

"Growing Together for Life"

The Newman Catholic Collegiate Winter 2023 newsletter



INTRODUCTION FROM OUR CSEL, IAN BEARDMORE



Dear Parents,

I am delighted to share with you the remarkable achievements and experiences that have unfolded across our Collegiate in recent times. You will read just a few highlights in this newsletter. As I reflect on the multitude of accomplishments, I am filled with pride for the talents and growth displayed by the wonderful children entrusted to our care. Your support as parents is invaluable, especially in these challenging times. The heartfelt appreciation from parents for the educational and pastoral support extended to our pupils is both heartening and motivating. Your positivity towards our schools and dedicated staff does not go unnoticed, and we are sincerely grateful for it.

A special acknowledgment goes to our dedicated staff and volunteers who have played a pivotal role in facilitating numerous school trips and enriching extracurricular activities this term. The opportunity for pupils to learn beyond the classroom is invaluable, and it warms my heart to see them embrace these experiences. I truly believe that to be the best you need to see the best and it is my hope that these experiences raise the aspirations of our young people.

I am thrilled to extend my congratulations to all our schools for their exceptional academic accomplishments. Notably, I am excited to share the outstanding attainment at St Margaret Ward, which has surpassed expectations.

A remarkable 87% of our students at St Margaret Ward were entered for the EBACC, surpassing the Government target along with only one other school in the city. This achievement underscores the effectiveness of the academic curriculum provided to our students, thoroughly preparing them for the next stages in their educational journey.

In nearly all metrics, St Margaret Ward emerged as the second-highest performing school in the city, securing the highest position among schools in the north of the city. This accomplishment is truly commendable, and everyone associated with the school should take pride in this success. It reflects the dedication and hard work of our students, staff, and the broader school community.

As we revel in this achievement, it is crucial to acknowledge that our commitment to improvement remains unwavering. We are steadfast in our efforts to ensure that the positive momentum at St Margaret Ward continues and that every student receives an education that propels them towards success.

Thank you for your continued support, which contributes significantly to the success of our schools. Together, we are shaping a learning environment where excellence is not only celebrated but also becomes a consistent part of our educational journey.

Moreover, I am pleased to share that our collegiate attendance surpasses national levels. I urge you to continue ensuring regular attendance for your child, as it plays a crucial role in ensuring that they keep up with their peers. Thank you for your continued support in this regard. We don't hesitate to contact

parents if attendance becomes a concern, as the link between attendance and attainment is undeniable.

Regarding pupil admissions, I encourage you to inform friends and family about the inclusivity of our schools, welcoming pupils from all faiths and backgrounds. Navigating the admissions process can be overwhelming, and we are here to address any queries or concerns. Whether you intend to enrol your child in one of our schools or not, please feel free to contact the school your child attends or one of our local schools. Our locations are as follows:

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, Woodland Street Biddulph, ST8 6LW
☎ 01782 512644
✉ office@olognewman.co.uk

Our Lady and St Benedict's Catholic Academy, Abbey Lane, Abbey Hulton, ST2 8AU
☎ 01782 234646
✉ office@olsbprimary.org.uk

St George and St Martin Catholic Academy, Boulton Street, Birches Head, ST1 2NQ
☎ 01782 234384
✉ sgsmcp@sgsmnewman.co.uk

St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy, Gloucester Road, Kidsgrove, ST7 1EL
☎ 01782 367267
✉ office@stjohnskidsgrove.org.uk

St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Mobberley Road, Goldenhill, ST6 5RN
☎ 01782 235393
✉ stjoseph@sjnewman.co.uk

St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy, Little Chell Lane, Tunstall, ST6 6LZ
☎ 01782 883000
✉ office@smwca.org.uk

St Mary's Catholic Academy, Ford Green Road, Norton-le-Moors, ST6 8EZ
☎ 01782 234820
✉ office@stmarysnewman.co.uk

St Peter's Catholic Academy, Waterloo Road, Cobridge, ST6 3HL
☎ 01782 235040
✉ stpeter@stpeternewman.co.uk

St Wilfrid's Catholic Academy, Queens Avenue, Tunstall, ST6 6EE
☎ 01782 235676
✉ office@stwilfridsnewman.co.uk

Alternatively feel free to email the collegiate office - info@newmancc.co.uk

The deadline for the secondary admissions process has now passed but late applications can still be made. The deadline for the primary admissions is 15th January 2024.

Finally, I hope that you enjoy the festive season! I wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas together.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr I Beardmore
CSEL (Catholic Senior Executive Leader)
The Newman Catholic Collegiate.



FUNDRAISING AT ST MARGARET WARD

So far, St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy has taken part in the CAFOD Family Fast day on Friday 6th October, raising £28.98. They also did a series of loose change collections for CAFOD's emergency appeal to send humanitarian aid to the Holy Land raising £110.51.

Fundraising for the Dougie Mac so far totals £75 from the Bake off challenge, and £517.12 from the Christmas jumper day. They also have lots more events happening in the next few weeks, including some inter-Fidei group competitions so the totals should jump up soon!



THE ROBOTS ARE COMING!

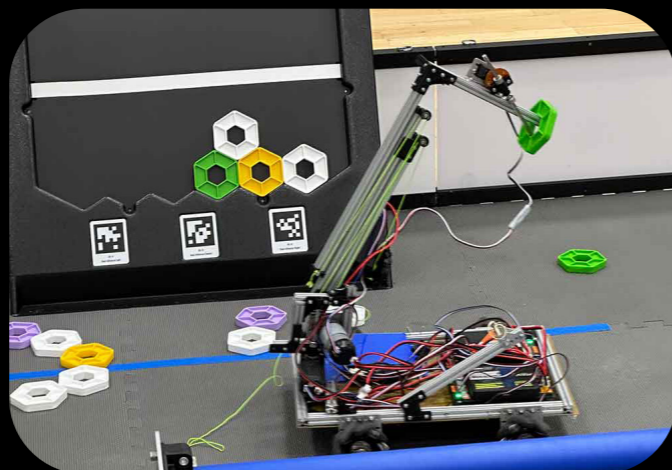
Nearly 100 staff and students from across Staffordshire and Derbyshire gathered together at St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy for a scrimmage in the FIRST Tech Challenge on Tuesday 5th December.

The FIRST Tech Challenge is a robotics competition for students to compete head to head by designing, building and programming a robot to compete in an alliance against other teams.

The 11 teams, from eight schools, took part in the event, which saw them build their robots and then use the test field – think Robot Wars – to iron out any issues with functionality.

It also provided students with a chance to network and make new friends.

[Take a look at the photos and read more >>](#)
[The robots are coming!](#)



THE SNOW QUEEN

Tuesday 5th December marked the first show of SMWCA's Drama department's annual Christmas production.

This year just under 50 students from the school's after school Drama club have been working on a production of The Snow Queen.

Students have not only undertaken acting roles but have taken responsibility for writing scenes, directing their peers, designing and operating the sound and lighting for each show, alongside developing their theatrical make up skills.

[Find out more and see more photos >>](#)
[The Snow Queen](#)



ST MARY'S

St Mary's Forest School a big hit!

Embarking on a new educational journey, St. Mary's has introduced an exciting addition to its curriculum: Forest School! This term, Reception, Year 1, Year 4, and Year 6 classes delved into enriching lessons in Science, Geography, and History through immersive Forest School experiences, sparking fun and learning every step of the way.

Forest School represents a child-centred, inspirational learning process, offering holistic growth opportunities. Beyond enriching our curriculum, it fosters play, exploration, and nurtures supported risk-taking. This approach nurtures confidence and self-esteem by empowering learners through hands-on experiences in a natural setting. In Year 6, children enhanced their understanding of the 'living things and their habitats' Science unit. They explored the survival needs of diverse animals in their environments and expanded their knowledge of fair-trade foods while creating bread over a campfire.

"It teaches us life skills whilst also making us think about the curriculum." Year 6 child.

Meanwhile, Year 1 children dove into their Science topic by investigating the necessity of shelter and the elements essential for shelter

construction. They crafted animal shelters using natural materials, gaining valuable insights into protection from the elements.

Year 4 children had a blast exploring the changing states of water—liquid, gas, and solid. Engaging in experiments, they observed and investigated state changes, delving into concepts like evaporation and condensation. This exploration extended to understanding the broader water cycle, connecting oceans, clouds, rain, and rivers.

Celebrating the wonder of dinosaurs, our Reception children dived into exploration, discovering the immense size of these creatures, their nesting behaviours, and the mysteries surrounding their extinction. At the end of their forest school adventure, the children enjoyed a delightful treat—toasting marshmallows, adding a sweet finale to their journey of discovery.

The Forest School experience has been a tremendous success, not just in expanding academic horizons but also in nurturing a deeper connection with nature and fostering a love for learning through hands-on exploration.



FUNDRAISING AT ST MARY'S

- Bibles – 30 – 15ks1 15 ks2 The Bibles have gone to Africa through a charity sought by Sister Valerie from the Dominican Sisters, Stone
- Dougie Mac coffee morning £319.20
- Harvest Festival – 5 large food crates full
- Cafod Israeli and Palestine crisis appeal – £221.45
- Operation Christmas child, Samaritan appeal– 46 boxes
- British Legion Poppy Appeal
- Dougie Mac Toy Appeal – 6 bags for life
- Dougie Mac Christmas Jumpers – 4 x Christmas jumpers



THE BLESSING OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC ACADEMY BY HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP BERNARD LONGLEY

On Tuesday 26th September, His Grace Archbishop Bernard Longley came to visit St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy and bless the brand new school building and Year 6 extension.

The school was delighted to welcome Archbishop Bernard to celebrate Mass and officially open its new school building. It was a wonderful morning, and they were overjoyed to welcome so many visitors, from Joan Whalley former MP, Jonathan Gullis MP, past pupils from St Margaret Ward, previous school staff, parishioners, Collegiate principals and staff, to Governors, Directors and parents.

The Mass was a joyous occasion and the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part through their responses, reading, offertory and heartfelt singing. The focus of the Mass was on the

school Patron Saint, St John the Evangelist. The children were confident to talk to the Archbishop about St John the Evangelist, all of the information that they knew about him and most importantly, why he is an important Saint for them to follow and how they can be like him.

The Archbishop took the time to speak to all of the children and the staff and bless each classroom. He also spoke to past pupils, who are now at St Margaret Ward and Mrs McGough and Mrs Bailey (local Parishioners) about their input in the new prayer garden. He blessed the prayer garden, the cross created by St Margaret Ward and the late Bishop McGough's crucifix that was donated to the school from the McGough family.

It was a wonderful day where all involved were able to finally celebrate the brand new school building.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST FUNDRAISING



- September Macmillan Coffee Morning led by the school PTFA raised £371
- October Harvest Appeal (Kingsgrove Rotary Foodbank) Donations of non-perishable foods.
- November and December Dougie Mac Charitable Work:
- Christmas Jumper Days (08/12/23 and 20/12/23) – amount TBC
- Guess the name of the bear – amount TBC
- Christmas cards for children, adults and staff at the Dougie Mac created by the school children and staff
- Christmas decoration boxes for wheelchair users to decorate their wheelchairs at Dougie Mac created by school children and staff
- Year 6 Monthly visits to Maple Tree Court Care Home to support parishioners in leading a service for the residents
- December Choir Christmas Carol Singing at the Hospital

ST GEORGE & ST MARTIN VISIT TO LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

On Thursday 16th November, our Year 6 children visited Lichfield Cathedral as part of Music Share.

Music Share is an initiative established in 2003 and provides a unique opportunity for schools to collaborate with Lichfield Cathedral School, Lichfield Cathedral, and Music Partnership. The children work with professional choristers and learn a diverse repertoire of songs, which adds a special dimension to the children's musical education.

There were three weeks of preparation, which included traditional, African, and contemporary songs, and it was a rewarding experience for the children. Singing as a choir and exploring different styles, including rounds enhanced the children's musical skills and teamwork.

The visit itself left a lasting impression on the children, as they were greeted by the awe-inspiring sight of Lichfield Cathedral.

The afternoon's activities, starting with a rehearsal with other participating schools and leading to the Evensong service,

provided a unique blend of musical and spiritual experiences.

The tour of the Cathedral, where the children had the chance to explore various parts, including the newly built altar of St Chad, added historical and cultural context to their visit.

The culmination of their efforts in a final performance, witnessed by over 200 people, is a testament to the significance of their Music Share experience. The children represented St George and St Martin school brilliantly, making everyone proud.

Experiences like this one, not only contribute to the children's musical development but also create lasting memories and foster a sense of pride and accomplishment. Music Share and the visit to Lichfield Cathedral had a positive impact on the Year 6 children, making their learning journey both enjoyable and meaningful.

FUNDRAISING AT ST GEORGE AND ST MARTIN

The school has held various fundraising events for Douglas Macmillan since September, including Splat the Teacher and a cake sale. These two events raised over £200. They have also welcomed Sam from Douglas Macmillan who explained where the money goes and how much they value the support they get from families.

They have many other events and fundraisers planned for later in the academic year as they continue to support an amazing charity that holds a special place in the hearts of many of the school's family.



ST WILFRID'S 500 WORDS DAY

In October, St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary school were one of only 8 schools in the country to receive a visit from a famous children's author and a well-known CBBC presenter!

Following the launch of the BBC's national competition '500 Words', St Wilfrid's was joined for an entire day by famous children's author, Paula Harrison, writer of The Kitty Series and CBBC presenter, Lauren Layfield. The children participated in an assembly led by Lauren and Paula and completed activities throughout the day which enabled them to generate ideas to include in their own entry to the 500 Word competition. The day really enthused our children, and every child wrote a story for the competition and had the opportunity to take this home and enter.

During the day, presenters from BBC Radio Stoke also came down to school to interview some of our pupils and capture their excitement towards the competition.

Here is what our Head and Deputy Head Boy and Girls had to say about the day:

"The assembly inspired everybody to want to sign up to the competition" ... "I enjoyed working with the author and liked looking at the books she had already written. She helped us think of ideas for our story" ... "I tried hard to think of ideas that would impress the judges and hopefully help me to win the competition!"

Our famous visitors were very complimentary about St Wilfrid's and in particular the pupils. They commented on how well behaved the pupils were and were particularly impressed with their manners and enthusiasm during the launch assembly in the afternoon. Paula Harrison was impressed with the pupils' original ideas for writing, and she was excited to hear our pupils' final stories!

There is a variety of prizes on offer for the winners of the competition. They range from; a trip to Buckingham Palace; a feature on The BBC's The One Show; up to 500 books for school and even the chance to have their story illustrated by an incredible children's illustrator. We look forward to finding out the winners by February 2024. Good luck to all who entered!



ST WILFRID'S FUNDRAISING

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT – FUNDRAISING

Some of St Wilfrid's Year 6 pupils, through their own choice and organisation, set up a week with various events taking place such as a bake sale and name the teddy, to raise funds for a cause close to their hearts. The children raised a fantastic £115.51! This money was sent directly to the cause through CAFOD.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The school's Catholic Life Leaders organised the sale of poppies and other items during November to raise money for the Royal British Legion charity. They worked hard throughout the week and all items were sold and our collection box was full!

TOY DONATIONS AND DONATIONS FOR THE DOUGIE MAC

St Wilfrid's have been collecting toy donations for the Dougie Mac, which will be collected at the end of term. Any monies raised from the sale of the toys will go directly to the Dougie Mac hospices.

COFFEE AND CAKE AFTERNOON FOR THE DOUGLAS MACMILLAN

St Wilfrid's Catholic Life Leaders organised and led a Coffee and Cake afternoon for our school family and together raised a fantastic £270 for the Douglas Macmillan.

FUNDRAISING AT OUR LADY OF GRACE

In September OLOG organised a Macmillan Coffee morning where they invited parents and parishioners to join them to fundraise. They raised £297.00.

During November they held a non-school uniform day and asked for a donation to

support Israel/Gaza. They raised £120 – CAFOD.

They also spent time in prayer at the beginning of each day praying for the people in Israel/Gaza.



OUR LADY OF GRACE HARVEST FESTIVAL

On 3rd October OLOG came together as a school community, joined by parents, extended family and parishioners for its Harvest Assembly. The children sang joyful hymns and songs thanking God for His Creation. The children prayed for the people in other parts of the world and community who live without food or are in need.



ST PETER'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY FUNDRAISING

This term, St Peter's has invited parents into school to take part in the Macmillan Coffee morning raising £290.

As a school community they also collected food donations to support the local food bank St Joseph's Parish Burslem during harveSt They held a whole school harvest assembly inviting parishioners and volunteers from the food bank to celebrate the families' generosity.

The school took part in the "Hello Yellow" World Mental Health day, wearing yellow within their school uniform and donating to the charity Young Minds. The school raised £132.

The Nursery class at St Peter's, as part of their learning around being Stewards of God's creation, has supported the Baddeley Green Hedgehog Rescue Centre by donating £30 of supplies needed for the centre.

They will also be asking for donations for the Dougie Mac on Christmas jumper day which will be on 20th December.



St Peter's Catholic Academy

FUNDRAISING AT OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT

OLSB has been working hard to raise money for the Dougie Mac Hospice. The children voted for a whole school disco and put on their dancing shoes; a great time was had by all. They also held a coffee morning for parents and parishioners which was a huge success. The Benedictines voted for a wear yellow day. They also took part in the Christmas jumper day on 8th December. We are proud that they have already raised over £500 for this wonderful charity and continue to raise more.

The school's Advent appeal for this year is to make bags for the homeless. They have linked with the Parish and are collecting items such as hats, socks, gloves and toiletries - it is their hope to spread the gift of warmth, hope and love to those who need it the most.



ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY LEARN TO PROTECT OUR WONDERFUL WORLD

This term, one of the ways that St Joseph's Academy has been living out its mission statement is by focusing on being better stewards of God's creation and taking better care of its Common Home. They were inspired by a full day, immersive, interactive workshop delivered by Rise Theatre Company.

The day began with a performance; 2 skilled actors showed them how they are damaging the wonderful world which God has given to them and taught them more about the problems of pollution, global warming and litter to name but a few.

After the performance, each class participated in a Rise Theatre Workshop and an in class activity to reflect on their own role as stewards of God's creation.

During the workshop, children learned songs and signs and the very important message that each of us can help to save our planet. Year Five pupil Harry said, "Although we are all small as individuals, we can still make big changes if we all do our bit. We have to take responsibility".

The workshops culminated in an energetic, engaging - and loud - performance including all of the children and staff. They raised the roof as they sang, danced, signed and laughed and the chorus of "Who's Planet? God's Planet! Who's Planet? Our Planet!" rang around the school for days.

In the classroom, everyone completed an activity to be a Planet Hero. Some classes explored images and videos to reflect on God's beautiful creation and the reasons that He gifted it to humans. Inspired by some of David's psalms about the beauty of our world, children wrote their own psalms. Other classes listened again to the message of Pope Francis in Laudato Si before writing pledges of action to take more

responsibility for our Common Home. Lisa said "Pope Francis said that the earth is God's gift to us. We need to take better care of it out of respect to God."

Pledges included planting more trees in the Prayer Garden to help to sustain and renew the planet. With the help of the Woodland Trust, the school has a new border of saplings around the edge of its Prayer Garden, making it an even calmer place to pray.

Many children pledged to only buy what they really need and to re-use items where possible. So far, they have done this by donating over 100 of their outgrown toys to Dougie Mac, bringing outgrown uniform back to school and putting it in their very own uniform bank. Many children have been given free uniform from the stock because they have outgrown theirs or joined the school as a new pupil.

Instead of buying new Advent Wreaths, they have reused last year's candles to make new wreaths with holly, conifers and greenery collected from the Forest School. The school is planning a January litter pick as its next project.

ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY FUNDRAISING



- Dougie Mac - Christmas Accessories / Jumper Day. Donations collected total £106.77
- Dougie Mac toy collection - collected 189 toys to be sold in Dougie Mac shops to raise funds
- Dougie Mac - Learned to sing and sign the song "Put a little love in your heart"
- Dougie Mac - Made Christmas cards for the children, families and staff
- Children in Need - £253 raised through an own clothes / yellow/spots day

NATIVITIES



ST GEORGE AND ST MARTIN

Our Year 6 children have shared the story of the first Christmas through their performance of 'Straw and Order'. This performance takes place in a courtroom in Bethlehem where the cows feel pushed out of their stable by all of the visitors, including a new-born baby. The judge decides to see the stable for himself and is humbled by the sight of baby Jesus. When he and all the characters experience the peace and love that this special baby has brought in to the world, there is no need for any more arguing; all are welcome.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Welcome Little Baby is a delightful children's nativity play about Mary, Joseph and their little donkey travelling a very long way to Bethlehem, but unfortunately there was no room for tired Mary! They settled in the stable and were very pleased to see lots of visitors along the way!

A spectacular performance delivered by our Early Years and Key Stage One children who narrated and sang with passion, energy and enthusiasm. The children joyfully presented their own version of the traditional nativity and they have all certainly shown us that they have much talent that will sparkle and shine in the a future... for sure!

A big thank you to our parents and relatives for the support they always provide and for their positive and glowing comments about the children's performance. We have a very dedicated and strong Early Years and Key Stage Team who nurture and ignite our children's talents.



ST JOSEPH'S

Family, friends, staff and children of St Joseph's Catholic Academy were treated to amazing performances of Whoopsie Daisy Angel and Wriggly Nativity this year. Through enthusiastic singing and dancing, our Nursery and Reception and Year One and Year Two children retold the story of the first Christmas and reminded us that the true meaning of Christmas is love. We were very proud of the confident speaking, singing and soloist; there was not a dry eye in the house as stars twinkled, angels sang and shepherds watched. Merry Christmas from all at St Joseph's!

ST WILFRID'S

'A Miracle In Town' is a beautiful traditional Nativity in which the children tell the story of the birth of Jesus through narration and songs. We join Mary, Joseph and the animals in the stable to share in such a perfect and special moment and reflect on the very first Christmas night.



NEWMAN CATHOLIC COLLEGIATE MUSIC ROUND-UP

Around the Collegiate, students have been busy making music throughout this term.

First of all in our primary academies, we gave thanks for the harvest, celebrated with class singing assemblies and harvest masses, thinking of those in need and encouraging donations to support local food banks. Through October and November, children from four primary academies participated in Music Share projects, benefitting from specialist coaching from professional singers and joining with other schools to share music together at the spectacular Lichfield Cathedral. Students experienced a sung Evensong service, featuring music from the sixteenth century to the modern day in its original setting.

There was time to spend a moment thinking about the long history of the building from the 1100s to the modern day. Students viewed the recently returned relics of St Chad, which were safely protected by the Catholic community during the tumultuous history of the cathedral through the Civil War and, in more recent times, displayed at the home of our Catholic Archdiocese, St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham. During the concert, the audience were treated to an eclectic collection of excellent and expressive song performances from the choir, interspersed with music from another tradition, British light operetta, performed with brilliance and comedic character by entertaining professionals.

Children from St Joseph's Academy participated in an online Sing and Create workshop with the Royal Opera House, London, and watched a livestream concert with BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

Many congratulations are due to St Joseph's and St Wilfrid's Academies who have both achieved Silver Artsmark Awards this term, rewarding the level of music education on offer at the schools and their interaction with the local community and regional music scene.

As the Christmas season approaches, academy choirs and talented musicians have been providing festive cheer in the communities they serve, singing at residential homes, performing for civic events and supporting fundraisers at the University Hospital. There have been a host of performances in schools for families and friends to attend, captivating Nativity productions along with traditional carol services. The Collegiate has also been represented by school groups in the City Songbirds Concerts at the Victoria Hall and older students have performed there with City Music Service Ensembles. St Margaret Ward Jazz Orchestra were asked to return to the King's Hall in Stoke to provide music for the Lord Mayor's Charity Afternoon Tea Party.

Behind the scenes, work is continuing in our academies to grow the range and number of instrumental lessons on offer in each primary academy and ensure a seamless transition to new teachers when entering high school at St Margaret Ward. Several primary school students have received invitations to participate in orchestra at St Margaret Ward and outstanding primary students performed solos at the 'Christmas Cracker' Concert at the high school.

There is much to look forward to next term with all academies participating in the Young Voices Concert and the Recorder Festival, not to forget other opportunities such as Stoke's Gotta Sing, the Manchester Camerata Song-writing project, Easter Bonnet parades and the traditional Lenten and Easter services. For now, we wish all our musicians a well-deserved rest over Christmas, after their most wonderful and busy time of the year!



"Growing Together for Life"

AND FINALLY...

As we come to the end of this term, we reflect on the good things that God has given us. May the celebration of the birth of Jesus bring you all peace and joy and may the New Year bring you many blessings.

All schools re-open on:
Tuesday 9th January 2024

