



# NEWSLETTER



# CHANGE

## CSEL'S WORDS

Welcome back from summer break,

Autumn and September in particular, is a time of change for many people. First time to start a new school, first time to start work, first time of being parents, or even first time for retirement. Our MAC has seen a lot of changes over this summer. Old friends and colleagues have retired and our early career teachers are joining our schools. I would like to share two events which happened over the summer.

Firstly, I attended the Year 6 Leavers' Mass and the blessing of Jack's Place, a special remembrance garden for Jack Johnson at St Anthony's school. The ceremony was profoundly simple but so sincere, and showed the collective love we all hold for Jack, his family and the wider St Anthony's community.

In August, Mr Mullen, former Deputy Head Teacher of St Peter's passed away. Many people in the Catholic community of the local area were his past students. When his funeral procession passed the school, over 300 pupils and alumni lined up at Whitefield's Road to pay tributes to Mr Mullen.

We might have lost two beautiful people but the love they gave us will stay with us. Through them, we saw Jesus' face in their faces, we experienced God's love in their acts and deeds of love and unselfish kindness.

These two stories remind us all of the purpose of Catholic Education and why we are keen to provide the best Catholic education to our children.

One of our OLAAS family of schools, Our Lady's Catholic Primary School received a Catholic School Inspection in July. Catholic life and mission was graded 'Outstanding', RE was graded 'good', Collective worship was graded 'Outstanding' giving an overall 'Good' grade. You can read more about this school in this newsletter. St Wilfrid's school has also received their Catholic School Inspection in September and got a "Good" grading. Congratulations and thank you for all the hard work put into achieving these outcomes.

We would like to share with you the learning experiences in Smith's Wood by St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School and also coverage about Year 6 students' transition from Our Lady of Compassion Catholic Primary School to St Peter's Catholic School. Secondly, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate St Peter's Secondary students for their outstanding GCSEs and A-Level results.

Bishop Marcus Stock, Chairman of the Catholic Education Service, shared in his recent Education Sunday message, *"The great desire of Jesus is to be with us and to invite us to enter into a personal relationship with Him, a relationship of love. When a person knows they are truly loved, a new confidence abounds."*

I pray that we all as students, teachers, children, adults, parents or carers, try to enter into a personal relationship with God and the OLAAS community in this academic year.

I wish you all a joyous and fulfilling learning journey. Let us be strong in faith.

Peter Davis, CSEL