

Love & Justice

#allsaintsfamily — January 2026 Newsletter



OPEN EVENING



All Saints Catholic High School



Well done to parents,
pupils and staff - our
school community
has become stronger
by working together!



Dear Parents, Carers & Friends of All Saints,

Hopefully you are all rested and looking forward to a successful new year in 2026. As a school we enter an Ofsted window and look positively towards another busy and exciting term of 'typicality' at All Saints. That is because our 'typicality' ensures we continue to grow stronger, it ensures we continue to build on our many strengths, and ensures we continue to look forward with ambition and optimism in full support of the children and community that we serve. Our 'typicality' also ensures we act with integrity and belief in the importance of public service.

We are not a school that stands still. That's not what we do. Our new cohort of Year 7s, when they joined with us in September, became an integral part of the 1150 pupils on roll. We know there were many families left disappointed because their children did not receive an invitation to All Saints, but we are constrained by physical size, and our maximum can only accommodate a certain number of pupils within the school. We are now oversubscribed in every year group Year 7-11; and the biggest testimony of a successful school, I believe, is the continuing trust of our parents - your children are our ambassadors, and you as parents know the high standards we work to maintain at All Saints.

So welcome to your new school, Year 7s. You have been with us through a very thorough and successful transition programme. We provide you with lots of support to ensure you enjoy your first term here and feel safe and supported. Your parents and carers were invited to celebrate a welcome mass in September, led by Fr Sean and Deacon Bennett, where we celebrated together, supported by our mission statement of "Love and Justice". You will be invested with Christian Values and principles, so that whatever path you take in life you will feel the security and understanding of what it takes to be a good person, brought up within the "All Saints' Way".

Look through the pages of this first newsletter of 2026, parents, and you will see our celebrations and our achievements in pictures and print. You will see moments from our Annual Awards Evening, where Michelle Hinnegan presented to many of our successful pupils - including Matthew and Josh who achieved straight 9s at GCSE in all of their science subjects, including George for not missing a single day of schooling throughout his five years at All Saints, and Lennon for overcoming huge personal adversity and coming through strong (Tony Byrne Award). They are a credit to us all, and they are testimony to what we do together - a school with a strong belief, plus parents who trust and support, bringing about successful young people, serving a very special community.

And when change comes, as it inevitably will, I can assure you that All Saints will adapt and continue to build on our many strengths. So on behalf of the Governors and all the staff, I wish you all a happy and fulfilling 2026.

Yours faithfully,

Tony McGuinness
Headteacher

YEAR 7

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Our 220 Year 7 pupils are always given a warm welcome on arrival over the blue line in September. We are blessed to have them and be with them, and watch as all those eager faces turn up in full school uniform ready to begin their All Saints' journey!

Very quickly they will find their feet and begin 'settling in' to the All Saints' programme, with all form classes quickly given the opportunity to attend an outdoor activity day at Lord Derby's estate. Pupils are thrown into team work, and collaborate together to build rafts and kayaks and support each other across the divide.

Then, our first Year 7 Welcome Mass brings pupils and teachers and families together, in an attempt to establish a common place and faith within the children's new school surroundings.

Socialising and having fun together is something we also prioritise, where the children are encouraged to attend Bosco Club and themed discos closer to Christmas. By that time we are four months into the journey, and by now everyone feels they have their own little part to play in the successful bigger picture.

Welcome to your new school, Year 7s!



AWARDS EVENING

"A school with a strong belief, plus parents who trust and support, bringing about successful young people."

The Headteacher, Mr McGuinness, opened the evening speaking of our ongoing academic and pastoral improvements at All Saints. He commented this was his tenth year as head, and "What a privilege it has been to serve the community" he comes from.

The hall was filled with several hundred pupils, parents and guests, all gathered for our latest special event.

Our guest speaker for the evening, Michelle Hinnigan, talked of being Captain of the England Women's Football team and lifting the European Championship U19 Trophy in July 2009. She also talked of playing football with Leyton Baines, Ryan Taylor and our own Mr Volante on St Chad's field, and going on to Captain Everton FC. The message to the pupils was "Let nothing hold you back!"

Awards were plenty: notably two Year 11 boys, **Matthew Jorga** and **Joshua Wokenforth**, for achieving maximum Grade 9 scores in all three sciences. Also, an outstanding award was presented to **George Travis** for not missing a single academic session in all of his five years as a pupil at All Saints. That's not a single morning or afternoon's absence in five full years of secondary school.

The Father Collins Award was presented to **Lacy Noonan** for outstanding achievement in Sixth Form.

Whilst the final award of the evening, the Eric Seal Memorial Award, was granted to **JP McGuinness** for an outstanding academic career. He will go on to study 'Sports and Exercise Psychology' at Edge Hill University.



Our annual 'Open Evening' comes quickly in September and is always a resounding success. This year it was no different.

For many of our teachers, it can be rewarding because it is a chance to celebrate with past pupils returning with their children.

Or it is an evening where we meet with fresh, inquiring parents from Kirkby and the wider surrounding community.

It gives us a chance to show the school off, and share our passion and belief in what we do at All Saints.

This time, we opened the school on the 25th September and gave welcome to over 400 families.

They joined us for the evening, visiting different departments and enjoying a taste of the 'All Saints' Way'.

Unfortunately, we are limited in the numbers we can accept. But we encourage everyone to make All Saints their first choice, and hope to see them join with us.



**OPEN
EVENING**

Mr Hayes, Head of Religious Education at All Saints says:

"Our chemistry is simply teamwork. We work together to illustrate to children and colleagues the importance of gospel values. Success for us is happy children knowing they are "Imago Dei", or made in the image of God. This goes back to Fr Nick Wilde and Gerry Walsh, and the notion of incarnational theology; we want to draw the potential of the child into the present, so they understand they are loved and gifted."

Results are improving because the children buy into what we are doing with them.

We want to enrich their understanding of their place in the world.

Go to church and celebrate the Eucharist, because it is the heart of the church, and the most important sacrament."

Our teachers (left to right): Mrs Hughes, Miss Grogan, Miss Magee, Miss Hoarty, Mr Hayes, Mr Bennett, Mrs Prior

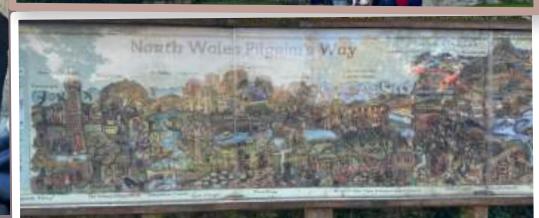


RE

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

STAFF RETREAT

Our staff were also treated to something a little different during the first term. We took a breath towards the end of October, and embarked upon a single day pilgrimage to the shrine of St Winefride's in Holywell, North Wales. Described as "A Spring of Grace & one of the Seven Wonders of Wales", we walked some of the route of the Holywell Way and said our prayers at the shrine.



CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Advent Celebrations

Our Advent Celebration was rather special this year. Under the themes of "Hope, Peace, Joy & Love", more than 70 of our children took part in an All Saints Advent performance at St Joseph's & St Lawrence's church in Southdene. It was an evening of singing, dancing, drama, music and scripture readings, delivered to a full and appreciative audience.



Remembrance Day

The Cadets play an important and visible role within the fabric of our school. Following our whole school remembrance masses, the girls were out and about collecting in support of the Poppy Foundation. We also observed our moment of silence and paid tribute to those Kirkby families who play a part within our armed forces.



Chaplaincy Trip

The chaplaincy paintballing is always well attended by the boys. We tell them it's all about teamwork and supporting each other. But they just seem to want to get full of paint!



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Reward Assemblies

Our 'Year Group Rewards Celebrations' take place in the week before we break for Christmas. Delighted faces laugh as images of winners flash up on the screen and names are read out aloud! Who will win 'Best in Subject' or "Best in Form' this time?

You are also rewarded for your good manners, hard work and following the All Saints Way!



Christmas Dinner

Then quickly we move to our Christmas dinners and celebrate as an All Saints Family once again.

"Happy Christmas and all the best for 2026 to all our pupils and wider families!"



Whole School Christmas Assembly

During our whole school 'Christmas Assembly' Mr McGuinness reminded us all that "Things don't just happen. It takes planning and work for the whole All Saints Family to come together."

We celebrated once again - all 1150 pupils and over 200 adult staff and teachers gathered under the one atrium roof - Key Stage 3 and 4 dancers put on a great display and were cheered by all. Mr Chorley graciously delivered the opening prayer and Father Shaun the last, right after the annual staff song and dance led by Mr Riley. Does anyone remember last year's "House of Bamboo" flashmob?

Then we were dismissed to dinner and a final form bingo before saying goodbye to 2025!



READING NEWS

Reading Intervention Christmas Celebration

Congratulations to all children and parents who took part in the Reading Intervention Christmas Event. It is such an important part of what we do. Mrs Owen led a warming afternoon in the school library, where children and parents alike came to celebrate their reading successes. Parents were also able to partake in workshops with their children.



Our first drop down day this academic year with over 35 external visitors in school delivering sessions on teamwork, resilience, problem solving, forensics, CPR, equality, body image and social media, county lines, domestic violence, mental health and careers/destinations! We also welcomed Talk the Talk to deliver a day's practice training for Year 9. Half of the Year 7s also visited both Liverpool Cathedrals, the Mosque and the Greek Orthodox Church, whilst our Sixth Form went to Chester Zoo.

DROP DOWN DAYS

SIXTH FORM NEWS

LLS at All Saints Sixth Form

LLS is the UK's leading provider of Sixth Form sports courses, and we are delighted to have them based within our school. They are a growing part of our niche Sixth Form provision, offering a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development (3 A Level equivalent) to more than 40 students across Year 12 & 13.

Ryan Brasier has just completed his first year on the course.

He says "It's all positive with LLS", and appreciates the balanced offer of theory and practical study.

He is currently working on gym plans for his latest assignment on "How an assistant coach would impact on a team."

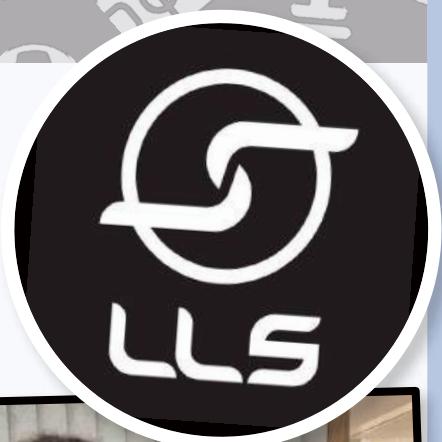
LLS focuses on multi-sports learning, where students from mixed disciplines come together to support each other.

As well as offering opportunities in several other LLS centres in different countries, they also stage an annual Global Coaching Conference, where LLS take over Manchester City's Etihad Stadium and invite students to mix with global sports employers. This gives our students access to lots of contacts, and opportunities to reach further within the professional sports industry.

Ryan is also delighted to have recently completed his Football Activator course, and says he is maturing within his learning with LLS.

"It was definitely the right choice for me," he continues, praising the course leader, Josh, and calling LLS his wider family.

"You can go anywhere with the course really", says Ryan, who recognises several attractive pathways already taken by previous LLS sixth form students.



Week of Celebration for Christmas

All of our sixth formers, including the LLS bunch, took part in a week of festive activities just before Christmas. There was the reward assembly, the Christmas dinner, festive bingo and a counting up of the school's charity donations to end the year.

If you want to know more about our All Saints Sixth Form, please take a look at our new video on the school's website. You might know someone who could benefit from what we have to offer.



Cinderella

As a reward for having 100% attendance, some of our Year 7 pupils were taken to the Shakespeare North Playhouse to watch the pantomime Cinderella. What made this performance extra special for us all was watching our very own past pupil **Charlie McKeitt** star as Cinderella! After the performance our pupils were delighted to be able to meet and greet with the cast.

Bosco Club Christmas Movie Night

The Bosco Club also enjoyed their Christmas movie night. They journeyed to the art deco Plaza Community Cinema in Crosby to watch Zootropolis 2. That would be sugary popcorn and Coca Cola for everyone, please!



Christmas Hampers & Jumpers

To go along with our Christmas dinners, All Saints staff and students took part in our annual "Christmas Jumper Day". It is part of our effort to raise money for the Christmas hampers we later distribute around the Kirkby community.

Choir Care Home Visit

Our choir took to the road in the cold to spread a little Christmas cheer. The children performed for the residents at the local Maples Care Home. Everyone enjoyed the day and the residents were delighted to meet with the kids.



**END OF YEAR
TRIPS & CELEBRATIONS**



SPORTS NEWS



Sports will always be a big part of what we do at All Saints, and our PE team is passionate in pushing the children to achieve.



ETIHAD TRIP

In November, Lexi was also one of the gang who visited the City ground to watch the Women's Manchester Derby. We had a great day out in the cold and Lexi's team beat arch rivals Manchester United 3-0. The game was a live Saturday afternoon kick off on BBC1, and we were in the front row cheering for 'The Citizens'.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

We love sports at All Saints, and it is great to recognise and congratulate one of our own younger pupils on her achievements. So a huge well done goes out to **Lexi Walsh Pierce** and her family. She is a very talented young footballer and has recently been signed by Manchester City! Lexi, everyone is really proud of you.



BOYS' FOOTBALL

In late November we were all proud of our Year 7 B team for winning the Knowsley tournament. The boys won all of their games and represented the school with excellence and pride.



ARCHERY

It is a sport of sorts! Just before Christmas, our Year 9 scholars completed two sessions of "Mindful Archery" with Mr Gilmore. They were all focussed and everyone lived to tell the tale.

