



## October 2017

**From the Chair of the Board: Mrs Joanna Griffin**

**On 1st October 2017 we marked the third anniversary of the formation of St Nicholas Owen Catholic Multi Academy Company.**

**From September 2017 we welcome a number of new leaders within our schools: at Hagley Catholic High School, Mrs Suzanne Horan as Principal and Mrs Kesner Morris as Vice Principal, and at St Ambrose Catholic School, Mrs Emma Brocklesby as Principal.**

**We also welcome Fr Des Devenney who has been appointed as Chaplain to Hagley Catholic High School, and Fr Stephen Fawcett, who has been appointed as Parish Priest of St Mary's, Brierley Hill and Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford, in addition to his responsibility for Our Lady of Lourdes, Old Hill.**

**The Directors would like to extend their sincere thanks to Aaron Harlow for his service as a Foundation Director over the last three and a half years, and to Chris Harvey for his service as Chair of the Academy Committee at St Ambrose.**

**The directors would also like to thank Fr Martin for the support that he provided as Chaplain at Hagley Catholic High School, and to Fr Cecil Rogerson for his pastoral support at St Mary's.**



### **Emma Brocklesby: St. Ambrose, Kidderminster.**

I am delighted to have been appointed as the new Principal of Saint Ambrose Catholic Primary School. All the Staff, Children, Parents, Academy Representatives, Directors and Father Lamb have made me feel very welcome and I feel privileged to be part of Saint Nicholas Owen Multi Academy Company. Saint Ambrose is a school with an extremely supportive community, which wishes the utmost success for its children and which has a caring and supportive ethos at its core with amazing young people and dedicated staff. I feel privileged to be leading the school. Having taught in a range of year groups, I fully appreciate how important each year of a child's schooling is towards preparing him/her for life. I am passionate about teaching and have high expectations of children of all abilities. I strongly believe that school is the opportunity for children to discover and unlock hidden talents in a fun and nurturing environment. I will strive to ensure that Saint Ambrose Catholic School supports children to be whole, rounded individuals.



### **Suzanne Horan: Hagley Catholic High School.**

I feel blessed to have been appointed as Principal of Hagley Catholic High School because it is so much more than just a school. Indeed, Hagley Catholic High School, and the wider SNOMAC, is a caring, dynamic, inspiring and high achieving community where Gospel values are at the heart of everything we do.

As a teacher and a leader, I greatly enjoy working with young people. I strongly believe that it is a privilege to not only guide them in their faith, but also to inspire in them a curiosity about the world and a love of learning so that they leave school fully prepared for the adult world. My educational vision is very straightforward. In line with our new Mission Statement, I firmly believe that EVERY young person should be given the opportunity to achieve his/her personal best by living and learning in Christ. Continuous improvement and being at the forefront of educational advancements are, therefore, very important to us; we want to be trail blazers rather than running behind trying to catch up! I count myself as very fortunate to be leading a talented team of staff that is committed to supporting our young people through inspiring teaching and learning, a vibrant and varied curriculum and exciting extra-curricular activities. We have some very exciting times ahead and I look forward to working together in partnership with our wonderful supportive parents and wider community to strengthen the educational provision and outcomes for our fantastic young people.



### **SNOMAC Mass of Commitment – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017**

Mass was held at Our Lady and All Saints Church Stourbridge to coincide with the third anniversary of the formation of SNOMAC. Staff from across the MAC were invited to attend to renew their commitment to Catholic education and the children who they serve. It was also a wonderful occasion to welcome the new Reception children from St. Joseph's School to the parish too.



## Hagley Pyramid Of Schools Concert

### ***A Night at the Movies*** - Birmingham Town Hall, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017

The annual Pyramid Concert is always one of the highlights of the Hagley Pyramid year. This music project brings all the schools together to create a professional and uplifting show that is thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. This year's theme was "A Night at the Movies" and we packed in many favourite movie songs from over the last 80 years.

Father Martin started the proceedings with a celebratory prayer. We

then had a "Good Luck" video message from Martin Kemp (Musician and TV / Film Star). Mr. Mallinson worked for many months with the children from St. Wulstan's, St. Gregory's, Hagley Catholic High School, St. Ambrose, Our Lady of Fatima, St. Hubert's, St Joseph's, Our Lady and St Kenelm's and St. Mary's.

**The Pyramid Concert for 2018 is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February.**



## Golden Jubilee at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. Founded in 1967 in Harborne to serve the parish of Quinton, the school was built to cater for the growing demand for Catholic school places in the area.

When it opened its doors on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 1967, the school had a Headteacher, four class teachers and 64 pupils. The official opening was later that year on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1967 by the Right Reverend Joseph Cleary, Bishop of Cresima, exactly 50 years after the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, in Portugal.

To kick-start the celebrations in March, the school paraded through the streets of Birmingham on a 50ft long lorry decorated in school colours to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Over 100 school children and their families celebrated this wonderful event and the school was awarded the coveted prize of 'Best Float 2017'. After celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima in May, Year 3 and Year 5 hopped aboard the open top 'Birmingham Buz' for a historic journey around the city.



## Retirement of Mr Ted Hammond



After twenty-six years of service, Mr Hammond retired from Hagley Catholic High School at the end of the Summer Term. Mr Hammond joined the school at the start of the 1990s as one of the Deputy Headteachers, before taking on the role of Headteacher in 2001. His career saw many highlights and changes in the school community, including several OFSTED and Archdiocesan inspections which, in 2011, secured Outstanding judgements, the acquisition of Specialist Arts Status in the early 2000s and a seemingly ever-expanding school site, including the addition of new buildings.

Mr Hammond's retirement was marked by two community events: a celebration of Mass and High Tea in school, with his current and former colleagues and a parish Mass at Our Lady & All Saints, Stourbridge, enabling the wider community to mark this impressive milestone. Bishop David McGough celebrated the Hagley Mass and was joined by seven other priests, all of whom had a special connection with Mr Hammond during his time at the school: a testament to the work he accomplished. Both events were well attended, with the Mass in school catered for by the GCSE Food & Nutrition group members, who baked and made an impressive plethora of canapés, pastries & cakes. Hagley Catholic High School would like to thank everybody who contributed to Mr Hammond's retirement gift fund, which enabled the purchase of Lifetime Membership of the National Trust for him. Of the gift, Mr Hammond said **"I have always supported the work of the National Trust and enjoyed doing so for many years. I am very humbled and grateful to receive this gift, and every time I now visit, I shall remember my friends at Hagley with fondness."**



## Ofsted and Diocesan Inspection Highlights

### **Our Lady of Fatima, Quinton, Diocese (October 2016):**

“Catholic life at Our Lady of Fatima is outstanding and inclusive, with prominence given to Catholic values, and to the mission statements both of the school and the MAC.

Our Lady of Fatima is strongly led by the dynamic and faith-filled personal example of the headteacher.

The pupils’ sense of vocation, what God wants them to be, is outstanding, a striking feature of the school’s ... life.”

Ofsted (July 2011): the school was rated Outstanding.

### **HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, Diocese (March 2017):**

“Catholic life is recognised by the whole school community as the bedrock of its existence. Catholic life is outstanding.

Leadership is clearly recognised as stemming from the personal faith and commitment of the headteacher, together with senior leaders and many staff ... [which are] outstanding. Spiritual development is well understood by pupils ... they are positive [about] how school has helped them grow in ... faith.”

Ofsted (October 2011): the school was rated Outstanding.

### **St. Ambrose, Kidderminster, Diocese (May 2017):**

“The Catholic life of the school is outstanding. The school’s leadership and management of Catholic life is outstanding because it has robust and increasingly reliable processes of self-evaluation and acts decisively to implement change. [Pupils’] capacity for praise, respect, thanks and forgiveness is very evident in their behaviour [and] in their reflections and prayers gathered in their beautifully presented ‘values’ books.”

Ofsted (September 2017):

“You [the Principal], your staff, directors and academy representatives are ambitious for pupils to do well. The school has a clear culture of caring for every pupil and providing opportunities for their academic, personal and spiritual development. The school has clear processes in place to safeguard pupils.”

### **St Mary’s, Brierley Hill, Diocese (November 2016):**

“The provision and outcomes for Catholic life, collective worship and spiritual, moral and vocational development overall is outstanding.

The principal of St Mary’s ... drive and ambition for all of the pupils of St Mary’s is deeply motivated by the Church’s mission.”

Ofsted (September 2017): There is an extensive culture of safeguarding in the school. Safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose and records are detailed and of a high quality. As a result, pupils are well cared for. Everyone linked to the school ... agree(s) that you [the Principal] are determined to provide the very best education for all your pupils.”

**St Mary’s Pre-School** Ofsted (November 2015):

“Children make good progress in relation to their starting points and are well prepared for school.”

### **St Wulstan’s, Stourport, Diocese (Routine Monitoring Visit July 2017):**

“The following recommendations have been fully met: (1) Further develop the programme of auditing and monitoring of Catholic life and collective worship and (2) Ensure all staff understand what makes ‘outstanding’ teaching in RE and its impact on successful learning to move all lessons to outstanding.”

Ofsted (September 2017): “You, your vice-principal and your assistant principal have established a clear ambition for how you want the school to be. This senior team has energetically and systematically taken the actions necessary to turn this vision into reality.”

### **St Joseph’s, Stourbridge, Diocese (Routine Monitoring Visit April 2017):**

“The following recommendation has been met: (1) Develop further the quality and impact of assessment and the use of data, by making use of the National RE indicators to capture more fully a picture of individual pupils’ achievement and progress over time.”

Ofsted (September 2017): “You [the Principal], the academy committee representatives and directors know the school well and work closely together to ensure that focused support is put in place to improve outcomes. As a result, pupils reach standards which are above average by the time they leave Y6. You [as Principal] have created a culture in which safeguarding is at the heart of the school.”

## Parish News:

The sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated in our schools by our Bishops as follows:

**His Grace, Archbishop Bernard Longley** at **St Joseph’s** on 12th February, at **Our Lady of Fatima** on 5<sup>th</sup> July, and at **St Wulstan’s** on 7th November; **Bishop David McGough** at **St Mary’s** on 23rd November; and **Bishop Robert Byrne** at **St Ambrose** on 7<sup>th</sup> December

**St Ambrose School** marked the 25th anniversary of the appointment of its Parish Priest, **Father Douglas Lamb**, with a pageant on 7<sup>th</sup> December.



*St Nicholas Owen Mass of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Harvington, Tuesday 28 June 2017*

St Mary's Harvington was packed on the eve of the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul for a Mass of Thanksgiving for the blessings the multi-academy company had received during the year 2016 to 2017. Father Des Devenney (Dean of Dudley) and Father Martin (Chaplain to Hagley Catholic High School) concelebrated the Mass for directors, academy committee representatives and staff from all six of the schools. I would like to thank Amalia Costanza, parish organist of St Mary's, who accompanied the hymns, those who prepared refreshments, Monsignor John Moran who gave his permission for the use of the church and garden, the Principals / Headteachers who prepared and read the Bidding Prayers, Academy Committee Representatives who took up the Offerings and those Directors who did the Readings. I am praying for better weather for the occasion next year: Tuesday 24 April 2018! Deirdre Finucane, Foundation Director

**Primary Retreats – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The new calendar year in 2017 began with another SNOMAC Primary INSET day on the focus of vocational development. This was organised in response to the success of the first spiritual development day held at Neman University to mark the beginning of the Year of Mercy with support from One Life Music. Beccy Roseman, Chaplaincy Coordinator of the BDES, started the morning with a thought-provoking and reflective session entitled 'Considering our own vocation.' Fr Desmond Devenney, the parish priest of OLAS, then presented a session on the 'Compassion in our Own Vocation' reflecting upon Jesus Christ in the Gospels and his compassion to others. The morning ended with Mass celebrated by Fr. Des which brought to a close a contemplative morning of personal spiritual development for all Staff, Directors and Academy Committee Representatives in attendance. The Autumn term commenced with a Retreat day for all the SNOMAC Primary schools. The day was hosted by St Wulstan's and included all members of staff from the five schools. Daniel Vince, BDES advisor, delivered a very powerful morning reflecting on our roles as Catholic Educators within the unique nature of Catholic schools. Speaking with great reverence and humour Dan enabled us to reflect on our calling to work with young people. Focusing on our own relationships with God, our children and our colleagues we were given the time and opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how we build our community through daily worship. The morning concluded with the celebration of Mass with Fr Richard and Fr Des. A relaxed lunch enabled staff to mingle and catch up. The day brought much welcomed spiritual nourishment to us all, strengthening us as we looked forward into the challenges and rewards of the year ahead.

**Hagley Lourdes Pilgrimage 2017**

*"The Almighty has done great things for me"*



During the May half term holiday, 23 of our year 12 students took part in the annual Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year that Hagley Catholic High School has participated in the pilgrimage, this year's

theme being, "The Almighty has done great things for me". The Pilgrimage gave students to chance to work with people less fortunate than themselves as part of the Handmaid and Brancardier teams, providing meals, cleaning the Accueil ward, taking sick pilgrims out to services and social events and being a constant friendly presence. In addition to their service, group members were able to examine and reinvigorate their faith through Mass, Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross and Youth liturgies. The time in Lourdes surpassed all expectations, with lessons learned and experiences shared which will remain with students forever. This pilgrimage is not possible without the help of many people across the SNOMAC community. The 2017 pilgrims raised over £18,500, allowing the pilgrimage to take place; we are truly grateful to everyone who contributed prizes, bought raffle tickets, attended events and gave support.

**SNOMAC PRAYER**

Lord, fill our hearts and guide our minds as we move forward together.  
Enable us to work with one another to ensure that our community continues to develop and grow, for the benefit of all.

**Board of Directors 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

Name	Appointment
Joanna Griffin	Foundation Director
Janet Rowe	Foundation Director
Deirdre Finucane	Foundation Director
Darren Kehoe	Foundation Director
Chris Piggott	Foundation Director
Peter Parry	Foundation Director
Geoff Taylor Smith	Foundation Director
VACANCY	Foundation Director
Maxine Millward	Elected Parent Director
David Harris	Elected Parent Director
Clare van Vliet	Elected Principal Director
Suzanne Horan	Elected Principal Director
Paulette Berry	Elected Staff Director
Ben McArdle	Elected Staff Director

