

# CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER

BELLERIVE FCJ CATHOLIC COLLEGE

SUMMER 2024

## CONFIRMED - BELLERIVE IS AN OUTSTANDING CATHOLIC SCHOOL!

In April, we were visited by a team of inspectors from the Catholic Schools

Inspectorate, who graded us 'outstanding' in all areas.

This rigorous inspection process looked at the Catholic life and mission of the school, Religious Education and Collective Worship. Some quotes from the inspection report include:

*Students show great respect for each other and have pride in the diversity evident among their peers.*

*Behaviour is of an exceptionally high standard (p.3)*

*The school is very welcoming and a haven for staff and students. (p.4)*

*Staff are committed to providing the best learning experiences for their students (p.6)*

*The school chapel is rightly cherished (p.8)*

*The student body is a shining example for Catholic schools. (p.1)*



Commenting on the report, Mr John Ferguson ( Interim Headteacher) said: 'This report is confirmation of what we already know: Bellerive is a unique faith and educational community, and we are rightly proud of our staff and pupils for their hard work and good example. We will not be complacent, and the school will continue to work to ensure we reflect on the contents of the report in full to inspire us to grow in faith and excellence.'

Echoing these comments, Bellerive's chair of governors Sr Brenda Wallace, fcJ added: ' I would like to thank the inspection team for...

...their work in the 2 days of inspections well as our staff and students for their dedication. We welcome the confirmation of Bellerive as an outstanding Catholic school. The FCJ sisters and Gaudete Trust are pleased to hear this external validation of the excellent work going on at Bellerive and governors are committed to ensuring the mission of the school remains faithful to the example of Marie Madeleine".

The full inspection report can be found on our website.

## LENT 2024

We started our Lenten journey as a community with alternative ashes services on our return to school in February, as Ash Wednesday took place in half term this year. Students were anointed with water, a reminder of their baptismal calling to the Church and the cleansing of our sins. There were opportunities throughout the Season of Lent for prayer after school and Fr Terry celebrated Mass one lunchtime, which was very well attended.

Chaplaincy Team students Savannah, Isla, Sophia and Layla led staff and students in prayer throughout Holy Week. These prayer times were very special and offer an opportunity for students to lead prayer in our community.

Also during Lent parents, students and staff collectively raised over £700 for Mary's Meals. Thank you to everyone who supported raising money for Mary's Meals.

*Pictured top: Year 11 students, Jess and Veronika, selling cakes to raise money for Lourdes pilgrimage and Mary's Meals.*

*Pictured bottom: Year 8 students Savannah and Isa leading prayers in Holy Week*



# YEAR 12 PATRONS

Year 12 have spent some time this term discerning who they would like to be their form patron for their remaining time at Bellerive. Students researched potential patrons during their Core RE lessons with each student choosing a patron to nominate for a whole-class vote.

The final choices were:

## **12F-St Josephine Bakhita**

*Josephine Margaret Bakhita, was a Canossian religious sister who lived in Italy for 45 years, after having been a slave in Sudan. In 2000, she was declared a saint, the first black woman to receive the honour in the modern era.*

*She is the patron saint of victims of human trafficking. Josephine Bakhita's life was marked by tragedy and hardship from a young age. While working in the fields with her mother at age nine, she was captured and sold into slavery*

St Josephine Bakhita was chosen as 12F's patron because she endured unimaginable hardships in her life, but she showed mercy. In her, we see a model teaching people not to complain in difficult situation but to always trust that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

## **12J-St Joan of Arc**

*Joan of Arc was a peasant in medieval France who believed that God had chosen her to lead France to victory in it's long-running with England. Despite having no military training she led the French Army to victory in Orleans. She was captured by enemy forces, tried for witchcraft and burned at the stake at the age of 19.*

St Joan of Arc was chosen as 12J's patron as she achieved so much at a young age. She overcame discrimination due to class and sex; becoming a young female leader spreading the word of God. St Joan of Arc is one of the patron saints of France which 12J thought was fitting with the links the school has to France through the FCJs and Marie Madeline.

## Srs Mei and Rowena

We were delighted to welcome Srs Mei and Rowena fcJ who visited us in May to share more about their mission. They spoke with our FCJ group and with our sixth form students, giving a real insight into their lives as FCJ sisters in their home countries.

*Pictured: Ebony, Niamh and Isabelle with Sr Rowena and Sr Mei*



# MARY'S MEALS AMBASSADORS

Members of the Year 12 senior team have registered to be Ambassadors for Mary's Meals and have signed up to raise the profile of the charity in our school. Their first job was to support our Lent fundraising and they have all received their safeguarding training now. They have been presented with T-Shirts and are currently promoting the campaign "From Dalmedy to Malawi" by organising a sponsored walk on Friday 14th June

*Pictured: Year 12 students Isobel and Matilde with Anna Houghton from Mary's Meals*



# CHAPLAINCY TEAM NEWS

*By Eve, year 8*

We have recently started our FCJ Chaplaincy team in which we have been discussing how we can

Contribute our ideas to help the Catholic faith grow and blossom in our community, mainly focusing on peace month and what we are going to do, such as a peace month assembly.

We are also looking forward to our exiting little trip to St Hugh's Catholic Primary School, where we will be taking part in worship with the fcJ sisters. Myself, Savannah and Isla are really looking forward to this trip.

# YEAR 13 LEAVER'S MASS

On Friday 5th July Bishop Tom will celebrate with Year 13 to give thanks for seven years at Bellerive. We would like to extend an invitation to parents, past students and alumni, please book at ticket by contacting school or using the QR code below if would like to attend.



# PARISH EVENTS

## SUMMER FAYRE

St Wilfrid's parish, Garston has a Summer Fayre on Sunday 14th July, starting at 12.30 pm. All are welcome.

# SIXTH FORM SENIOR TEAM

Congratulations to Isobel Neal who has been elected as our new Head Girl! Congratulations also go to Ruby Thomas and Niamh O'Brien who are our new Deputy Head Girls.

As one of their first duties, they sat down for an interview for this newsletter

## **What do you think makes Bellerive sixth form different to other sixth forms?**

I think we have a lot of opportunities here. For example, this year we have had the 'Girls Network' which is a huge programme students have been involved in to help us see what is possible when we leave Bellerive. There are other opportunities too; I've been on a residential trip to Oxford. Because we're a small sixth form, there isn't as much competition for the different opportunities so you are usually able to do anything you want to do.

## **How do you hope to promote the Catholic life of our school during your time on the sixth form senior team?**

It would be good to enhance the Core RE course; having more outside speakers like the FCJ Sisters, who visited us recently, and Solutions not Sides. I know lots of this takes place already but it would be good to have more.

## **What advice would you give to fellow students (especially those in younger years) to encourage them to live out the FCJ values?**

Put yourself out there with clubs and extra-curricular groups-go for every opportunity! And be nice to everyone you meet.

## **How does Bellerive help you to develop your faith?**

I really value the prayers in the morning, I think they really do enhance people's faith. There are prayers in the afternoon too, and things like Rosary prayers in the Chapel at breaktimes during May.

## **What advice would you give to someone considering Bellerive for sixth form?**

If you want a close-knit sixth form then you should definitely consider Bellerive. It is a really supportive sixth form and, because it is small, you're able to get the support you need.

## **Thank you to Isobel, Ruby and Niamh for speaking to us-best of luck for the coming year!**



# LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2024

Sr Lynne, Sr Ramona and Sr Rowena led Year 8 assembly prior to Laudato Si Week to talk to students about the importance of caring for our creation. Pope Francis wrote Laudato Si' in 2015 and last year followed this up with a letter called Laudate Deum, urging Catholics to care for Our Common Home. Each student made a pledge for the earth and these were linked together in a colourful paper chain, which are displayed on the Year 8 notice board.

*Pictured: Year 8 students with Sr Ramona fcJ and Sr Rowena fcJ*



# YEAR 10 TACKLE PERIOD POVERTY

Period Poverty in the UK has risen from 12% to 21% in only one year. We, as the Year 10 Senior Team, felt as though it was important to address this issue so no one must suffer in silence and constantly fear having an accident on their period.

We delivered an insightful assembly on the issues regarding period poverty, a real-life example of a young woman experiencing period poverty and offered suggestions on how we can help overcome the struggle within our school.

Many women and girls feel ashamed or embarrassed to speak up and ask for help with sanitary products due to the negative connotations around periods. We wanted to create a positive and comfortable school environment whilst making sanitary products available to everyone, and to do this we issued pads in all toilets around school, the main office and in the Heads of Year offices.

We understood this issue is not openly spoken about and does not only affect our year group, so we also delivered this assembly to the other year groups to tackle the stigma around periods and asking for help. We wanted to promote the message that struggling with our periods is a communal issue in our school as we are all girls, and that it is important for us to open up sensibly and respectfully with one another.

-Eliza Wallace, Ella Analogbei, Marina Speer, Ava Jorde, Mia Tom



## FCJ CENTRE ST HUGH'S

### **Companions in Mission taster evening 19th June**

Companions in Mission is a way for lay people-women and men-to live out a commitment to the FCJ charism, working alongside the FCJ sisters to carry out their mission. If you are interested in finding out more about the Companions in Mission there is a taster evening on 19th June. Email [FCJ CentreStHughs@gmail.com](mailto:FCJ CentreStHughs@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Garden Party**

The FCJ Sisters will be holding their annual Garden Party on Saturday 13th July 2PM-4:30PM. All are welcome! There will be tea and cakes, stalls and opportunities to find out more about the work of the FCJ Centre.

# EXAMEN

*Taken from FCJ 'pastoral guidance' booklet.*

The prayer of awareness of 'Examen' from the Ignatian spiritual tradition helps us become sensitive to how God speaks to us in our interactions throughout our day.

The steps that follow are simply a suggest to help you reflect on your day and prepare for the following one. use them or adapt them in a way that suits you.

**Be still**-Become aware of the presence of God. Breath in deeply and silently pray 'you are here'. Then breathe out praying 'An I am with you'.

**Give Thanks**-Look over the last few hours and give thanks for every detail you can remember. See the past few hours through the lens of thankfulness-every gift and every difficulty.

**Reflect**-Become aware of your emotions and the state of your heart. Name the emotions you're feeling and give them to God. Reflect on your actions-did you choose Jesus' way in the past few hours?

**Pray**-Choose one joy or sorrow and turn your heart towards prayer. Pray with boldness and confidence in the Father to hear and respond as he desires.

**Hope**-Look with hope towards the next few hours, committing them to God with trust and hope.



**'May God always be  
with you and direct  
your deeds'**

Venerable Marie  
Madeline d'Houet,  
Founder of the FCJ  
Sisters