



Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees

Mr John Anthony-Chair
Mr Michael Coleman
Mr Keith Fernet
Ms Keran Reilly
Dr Claude Warnick
Mr Steve Webb

Our Lady of Grace Academy Trust was established in April 2015 as a Multi-Academy Trust with St Joachim's and St Helen's Catholic Primary Schools in Newham, East London. We hope that other schools will join us in the future.

We founded the Trust with the aim of working "together in Christ" to secure the future of excellent Catholic education in our local area, in a spirit of collaboration.

Each school within the trust maintains its uniqueness and its own local governing body but we share expertise and practices across the trust to support the children in our care.

5th Edition

Spring term 2018

From The CAO

We started this academy year with a mass for teachers to celebrate being part of the Trust. Three new trustees were appointed in September and all the Trustees and governors worked together to consider our common strengths and plan for the future. The Trustees are now working with other Catholic schools in Newham to ensure the Bishop's vision becomes a reality i.e. that a Deanery multi-academy trust is formed. We therefore continue to work together in Christ and collaborate for the good of Catholic education and for the common good. Gael Hicks, CAO

Coming Soon...

So far this year, OLOG curriculum leaders have continued to work closely to deliver some fantastic projects. We have enjoyed success with the following:

- Y6 Science Camp
- Annual pilgrimage to Walsingham
- Black History Project on the *Windrush* Generation
- Annual Mini Vinnies Sleep-Out
- Classic Poetry Project
- The Mini Vinnies Festival

This is just the start of many exciting collaborations between the two schools and our Academy. See below for a list of wonderful events coming soon. Despite the delays in the schedule, the building developments at St Joachim's are progressing well and we expect it to be completed in the summer term.

<u>Spring 1:</u> Mini Vinnies Festival Citizenship Project Classic Poetry	<u>Summer 1:</u> Final KS1 & KS2 Moderation With Deanery Schools	<u>St Joachim's New Building</u>
<u>Spring 2:</u> Stations of the Cross	<u>Summer 2:</u> Festival of Voices Newham Deanery Transition Day	

Working Together So Far...

Black History Project

The Windrush Generation

In October, OLOG saw the launch of our Black History Week project across the schools. Children were celebrating the 70th anniversary of the *Windrush* generation and were exploring the history of modern migration, which began with the arrival of the *Empire Windrush* from the Caribbean, in 1948.

The project began with each class taking part in exciting workshops presented by Bigfoot Theatre and culminated with choral poetry performances celebrating Black History and the achievements of the *Windrush* generation.



Quality Mark

This half-term, both of our academy school's provision in maths and English was assessed as part of the Quality Mark award.

The Quality Mark is an internationally acknowledged accreditation, recognising the high-quality provision, practice and performance of English and mathematics within a school. It is with great pride that we can announce that both St Helen's and St Joachim's were awarded the Quality Mark, and we were delighted to be informed that the standard of English and maths, across the schools, was extremely high.



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Working Together So Far (continued)...



Mini Vinnies Sleep Out



CARITAS
ANCHOR
HOUSE

On Friday 2nd November, the Mini Vinnies of St Helen's and St Joachim's came together for the annual Mini Vinnies Sleepout. St Helen's kindly hosted the event, while lots of fun was had, the children also spent a lot of time reflecting on the great challenges of those who are homeless.

Both schools raised money for the local homeless charity, Caritas Anchor House.



Mini Vinnies Festival

Once again, all the Mini Vinnies of the Newham Deanery came together for our annual Mini Vinnie Festival. This year St Helen's hosted the event, each of the catholic primary schools made a short presentation, sharing the valuable work they have been doing in their local community to help others and raise money for those in need.

As Mini Vinnies, the pupils have their own Prayer, Pledge and Badge, as well as a dedicated website and a range of bright and colourful documents which guide them in their formative steps - helping and enabling them to become in every sense, young Vincentians- or 'Mini Vinnies'.

This year we were fortunate enough to have Michael Barwick, a Seminarian, as our guest speaker. He inspired the children with a talk about his decision to join the priesthood.



Science Camp

Back in September, the Year 6 pupils of St Joachim's and St Helen's came together for the annual OLOG Science Camp.

During the trip, they studied habitats, organisms and life cycles, and even tried their hand at archery and canoeing!



The science camp provided children with a unique opportunity to conduct site-specific studies and investigations. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding trip and the Y6s continue to apply their practical knowledge and new learning to their academic studies.

Walsingham

On Thursday the 20th September, year 6 children from St Helen's and St Joachim's joined together for a pilgrimage to 'The National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham'. It was extremely enjoyable and reflective; a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about 'England's Nazareth'. They visited the 14th century Slipper Chapel, where the children were able to offer prayers and petitions to Our Lady. During Mass, at the Chapel of Reconciliation, children were reunited with St Joachim's previous parish priest, Father John Armitage. Children of both schools walked 'The Pilgrim Way' – the final holy mile pilgrims would have taken before reaching the Holy House in Walsingham village.

