



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025



The very best Catholic education now and for generations to come



Mr Celano
Chief Executive Officer

Year of Hope

I am delighted to be writing this introduction to our Summer Newsletter.

I hope by now all our readers will have enjoyed a blessed Holy Week, culminating in a tremendous celebration of the hope and joy that Easter brings us.

As you may know, this year has been dedicated as a Jubilee - a Year of Hope - by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Therefore, I wonder if I might be so bold as to invite us all to create a moment today to think about who (or what) we place our hope in, and what it is we hope for? The answers we come up with can be quite illuminating.

Indeed Pope Francis himself would like us to use 2025 as a year to reflect and to re-establish a proper relationship with God, one another, and with all of creation. If we all re-established those relationships, I wonder what that might look like in our lives - what would we do more of? What would we do less of? Those questions of hope are often a very profound challenge. If you're interested in reflecting more on the Year of Hope, you can find some excellent resources and links on the Catholic Church of England and Wales homepage www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/.

On the topic of Hope, I'm delighted to see that this term's newsletter reports firstly on the Pupil Chaplaincy Retreat held in the Spring Term. The theme for the retreat was of course the Jubilee Year of Hope, reminding pupils that we are all made in the image and likeness of God, and that we must live our lives and interact with each other in a way which honours this reality. Our Trust Values of Compassion, Peacemaking, Care for Creation and building Community all fit beautifully with this theme. Pupils also particularly benefitted from being hugely encouraged by retreating with a wider group of peers than they would otherwise have been able to were we not a Trust; all Trust chaplaincy teams attended, giving the pupils an even greater encouragement and shared experience.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter and catching up with what was a hugely 'testing' (or should I say 'inspected') and successful last few months across our Trust: no fewer than six of our eight schools have been inspected by OFSTED recently, and we're all now in the midst of the Diocesan Inspections of our Schools' Catholicity. You can read all about the exclusively Outstanding and Good outcomes from these inspections later on in this newsletter.

Thank you again for your interest in our Trust, and thank you also for your prayers. Please keep our schools, staff, pupils, parents, governors and directors in your ongoing prayers as we enjoy a season of growth and success across our Trust schools. May God bless you all.



Trust Chaplaincy Retreat Day

During the Spring Term, we took part in our annual Chaplaincy Retreat Day with all of our academy trust schools.

The children were a credit to their schools and behaved impeccably. Our theme this time was based around the Jubilee Year of Hope. Children took part in four different activities and we had a final opportunity to come together in song to sing our special Jubilee song. Children really enjoyed the opportunity to reflect, talk and engage with other schools. A spiritual and very uplifting day!

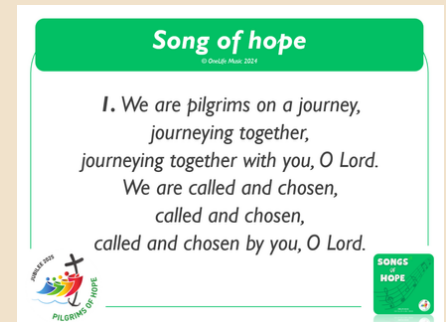
The children particularly enjoyed the 'team leadership' sessions, as this was focused around 'communicating' as a team and working together. The self-portrait sessions reminded us that we are all made in the likeness and image of God and we drew these and collated them to make a final display in the church. Our singing session was great fun and we all got to learn our new Jubilee song. Finally, the prayer session was calm, reflective and led us into deep thought about being a pilgrim, a pilgrim of hope during this year.

A fantastic day was had by all!

Mrs Mosely, Headteacher, St Joseph's Waltham Cross

The Chaplaincy retreat was a fantastic opportunity to launch our Trust celebrations for the Jubilee Year of Hope. It was wonderful to have all nine schools represented, joining together as pilgrims of hope pledging to work together for God's kingdom of justice, peace and love. All pupils enjoyed the wonderful variety of activities. I very much enjoyed leading the art activity, enabling pupils across all schools to reflect on themselves as made in the image of God and as Pilgrims of Hope. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to work with pupils from other Trust Chaplaincy Teams.

Mrs Clark, Assistant Head, St Thomas of Canterbury



Pupil Voice:

'I would recommend it for other Catholic Schools.' *Maya, St Augustine's*

'We all really enjoyed the day and it was a good opportunity to meet with other people.' *Heidi, St Thomas of Canterbury*

'I thoroughly enjoyed all the activities because it teaches us activities we can do with our own school.' *Daisy, Sacred Heart*

'My favourite activities were art and singing, when we came together to celebrate this moment.' *Stanley, St Joseph's Hertford*

'I thoroughly enjoyed the music because of how interactive it was and how nice the leaders were.' *Evie, Sacred Heart*

Pupil's thoughts for next year's Retreat:

'I would like more opportunities to talk to different students from different schools.' *Maya, St Paul's*

'We can all talk about how our school's can show Jesus' power and share our ideas.' *Aleyna, St Augustine's*

Trust Charity Week

Westminster's Catholic Children's Society

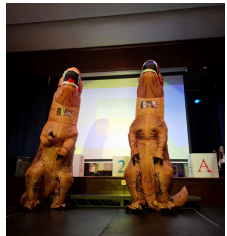
Charity Week at St Mary's

Charity Week at St Mary's was a whirlwind of fundraising events, raising money for this year's selected charities:

Across and the Catholic Children's Society



The week kicked off with an unforgettable **Lip Sync Battle**, pitting staff against Sixth Form students. The song choices were delightfully diverse, ranging from the Muppet's "ManaMana" to Backstreet Boys, with stops along the way at "Tequila" and Dolly Parton's "Islands in the Stream." The performances were full of energy, and the imaginative, bold costumes added to the fun—one of highlights was a pair of dancing dinosaurs grooving to Flo Rida's "Low." The audience was fully behind every performer who took to the stage, but in the end, a winner had to be declared. The competition was fierce, but the staff were crowned champions by a narrow margin!



Later in the week, **Through the Keyhole** gave students a peek into places they wouldn't usually get to see: their teachers' homes. Using photos that contained subtle clues, students had to guess which teacher might live in each house. Wednesday's **IT Factor talent show**

was another highlight, featuring magicians, singers, dancers, and rappers. The students took the stage with confidence and passion, giving the audience a fantastic show and demonstrating their incredible talent. The week wrapped up with

Games Galore and, of course, the crowd favourite, **Soak the Teacher!**

It was a fitting, fun-filled conclusion to a week full of excitement and fundraising. A big congratulations to everyone involved — from the performers and compères, to the technical crew and organizers who made the entire week such a success. At the time of writing, the community of St Mary's have raised the magnificent sum of £8,110.42 for the chosen charities.



Charity Week at Sacred Heart

Charity Week at Sacred Heart was a week of fun events, including a **Wear Blue Day**.



Charity Week at St Joseph's, Bishop Stortford

We have really enjoyed taking part in the Trust Charity Week to raise money for Westminster Catholic Children's Society.



On Tuesday, we all dressed in the colours of the Year of Hope; we continued our journey of prayer and pilgrimage, and we thought about how we can bring hope to others by giving to charity. On Wednesday, we all took part in a sponsored move-a-thon. In addition to raising money for charity, we also did this to remind ourselves of how important exercise is for our mental health.



Charity Week at St Paul's

We have had a week of fun activities at St Paul's.

On Tuesday, each class had time to look at the work of the Catholic Children's Society and make posters about them to share with our community.

On Wednesday our Chaplaincy Team organised 'guess the bunny's name' game for the children to take part in as part of the fundraising activities for Charity Week.



On Thursday we had a Cake Sale which was led by our Chaplaincy Team.

Celebrating School Events

Battle of the Bands



At St Mary's this term we had the delights of the Year 9 musicians and bands who competed in the annual "Battle of the Bands" competition.



The event showcased the immense talent, teamwork and musical ability with some incredible performances, with every member contributing their unique skills to create something extraordinary.

The level of creativity and professionalism displayed was exceptional. It was inspiring to see our Year 9 cohort already demonstrating such a high level of musical excellence and teamwork.



Royal Albert Hall Gala

St Paul's, St Cross, St Thomas of Canterbury, St Joseph's (Waltham Cross) and St Joseph's (Hertford) all attended the Royal Albert Hall Gala



Royal Albert Hall School Gala

On Sunday 23rd March, our school choirs took part in the Hertfordshire School Gala.

This year's theme, "For the record", included a vibrant celebration of music across the generations, exploring the ways we interact and connect with music.

We performed alongside many other schools from Hertfordshire including the Hertfordshire County Youth Choir, Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra and the HMS Steel Orchestra.

Highlights include songs such as 'When I Grow Up' from Matilda the Musical by Tim Minchin, Cass Elliot's 'Make Your Own Kind of Music', 'Believer' by Imagine Dragons, and the epic finale 'You're the Voice' by John Farnham, with massed choirs and orchestra plus drummers, players from the HMS Steel Orchestra, and dancers.

It certainly was a great day, and all the children performed brilliantly, enjoying the experience.

St Joseph's Day

St Joseph's, Bishop's Stortford, was filled with a celebratory atmosphere on 19th March to mark the Feast Day of St Joseph.



Father Marco celebrated Mass and we had lots of fun activities, including icing biscuits and taking part in sports competitions.

All members of the community contributed to a mosaic, which will bring colour and joy to the front entrance of our school to celebrate our patron saint and our community.

We are really looking forward to having the final mosaic installed and blessed by Fr Marco once the artists have added their finishing touches.



World Book Day

World Book Day at St Thomas of Canterbury

World Book Day is a special occasion where children around the world get the chance to celebrate their love for books and reading by dressing up as their favourite literary characters. It's a fun and creative way for children to bring stories to life, whether they choose to dress as a beloved hero, a whimsical creature, or a memorable villain.



At St Thomas' the children made a fantastic effort with their costumes, with prizes awarded for creativity and imagination. They also shared stories with pupils in other classes and participated in a BBC live lesson, all fostering a deeper connection with literature.



Pilgrims of Hope



We began the year at **St Cross** with our very own pilgrimage to church to celebrate Mass. The day of our pilgrimage was deeply spiritual, offering us a chance to reflect on the significance of the Pilgrimage of Hope in 2025. Our pupils have embraced this spirit wholeheartedly, engaging in a variety of activities,

including planting sunflower seeds, nurturing hope and new life. These activities are more than just preparation for an event; they are helping to instil in our pupils the values of faith, hope and community.



Trust Science Week

What a fantastic week we had across the Trust, as our schools collectively embarked on a journey to explore the various aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)! In honour of British Science Week, each school dedicated their time to promote the wonders of science throughout their community, engaging students in a multitude of exciting activities.

All schools within the Trust participated in a variety of tasks designed not only to spark curiosity but also to promote oracy, allowing them to articulate their thoughts and ideas more effectively. Workshops were organised, offering hands-on experiences to ignite passion and enthusiasm for STEM subjects, making learning both engaging and enjoyable. We were thrilled to see parents stepping in as helpers, contributing their time and expertise to inspire our young learners.

The collaborative spirit across the Trust is truly commendable, as we strive to encourage our students to consider STEM careers. Through engaging discussions and interactive experiences, we aim to show them the variety of opportunities available in these essential fields.

We are excited to be celebrating the incredible entries submitted for our Trust competition. A special thank you to all the children whose creativity shone through! Judging will be led by Mr Celano and Mrs O'Connor, with the winner announced in the first week after the Easter holidays.

Discover the exciting celebrations from Science Week below!



St Paul's had a fantastic time during Science Week, exploring the themes of adaptation and change.

The children thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Chris at Hertfordshire Zoo, who shared captivating images and 3D prints of various animals, explaining their adaptations to different environments. Alongside engaging activities such as planting, investigating magnets and metals, and outdoor games tailored for all abilities, they were delighted to join KAPLA for a creative building workshop, constructing an entire town from small bricks.

St. Augustine's enjoyed a wonderful Science Week, featuring an engaging visit from Fab Science.

Children were mesmerised by captivating demonstrations involving air pressure and gravity, including an egg disappearing into a bottle and a tin crushed by atmospheric pressure. They also explored the principles of flight and watched a rocket powered by air.



Trust Science Week



At St Joseph's, Hertford, Year 6 children creatively crafted models of blood, showcasing red and white blood cells, plasma, and platelets. Meanwhile, Year 2 pupils explored the fascinating effects of soap on germs, highlighting the vital role of handwashing in preventing illness.

St Thomas's focused on how scientists solve real-world problems, such as reducing food waste and tackling climate change. The children have gained a deeper understanding of how innovation and adaptation play a vital role in shaping a better future. The week concluded with an exciting forensic science investigation. The children took on the role of criminologists, solving a simulated 'crime' — a break-in during a cake sale! They analysed clues such as hair and hair samples, fingerprints and footprints, using their new knowledge of DNA and evidence analysis to uncover the culprit. This engaging activity gave them a taste of how real-life forensic scientists solve crimes.



St Joseph's, Bishops Stortford, had an incredible Science Week, filled with fun and engaging activities, workshops, and experiments. Children were inspired by multiple parent talks that explored various STEM careers, introducing them to the job roles of pilots, engineers, astrophysicists, computer programmers and chemists. In EYFS, children discovered the wonders of 'light' by creating rainbows with prisms and torches. Meanwhile, Key Stage One and Two engaged in Fab Science Workshops, where they experienced the magic of science through exciting experiments, including potion making, chemical reactions and memorable explosions.

St Joseph's, Waltham Cross, had a fantastic week exploring the themes of adaptation and change! The children were thoroughly engaged with various workshops, from creating Slinkies to investigating incredible inventions through mistakes and animal adaptation. They also participated in an incredible session with Helen Sharman, the first British female astronaut. The children eagerly posed questions about her remarkable journey. Their first science fair was a tremendous success, showcasing an impressive variety of displays crafted by the children, from hands-on experiments to interactive outcomes. Parents remarked on the quality and creativity of the children's learning, stating,



'Every child was more than enthusiastic to answer questions about their particular displays from Crystal Growing to Making Putty. Overall, a really positive experience for both children and parents to get involved in and so nice to see the school come together to make it an extremely fun and interesting event.'



We are excited to see how this commitment to STEM education will impact our children's future aspirations, nurturing a new generation of innovators and problem solvers.

Thank you for the continued support and enthusiasm, which has made Science Week a resounding success! Here's to many more inspiring initiatives ahead.



Kate Entwisle (Science Lead at St Joseph's WC) & Ceri King (Science Lead at St Joseph's BS)



Outdoor Play and Learning



Sacred Heart have signed up to the OPAL Programme (Outdoor Play and Learning)

The OPAL Primary Programme rationale is that *"... better, more active and creative playtimes can mean happier and healthier children, and having happier, healthier, more active children usually results in a more positive attitude to learning in school, with more effective classroom lessons, less staff time spent resolving unnecessary behavioural problems, fewer playtime accidents, happier staff and a healthier attitude to life."*

Our school believes that all children need opportunities to play that allow them to explore, manipulate, experience and affect their environment. We believe play provision should be welcoming and accessible to every child, irrespective of gender, economic or social circumstances, ethnic or cultural background or origin, or individual abilities.

The introduction of the tyres, cable reels, cars, dinosaurs and dress up in the playground has led to some fantastic creativity. The imagination of our children has no end, they have built houses, forts and even a village!

OPAL at St Paul's

We are thrilled to announce the launch of OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) at St Paul's,

an innovative initiative designed to transform our playground into a vibrant, engaging space that encourages creative play and supports the well-being of all our students.

With OPAL, our children will now have access to a range of exciting new play areas and resources that will help them develop essential skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and resilience, all while having fun outdoors!

Features Include:

- **Mud Kitchen:** A perfect space for imaginative play, where children can dig, mix, and create their own recipes, exploring the wonders of nature as they learn about textures and sensory experiences.
- **Performance Stage:** A stage area where children can perform, role-play, and express their creativity, fostering confidence and teamwork.
- **Dressing Up Corner:** A fun and engaging area where

Decorating them has also been a huge part of their creative process using shells, acorns, feathers and even equipment such as hoops and cones!

Children enjoy using the stage and listening to music on our new outdoor boogie box, generously donated by parents. The cable reels have been carefully painted with different designs so the new cars and toys can be utilised. We are partnering with Hertford Regional College who will be painting more of these for the school to add to the playground.

Our pupils say:

'It stretches our imaginations and makes us be creative'

'It's proper play'

'OPAL gives us opportunities to have different types of play'

Sacred Heart has had a fantastic start to our OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning journey and cannot wait to see it continue to grow throughout the year.



children can take on different roles, from superheroes to historical figures, sparking their imagination and storytelling skills.

- **Sandpit:** A classic playtime favourite where children can dig, build, and explore, developing fine motor skills and cooperation as they share tools and ideas.
- **Water Play:** A space to experiment with water, perfect for cooling off on warmer days while learning about cause and effect through pouring, splashing, and playing.
- **Bikes and Scooters:** A designated area where children can enjoy riding bikes and scooters, helping to build coordination, balance, and confidence.

With these new play spaces, OPAL will provide an environment where our children can explore, create, and learn through hands-on experiences.

We can't wait to see the joy and learning that OPAL will bring to our playground, and we encourage all students to dive in and enjoy these fantastic new opportunities.

Celebrating Easter



St Paul's - Our BIG LENT Walk

St Paul's Primary School pupils were a credit to our school on our BIG LENT Walk as we processed in unity as Pilgrims of Hope through Cheshunt Park. Pupils, teachers and parents enjoyed the beauty of God's Creation as we gathered together in prayer and solidarity. Thank you to all those who were able to support and guide the pupils in our school on this active Lenten journey with Christ in our minds and our hearts.



Our St Paul's Chaplaincy team and Fr Clement led a short Lent reflection time followed by a serving of soup and bread to support Lenten reflections.

St Joseph's, Hertford

St Joseph's pupils came together to spend time praying the Stations of the Cross.



St Joseph's, Waltham Cross

St Joseph's pupils were busy preparing for Easter by reflecting on the Stations of the Cross. Our Chaplaincy team set up our Stations and supported each class as they reflected on the poignancy of such events. They also delivered to our parents and lead them in prayer and reflection.



On Thursday our Year 3 and 4 pupils performed Resurrection Rock in the Church to their parents and shared a special service with Fr John. This helped us to remember the importance of Lent, Holy Week and the resurrection.



Lord God,
During this special time of year
give us the strength to carry on; to
never give up and have faith in
you. Give us forgiveness; to help
others and forget the bad
that they have done. Give us
the courage that we need
to speak up for others and help
those who need it. Listen to our
prayer and help us to do this always.
Amen

Lord God,
I ask you to give me courage and strength
to continue keeping my Lenten promise.
Help me to become a better person and
forgive, respect and love others just as
Jesus did. Jesus sacrificed his life for all
of us so that he would cleanse our
sins, so we should all try and help
around and sacrifice some of our time
for others.
Help me to follow in Jesus' footsteps more
and try and be kind to everyone. Please
help me to also have a stronger relationship
with you and everyone.
Amen

Dear Lord,
Thank you for giving up
your life for our sins,
Give us the strength to love
those who trespass against us
and teach me to love as
you do.
Lord, I thank you for helping
me to be the best version
of myself that I can be.
Thank you for giving me
the power to forgive and
love your children.
Thank you
Lord

Ofsted Congratulations

St Joseph's Waltham Cross, St Joseph's Hertford,
St Cross & St Augustine's



Mrs O'Connor
Deputy CEO
(Headteacher
St Joseph's WX -
at the time of
the inspection)

"Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. From the early years onwards, staff have clear expectations and well-established routines. Relationships are respectful. Pupils are polite, kind and support one another."

We are extremely proud of the outcome of the Ofsted inspection. This was what is known as a Section 8 Inspection which essentially examines the progress we have made since our last graded inspection. Whilst Ofsted does not record grading as part of this inspection the report notes that we have demonstrated significant improvement since its last inspection. Our report reads exactly as it should, with children coming first. It truly celebrates everything that St Joseph's stands for. It was a rigorous two days but an inspection that was a joy to be a part of. We are incredibly proud that all the hard work of the pupils, staff and Governors with the support of the Trust, has been recognised. St Joseph's is and always has been a strong community and we thank our parents for their constant support of all school life.



Mr Maloney
Headteacher
St Joseph's,
Hertford

"Pupils thrive in this warm and inclusive school community. They look forward to attending each day, arriving promptly and ready to engage with their learning. Staff take the time to build effective relationships with pupils and their families, ensuring individual needs are understood and met."

This was a Section 8 Ofsted Inspection, which determines if the school has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection. The inspection report notes that St Joseph's (Hertford) has maintained the standards identified as **'good'** at the previous inspection. The report reads that "St Joseph's is a place where every pupil is nurtured, encouraged and supported to achieve their best. With the Trust's guidance, the school has developed a clear and focussed curriculum that prioritizes the most important learning for pupils."



Mrs Walsh
Headteacher
St Cross

"Pupils are confident and friendly. They are self-assured and talk about their pride in their school. This creates a respectful atmosphere. The school's curriculum is carefully planned from Reception to Year 6."

I am pleased to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. The scheduled inspection was an ungraded (Section 8) inspection which is designed to see how we are performing since our last graded inspection. Ofsted has reported that our actions have been effective, and we have maintained our **'good'** rating. Inspectors also recognised how the support of our governors and the Trust continue to benefit the growth of the school and our approach to standards. "The school works closely with governors and the Trust. Trustees hold the school accountable and carry out their statutory duties. This support and challenge helps the school to continually improve."



Mrs Walsh
Headteacher
St Augustine's

"This is a happy school environment that is designed to bring out the best in each pupil. Pupils are taught how to be kind. This results in a community where the care and consideration of others is a shared priority."

We received 'the call' from Ofsted, for an ungraded (Section 8) inspection. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful staff, supportive parents and incredible pupils for truly showcasing our school. Our pupils were simply brilliant, articulating their learning with clarity and confidence to the inspector. It was lovely to see the inspector fully immersing himself in our school life, joining the children at breakfast club and on the playground.

Section 48 Inspection

Catholic Schools Inspectorate

All three schools inspected were rated as:

Overall effectiveness Good

(The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school)

St Joseph's, Hertford

I am very pleased to share with you the outcome of our fantastic CSI report. It is a wonderful read and celebrates the caring and welcoming environment at St Joseph's school. It highlights the strength of our inclusive Catholic community. It is also wonderful to read that pupils feel happy, safe and valued, and we have a positive atmosphere that enables them to thrive. The report highlights pupils understanding of the mission statement.



Mr Maloney
Headteacher
St Joseph's, Hertford

St Mary's

The report secures the school as 'Good' in all areas with 'Outstanding' judgement in quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school. Please do let me share some comments with you:

"Students understand and value the distinctive identity of the school, commenting that they are proud to be part of 'a very good community' and appreciating the 'strong values that make it special'. Christ is at the heart of the school ensuring it is a supportive and joyful place; there is a lived sense of community throughout."



Miss McHugh
Headteacher
St Mary's

Sacred Heart

Our RE Inspection Report is a wonderful report which reflects the commitment and dedication of the entire school community to living out the call to serve the Church's educational mission.



Mrs Fusi
Headteacher
Sacred Heart

Financial dividend update

Throughout the Autumn and Spring Terms, the central finance team of the Trust have been working hard to increase the return on the school's membership fee. The return on the membership fees paid by each school is known as a 'dividend'. Savings have recently been made on IT services, school absence insurance services and savings through providing support to schools via central services so costs are not incurred at an individual school level. The following table outlines the membership fee versus Trust savings since the Trust was formed.



Mr Howard
CFO

Year	Membership fee	Trust savings	Dividend
2021-22	288,000.00	693,530.10	2.41
2022-23	483,005.73	1,259,761.86	2.61
2023-24	532,000.00	493,560.33	0.93
	1,303,005.73	2,446,852.29	1.88

For every £1 invested as part of the school's membership fee, on average £1.88 has been returned as a result of Trust savings. This dividend has allowed schools in the Trust to have more financial capacity to then further support the students with their journey through education.

Trust Collaboration and Sharing Best Practice

To enhance the professional development of key staff working with students with Special Educational Needs (SEN), a Spring Term programme of CPD is underway.

The focus of CPD for this term has been selected following feedback from school SENCos sharing the need within their own schools ranging from Adaptive Teaching Strategies, Supporting Children with Sensory Processing Needs and LSA Networking and Sharing Best Practice. These sessions have brought together leaders, teachers and support staff from across the Trust to share best practices, deepen their understanding of SEN needs, and refine their teaching strategies.

Adaptive Teaching Strategies and Sensory Processing Workshops

Hosted by Alison Lindsell

Our Adaptive Teaching Strategies CPD event was held with a focus on providing practical, research-based strategies for improving learning outcomes for students with diverse learning needs.

The session aimed to not only support the professional growth of teachers but also to ensure that all children, regardless of their learning requirements, can access high-quality education. The workshop focused on providing a flexible and adaptive curriculum that allows for progress, regardless of a child's developmental stage.



Senior Leaders collaborating at a recent RJED meeting

Further CPD focussed on children with Sensory Processing difficulties and how supporting staff can offer a 'Sensory Diet' to children within the mainstream setting to ensure that they remain regulated, focussed and ultimately can attend to learning in a positive way.



The session focussed on the overlap between areas of SEN and sensory sensitivities. Sensory hypersensitivity and Sensory hyposensitivity were explored in relation to the mainstream school environment and related behaviours staff may see when children are experiencing these.

Feedback Highlights & Impact

The feedback from attendees from all CPD has been overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the sessions for their practical applications and engaging delivery. One participant noted, *"Excellent ideas and great shared practice. It really confirmed the importance of children making progress at the level they are at, rather than expecting them to progress in the same way as their peers."* During the Sensory Processing CPD one member of staff noted; *"The most important thing this session teaches is that every child is different and what works for one, doesn't work for another."*

Looking Ahead: Building a Community of Shared Best Practice

These CPD sessions mark just the start of the ongoing commitment to support teaching staff in providing the highest standards of education for children with SEND. The sessions have served as an important reminder that every child is unique and that effective teaching strategies must be adaptive and responsive to their individual learning needs.