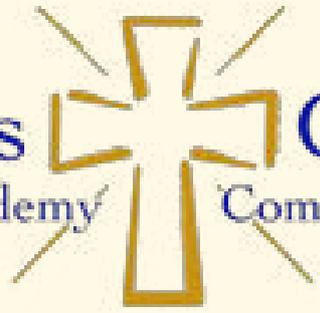
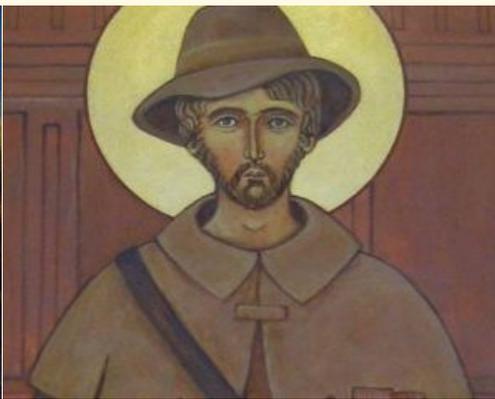


# Saint Nicholas Owen

Catholic Multi-Academy Company



*In Jesus we live learn and serve*



**FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
FORMATION  
OCTOBER 2019**

“Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September marked 30 days since I took on the role of Catholic Senior Executive Leader of St Nicholas Owen Catholic Multi Academy Company and what an honour and blessing it is to be able to serve our faith community. “

**Our new Catholic Executive Senior Leader and Hagley Catholic High School’s new Principal share their thoughts following their first month in post.**

Key to the role of Catholic Senior Executive Leader/CEO is the willingness to listen and learn. So far, my reading, research and networking with other colleagues has led to significant reflection about the kind of leader I want to try and be, as summed up below:

**‘I want to be a leader who is fair, open and bold. A leader with patience and humility. I want to shine the spotlight on those around me so we can all **“Stronger together”** learn from them. I want to spend my time and energy challenging myself and helping to develop other people’s potential, to become our best selves, so that we may create, imagine, dare, build, grow and achieve’.**

Being active and visible in our schools and wider community will play a significant part in my leadership. An important goal is to connect with each of our six schools. Therefore, during the first four weeks I have visited each school at least once which has

given me the opportunity to meet and interact with many members of our wonderful MAC community. I have really enjoyed meeting so many members of staff and students who are passionate about and dedicated to their school and our Company’s success. As we are about to embark on the first round of our school improvement visits, I am also looking forward to getting into classrooms to see first-hand the quality of provision for our students.

We have some very exciting times ahead. ‘Stronger together’ is certainly my experience of being part of this multi academy company for the last five years and I look forward to working with you all, students, parents, staff, governors and the wider community, over the coming months to strengthen our Catholic educational provision for the communities that we serve.

**Isaiah 40:29**

“He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength”



**James Hodgson**  
Principal Hagley Catholic High School



**Suzanne Horan**  
Catholic Senior Executive Leader

What a truly great honour it was to take up the post of Principal at Hagley Catholic High School in September 2019. My passion for education and the opportunities it offers everyone is central to me. I have moved to Hagley having spent 4 years at Cardinal Newman Catholic School in Coventry as Deputy Head, prior to which I spent 18 years in a non-Catholic school in Birmingham.

The call to lead and the vocation of teaching is the greatest privilege and one that I and all my colleagues at Hagley share. My belief that each and every day, each and every one of us can be that little bit better, can strive for even the smallest amount of improvement in all areas of our lives is at the heart of my vision for everyone at Hagley, students staff and parents alike. In the first weeks I have challenged everyone to be their best self, to stand up and be counted and to recognise that anything is possible at Hagley. I know that all of us will rise to this.

# Recent Events

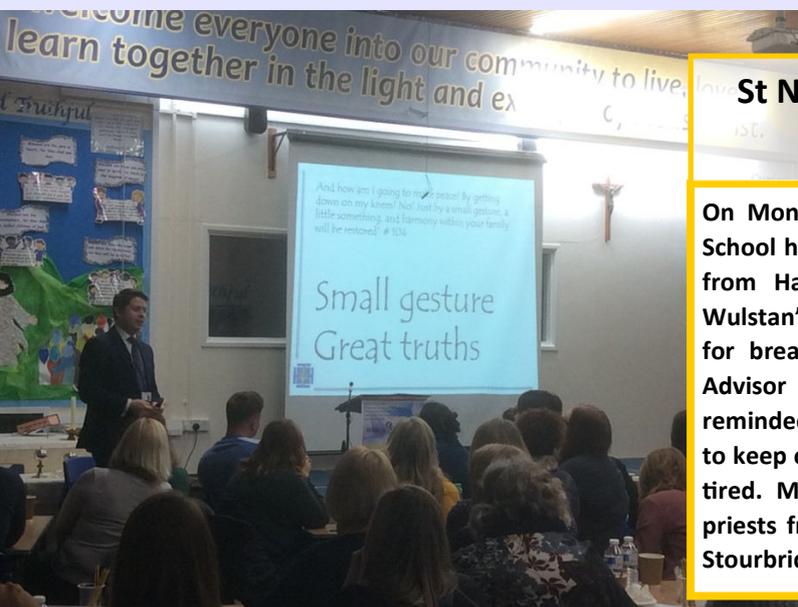
## St Nicholas Owen MAC Professional Development Day

Our first MAC-wide professional development day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June, on the new Ofsted framework, was a resounding success. It was wonderful to see our six schools come together to share good practice and learn from one another. We were extremely fortunate to have three excellent key note speakers; Ian Beardmore, Principal at St Mary's Catholic Academy, Stoke-on-Trent, who fed back on a primary school experience of the Ofsted pilot inspection under the new framework, Andrew Dickinson from Uplands Manor Primary School who presented on closing the gap for the disadvantaged in all phases and Kesner Morris, Vice Principal at Hagley Catholic High School who shared ideas on designing a MAC-wide curriculum as a continuum of learning from Early Years to Key Stage 5. The buzz and enthusiasm generated by this day was palpable and we look forward to our next whole MAC training event on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.



### Proverbs 22:6

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. “



## St Nicholas Owen MAC Retreat Day

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School hosted Saint Nicholas Owen Catholic MAC Retreat Day. 111 Staff from Hagley High School, St Ambrose, St Joseph's, St Mary's, St Wulstan's and Our Lady of Fatima Schools all gathered in the school hall for breakfast before the retreat began. Dan Vince, Diocesan Senior Advisor for Catholic and Religious Education led the retreat. Dan reminded us of our Holy Father, Pope Francis' vocation and his message to keep our faith alive, to nourish our faith so that it is renewed and not tired. Mass was celebrated by Father Craig and Father Des, parish priests from Our Lady of Fatima, Quinton and Our Lady and All Saints, Stourbridge respectively.



## Fifth Anniversary of Formation Mass

St. Nicholas Owen MAC's Fifth Anniversary Mass was held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October at Our Lady and All Saints Church, Stourbridge. This was once again a wonderful opportunity to come together to thank God for the continued commitment and dedication of all members of the St. Nicholas Owen MAC community including: Directors, Academy Committee Representatives, Staff, Parish Priests/Chaplains, Volunteers, Students and Parents. This was also an appropriate moment to mark the beginning of the Extraordinary Mission Month – Pope Francis has declared that October 2019 will be a special month of prayer and action to strengthen and grow God's mission and the Church.

Thank you to Fr. Des, Deacon John O'Brien, Mr Mallinson, the Hagley Mass Band students plus all other members of St. Nicholas Owen Catholic MAC's community, who made the evening such a positive moment to begin the new academic year.



# Central Team

We have, from September 2019, doubled the size of our Central Team in order to support both the Board and the efficient and effective development of the schools within our multi-academy company as follows:



## Suzanne Horan—Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL)

- Strategy, Innovation and Systems Leadership
- Sustained High Performance and Standards
- Collaboration, Partnerships and External Engagement and Communications
- Governance and Assurance
- Accountabilities: Safeguarding, Inclusion and Compliance

## Amanda Hodder—Chief Finance and Operations Manager

- Strategic financial advice (capital bids/new funding opportunities/strategic budgeting/payroll and pensions)
- Human Resource Management
- Administration Management (to work with SBMs/HR/Office managers to design, maintain and review administrative system)
- GDPR related issues
- Premises, assets, insurance, health and safety and compliance management



## Sarah Lee— Central Team Accountant

- Operational (day to day) financial advice
- Payroll queries
- VAT queries
- Reporting and budget monitoring
- Funding/supplier remittances

## Hannah Hingley—PA to CSEL/Clerk to the Board

- Supports the CSEL in all aspects of her work
- Supports the Board of Directors



## Dawn Beese— Primary Group Business Manager

- Supports primary schools with Finance, HR and other operational aspects

## Nicole Lewis—Apprentice Accountant

- Nicole currently supports the team with the operational elements of the finance function



**1 Corinthians 12:14**

*"For the body is not one member, but many."*

Y6 pupils at St Ambrose Catholic Primary School will be attending the Pioneer Centre for a 3 day residential trip from Wednesday 4th December to Friday 6th December, where they will be taking part in a range of Q&A activities and developing their social, communication and team work skills. On their return, they will be completing their preparation in readiness for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on 11th December, culminating in a visit to the Oratory in Birmingham.



On Monday 23rd September 2019, Year 6 left school for a three day retreat at Alton Castle, Staffordshire. As well as the excitement of a short break with their friends, they also took part in a number of different activities, trekking, rock climbing, biking, survival and archery. With the theme of the retreat being Discipleship, each activity included reflection, discussion and prayer.

Everyone was challenged and encouraged to find hidden strength, learn new skills, and show perseverance in their individual and team challenges and continually reflecting on the virtues Grateful and Generous.



St Ambrose Retreat

Yr 6 Alton Castle Retreat



The Briars Retreat

St Joseph's Play Leaders



Hagley Catholic High School has recently launched the Year 7 residential opportunity to The Briars which takes place from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November. This is always a fabulous weekend away and students are strongly encouraged to participate. Mr Miastowski also launched the Be-attituders group and Lourdes 2020 visit with Year 12 and what a fabulous response he has received. Over 40 students have expressed an interest in going on the pilgrimage to Lourdes next year and 24 students have signed up to the Be-attituders, an off shoot of the St Vincent de Paul Society which works to provide for those less fortunate than ourselves and often homeless or in deep poverty.

## School Life

St. Joseph's was one of four schools from across the Local Authority to achieve the highest accolade for its commitment to PE and School Sport. The Platinum Award for the National School Games programme can only be awarded if the school has successfully achieved the Gold standard for five consecutive years. The Platinum Award is given to a school for two years. The School Games Crew was also established in 2018-19 which was supported by a Sport Educator linked to the school. The group of Year 6 pupils organised 'personal challenges' for pupils to complete at lunchtimes. This has also proved to be a successful strategy for children to be more active at break and lunchtimes too.



All these initiatives have helped to support the children at St. Joseph's to be healthier both physically and mentally.



St Wulstan's pupils with One Life Music

Children at St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School had a wonderful day with Dan Callow of *One Life Music*, exploring the theme of "His goodness never fails" from the much loved and known Psalm 23 through which the children had the opportunity to reflect on the message of comfort and reassurance. They also had the wonderful opportunity to watch a video where our Archbishop Bernard Longley spoke about his role as a shepherd to us all as members of God's flock. Once again, the children were a credit to both the school and their families. A fabulous day for us all!



St Mary's Parking Buddies



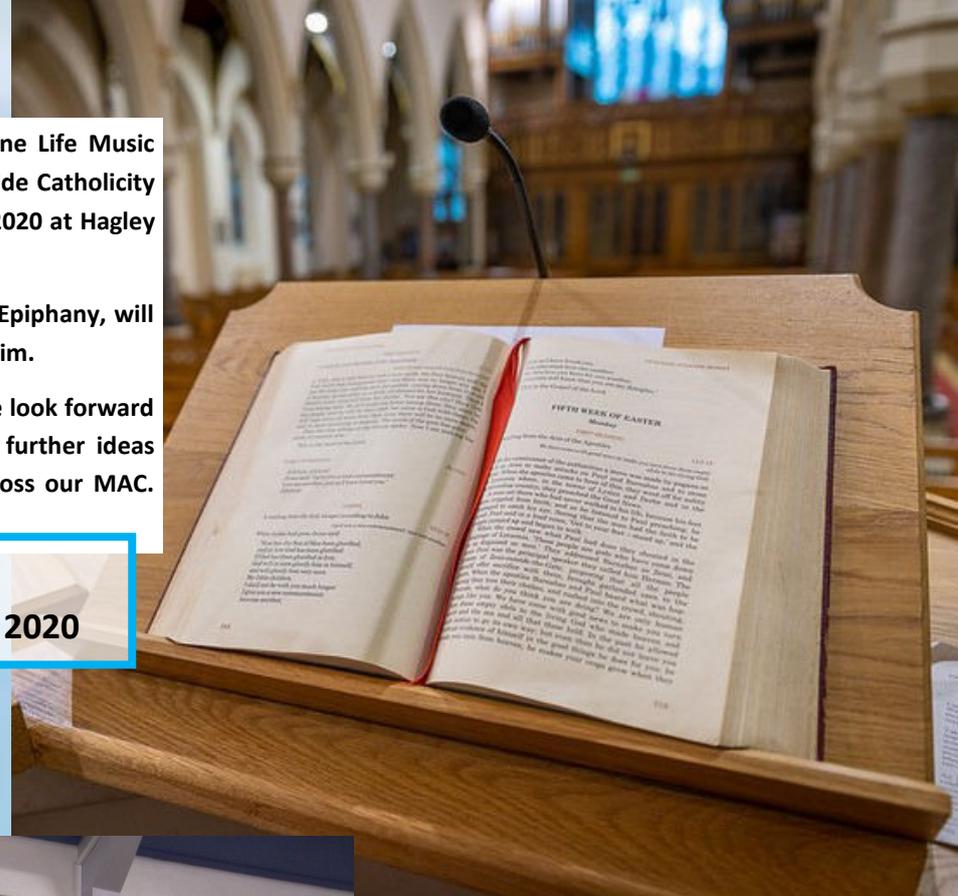
Children from St Mary's Catholic Primary School have been working in partnership with West Midlands Police to improve safety for the children around school. They were very fortunate to secure full funding for these "Parking Buddies" from Intu Merry Hill.

It is the first school in the Dudley Borough to have "Parking Buddies" and fully expect other schools to start using them soon! St Mary's would like to say a massive thank you to PC Harrison and PC Andrews, who have given lots of their time to the school with the Parking Buddies project, and of course, a huge thank you to Intu Merry Hill, for funding them.

We look forward to welcoming Dan Callow from One Life Music and Mgr. Timothy Menezes to lead our next MAC-wide Catholicity Inset day which will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Hagley Catholic High School.

The Inset day, which coincides with the feast day of Epiphany, will begin with Mass, celebrated by Father Des and Mgr. Tim.

The focus for the day is 'The God who speaks' and we look forward to being inspired, spiritually nourished and gaining further ideas about how we can develop further Catholic Life across our MAC.



**St Nicholas Owen MAC**  
**Catholicity INSET Day—6th January 2020**

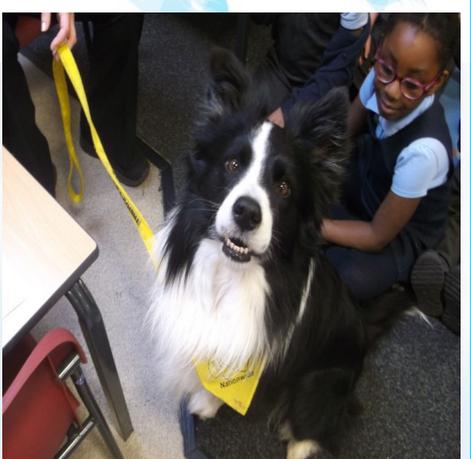


# WELL-BEING



**Teachmeet: St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

This year's TeachMeet for staff event focused on the theme 'Wellbeing in schools'. We were welcomed first by a speaker from the charity "Mind", who shared some of her own experiences around children's mental health and how our educators are paramount in supporting children in recognising and understanding their own mental wellbeing. Our first speaker was then followed by representatives from "Lush" and "Educational Psychology for Everyone". Both speakers gave us much food for thought in looking after ourselves and the importance of ensuring we look after our own well-being, to then enable us to educate our children. Educational Psychology for Everyone also shared how mental health and mental illness can affect children and how it can present itself. Following this, staff were invited to visit one of several guests, who had set up mini workshops and stalls in classrooms throughout the school. Some visitors offered staff activities to support children's wellbeing and mental health, whilst others provided a chance our guests to consider their own- our therapy dog brothers and our masseuse (parent were particularly popular! A heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported our event and took part in all aspects so enthusiastically. A thought from the evening: you can't pour from an empty cup.



Take care of yourself first!

# Hagley Pyramid of Schools

Disco Fever—Birmingham Town Hall, Thursday 14th February 2019

The annual Pyramid Concert is always one of the highlights of St Nicholas Owen Catholic MAC's 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 "Disco Fever" and we included 16 classic bands and songs from the Disco genre.

We were delighted that Father Des started the proceedings with a celebratory prayer.

The whole ensemble started the show by performing three hymns: Seek Ye First, A beautiful setting of "My Hands are Yours" and finally a "Disco" version of "Rivers of Babylon". This got the audience clapping along and everyone knew they were in for a great evenings entertainment.



Mr. Mallinson had been working with the children for many months and now the individual schools performed their set pieces. They also made a short video about their chosen Disco artist. Some schools dressed up, some added drama, but all the videos were packed full of facts about their chosen band. We also had good luck video messages from famous disco stars such as Gwen Dickey (Rose Royce), Clem Burke (Blondie) and Maisie Williams (Boney M).

This is what the schools performed...

Le Freak - St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

One Way Ticket - St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School

Love Train - Our Lady & St Kenelm's Catholic Primary School

Wishing on a Star - St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Boogie Wonderland - St Ambrose Catholic Primary School

Feels Like I'm in Love - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

The Hustle - Hagley High School

It Only Takes a Minute - Our Lady & St Hubert's Catholic Primary School

Heart of Glass - Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Celebration - St Peter's Catholic Primary School



The evening then brought all 300 performers back on stage for the final songs. Mr. Mallinson introduced John and Gloria (our 18ft inflatable Disco Dancers) before the band and singers burst into the final five disco classics. Car Wash, Night Fever (the audience joined in with their amazing singing too) We Are Family, Blame it on the Boogie and HAPPY Radio. The atmosphere was electric as fire jets; smoke and streamers filled the stage.

Mrs Horan then gave her thanks and congratulated the children on their amazing show.



The finale could only be a performance of YMCA with our very own Hagley students dressing up and playing tribute to the "Village People". The audience and performers loved singing and dancing along to this Disco Classic. The band completed the song to rapturous applause and cheers from the audience

The Pyramid Concert for 2020 is on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Get your tickets quick...This year's focus will be "Motown Magic"



# St Nicholas Owen Catholic MAC Learning Journey

Within St Nicholas Owen MAC, we have always recognised that an appropriate and effective curriculum is essential for effective learning and have understood the need to get the curriculum 'right' within our individual schools. However, when Ofsted introduced their draft framework in May 2019, this sparked even further conversation amongst teachers and school leaders within our MAC. It provided a very positive and exciting platform for us to be able to consider the following questions:

**What makes a good curriculum?**

**What's the balance between knowledge and skills?**

**What are Ofsted inspectors looking for when they talk about intent?**

With these questions in mind, we embarked upon our MAC curriculum journey which we launched at a MAC wide Inset Day in June. Since then, we have collectively designed an overarching MAC statement of Curriculum Intent which can be found on our MAC and individual school websites. Our schools continue to work together to share expertise to develop a curriculum which reflects both our MAC intent and the contextual needs of individual pupils and the local community.

We take every opportunity to keep curriculum conversations a high priority at Director, Academy Committee, Principal, Curriculum Co-ordinator and school level and are acutely aware that our conversations about curriculum need to be much more than revising long and medium-term plans or explaining curriculum 'Intent' to Ofsted. We agree with Dylan William that 'curriculum is not just the collection of plans made for lessons, but the curation of all the experiences a learner can have during their time attending school'. We will keep our community updated with the many exciting developments as we move forward on our curriculum journey.

## St Nicholas Owen Multi Academy Company Board of Directors

Joanna Griffin - Chair	Foundation Director	Outstanding Practitioner – Dudley College
Janet Rowe – Vice Chair	Foundation Director	Retired – Finance Officer at DES
Deirdre Finucane	Foundation Director	Retired Principal
Christopher Piggott	Foundation Director	Solicitor
Darren Kehoe	Foundation Director	Commercial Director
Geoff Taylor-Smith	Foundation Director	Head of Delivery Worcs YMCA
Peter Parry	Foundation Director	Retired Chief Technologist - HP
Suzanne Horan	CSEL	
Clare van Vliet	Primary Advisor	Principal OLoF
Andy Carry	Primary Advisor	Principal St Joseph's

**The Chair of the Board of Directors would like to extend her sincere thanks to:-**

Mrs Caroline Beech for her service to the Board of Directors from 28/06/18 to 15/07/2019 and to Dr Lorraine Cemm, Mrs Sarah Price, Mrs Caroline Beech, Mrs Elaine Yates, Mrs Angela Randle, Ms Janet Rowe for their continuing commitment as Chairs of our Academy Committees.

**Mrs J Griffin**