

The Annunciation Catholic Junior School



Governors' Newsletter

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Governing Body, I am pleased to welcome all members of the school community to a new academic year. In particular, a very special welcome to parents of children who joined the school in September. In many ways, September seems a distant memory and it is hard to believe that the season of Advent will be upon us in another few weeks. How time flies!

On Sunday 13 October, the canonisation took place in Rome of England's newest saint, John Henry Newman. This event, celebrated by the Catholic Church and Christianity at large recognised his holiness and confirmed his place in heaven in the presence of God. Much has been written about Newman both prior to and since his canonisation and like Pope Francis today, John Henry during his lifetime, had his admirers and critics. A highly respected intellectual and a leading light in the Oxford Movement, he tried as an Anglican priest to reinforce Catholic tradition within the Church of England but his arguments were rejected by the Anglican bishops of the day.

Having been received into the Catholic Church in 1845, he abandoned the position of esteem and privilege that he enjoyed as an Anglican priest and Fellow of Oriel College Oxford, to join a small Catholic community that was largely held in contempt by English society at that time. He later described becoming a Catholic as 'coming into port after a rough sea'. Although never for a moment did he regret his decision, he was later to find that there were many rough seas to navigate, not least in the projects he was later offered.

When he heard that somebody had described him as a saint, he modestly replied, 'I have nothing of a saint about me'. The Church however, has decided otherwise. Like all of us, he was not perfect; he made mistakes. Yet, John Henry Newman remained resolute in times of darkness, in sickness and sorrow; faithful to the service of God. We all have much to learn from St John Henry especially from his Meditations:

"God has created me to do him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission; I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I have a part in a great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between

persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do his work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling”.

St John Henry Newman

Staff, Parents and Governors’ have a mission, are links in a chain in their efforts to provide the best possible education for our children. We want them to be the best they can be. Thanks to the continuing fruitful partnership between home and school, The Annunciation Catholic Junior School had another very successful year.

As our Key Stage SATs results show, pupils continue to achieve high standards.

	Expected Standard	National Average
Reading	93%	73%
Writing	92%	78%
Maths	97%	79%
Spelling, punctuation & grammar	93%	78%

These results were well above both local and national averages as was the progress made by pupils from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2. This achievement is no mean feat!

Particularly pleasing was the high percentage of pupils working at a higher standard in all subjects. Again, these percentages exceeded local and national averages. The results are testament to the planning and hard work put in by pupils and staff with your cooperation and support. As ever, we intend to build on this excellent work in 2019/20.

	Higher Standard	National Average
Reading.	46%	27%
Writing	31%	20%
Maths	53%	27%
Spelling, punctuation & grammar	53%	N/A

As Governors, we are greatly impressed by the number of opportunities on offer to pupils both within and outside the classroom. This too, is a clear reflection of the commitment and dedication of our creative and enterprising staff, both teaching and support in the various roles they play within our school community. On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank them for all they do to

provide a broad and balanced curriculum and make the school a safe and secure educational environment for your children.

Yet again for the third successive year, Governors have secured a grant for building works. During the summer holidays the medical room was refurbished, an additional office/ teaching space created and a new security and fire alarm system installed. While Governors are pleased to be awarded funding for improvements, we are always mindful of our obligation to pay 10% towards the cost of these works.

You may recall that Mr Hammond, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer gave money a little while ago to all schools for ' little extras', money to be spent on building projects. These 'little extras' in all voluntary aided schools like ours, came with a 10% price tag. Therefore it is important that you continue to contribute each year to the Governors' Fund, the only means we have at our disposal for funding 10% of all building works.

As a Governing Body, our work is largely in the background and we are committed to supporting the Headteacher and her Senior Leadership Team in every way we can. Current governors have a wide range of skills and are extremely generous in volunteering their time. They get on and do things about which most people are oblivious; monitoring and supporting the Catholic life of the school; ensuring that safeguarding, health and safety provision are of the highest standards; setting the school budget; undertaking financial checks; reviewing school policies; attending committee and board meetings and undertaking monitoring visits, to name but a few. Very importantly, we analyse pupil progress in all year groups holding the school to account in a positive and supportive way to ensure that the hopes and aspirations that you have for your children will be fulfilled. That is our mission.

I look forward to meeting you in the year ahead. With every good wish to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Anne O'Shea (Mrs)

Chair of the Governing Body

