



Blessed Holy Family Catholic Academy Trust

Yearly Round Up

January
2026

Message from our CEO



As we start a new year it is often a time for looking back at the year just gone and making resolutions for the year ahead. 2025 was a wonderful year for all the school across our Trust. As we have celebrated the Jubilee Year of Hope our schools continue to be beacons of hope, creating warm, welcoming communities with Christ firmly at their centre.

This yearly round up provides the opportunity to reflect on our work and the successes that have had such a positive impact on the day-to-day experiences of each young person across the trust.

As we begin the new term and embark upon 2026 we renew our commitment to empowering every child across our schools to grow and flourish safe in the knowledge of God's love for them and supporting all our staff in their ongoing commitment to excellence.

With every good wish,

Geraldine Higgins

Inspection Success

The day-to-day hard work of all our leaders, staff and pupils at each of our school makes such a difference to the happiness, wellbeing, faith formation and success of our pupils. This has been recognised and celebrated in what has been, yet another year of amazing inspection outcomes. Over the last two years all the schools within the trust have been inspected by Ofsted with all achieving outstanding and good outcomes. In this last year we have also seen two more of our schools achieving outstanding across all areas in their Catholic School Inspection. Congratulations to St George's, St John Fisher and St Joseph's who have all been judged to be outstanding for their Catholic life, prayer and worship and quality of religious education. We wish the Sacred Heart every good with as they prepare for their inspection due later this year.



Pilgrims of Hope

We are so proud of the achievements of all our children across our schools who continue to be true beacons of hope in this Jubilee Year. Pope Francis called upon this year to be a special one of hope. In what sometimes may feel like a fractured world it is a real privilege to watch the deep faith, spiritual formation and true sense of service and responsibility that provides us with such hope today and for the future. Throughout this year there have been many opportunities for our pupils, staff and families to reflect on what our mission is and how we fulfil that every day as Pilgrims of Hope.

Each school considered what this meant for them and their communities. St George's started the year with an example of the whole community coming together to share in the message of hope across our global community reflecting the image used for this Jubilee year. It was wonderful to see every child taking part from nursery to year 6.



All schools displayed the CAFOD banner re-affirming their commitment to respond to the call to be Pilgrims of Hope. Our Pupil chaplains and Catholic life leads also thought about their role in sharing the message. Throughout the year they have continued to enrich the work of the schools, leading on aspects of Catholic Social teaching, prayer and worship and supporting the needs of the wider community as well as those within their own schools.

Earlier this year all the Catholic schools came together to begin this year of prayer and reflection. The special liturgy was celebrated at St Joseph's Church, Wealdstone. Pupils, reflecting the theme of pilgrimage, walked from their various schools to the Church. Once there they each received a symbol for the year to bring back to their schools as a focal point for the reflections ahead. We look forward to getting together again this month when we will celebrate as a wider family of schools as the year of hope comes to a conclusion. However, the message will live on.



Pupil Leadership Conference



To help nurture their spirit our pupil conference this year saw all our Pupil Chaplain leads coming together for a day of reflection on the message of the year. This was an event designed and led by our pupils, including our senior Year 11



pupils taking on the role as key note speakers through to a series of pupil led workshops. The commitment of each individual was truly impressive.

This collegiality and spirit of togetherness across the Trust resulted in pupils working together to create our new Blessed Holy Family Hymn. In their words:

***"All together we stand, united in light,
Faith, hope, and love to guide us by day and by night."***

With hearts full of joy and minds set on high,

We seek You, O God, with our spirits to fly.”

We look forward to hearing all our choirs learning the hymn for use at future events.

Diocesan Pilgrimage Walk



In this year of responding to the call to be pilgrims of hope the Headteachers and CEO of the trust joined in the Diocesan pilgrimage walk across London. This started in Aldgate and finished with prayers at Westminster Cathedral. The weather looked kindly on everyone as they moved from church to church sharing in prayer, reflection and laughter along the way.

Blessed Holy Family Trust Training Day

This year our theme for our trust wide training day mirrored the Year of Hope. This provided the opportunity to reflect on our call to mission and how we live our Faith as educators across the Catholic family of schools. We took time to reflect upon the rich history of Catholic education and the legacy that lives on in our daily interactions in making our Faith a lived reality. We then were joined by Sr Rose Mary Harbinson, from the order of Our Lady of the Missions, who gave our key note address. She challenged us to live our mission and to reflect upon what that call to service means for each one of us in our daily interactions with one another and the children in our care.



Leadership Conference



We extended this theme in our annual Leadership Conference where the Trust Board, local governing body members and leadership teams across our schools came together. This year the event was held at St John Fisher. A focus was to consider the challenges that exist in education and to consider how we ensure a lasting legacy and the ongoing impact of Catholic education across our wider community.

Bringing everyone together also provided a great opportunity to offer a carousel of workshops drawn from the skills analysis of our teams as training needs. The various workshops included preparing for Catholic School inspection, finances, monitoring standards, human resources and safeguarding. We look forward to our next leadership conference in April 2026.

Catholic Social Teaching in Action



Congratulations to St John Fisher School who this year were awarded the Oscar Romero award for Catholic Social Teaching. This is a key focus for all our schools as each theme is embedded across the curriculum. Our pupils have raised funds for so many worthwhile causes but they have also raised awareness and understanding.

For example, St Joseph's school continue to run their food bank showing a real understanding of the needs of those who are struggling with the preferential option for the poor guiding their work. The Sacred Heart students continued their First Give projects, with year 9 raising money for a variety of local charities with an additional £1,000 being awarded to the winning Charity by the Frist Give organisation as a result of the amazing work students undertook in raising the profile of the work of the charity ads well as raising funds. This was judged by our local Mayor alongside Sister Rose Mary from the order of Our Lady of the Missions.

Raising standards

Outstanding outcomes



This year has yet again seen outstanding outcomes for our pupils across all of the schools within the trust. Results in phonics, Key stage 2 and Key Stage 4 continue to be significantly above national figures. This is a real testament to the pursuit of excellence by all our staff and the ongoing determination, resilience and sheer love of learning that characterises our pupils.



A real celebration this year has been the outcomes for those pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged. Their outcomes continue to go from strength to strength reinforcing the Trust message that all can achieve and no one should be left behind in searching and striving for excellence in all that they do.

Staff professional development and support

Staff continue to meet regularly with special meetings established for our SENCOs, Catholic life leads, safeguarding leads and premises managers. In the true spirit of collaboration every one contributes to the learning of each other providing a wonderful support network. This year we have also included meetings for our attendance leads. Our schools continue to buck the London and national trend for attendance and persistent and severe absenteeism. All schools have undertaken amazing work and liaison with families to ensure that attendance is kept high profile and that pupils are in school ready and eager to learning. Again, attendance figures make see all of our schools significantly above national.

Staff Collaboration



Our review programme has continued throughout the year. This has been a wonderful example of sharing best practice, providing challenge in a meaningful and productive way and supporting the professional development of staff. Each half term the Headteachers and designated members of staff across our schools undertake a monitoring visit to assess the impact of a particular project or initiative that a school has undertaken. Focus areas have included religious education, improving writing across the curriculum, embedding a culture of reading and, most recently, embedding adaptive teaching practice to ensure every child, regardless of their learning needs, can make progress.

Writing moderation

In addition to this staff have continued to come together to look at a certain theme. This year it included a whole staff writing moderation looking at the development of writing skills from reception through into secondary.



New staff induction

The start of any academic year sees staff moving on to promoted positions and new staff taking their place. Each school runs a strong induction programme and provides mentors for all new staff. In addition, we held a new staff induction meeting for all those new to the trust. This enabled us to reflect on our mission as a family of schools, to celebrate the strength we have in unity and to consider each person's response to their individual calling to work in a Catholic school, whatever their role and whatever their own Faith background. A special welcome to all the new staff working across our trust schools. Working with young people and playing a key role in their development is a privilege and a joy. Our new staff have joined the best profession in the world.

Leadership Learning

Throughout the year our regular meetings have taken place with the Chairs of the Local Governing bodies. In addition, we have continued to hold regular meetings with the Chairs of the LGB finance committees.



The Headteachers come together regularly to develop the work of the Trust and to share best practice. Recently each Headteacher came to meet with the Trust Board to share the successes of their school and to focus on their future priorities. This enables the Board to be aware of live issues that are impacting upon our schools, as well as providing the opportunity to celebrate the ongoing work of each school leader in their relentless pursuit of excellence.

Hearing from our Pupils

Each year pupils from each school meet with the Board to share what they are working on to fulfil our shared Catholic mission. It was so impressive to hear the confidence of pupils and their deep understanding of Catholic social teaching when they spoke about their work and the contribution they make to the daily lives of their community. The young people across the Trust yet again prove to be our greatest ambassadors. Keep up the amazing work.

Safety and wellbeing of our pupils

This year the Trust undertook a full-scale safeguarding review of all our schools. This involved an external consultant spending time in each school to undertake a forensic investigation checking that all safeguarding procedures were being followed. Congratulations to all of our schools who emerged with, not only a clean bill of health, but many, many strengths identified and significant examples of best practice to be shared with schools beyond the Trust.

St George's turns 60



St George's Catholic Primary school celebrated their 60th anniversary this November. To mark this special event a full programme of activities took place involving pupils, staff and parents both past and present. Special liturgies took place, a 60's disco took place seeing all dress up in their finest sixties clothing and all then gathered for an evening of fireworks that lit up the skies above Sudbury. Congratulations to everyone who made so many celebrations possible and such a rich tribute to the community we look forward to the next 60 years of excellence.



Admissions

We are delighted to share that our schools continue to be schools of choice for families this year. This is down to the outstanding communities that have been established based on outstanding progress for all and helping all to flourish and grow, safe and secure in God's love for them. If you would like to find out more about the work of each school or wish to apply for a pupil place then the first stops are the schools' websites or pick up the phone and call.

St George's, Sudbury	https://www.stgeorgesprimary.org	020 8422 1272
St John Fisher, Pinner	https://www.stjohnfisherschool.co.uk	020 8868 2961
St Joseph's, Wealdstone	https://stjosephs.harrow.sch.uk	020 8863 8531
The Sacred Heart	https://www.tshlc.harrow.sch.uk	020 8863 9922
Language College, Wealdstone		

Christmas celebrations bringing 2025 to a close



Christmas celebrations continued across our school communities throughout the last weeks of 2025. Each school held prayer services, nativity plays and carol services to remember the true meaning of Christmas. Following on from the Carol Service at St Luke's, Pinner where all Christian schools across Harrow shared in a wonderful celebration The Sacred Heart held their annual Christmas Carol Service at St Joseph's Church, Wealdstone. Parents, staff and parishioners were joined by our



local Mayor and Gareth Thomas MP to reflect on the Christmas story and how it impacts our lives. Pupils from across the Trust participated in the Carol service at Westminster Cathedral for the Catholic Children's Society.

At St John Fisher School there was real excitement when the nativity scene was brought to life by the arrival of real animals to share in the manger. The whole day was Christmas themed with a variety of activities designed to encourage thoughtful reflection and deeper thinking about the true meaning of Christmas. The whole school was treated to a Christmas Nativity story telling followed by a special mass for years 4-6.



The Sacred Heart Language College took the opportunity to raise the profile and funds for local charities and for those in need This involved making Christmas gift boxes that were distributed across the Parish to those who were struggling at this special time. They also took to the streets to raise funds for St Luke's Hospice with great fun had by all in the 'Santa Dash'.



Diary Dates

Leadership conference 16th April 2026

Trust wide training day 1st May 2026

Term Dates

Looking further into the future the term dates for the 2026-2027 academic year have been set. It is essential that you check the dates on the individual schools' websites for any variations and staff training days. The general dates are:

Term	Dates
Autumn term 2026	Tuesday, 1 st September 2026 - Friday 23 October 2026
	Half Term: Monday 26 October 2026 - Friday 30 October 2026
	Monday 2 November 2026 - Friday 18 December 2026
Spring term 2027	Monday 4 January 2027 - Friday 12 February 2027
	Half Term: Monday 15 February 2027 - Friday 19 February 2027
	Monday 22 February 2027 - Thursday 25 March 2027
Summer term 2027	Monday 12 April 2027 - Friday 28 May 2027
	Half Term: Monday 31 May 2027 - Friday 4 June 2027
	Monday 7 June 2027 to Tuesday, 20 July 2027* *School closes for pupils on Friday, 16th July

Final thoughts

"You are not too young to change the world—start by loving boldly, serving humbly, and uniting hearts in God's name."

Pope Leo