

# The Newman Catholic Trust

## Summer Newsletter 2023

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### Welcome to our Summer newsletter

*As we come to the end of our first full year together as a Trust family, it is important to look back, take stock and see how much we have achieved together and how far we have come. There has been a lot to celebrate across our schools. Hopefully, this newsletter provides a snapshot of our 2022-23 and shares what we've been up to.*

#### A Message from the Newman MAT Chair

As the end of the academic year approaches, I want to reflect on a busy and important year for our Newman MAT.

There have been many achievements: the establishment of stable school leadership teams, specialist school advisers helping us to improve, staff sharing their expert knowledge and working across schools, improvements to buildings and two highly supportive Ofsted Inspections and much more. Our MAT family has also grown from 3 to 4 primaries, when St Nicholas of Tolentine joined us in April. They have settled in quickly and are already sharing their expertise across the MAT.

All of this has been achieved through the efforts of our school leaders and whole-school staff teams and I thank them for their focus, determination and desire to do their very best for our pupils. Many of the changes and improvements across the MAT have been led by our dedicated CEO and central MAT Team, and I hope you join me in thanking them too.

Your MAT Board has also been working hard to ensure we have the right foundations to build on, as we start planning to admit more schools and become bigger and even better. There will be more news about this in the new academic year.

Most of all the thing that makes me feel proud is when I see our pupils in action (in school and at the Cathedral Leavers' Mass). Their polite respectful behaviour, team working, industry, spiritual reflection, focus, concern for others and smiling eyes make me feel secure that they are happy and safe in their learning and we are all doing God's work.

I wish everyone - pupils, parents and carers and staff a happy, healthy, restful break over the school holidays.

Anne Rolls





## CEO Update: Dr Danny Doyle



Dear Trust family,

As we come to the end of this remarkable academic year, it is with great pride and admiration that I reflect on the incredible journey we have embarked upon together. Throughout the challenges we have faced, our unwavering commitment and dedication to our children have remained steadfast. I am reminded of a quote by Saint John Henry Newman that encapsulates the spirit of family, trust, and collaboration: "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

In our pursuit of excellence, we have encountered many barriers and difficulties this year - from economic uncertainty, strike action and uncertainty over pupil numbers to changes in inspection, curriculum and assessment. However, our school staff, teachers, leaders and governors have risen above these challenges, embracing change with determination and an unwavering focus on our children's well-being and success.

As we conclude our first full year together, I extend my deepest gratitude to our exceptional staff, our amazing families, and, above all, our resilient children. Your unwavering support and dedication have been instrumental in shaping our journey and creating an environment where every individual thrives.

This year, the Trust has placed a significant emphasis on securing high-quality leadership across our schools. Thus, it brings me great joy to congratulate Jo Waller and Natalie Barker on their appointments as substantive Vice Principals at St Bernard's & St Nicholas, respectively. These remarkable individuals already play a vital role in shaping the educational experiences of our students and will now continue to do so for many years to come.



I would also like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Janet Ellams as she takes on the post of Head of School at St Francis. Supported by the invaluable expertise of Sam Land as Executive Principal, their leadership will undoubtedly build on the exciting work that has been started in school and continue to guide the St Francis community towards new heights. We thank Catherine Hunt for her years of service and wish her good luck for the new chapter ahead. I also would like to say congratulations to Rachael James (the now substantive Principal of St Nicholas) who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the school in her first full year. I have no doubt that St Nicholas will flourish and continue to provide exceptional opportunities for our students under her care.

As we reflect on our accomplishments and look to the future, we are excited to continue shaping the next chapter of our Trust's strategic plan. It is your ideas, input, and collaboration that will guide us in this journey. Early next term, we will reach out to all stakeholders to invite your valuable views and ideas about the future of our Trust.

In closing, let us celebrate the strength of our community, the resilience of our teams, and the bright futures that lie ahead for our children. Together, we will continue to embrace change, fostering a nurturing environment where every individual can truly thrive. Have a wonderful summer break and I look forward to an exciting 23/24.

With warmest regards,  
Dr Daniel Doyle



## The Jonathan Rogers' Scholarship Award



*"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." Saint Mother Teresa.*

The Trust mourned the loss of a valuable member of its family, the founding Director Jonathan Rogers, who passed away this year. Jonathan was an inspirational figure who dedicated his life to serving schools and providing children with life-changing opportunities.

In honour of his remarkable life, enduring memory, and exceptional service, the Newman Catholic Trust has established the Jonathan Rogers' Scholarship Award. This award is bestowed upon one exceptional student from each Trust school and St Bonaventure's (where he served as a governor for many years) advocating for those in need.



Each student is selected because, like Jonathan, they demonstrate a profound commitment to serving their community, aiding charitable causes, or selflessly supporting their school.

This year, we proudly celebrated our first winners, who were recognised for their active engagement in the faith life of the school - acting as catalysts of change in their communities and advocating for those in need.

On behalf of the Trust and Jonathan's family, congratulations to our worthy winners: **Alayah Douglas, Ashayla Magloire, Elliot Chaplow, and Zachary Humby.** These children have shown remarkable levels of dedication and commitment which have included:

- Supporting and raising awareness of Cancer charities and completing fundraising activities, which included cutting of hair and donating it to charity – raising over £600.
- Organising a sponsored family cycle in support of the Diocese's chosen charity and helping to raise over £500 for the Emmaus Project.
- Taking an active lead in running prayer and worship sessions for the school and community to guide people in their faith.



As winners, each child receives the Jonathan Rogers' Scholarship Award trophy, a certificate and a Bible. They also receive a £100 contribution to help fund their future works. They are an inspiration to our communities and serve as role models for us all. Their example helps to keep Jonathan's name and memory alive through their wonderful work.



## A focus on the future – PE MAT Network

The MAT has established a range of networks this year for safeguarding, EYFS, RE and Maths. We are passionate about building on this early start and developing collaboration across our schools through these networks. Next year, we will be introducing our PE Network which will be supported by Mr James Ford from St Nicholas.

*My name is James Ford, I was born in Southampton and grew up in Somerset. I gained my PGCE with PE Specialism at University of Southampton. I have always been passionate about sport which stems from having excellent role models throughout my childhood. This passion has continued into my adult life, especially within education. I took on leadership roles as I believe sport brings people together and acts as a great vehicle for both inclusion and excellence.*

*My aim for next year is to create a PE and extra-curricular calendar that embeds the subject into daily school life in the Trust, and create a high level of excitement within our school communities. I love teaching the subject and look forward to working with other teachers to elevate our practice. Having shared sports within the trust, will allow us to create healthy competition amongst our schools and teach pupils the values of fair play and competitiveness. I am also extremely excited about giving our gifted and talented sportspeople a platform on which to stretch themselves and improve within their school environment.*

*I am a very positive person, with a great passion for PE and sports and I am hoping to share and bring this passion to others with the end goal of benefitting our children. I am excited to see the passion of our pupils build within PE, and provide them with a fulfilling, comprehensive PE and extracurricular programme that brings enjoyment, as well as enhancing the reputation of the Trust.*

## Community & Charity



*"Charity, to be authentic, must leave us with a commitment to a different way of life: the life of the poor." - Pope Francis*

Throughout the year, the schools within our Trust have embodied the spirit of this quote, acting as men and women for others and dedicating their time, energy, and efforts to support those in need. Their charitable works have been truly remarkable as we have joined hands supporting numerous charities, such as the Jessie May Trust, the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal, CAFOD, Rags to Riches and so many more. St. Francis garnered special recognition from the Diocese for their work - hailed as a "small school with a big heart" due to their remarkable work for the Emmaus Project (the Diocesan chosen charity). Throughout the year, they have organised water walks and fundraising activities, displaying unwavering dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of others. Collectively, the Trust has raised an impressive sum of nearly £10,000 for charitable causes this year. This has made a tangible difference to the lives of those in need.

The generosity and compassion exhibited by our schools have transformed communities. In the words of Pope Francis, "Charity, to be authentic, must leave us with a commitment to a different way of life: the life of the poor." Through their selfless acts, the schools within our Trust are fostering a culture of compassion and service that will continue to shape lives for years to come.



# SPOT LIGHT ON EARLY YEARS

## Transforming Early Years Education in The Newman Catholic Trust by Empowering HEYD Consultancy

Early years education plays a pivotal role in shaping child development & setting the foundation for future success. And yet, research shows that ‘three-quarters of people don’t understand Early Years’ – ouch! Especially as the statistic is based on [research](#) responses from one million people!

For the Newman Catholic Trust, early years is not only understood, but it is at the forefront of thinking. The investment the Trust has made this year to focus on and develop early years provision shows the Trust’s commitment to establishing enriching opportunities of the highest quality across all four schools.

Imagine for a moment the creation, active engagement and optimisation of indoor classrooms, outdoor play areas, and sensory-rich spaces that stimulate cognitive, social and physical development making an incredible difference to children in their earliest years. Supported by talented Trust leader Charlotte Woodrow, we have focussed on incorporating natural elements and open-ended resources into environments thus encouraging children to explore, problem-solve, and develop a love for learning from an early age.



By focusing on coaching for staff alongside fostering networks and training opportunities, HEYD is developing early years education to an optimal level across the Trust, empowering staff at all levels, nourishing and nurturing young minds.

Don’t just imagine excellence in early years – do it! We at the Newman Catholic Trust certainly are.



"A Trust wide HEYD comprehensive consultancy approach is paying dividends, growing early years leadership with clarity of vision and greater autonomy along the way."

Michelle Hague,  
EYFS SIP Consultant



Leading HEYD with experience as Principal of an Outstanding Two-Form Entry Catholic School, Early Years Ofsted Inspector and LA School Improvement Advisor, Michelle Hague from HEYD is certainly creating a shared sense of purpose, ensuring that all schools within the trust work towards the same exceptional standards of early years provision.



**HEYD**

HARNESSING EARLY  
YEARS DEVELOPMENT

# End of year reflection



*"God has placed the gift of life, the future of society and the future of this great country in those hands of yours. No one has hands just like yours, and that is a sign that you are a unique, unrepeatable and incomparable treasure. No one in history can replace you."*

- Pope Francis

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we move towards the end of the academic year, we pause to reflect on the end of another school year within our beloved Trust family.

We are grateful for the journey we have embarked upon, guided by the Trust's motto "Heart speaks to the Heart," - which reminds us of the profound connections we share with one another as a family of schools.

In this closing chapter of the year, we celebrate the teachers, leaders, pupils, and families who have filled our schools with love, service and dedication. Their hearts have nurtured and inspired, shaping the minds and souls of our young learners. We give thanks for the countless hours of love, wisdom, and unwavering commitment they have poured into their work.

As we bid farewell to this academic year, we ask for your blessings upon the families who have entrusted us with the education and well-being of their children. May they find solace in the knowledge that their children have been cared for and nurtured, that their hearts have been touched and their dreams ignited. Grant them a summer filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments of togetherness.

As we embark on this season of rest and renewal, we ask for your guidance & strength. Refresh our spirits, replenish our energy, and ignite our passion for the calling that lies ahead. Grant us clarity of mind and heart to envision a future where each child's potential is realised, compassion and understanding flourish and where the bonds of our Trust family grow stronger with each passing year.

May this prayer and reflection serve as a reminder of the invaluable journey we have shared and the boundless possibilities that lie ahead. Wishing each member of our Trust family a safe, joyful, and rejuvenating summer, ready to embark on another remarkable year together.

Amen!



*"I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. My life is not my own, but a part of the larger tapestry of humanity, woven with threads of love, compassion, and shared experiences. Each link before me, and those yet to come, has shaped who I am and will shape who I become. As I embrace my place in this chain, I realize the responsibility I bear in upholding the bonds that unite us all. For it is through our connections, like the strength of interlocking links, that we find strength, support, and a sense of belonging. Let us cherish and nurture these connections, for they are the essence of our shared humanity and the foundation upon which we build a better world."*

- Saint John Henry Newman