

*'Building Community: Growing in Faith Together'*

# Good news from the **St Ralph Sherwin** **Catholic Multi Academy Trust**



May 2020

Special Edition

At the beginning of this academic year our theme as a Trust was 'Building Community: Growing in Faith Together.'



How could any of us have predicted that we would be doing just that in the unique and challenging circumstances that we find ourselves in now, but that is exactly what I have seen so many of you doing across all of our schools. From making vital protective

equipment for frontline healthcare staff to supporting pupils with online learning, being a listening ear for a colleague or parent or ensuring families in need are not forgotten, I have been amazed at the efforts you are all making and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your incredible response.

I am hugely proud to be CEO of this Trust and this newsletter will give you a flavour of the amazing work that is being done by all of you.

To all of the parents and pupils

reading this, we would like to thank you for supporting our staff and for the efforts you are making at home. We know it's difficult but we are all in this together and please remember that we are here to support in any way we can. Stay safe and God Bless,



**Sean McClafferty**  
Chief Executive

## SCHOOLS MAKE FACE VISORS FOR FRONTLINE HEALTH STAFF

Secondary schools across the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust joined forces to make face visors for staff working on the frontline in the fight against Coronavirus. Schools were inspired to act after teacher Angela King (pictured right) made hundreds of visors using a laser cutter at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby, where she is Director of Technology. She was supported



by Dave Lambert and Alan Snell. A number of requests for visors were made after Mrs King's efforts were featured in the Derby Telegraph. Staff at St Thomas More in Buxton have also been making visors along with St Philip Howard in Glossop. Sean McClafferty, Trust CEO, said: "We are extremely grateful to the staff in our schools who

have been making visors for those on the frontline.

This has been an excellent effort and just another way that our staff are making a difference, as well as working in our schools to..." Story is continued on page two.



Lesley Musgrove and Carl Webster from St Thomas More



A St Philip Howard student trying out a visor



cont'd from page one "...support children whose parents are key workers and vulnerable children." Andrew Muldoon, the Trust's Estates and Facilities Manager, said: "The contributions of all

staff within the Trust have been truly inspiring and this is one of a number of ways our staff are supporting frontline services through this period." So far, visors made have been

sent to various wards at the Royal Derby Hospital, a hospital in Wales, care homes and care providers.



Lots of schools are making videos to keep in touch with their parents, carers and pupils. Here are just a few:

<https://www.st-thomas.derbyshire.sch.uk/welcome/>

<https://youtu.be/ybDe6O28T9s>

<https://www.facebook.com/stannescva/videos/2894431590606588/?>

## TEACHING ASSISTANT MAKES OVER 1,000 FACE MASK 'COMFORTERS'

A teaching assistant at St Mary's CVA in New Mills has been using plastic milk bottles to produce over 1,000 'comforters' which make it easier for frontline health staff to wear face masks. Susan Butler started making the comforters after an appeal on Facebook from health workers who were saying that the elastic on fabric face masks was making their ears sore. The comforter sits on the back of a worker's head and the elastic sits on top of it, moving it away from their ears. Since mid-March, Susan has used a scan and cut machine that she has at home to make 1,000 comforters with help from her husband Peter. She said: "I've had lots of lovely feedback on Facebook. The comforters have gone to Stepping Hill Hospital and other hospital establishments, local care practices and many other facilities who require support for their frontline workers. Lots of people working within different support services have contacted me directly to request them as word has got around

about how good they are. Many have been made for St John Ambulance and paramedics in Stockport. I feel that I am just giving back to the NHS who have supported myself and all my family members throughout many years.

"I am now receiving pictures of frontline staff wearing the comforters and this gives me great satisfaction that they are working. I have been using plastic from milk bottles to make the comforters and following a leaflet drop to my lovely neighbours I go out and find milk bottles over my wall for me to use."

A plastics company in Stockport called Macpac, which also makes face visors, very kindly donated a large amount of plastic to Susan to enable her to make more comforters. She said: "I would like to thank

Chris Bullimore from the company for this generous donation."

Susan, 63, of New Mills, has previously worked in the NHS for 35 years based in hospitals throughout the South of England and the



NHS staff member wearing one of Susan's comforters

North West as Service Manager for Medicine at Stepping Hill Hospital before retiring in 2011 – her sister-in-law is working on the frontline and her brother is also in the NHS.

She has been a teaching assistant at St Mary's CVA for nine years and has been crafting for around three years and is part of a national group called Scan and Cut.

Susan said: "I saw the Facebook group – For the Love of Scrubs Stockport – which was appealing for people to make various items for health staff. "I started off by making knitted hearts which went to ITU departments, one would stay with the family member who has died and the other was given to the family as a keepsake. Then I started making the comforters.

"Stepping Hill Hospital has its own Facebook site and I joined that too and started making things for the people on there. I'll make items for anyone who needs them."

Patricia Chapman, headteacher at St Mary's CVA, said: "I am very lucky to have such a committed and dedicated teaching assistant. "She is our local hero and we are all so very proud of her."

## SCHOOLS STAY IN TOUCH VIA YOUTUBE

Mr Miller (pictured right) from Holy Rosary dressed up to read a story on the school's YouTube channel.



Holy Rosary CVA and English Martyrs' CVA have both set up their own YouTube TV channels to stay in touch with families and the local community during the Coronavirus crisis.

Staff at Holy Rosary are posting weekly videos of story time with a staff member in English and in a foreign language, liturgies and assemblies. The channel has gained hundreds of subscribers. Headteacher Tim Brogan said "For me, it's about remaining connected with our families and the

wider community while we can't be together, but it's also about sharing the great things that go on in our school. We've worked so hard on building community and building on our strengths that we don't want to let that go during the school closures."

Holy Rosary's YouTube channel can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3cP5HKY> English Martyrs' YouTube channel can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2xTGzEf>

Students at St Alban's CVA in Derby have been busy during lockdown. Children still in school are working hard to develop the prayer garden (pictured right) planting flowers, painting rocks with words of hope and decorating it with prayers. Kind-hearted pupil Harry (pictured bottom right) raised £515 for the NHS by doing 20 workouts in a day while other pupils made cards to send to Colonel Tom Moore for his 100th birthday.



WORKOUT 15 @THEBODYCOACH

## BUSINESS MANAGER USES SEWING SKILLS TO SUPPORT NHS STAFF

The business manager at St Mary's CVA in Marple Bridge is using her sewing skills to support the NHS – including her own daughter who is working on the frontline. Suzanne Young (pictured right) has made over 1,500 washbags for NHS staff to use to take home their uniforms and put them straight into the washing machine. She has also made around 200 sets of scrubs, along with other parents and staff at the school who are part of a Facebook group called 'Your Sewing Machine Needs You.' Suzanne's daughter Hannah (pictured bottom right) is an ex-

"St Mary's pupil and is currently in her fourth year of studying Medicine at university. Hannah, 24, has been called up to work on the COVID-19 ward at Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport.

Suzanne said: "The Facebook group was originally set up by a Year 6 parent, Kathryn Smith, and other staff members from school have joined too.



We are making equipment for the NHS including scrubs, headbands and washbags. The group has really grown now. Most of the fabric I've used is from old bedding; I've actually only got the bedding that's left on my bed now because I've cut the rest up. It's ideal because it can be washed at 60 degrees. We had donations of fabric too. The scrubs have to be made from a specific fabric so we set up a JustGiving page for donations so that we could buy that fabric. My daughter is a fourth year medic and is working with COVID patients who are not ideal for ventilation. She has been placing orders for what we are making on everyone's behalf and I have made things for her too. " You can find the link to the JustGiving page here: <https://bit.ly/2YyzBPG>



## BUILDING COMMUNITY AT ST GEORGE'S CVA



"At St George's, you're never too far away from hearing the laughter of our staff or children. We pride ourselves on being a happy school for everybody. Our corridors are full of joyous smiles from the children and our staff room is always full of joviality, laughter and cakes! Staff wellbeing is of the utmost priority at St George's and we've worked hard to develop this over the years through wellbeing boxes and opportunities to be together during the school day, after-school fitness clubs and lots of socialising outside of school. During the current situation we find ourselves in, our staff community is no different. Not only are we colleagues, but true friends and we're all in this together. We've set up a 'WhatsApp' group to keep in touch with everybody in an informal

manner with lots of jokes, challenges and even a few 'TikToks' doing the rounds! We have a weekly 'family' quiz in our dedicated 'Clubhouse Chatroom' where we all come together via video link and challenge each other in a number of rounds! We are looking to extend this to bingo sessions, group games like 'charades' and even group 'concerts' – well we are known for our love of singing! As much as we love to be merry, we also set aside and spend time sharing prayer requests and thoughts for those both near and far and ensure we have this dedicated time when we all need it. At St George's, we really are a family and as much as it sounds like a cliché, we really miss each other and can't wait to be at work with each other again!" *Bethany Holmes*

## YEAR 6 PUPIL TAKES HOME LEARNING TO NEW LEVEL!

A Year 6 pupil at St Anne's CVA in Buxton took home learning to a new level when he made a Viking longboat big enough for him to sit inside as part of his topic work. When schools initially closed in March, pupils were given a home learning pack and asked to make a longboat but staff were expecting children to make models. However, Oliver Lukasik and his dad Marek had other ideas and they set about constructing a two-seater replica longboat using leftover wood from a DIY project at home. The pair spent about a week on the build and mum Iwona added the finishing touches with the decoration. As a special surprise for teachers they dropped the

longboat off at school, while following social distancing guidelines, and it is now taking pride of place in one of the classrooms. Oliver, 11, said he was pleased with how the boat had turned out. He said: "Building it was really fun, I loved it. When it was finished I thought 'wow', it's good. When I took it to school there were a lot of wows. I wish it could float but I'm not sure! It's at school now and I think it will stay there." Marek said he had enjoyed spending time with Oliver completing the project.



He said: "It was nice to spend time on this project with Oliver because normally we don't have the time to do things like this when I'm working." Julia Wiggins, headteacher at St Anne's CVA, said: "Oli has taken home learning to a new level! "When asked to make a Viking longboat, we thought children would make models. "Oli has always been a very creative child but none of us expected a two-seater replica, fashioned from wood, to appear at school!"

## YEAR 7 STUDENT STEPS UP FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

A Saint Benedict CVA student and her brother have completed over 120,000 steps in just over two weeks and raised more than £700 for charity, but they are not stopping there. Chloe, 11, and Jack Cheshire, nine, (pictured right) originally set a target of achieving 3,000 steps between them each day over three weeks, with the aim of raising £200. But 13 days in and they have already completed 128,910 steps – more than double their initial goal. The money raised will go to Doorways Derby, which provides food and clothes

to the homeless but is now delivering food packages to those in need. Chloe and Jack's mum, Michelle Bestwick, said that everyone was thrilled with the amount they'd raised so far. She said: "They do the steps either in the garden or as part of their daily exercise and we record it all and put it on Facebook so people can see that they are actually doing it. "Some days they are doing 9,000 steps between them, it's all recorded on a step counter they've downloaded on to their iPad." Chloe said she was enjoying the fundraising challenge.

She said: "I don't think I've ever done so much exercise. I am a bit tired but hopefully this will help lots of people, I do feel proud of what we have done so far." To donate, please click on the following link <https://bit.ly/2VPFczh>





The children at St Philip Howard have painted a rainbow to cover one of our upstairs windows with a thank you for the NHS. This was the pupils' idea and one they were really keen to carry out. The pupils have also designed pictures for the children's ward at the new Nightingale Hospital for both London and Manchester (pictured right). We would also like to thank Tesco as they have been brilliant to us over the last four weeks. They have provided tea and coffee, along with biscuits and crisps to all the staff and have given the pupils of the key workers all an Easter egg. *Mr Kays.*



"At St Joseph's CVA in Matlock we sent treats to The Presentation Sisters (photo above) and we have created artwork (photo above). We have also made



several videos, below is the link to our The Stations of Cross video."

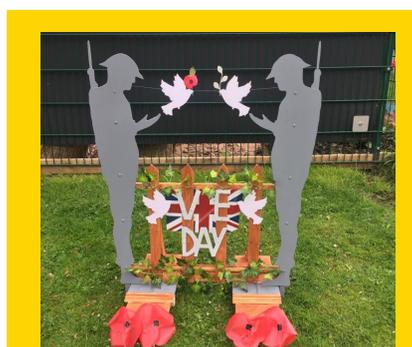
**Katherine Chadbourne.**

<https://bit.ly/3f4nwHK>

Fifty-two years ago, on Saturday 20th April 1968, Congratulations by Cliff Richards was just about to be replaced as number one in the pop charts by Louis Armstrong's Wonderful World when Peter Barnes, one of our Trust Board Foundation Directors, married his sweetheart Cecilia. More than half a century later these two lovebirds are still together and still very much in love. In their retirement, much of their time is spent looking after their grandchildren who they miss seeing currently but they keep in touch via video links. Both are thankful to be well and to have this unexpected time together. We wish them well for many more happy years to come!



Pupils attending St Margaret's CVA have been filling the windows full of rainbows and thank you posters for key workers who may be passing.



A VE Day display created by an ex-pupil has taken pride of place outside St Anne's CVA in Buxton. Joe Delli-Colli used leftover plastic and wood to create the tribute ahead of the 75th anniversary of VE Day.



St Charles CVA in Hadfield has been posting photos of giant bears on Twitter - doing everything from making jam to playing tennis! Follow them @StCharlesHadfie

