



BEDFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TRUST NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2019

EDITION No. 14

# BCS TRUST NEWS



**Welcome** to the Autumn edition of the Bedford Catholic Schools newsletter.

We hope that you are feeling refreshed after your half term break! It has been lovely to welcome new starters this past half term and see how well everyone has settled into their new year groups and classes.

As many of you will know from communications last year, we are looking forward to soon becoming part of a new group of schools called Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust (OLICAT Schools). In January 2020, OLICAT Schools will bring together eleven Catholic Schools in the northern part of our Diocese of Northampton. This is a really exciting development and is already bringing benefits in terms of shared expertise in school improvement across our wider family of schools. I will continue to work for the new MAT as Strategic Executive Lead to support the fantastic work of all our headteachers to provide the excellent learning, care and spiritual support we have come to expect from our Catholic schools.

We are also proud to share with you our Key Stage exam results across the Trust, as well as the latest news from Our Catholic Schools celebrations in October.

Best wishes, Mr Tony Bishop

Designate Strategic Executive Leader, OLICAT Schools



@TonyBishopBCS



# OLICAT SCHOOLS

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust (OLICAT Schools) will bring together eleven Catholic schools across the northern part of the Diocese of Northampton.



In January 2020, our group of the Bedford Catholic Schools will be joining up with a group of Northants Catholic Schools (St Thomas of Canterbury Academy Trust and St Luke's Academy Trust). The new group will consist of 9 Primary Schools and 2 Secondary Schools.

Mr Bishop, who took on the new role of designate Strategic Executive Leader in September 2019, will lead a central OLICAT Schools Trust team with regional teams in Bedford, Corby and Northampton.

Day to day life in our schools will show very little change, for example, school names, places and uniforms will remain the same. However, behind the scenes, a larger family of schools opens up exciting opportunities. It will allow governors and staff to collaborate and share best practice and ensure that every single child in our care is provided with the best possible education and life skills.



**FIND OUT MORE: [www.olicatschools.org](http://www.olicatschools.org)**



# 2019 TRUST KEY STAGE RESULTS

We are so proud of all our students who have taken exams this past year and worked so hard for their achievements. We were delighted to see improved outcomes and wanted to share our highlights with you.

## STARTING SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2020?

**COME ALONG AND SEE US IN ACTION**

Please call to arrange a visit.

**St John Rigby Primary**  
Polhill Avenue, Bedford  
Tel: 01234 401900

**St Joseph's & St Gregory's Primary**  
Biddenham  
Tel: 01234 352062

[www.bedfordcatholicschools.org/visit](http://www.bedfordcatholicschools.org/visit)

## KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 6 SATS

The trust has seen standards rise in Key Stage 2, with Maths outcomes up 5 percentage points and Writing up 3 percentage points overall compared to 2018.

Outcomes for our disadvantaged / pupil premium pupils have risen by 14 percentage points in Reading, Writing and Maths combined. Boys attainment has improved across each of the three disciplines, which has led to a narrowing of the performance gap between the two genders.

**KEY STAGE 4—GCSE** Attainment at Key Stage 4 continues to be strong, with English Language and Mathematics results in the ranges 9 to 7 and 9 to 5 again exceeding provisional national figures.

There have been notable gains in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In each area more than half of students achieved grades in the range 9 to 7 which is above provisional national figures. Overall Attainment 8 has increased by 1 point, equivalent to 1 grade per student, from 2018. The performance gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students, as indicated by Attainment 8, has narrowed compared with 2018.

St Thomas More has a caring environment, in which I feel valued as a student, by teachers who are already familiar with the way I learn.

MARCO CAMPOPIANO- 6 X GRADE 9'S AND 5 X GRADE 8'S

**"THE SMALL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ALLOWS A STRONGER SENSE OF COMMUNITY SO THAT TEACHERS CAN CATER TO OUR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS"**

Emily Lane- 3 x grade 9's, 6 x grade 8's and 2 x grade 7's

# 6TH FORM OPEN EVENING

**ST THOMAS MORE  
CATHOLIC SECONDARY**

**TUESDAY 19TH  
NOVEMBER 6-8PM**

Martin Bonner, Head Teacher

Tyne Crescent, Bedford MK41 7UL

Tel: 01234 400222

[st-thomasmore.org.uk](http://st-thomasmore.org.uk)



## KEY STAGE 5—A-Levels/ NQT

At Key Stage 5 we have seen improvements across a wide range of subjects including Biology, Chemistry and Physics. We've also seen improvements in humanities, arts and social sciences.

**HIGHLIGHTS AND NEXT STEPS** Francesca Hrymajlo (A\*, A, A, B ) is taking a gap year then off to study Medicine at Nottingham. Erin Jackson has also secured a place at Nottingham University and is currently studying Physics with Astronomy after achieving A, A, A, B.

Emily Wesley (A\*, A, A) has recently started her Politics, Philosophy and Law degree in Warwick and we are delighted to have welcomed back Zarrin Rahman (A\*, A\*, A\*, A), who is now sitting Y14 studying Further Maths in order to get on the best University Maths

courses.

I chose STM 6th form because I knew that they would not only help me to achieve academically but help me to develop other skills which are important to succeed in the future

LEONIE BRUNNING - 9 X GRADE 9'S AND 2 X GRADE 8'S

**Apprenticeship Success** Congratulations to all students, who have secured a variety of apprenticeships including: Digital Journalism at the BBC (Patryk Wojcik), Vehicle Maintenance with Vauxhall (Toby Emsley) and Finance and Accounting with Haines Watts (Damiano Ruggerio).





# OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

On October 13th, our Diocese celebrated Our Catholic Schools Week. Led by our Trust Chaplaincy Team, our schools were represented at seven local Catholic Churches. Bedford Catholic Schools families and staff came together to pray for all those involved in our community. It was lovely to see staff and students from St Thomas More Secondary, St Joseph's & St Gregory's Primary and St John Rigby Primary singing, reading and involved in the Offertory Processions. A member of staff spoke at each of the seven Masses.

Thank you and well done to all of our Parishes and communities who came together to celebrate this special occasion.

To find out more about our Trust Chaplaincy group and to keep updated on the latest news and events, please visit [www.bedfordcatholicschools.org/chaplaincy](http://www.bedfordcatholicschools.org/chaplaincy)



BEDFORD **CATHOLIC** SCHOOLS – A TRULY UNIQUE JOURNEY



@BedsCatholicEd



Bedford Catholic Schools

BCS Trust News  
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St Francis of Assisi Academies Trust  
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my **child** at **school**.com ✓

Are you signed up to our MCAS app? Sign up today to keep up to date with the latest school news and announcements.

Please contact your school reception if you are having any problems signing up.