



NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 - October 2021

Reflecting on a Great Start

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am delighted to announce that the following appointments have been made within our Trust. These are all key positions which will allow the schools and the Trust to further develop in what is proving to be an exciting stage in our development. I am sure that you will want to express your best wishes and support to our colleagues.

Clare Clark Primary Improvement Lead across all our primaries

Sue Blakeley Head Teacher for St Louis Academy Newmarket

Andi Dodds Head Teacher for St Felix Haverhill

Josephine Measham Head Teacher for St Mary's Ipswich

Joanne Berry Head Teacher for St Mary's Ipswich

Rachel Chalkin Assistant Head Teacher for St Laurence Cambridge

I am also delighted to inform you that I have been confirmed as the Chief Executive Officer for the Trust – this will be a full time role from September 2022. I am truly humbled by the position.

Christ at the Centre,

Children at the Heart

Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic MAT recently held a visioning day at the Parish Centre in Newmarket. The session was very well attended by Directors, Governing Body representatives and Head teacher colleagues. It was an excellent opportunity for us all to gather to consider how we can achieve even better results together and how we will continue to cherish the Catholic mission for all our learners and community. I was also delighted to have high profile key note speakers at the event. Of particular note was the talk given by Joanna McCall Chair of Governors for St Alban's High Ipswich. Joanna talked passionately about the journey the school had made and also about the importance of us working collaboratively to allow us to continue on our faith journey together.



The event has been recorded, including all of the presentations and these can be found and accessed on the **Trust website** as well as through **GovernorHub**.



If you are interested in finding out more about our Trust please do get in touch. We are also very keen to have more people linked into our schools through becoming a Governor. Being a school governor is an important and hugely rewarding role as it will give you an opportunity to have a real input into how the school works and operates. Our schools need a governing body that has balance and diversity of representation, knowledge, skills and experience. We will be holding future events at which you can find out more about what it would mean to take on such a role. In the meantime, please feel free to speak to your school about what might be involved.

As the first part of the Autumn term comes to a close, it will, I sincerely hope, give you all an opportunity to rest and recharge the energy levels.

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the ground, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

John Keats

*Christ at the Centre,
Children at the Heart*

On the 22nd October we celebrate the feast day of St Bertharius of Monte Cassino. Bertharius (810 – 883) was a Benedictine abbot of Monte Cassino who is venerated as a saint and martyr.



He was also a poet, a writer and a member of the regional Lombardy nobility. As a young man he made a pilgrimage to Monte Cassino at the time of the abbacy of Bassacius. This visit was to change his life as Bertharius decided to become a monk.

In 856 he became abbot, succeeding Bassacius in that position. This was a critical time for Monte Cassino as it was being threatened by incursions from overseas. Bertharius fortified the abbey with massive walls and towers, which thankfully managed to hold off the invaders.

Bertharius later founded the city that he named Eulogimenopoli (later to be named Cassino). Bertharius promoted the study of texts and embellished the abbey with beautiful frescos and precious furniture. He importantly went on to establish a monastery for women at Teano.

In 883, the monastery was again attacked, and Bertharius was killed

along with other Benedictine monks at the altar of St Martin on the 22nd October. His body was laid in the abbey in front of the tomb of Saint Benedict.

I do find the life and journey of both St Benedict and St Bertharius very engaging as Cassino is the town that is very near to where the Vettese family originated. Monte Cassino monastery was completely raised to the ground in the second world war by the Allied Forces - one of the only parts left standing was the central statue of St Benedict which had a unexploded bomb at its feet. The monastery was rebuilt within six years and remains today one of the world's most precious and beautiful monasteries.

Best wishes

Flavio Vettese - Interim Chief Executive Officer



John Tuttle - Chair of OLOW Directors

Dear Colleagues and friends,

Following the recruitment and interview process I am delighted to announce that the Board has chosen to offer the permanent position of Chief Executive Officer to Flavio Vettese commencing September 2022. For the remainder of this academic year, with the support of the Diocese, Flavio will continue as Interim CEO.



Centre to Flavio's motivation is his faith and respect for others which combined with twenty-five years of high level educational experience uniquely qualifies him for this role. Building on a foundation of teaching and responsibility for curriculum design and implementation Flavio's career progressed to leading on Education Strategy and Partnerships at the Local Authority level including representation on national and international committees. His experience of working with government agencies and a wide network of leaders in the formation and development of Multi Academy Trusts has equipped him with a deep understanding of the challenges in achieving the growth and sustainability of schools. We believe that Flavio is well placed to ensure that we meet our collective expectations for Our lady of Walsingham Catholic MAT both in its formation and future.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Flavio and that you will support him in delivering on our most cherished mission to serve our young people through the development of learning and teaching, constantly informed by our shared spiritual values.

John Tuttle - Chair of the Board

Christ at the Centre,

Children at the Heart

Regional Schools Commissioner

We are delighted that Sue Baldwin Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for the East of England and North East London has written the following article for us. RSCs work really closely with education partners such as Ofsted, local authorities, and diocese. Sue's work with academy trusts, schools and education leaders has really helped to facilitate a positive and collegiate framework for our schools to operate in.

If you ask any member of my team they will echo me when I say visiting academy trusts and schools is the highlight of our job. Of course, over the last year we have had to be careful and respectful of all the measures that are in place to make sure children and school staff have good and safe environments in which to learn, play and come together as a community. Being sent copies of newsletters like Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic MAT really does give us a sense of what is happening in your schools and shines a light on what we look forward to.

You have worked with energy, enthusiasm and a huge dose of good will and I applaud you for that. It's been a very

tough and challenging time for everyone and you may not know just how much the stories we hear from MATs and schools like yours gives me and my team a boost of energy. Half way through the first term of this 20/21 academic year and I fully expect you'll be thinking already about the preparations for all your classroom activities and celebrations through to Christmas. Whether you are new to the MAT or whether this is your second, third ... tenth, eleventh Christmas, I hope you will have a brilliant time and take note that we would love to see your pictures and hear your stories.

With our very best wishes

Sue

Partnership Work with Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology

Last school year, senior leaders across all schools took part in a development programme focusing on servant leadership designed by the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology. OLOW has close



MARGARET BEAUFORT INSTITUTE
OF THEOLOGY

links with the Institute which is a lay Catholic Institute part of the Cambridge Theological Federation and the extensive tradition of Catholic theological education. As the Diocesan Centre for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies our work with MBIT provides the Trust with a unique source of specialist theological knowledge.

Dr Sue Price, Co-Principle at MBIT, who facilitated the OLOW Servant Leadership programme has produced an article based on the sessions and participants feedback to be published in The Pastoral Review. It can be found under '**Latest News**' **on the trust website www.ourladyofwalsingham.co.uk**

Christ at the Centre,

Children at the Heart

This year staff will be able to join a series of twilights based on Catholic social justice teachings.



St Pancras Primary, Ipswich

What have Year 1 been up to

In English, Year 1 read some poetry by Shirley Hughes from a book called 'Out and About'. This book also linked nicely to their Science topic about seasonal changes and Geography where they were learning about the weather. After listening to some poems about playing with mud, sand and water, the children were able to play with each of these in the outside area and used this experience to think of adjectives to describe their play. This vocabulary was used to create a group poem.



I like the sand.
Walking on the sand, it
tickles my feet.
Relax on the sand, down on
the beach.
Soft sand in my hands.
Building sand castles, swim
in the sea.
Sand tickles my feet, sand in
my toes.

*By Riley, Fearn, Noel, Noah,
Maxy and Aurora*



An update from Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about Britain during the Stone Age.

They also linked their history topic to PE. They created a dance based on Stonehenge. Each week the children learned a new section and the routine was excellent.

Here are photographs, which showcase some of the children's brilliant Stonehenge poses that featured in their routine.



We are Loving and kind,

We Pray and we Play

U11 Girls Football

Congratulations to all of our girls on representing the school in a football competition.

Our team came second overall. It was a fantastic effort and the girls should be proud of their achievement!

Well done to one of our girls, in particular, on achieving the Fair Play Award.



Reception

This term in RE we have been talking about how God created everything. The children listened to the story of creation and then in groups used different materials and resources to make the world. The children were able to remember lots of the different things that God had created and impressed Mr Cook with our knowledge!



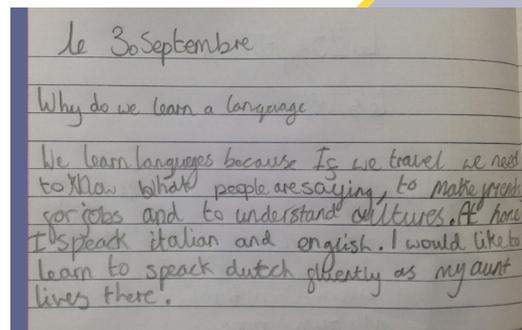
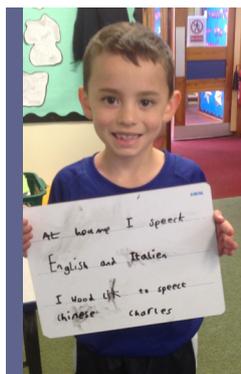
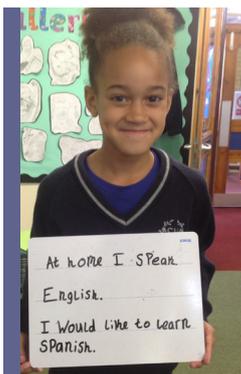
Year 4



In Year 4 we have been celebrating Black History Month by looking at a number of influential characters from the past. We have explored their lives, learnt facts about them, and performed some of their famous quotes. We also enjoyed creating Pop Art images of these key characters using inspiration from Andy Warhol.

European Day of Language

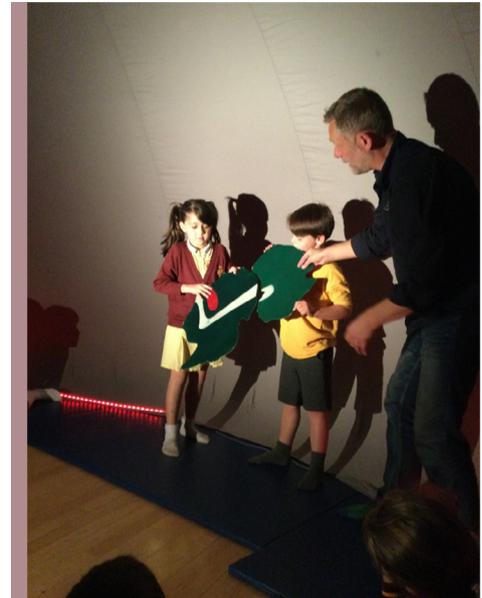
Each year in September is European Day of Languages. As well as looking at our French skills we have discussed the joy of our diverse school and the languages we speak from all over the world. We also discussed why we learn a language and what skills will need to do this in order to be global citizens - looking outwards and being friends with our neighbours.



St Louis Academy, Newmarket

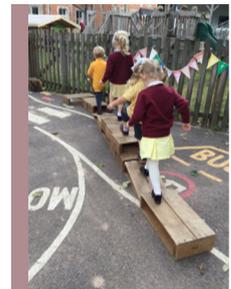
A Planetarium Comes to St Louis

Key Stage 2 enjoyed their first learning experience of the year, linked to their curriculum study of space. They had a day of study within the onsite planetarium. It was a brilliant learning opportunity.



Welcome to Acorns Class - Our Nursery

We have had a wonderful start to the new school year in Acorns class! The children have settled in so well already and are beginning to develop new friendships as they enjoy exploring their environment and gaining different experiences in their very first year of an exciting journey towards primary education.

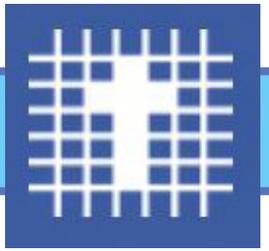


Our top priority in nursery is that the children learn through self-initiated play. We observe this to identify how to provide next steps to ensure that they make good progress and offer support for them to develop their skills across all seven areas of learning in the Foundation Stage curriculum.



At our recent Macmillan Coffee Morning, we served Fairtrade teas and coffees. The online giving raised by Mrs Cox, Mrs Burgess and Miss Coetzee having their hair cut was £980 plus £155 in gift aid. School coffee mornings raised £859.89. Thank you for helping to make this incredible amount.





A Donation from CB Mentoring

Just before the end of the summer term the school were given a donation of culturally inclusive jigsaws to use in our classrooms.

The donation was gifted by CB Mentoring which was founded in 2020 after the life changing events of the global pandemic and the death of George Floyd. As a group, they feel the unshakable need to support our youth moving forward and act for change. To find out more, go to: www.cbmentoring.org



House Captains

Our house captains and vice house captains have been recently elected into role. They were voted in by their peers and have already made an impact with supporting at lunchtimes and motivating the members of their houses. This year the school decided to rename the houses in order to give the children more knowledge of different saints. Our houses are now St Audrey, St Edmund, St Julian and St Felix.



Welcome to our Reception Children

This half term we welcomed our reception children fully into the family of St Laurence. At our Welcome Liturgy Fr. Simon blessed each child along with their Year 6 buddy and the children sang and said prayers. The altar was covered with a cloth that had every child's handprint on it. The tradition at St Laurence is that this handprint cloth is then placed on the altar during their Year 6 leavers Mass to show the journey they have made through St. Laurence.



Renew the Face of the Earth

This year at St Felix our school project is Renew the Face of the Earth.

This provides a focus for our activities across 2021-22 as we aim to become more aware of our personal responsibility for the stewardship of Creation. The eyes in our display above are a composite image of all the members of our school to recognise our collective role in delivering this project.

The Environment Club have taken on responsibility for recycling across the school and have formed links with Keep Haverhill Recycling to recycle those items which are more difficult to find outlets for such as crisp packets, coffee pods, bread bags, blister packs, pens, toothpaste tubes and confectionery wrappers.



The House Captains are keen to target food waste and we will be monitoring our levels across the year to see if we can improve this.

Across the school we have created displays based on the Cafod message of The Eyes of the World Are On Us for COP26. Pupils have considered the many ways in which the planet is affected by Climate Change. Year 6 created letters from Nature to Humanity asking us to stop and consider the impacts of our actions and used these to launch our project with the first pupil led assembly of the year.

We celebrated our Harvest festival on Family Fast Day 1st October and alongside our usual donation to Cafod and the Haverhill foodbank, we went veggie for the day to bring to the forefront of our minds how our food choices impact the planet.



Open Mornings

Despite the challenges of school lockdowns, we wanted to embrace change and consider what we could do differently regarding our traditional open evening events. We considered several options and after some discussions spearheaded by Mrs Clapson (Transition Coordinator) a suggestion was put forward to offer four open mornings over two weeks to provide parents/carers with the opportunity to visit our school and gain a 'snap shot' of a typical day at St Alban's. The response was incredible. Bookings were set up to do this in a safe socially distanced way and groups were escorted round by our newly appointed prefects. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and parents/carers really enjoyed the opportunity to see our school site, experience different lessons, meet our students as well as having an opportunity to speak to staff and members of our senior leadership team to raise any questions. The lure of tea/coffee and cakes is always an offer many can't refuse. In short, a success and something we would definitely consider doing again.

The St Alban's Way and the 4 Ps

Since the launch of the 4Ps initiative at St Alban's we have focussed our attention on supporting our students return to some 'normality' post lockdown last academic year. As we navigate our way through the various challenges of this new term we have been busy adapting our recovery curriculum to support all members of our school community. The focus on; Pride, Preparation, Participation and Progression effectively support our drive to create an aspirational learning environment with the opportunity for all our students to excel. This also supports our student rewards system and it was pleasing to see how our staff have embraced it both in a pastoral and academic sense from September. There is much work to do but it has really lifted spirits at St Alban's. Our students are taking a renewed pride in their uniform, punctuality, kindness to each other and commitment to their studies.



Year 7 Reflection Day



On the 30th September and 1st October, Year 7 students attended their Reflection Day. The days were held at the Vauxhall Christian Trust Campsite in Great Wenham. The purpose of the day was to allow students to make positive relationships – with themselves, each other, the wider community and with God. Their form tutors accompanied them. There was time for discussion, collaborative working, singing, reflection, prayer and most of all fun.

Learning... Respecting... Caring...



Open Evening 2021

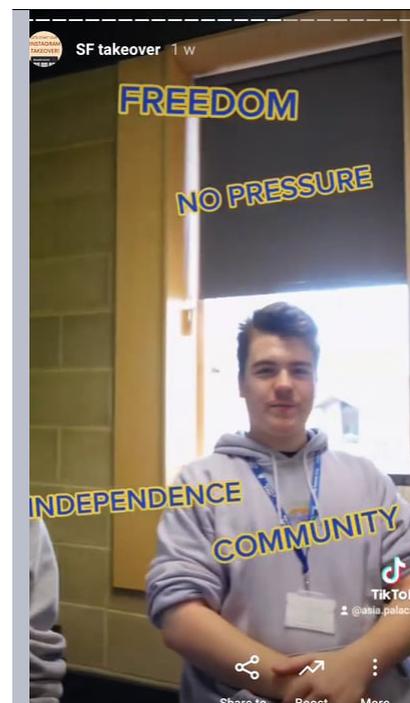
On the 30th September the Sixth Form welcomed Year 11 students and their parents/carers from all over the local region to our vibrant community. It was the first public event hosted for 18 months. The evening was a carefully planned balance between showcasing our amazing facilities and considering Covid safety measures. We managed to achieve a wonderful buzz around the sixth form buildings. The current Sixth Form family took an active role with so many volunteers from car parking duties, welcoming students to subject rooms, playing music and serving refreshments. Over 250 people visited us, many of which being from other schools. We look forward to welcoming as many of them as possible into our community in 2022!



Instagram Takeover



As a sixth form photographer I was asked to do an instagram takeover. I got really excited about that since it would bring me closer to our school society. I needed to prepare various clips and videos, so I went around our sixth form and asked people around to help me out and answer a few questions. Everyone was very friendly and we had a lot of fun making the videos! Overall the experience was informative and enjoyable.



By doing this I wanted to help the younger pupils see how great it is to be a part of our sixth form. I am hoping to do it again in the future!

Asia year 13

Learning... Respecting... Caring...





Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Trust

Dr Charlotte Woodford - Chair of the Local Governing Body, St Laurence Primary, Cambridge

'Christ at the centre, children at the heart' – across Cambridgeshire and Suffolk in our Diocesan schools, this shared vision inspires us to make our schools the best possible place for young to grow in their learning and in their spiritual lives. Throughout the Diocese volunteers play a role in this process as school governors, whose involvement with our schools helps them to fulfil their vision. Governors' role in schools is a strategic one, and in the case of Catholic schools a majority on any governing board are 'foundation governors' appointed to ensure that the Catholic values of the school shine through in all its work. By knowing their school and its context, governors as volunteers take part in the conversations which set a school's priorities. The work of governors often goes on 'behind the scenes' and isn't always immediately visible so it can be a challenge to find ways to let people know of the opportunities there are in schools to help support their important mission.



Currently, in St Laurence Primary School in Cambridge, as in many other schools, a particular priority is to address the impact on children's learning and wellbeing of two school years disrupted by Covid and lockdowns. As well as having a direct personal and economic impact on many families, children have missed out on many learning opportunities. It's never been clearer how important it is for all children to receive high quality teaching in school on a daily basis so that they can all meet the milestones important to their future education. A particular challenge to governors is helping schools adapt to such new conditions (and other changes on a national level to what is required of schools). Governors are best able to do so when they are representative of their school community and when new people step forward to share in the task - for those who volunteer it is a rewarding task and a great way of gaining new skills. There is plenty of training on offer to help you understand the role.

At St Laurence Primary School we are proud of our diverse and inclusive community, and our shared religious values help us to celebrate the uniqueness of every child. It's important that every child has the ambition to fulfil their potential and to aim high. If you share our passion for ensuring that all children have the best possible educational opportunities and the help they need to grow in their faith, please get in contact with your local school or the Diocesan office.

Christ at the Centre,

Children at the Heart

www.ourladyofwalsingham.co.uk

NPQ Delivery Partnership

We are delighted to confirm that Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust has been selected as a delivery partner for the redesigned National Professional Qualifications. We are thrilled to be part of a national group of high performing MATS and Teaching School Hubs, serving the whole country through the joint Church of England and Catholic Education Service partnership programme.

OLOW staff will be acting as coaches and facilitators on the Executive Leadership, Senior Leadership and Leading Behaviour and Cultural Change Programmes. All of our facilitators are gaining accredited as Church of England Expert Coaches in partnership with the Chartered College of Teaching.

The expanded offer now provides fully funded opportunities for teaching staff at all levels to develop alongside peers with similar goals and experiences through the suite of practice focused NPQs, including Leading Teaching and Leading Teacher Development.

Beyond the core teaching which makes NPQ a nationally recognised qualification, the value of a CES/Church of England-delivered NPQ comes through the shared vision to develop. We believe that the value of an NPQ goes far beyond simply gaining a qualification. We want every OLOW teacher, head or senior leader who joins the programmes to get value for themselves, as well as take practical, evidence based long-term skills back to their classrooms and schools.

If you are interested in learning more about become a coach or facilitator or applying to a programme further information can be found at www.cefel.org.uk/npq

Governor Information and Recruitment Session

Interested in finding out more about what the role and responsibilities of a governor within our trust includes or maybe becoming one yourself?

To take part in the session please see the details below.

The meeting will be hosted on Zoom
Wednesday November 24th 2021
6:00PM

The meeting link and access information can be found on the trust website under 'Latest News'

www.ourladyofwalsingham.co.uk

Start of School Year 21/22 Staff Joiners

We are delighted to welcome new colleagues to the family of schools within the Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust. They include:

St Felix Primary, Haverhill

Karen Bryan - SENDCO
Venita Patel - Learning Support Assistant
Ms Sarah Woolcott - Learning Support Assistant
Emma Dwyer - Wraparound Care Assistant
Collete Hellen - Wraparound Care Assistant

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St Laurence Primary, Cambridge

Sarah Groves - Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Ellie Mortlock-Armstrong - Early Career Teacher Years 1/2
Laura Thomas - Mid-day Supervisor

"My name is Eleanor Armstrong-Mortlock, and I am the new classteacher for "Skylarks" class in Key Stage at St. Laurence Catholic Primary School in Cambridge. I have loved my first few weeks at St. Laurence as an Early Career Teacher, with my brilliant class and helpful and enthusiastic colleagues. I really enjoy working somewhere which has such strong ethos and a really supportive and positive outlook on teaching."



St Louis Academy, Newmarket

Brian Bigrigg - Handyperson
Helena Pereira Cipriano - Catering Assistant
Bianca Coetzee - Classteacher Years 1/2
Radha Spratt - Classteacher Years 5/6
Dawn Vickerage - Classteacher Years 3/4

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St Mary's Primary, Ipswich

Glynn Bentley - SENDCO and Classteacher of Year 4 (on secondment)
Lisa Ciufu - Teaching Assistant
Clare Hawes - Classteacher
Melissa Hawkins - Classteacher of Year 1
Nunzia Palladino - Teaching Assistant

St Pancras Primary, Ipswich

Jenny McGhee Wallace - Senior teacher at St Mary's on secondment
as Interim HoS while Lucille Martin is on maternity leave
Lauren Crowther - Early Career Teacher, Year 3
Ciara Mason - Teaching Assistant

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St Alban's High, Ipswich

Mark Donohue - Head of Faculty for Business Studies and Computer Science
Michael Connell-Smith - Subject Development Lead for Science
Jonathan Hicks - Teacher of Religious Studies
James Kelly - Teacher of English Functional Skills
Angela Reeve - Teacher of Religious Studies
Christa Rodrigues - Attendance and Census Officer
Megan Cousins - Teacher of Science
Gosha Bikritski - Academic Catch Up and Foundation Learning Support
Georgia Kay - Teaching Assistant
Philippa Edwards - Teaching Assistant
James Pickard - Teaching Assistant

"My name is Malgorzata Bikritski and I have been working as a Foundation Support Worker in St Alban's High School in Ipswich since September. It has been a very positive experience so far and I am very grateful to all staff for such a warm welcome; that had given me the confidence and strength to become a part of the team from the day one. I am sure we will have a long and successful collaboration together"



*Christ at the Centre,
Children at the Heart*