

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **FEDERATION OF BEDFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

The academic year 2011-12 has begun with much activity and great success in all our schools. This is the result of the focus, determination and commitment of many throughout the summer.

During this time, we have continued to move forward with our vision to deliver outstanding 2-tier Catholic education in Bedford. Phase One is to transform St John Rigby Lower into a Primary School (September 2012) and St Thomas More Catholic Upper into a Secondary School (September 2014). I am delighted that our plans are now in place, our finances are ready and the public consultation is complete. We just await a decision from Bedford Borough Council!

Two key events, which have taken place this term are the Induction Masses, led by the Mgr McGinnell, to celebrate the appointments of Frances Topa, as Headteacher of St Gregory's and Lisa Sumpter as Headteacher St Joseph's. These are two dedicated professionals, who I am sure will lead their respective schools to outstanding achievements.

Please note that there is a Federation Improvement Plan on each of the school websites should you wish to view our vision and that should you wish to discuss any Federation-related issue with me, I am available on [Alee@stm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:Alee@stm.beds.sch.uk)  
Alan Lee, Executive Principal

### **St Thomas More**

There is something very special when students of different ages come together to work and play. Over the last few months we have seen St Thomas More students and staff involved in a wide range of Federation activities including:

- Bastille Day celebrations with St Gregory's in which, amongst other things, students explored the concept of Pi by tossing baguettes!
- The work of Year 13 students who act as classroom helpers in both Modern Languages and Maths departments as part of their community service.
- The hosting of a Key Stage 1 Multi Sports Festival where our 6<sup>th</sup> Form Sports Leaders proved to be excellent role models as they led 195 children in various activities.
- The Media department and 3 Year 10 students who supported the Lower Schools in making a booklet on diversity, which was exhibited at a special event involving most of the Bedford schools.

I am grateful to all students and staff who contribute so freely to enrich the work of the Federation Schools.

Joe Richardson, Headteacher

## **St Gregory's Catholic Middle School**

St Gregory's has played host to a number of Federation events this term. There was the highly successful social event 'Come Dine With Me' where staff across the four Catholic schools were treated to a gourmet feast with delicious desserts provided by St Joseph's school. In addition, opportunities have also been offered to both Year 11 and 6th form pupils from St Thomas More who have completed their Work Experience and Community Service at St Gregory's. Many are former pupils and they have enjoyed making a positive contribution working with the younger years. More joint ventures are planned for this term including the first meeting of the Federation Student Council at St Gregory's on November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Frances Topa, Headteacher

## **Induction Mass of Frances Topa as Headteacher of St Gregory's Catholic Middle School**



## **St Joseph's Catholic Lower School**

Our Y4 children represented our school splendidly at the Federation Mass on 7<sup>th</sup> October celebrating our family of schools. We continue to work closely with St John Rigby staff to develop aspects of learning in our schools. As part of this we shared a training session led by the diocesan advisor looking at how we teach aspects of our Faith to our children.

Lisa Sumpter, Head Teacher

## **Induction Mass of Lisa Sumpter as Headteacher of St Joseph's Catholic Lower School**



## **St John Rigby Catholic Lower School**

The Federation of Bedford Catholic Schools is growing in so many ways, and the connections that we are making across the four schools is really beginning to impact on our children. This term we have benefited in several areas: we are sharing a teacher between ourselves and St Gregory's, and our Deputy Head is working across St Joseph's and St John Rigby.

All staff across the Federation enjoyed our first Chaplaincy INSET day on 31<sup>st</sup> October, and this was a wonderful opportunity to share ideas and celebrate together. Each day brings new and exciting ventures, made possible by our joint commitment to each other, and to serving the young people in our joint care.

Joy Luxford, Headteacher.