

The Saints' Federation



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GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

July 2017

Leadership

Miss Robson and Mrs Walker have been working collaboratively over the course of the Spring and Summer terms, following Miss Robson's return to work after her operation. As you are aware, this will become a permanent arrangement from September, 2017 when Miss Robson will work in schools during the first half of each week and share the role of executive head teacher with Mrs Walker, who will remain working full time and continue in her role as Federation Special Educational Needs Co ordinator. Mrs Bennett will also continue in her role as Head of School at St. Peter's, Alton. This successful working arrangement was recognised by Ofsted in recent inspections and will continue to exist to further develop the Federation and build upon our successes.

Nursery

I am delighted to be able to report to you that all three schools will be offering Nursery provision from September, 2017. It is our intention that Draycott and Denstone will join Alton in offering the thirty hours provision when there is a local need for it and it is financially viable.

Academy status

This time last year, I included in the Governors' newsletter, information regarding The Saints' Federation's decision to join a Multi Academy Trust and the reasoning behind this.

You will recall that initial discussions related to becoming part of the Uttoxeter Learning Trust. Since then, further options have been considered, in order to fully appreciate what is on offer locally and which of these would best serve our three schools. Following extensive discussions, The Saints' Federation have decided to consult with stakeholders early in the autumn term, regarding joining the Staffordshire University Academy Trust (SUAT) Details of this process will be shared on our return to school in September. Initial conversations with the University have been productive and the future has the potential to be very bright!

Multi Faith day

A multi faith day was held at St. Augustine's for all three schools. This was attended by Colin Hopkins, the Director of the Diocese. It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to enjoy time together and engage in a wide range of creative activities relating to different faiths. The Open Centre from Derby organised a mock Asian marriage in addition to other craft based workshops. Barnabas (a Christian charity) provided two workshops – Creating character and What makes a Christian? Tesco arranged Diwali workshops. Our Diocesan adviser, Alex Wolvers held story telling sessions and school staff ran large scale art collage projects. The children had a very special time and gained a great deal of knowledge through hands on, engaging learning.



Summer productions

All three schools have rounded the year off with incredibly professional summer productions!

All Saints, Denstone staged *The Wind in the Willows*. This was very well received and the school was delighted with the number of e mails and comments that came in commending the children and staff for their efforts and talent. The attention to detail was phenomenal from the impressive scenery to the well chosen props and costumes.



Both St. Augustine's, Draycott and St. Peter's, Alton performed *Edith's Wartime Scrapbook*, which was chosen to support the planned learning in these schools over the summer term. Again, the comments received were wonderful and recognised just how much hard work

was put in by so many. The audience were stunned by the quality of the singing and dancing and the authentic props and costumes, all against dramatic wartime back drops.



And finally...

I would like to say goodbye and best wishes to the Year 4 pupils who will be moving on to their new Middle Schools. We wish them every success in the future and hope they continue to go from strength to strength. I would also like to thank the parents within the Federation for their support over the last year, in helping to create a Federation of schools we are all proud of. It is credit to the children, parents, staff and governors that we have made such great strides through combining our creative energies, skills and enthusiasm.

It only remains for me to say... HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Terry Davies, Chair of Governors.