

St. Mary's Artists Light Up Nottingham

In February, Year 5 pupils at St. Mary's, Nottingham, took part in a creative project for Nottingham Light Night, working alongside local artists Urban Canvas and Urban Camera.

In groups, the young artists experimented with light painting to create imaginative patterns and photos.

Their creations were then showcased at Nottingham Central Library, as part of Nottingham Light Night.



St. Teresa's Dancers Take First Place

A huge congratulations to the Dance Team at St Teresa's who placed first at the Great Big Dance Off – East Midlands.

Their performance—a modern retelling of Snow White earned them an incredible 1st place out of 22 competing schools.

This wonderful achievement means the team will be travelling to Oxford for the national finals, marking the third consecutive year that St Teresa's has reached this prestigious stage.

Well done to everyone involved!



Our Lady Of Lincoln Put Faith Into Action

Pupils at Our Lady of Lincoln, have embraced the spirit of Lent this term, through acts of faith and service.

KS2 pupils prepared Lenten giving baskets and shared with parishioners during a coffee morning hosted by the Mini Vinnies. Alongside this, pupils have also organised and led a CAFOD Lent Walk.

Both activities allowed pupils to put their faith into action, living out the values of compassion, generosity and solidarity at the heart of the Lenten season.



St. Bede's Explore Social Sciences

In February, Year 9 students at St. Bede's, Scunthorpe attend a Social Sciences Focus Day at John Leggot College.

They took part in five interactive and engaging workshops delivered by Humberside Police, North Lincolnshire Council Social Services, North Lincolnshire Council CMARS, Grey Matters and the University of Hull's Psychology department.

Throughout the day, students explored different career pathways within each field and got hands-on with a wide range of interactive activities.



Helicopter Delivers F.A. Cup Trophy

Pupils at St. Joseph's, Boughton, enjoyed a truly exciting day when the iconic F.A. Cup visited school, arriving in a helicopter.

Mansfield Town F.C. Chairman, John Radford and his family joined the visit, along with BBC's Mike Bushell.

A special assembly showcased the trophy and its history, highlighting themes of teamwork and resilience.



Chess Success For Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity's Chess Teams recently competed in the Newark Schools Chess Tournament, joining more than 50 pupils from across the area.

The A Team delivered an outstanding performance and now sit in first place overall after the second round. A special congratulations goes to Adam and Nikolas, who won all three of their matches and were awarded medals for their exceptional play.

They now look forward to the tournament final, which will be proudly hosted at Holy Trinity in May.



Saint Jude Hub News

Saint Norbert's, Spalding

Members of the Chaplaincy Team at Saint Norbert's led a beautiful retreat day based on Lenten themes that can be found in the story of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis.

Through three prayer stations, each class looked at three themes more closely. Beginning in 'The Frozen Kingdom', the pupils looked at sin and darkness in today's world and how acts of kindness and penance during Lent can help 'thaw' the frozen world. Next, they visited 'The Stone Table' where we explored how the sacrifice of Aslan can be linked to the sacrifice of Jesus who died for our sins so that we might be forgiven and live. Lastly, they visited the prayer station entitled 'Hear the Lion Roar' where they looked ahead to the joyous celebration of Easter that we are currently preparing for and heard the scripture from the Book of Revelation in which Jesus is called 'The Lion of Judah'.

Throughout the day, pupils explored these themes further in their classrooms, with Key Stage One doing art and craft activities linked to the theme of bringing light into the world and Key Stage 2 doing artwork linked to the triumphant victory of the Lion of Judah.



Saint Peter and Saint Paul's, Lincoln

Year 7 students from SSPP joined parishioners and visitors for Mass on CAFOD Family Fast Day on Friday 27th February. Chris Gallagher, Community Participation Co-ordinator for CAFOD Nottingham, joined us and spoke to us about the work that CAFOD does and how our fundraising helps people who are most in need throughout the world.

Afterwards, our Year 7 Chaplaincy Team members joined parishioners and visitors for our 'One World, One Table: A Lenten Intergenerational Lunch' event. We served soup and a roll to the parishioners, worked in teams to complete a Lenten themed A-Z quiz and were invited to decorate a pebble for our outdoor chapel.

We are looking forward to hosting something similar in the Pentecost term.



Saint Mary's, Boston

Through different learning activities, creative displays and beautiful end of topic Celebrations of the word, staff and pupils at Saint Mary's in Boston are enjoying their journey so far through the RED.

Year 6 invited their lay chaplain Mrs Wright into an RE lesson to answer their questions about the seven sacraments, and they have also welcomed their parish priest into school to support with their learning. Year 5 produced some wonderful learning based on their Galilee to Jerusalem topic.



Article by Lucy Wright, Lay Chaplain

Catherine McCauley Hub News

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell

For their retreat on the Word of the Week Almsgiving, year 6 at Our Lady's went litter picking in a local park, collecting a substantial amount of litter, and greatly improving the experience for all users of this public space.



St. Mary's, Hyson Green

The year 6 class at St. Mary's took a little trip to a local charitable organisation, St. Collette's Pregnancy Support Centre that supports pregnant women in need. The pupils did a range of activities to volunteer their time to this great cause.

The pupils all had a chance assessing donations of prams and buggy systems, checking the condition and whether they were appropriate for giving to mothers in need. A lot of baby clothes were sorted into age groups and condition so that they could be given out quickly and efficiently when needed.

Altogether, the whole class managed to volunteer 45 man-hours to an organisation that only has one paid member of staff.



The Trinity School.

Year 8s spent a whole day in Lent reflecting on their own Vocations at Trinity this year. They were able to "fish for men" and learn more about some of the great saints who had found their own vocation.

They had a fantastic opportunity to talk to a panel with a range of vocations, including a Paramedic, a Pharmacist, a Youth worker, a parish priest, and a Capuchin Franciscan.

Br Paul Coleman was able to stay until the end of the day, wrapping things up with a beautiful celebration of Holy Mass.

Article by Tim Edwards, Lay Chaplain



De La Salle Hub News

In February, four sixth form students from All Saints' CVA, Mansfield were invited to the CAFOD HQ, Romero House, which was a fantastic and memorable experience.

We were invited to present in their meeting for staff and volunteers, and we also spoke to various members of staff about how young people can get more involved in the Church and make a difference in the world. It was really inspiring to hear about the work they do and how our voices and actions can actually have an impact.

One of the most powerful parts of the day was visiting St. George's Cathedral in the Diocese of Southwark (next to Romero House), where we saw a fragment of St. Oscar Romero's arm and one of his episcopal skull caps. Standing there and learning more about his life and faith made everything feel very real and meaningful.

It was a day that definitely made me think more deeply about faith, justice, and how we can all play a part in creating change—and I felt incredibly proud to represent All Saints on such a meaningful day.

Article by Maks (Year 12), All Saint's CVA



A New Chapter for Rob della-Spina

Rob della-Spina, OLoL's Director of Performance and Standards, has been a key senior leader within the Trust, providing strategic direction on safeguarding, SEND and school improvement across our schools. With more than 25 years' experience in education – following an earlier career in the army – Rob has dedicated his professional life to improving outcomes for children and young people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

He now leaves our Trust to take up a new role as an Ofsted HMI where his deep commitment to inclusion, safeguarding and ensuring every child can thrive will continue to guide his work.

Reflecting on his career, Rob said: "Looking back, I feel incredibly proud to have worked in a profession where you can make such a real difference to children's lives. My experiences taught me that if we get it right for the most vulnerable, we get it right for everyone, and that belief has guided me throughout my time in education."

We wish Rob all the best as embarks on his new role!

Enriching Trips Across Our Schools

Pupils across our Trust have enjoyed a fantastic range of enriching trips this term, each offering new experiences, learning opportunities and unforgettable memories.

Our Lady and St. Edwards, Thorneywood

Year 6 pupils from Our Lady and St. Edwards spent three exciting days away, beginning with a visit to Conkers in Leicestershire where they explored indoor and outdoor adventure areas, the discovery centre and 4D cinema.

They then travelled to The Briars in Derbyshire for two nights of reflection, teamwork and fun. Pupils took part in the Agents of Love programme, focusing on resilience, service and making just choices.

A countryside walk, disco night, celebration Mass and graduation as "Agents of Love" rounded off a truly special experience.

Christ the King, Arnold

Christ the King pupils immersed themselves in Spanish culture during their Modern Foreign Languages trip to Seville.

They visited the Iglesia de la Anunciación, explored the stunning Plaza de España and enjoyed a guided walking tour of the city's historic streets.

The trip also included a visit to the beautiful Royal Palace, where students were warmly welcomed and even received flowers. They also explored the magnificent Seville Cathedral, learning more about its incredible history and architecture.

St. Augustine's, Stamford

Juniper Class from St. Augustine's, Stamford, enjoyed a fascinating trip to the Tower of London in March.

Pupils explored one of the nation's most iconic landmarks, deepening their understanding of British history and bringing their learning vividly to life.



Sporting Wins, Goals And Glory!

The sporting prowess of students across our Trust continues to shine brightly, with remarkable achievements across various disciplines this term.

From badminton brilliance to football feats, here's a roundup of the outstanding performances:

St. Mary's Brigg

The KS2 football team at St Mary's, Brigg, has made history by reaching the Humberside Cup final. After a 16–0 quarter final win over St Thomas More and a 7–0 semi final victory against Springhead Primary, the mixed Year 5 and 6 team now awaits their final opponents, aiming to become Humberside champions!



Christ the King

Congratulations to Ruby and Holly at Christ the King, Arnold, who proudly represented their team at an International Gymnastics Competition in Florida over half term!

Competing against 71 international athletes, both girls delivered outstanding performances. They both came home with multiple medals – with Ruby placing 12th and Holly placing 10th all round.



St. Bede's

Badminton

KS4 girls represented North Lincolnshire in the Humberside Badminton Finals at Hull Badminton Club in January. Mariya, Jojo, Blossom and Thenuha competed against teams from NE Lincolnshire, Hull, East Riding and Goole, securing a well earned 3rd place. This marks the third year in a row that the girls have qualified to represent North Lincolnshire – an exceptional achievement.

Cross Country

Individuals and teams competed in the Humberside Cross Country Finals at Central Park, with two students delivering standout performances. Jack (Year 7) finished 2nd and Annabella (Year 9) finished 11th.

Football

Year 11 boys played in the 6-a-side football tournament at Frederick Gough. Despite challenging weather, the team performed superbly, remaining unbeaten and not conceding a single goal across eight matches – earning them a third place finish.



St. Augustine's, Stamford

Congratulations to Peggy at St Augustine's, Stamford, who placed first in the UK Trampoline Finals 2026 in March!

Looking For Your Next Career Adventure?



We have a number of teaching and non-teaching vacancies available in our trust.

If you are seeking a rewarding career with ample opportunities for growth and professional development, we want to hear from you!

Current vacancies:

- Instrumental String Tutor
- Science Technician
- Exams and Data Manager
- Site Manager (RPO)
- Office Manager
- Midday Supervisors
- Primary Teacher (Maternity Cover)
- Cleaners

Visit our vacancies page to find out more:
www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/work-with-us

Helping Our Families With Financial Support

Our Trust initiative, The Little Acts of Kindness Fund supports eligible pupils with school-related costs, from trips and uniforms to meals and travel.

Learn more and check eligibility criteria here:
[Little Acts of Kindness Fund](#)

Have You Got A Story To Share With Us?

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the newsletter, we love showcasing the amazing accomplishments of our students and staff.

If you have a story you would like to share in the next edition, please email us at marketing@ololcatholicmat.co.uk or send us a DM on Instagram (@ourladyoflourdescmat), ensuring necessary consents are in place for GDPR purposes.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to share your school's stories and accomplishments with the Trust community!

Mental Health Space

At Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT, we're building a community where mental health and wellbeing thrive.

Our resources offer practical support and guidance for staff, students, families, and mental health first aider and promote awareness and positive wellbeing across our schools.

Access here: [Mental Health Space](#)

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