



Formation: Wednesday 1st October 2014

Nicholas Owen was born in Oxford, in the 1550s, and was apprenticed to his father as a carpenter. From 1586 he worked with Fr Henry Garnet, the Jesuit Provincial, and travelled throughout England constructing hiding places in country houses. He worked with marvellous skill, often at night and alone in order to keep the secret of the hides, and he frequently had to excavate brick and stone walls with his own hands. When planning a hiding place, he always started by receiving Holy Communion and he would pray continuously during his work. Nicholas Owen is the craftsman responsible for the fine set of hides at Harvington Hall and Coughton Court in Worcestershire.

Nicholas Owen became a Jesuit lay-brother in about 1600. He was eventually captured at Hindlip House, near Worcester, on 23 January 1606 and was taken to the Tower of London, where he was racked so brutally that he died under torture on 2 March 1606, but he was always faithful to the Church and never revealed the secret locations of his hides. Who knows...maybe there are some still hidden, waiting to be discovered, in some country homes around the country! He was declared a Saint on 25 October 1970 by Pope Paul VI.



From the Chair of the Board: Mrs Joanna Griffin

On 16 October 2014 we celebrated the formation of Saint Nicholas Owen Catholic Multi-Academy Company with Mass at Our Lady and All Saints' Church Stourbridge.

The short address which I gave that evening indicated some of the challenges ahead:

"This date marks a major change in the way that our schools are governed, and we all share a deep commitment to working within this new framework and using it to protect and secure the future of Catholic education in our community."

During the last fourteen months a tremendous amount has been achieved across our MAC by Directors, Principals, Academy Committee Members and Staff. We have established a framework which enables us to manage finance and resources effectively and thereby further raise standards in our six schools. We are already seeing the positive impact of our work and will continue to build on this strong foundation. As a community we are greatly indebted to the commitment and generosity of all those in our schools and parishes who are involved in St Nicholas Owen Catholic Multi-Academy Company.

Please continue to pray for us.

Bishop Patrick McKinney

We extend our sincere congratulations to Bishop Patrick McKinney on his Ordination as the Tenth Bishop of Nottingham on Friday 3 July 2015. We are greatly indebted to Bishop Patrick for the support which he provided to our schools during our journey towards Formation and during our first year together.

We will continue to pray for him in his new Ministry.



SNOMAC Prayer

Lord, fill our hearts and guide our minds as we move forward together. Enable us to work with one another to ensure that our community continues to develop and grow, for the benefit of all.

Our Catholic Identity and Ethos are the Foundation and Essence of our Multi-Academy Company. David Wells, Director of Adult Formation & Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Plymouth, came to talk to Staff at Hagley Catholic High School on 7 December 2015 and on 4 January 2016 SNOMAC Primary Principals and Headteachers – and their Staff - will gather at Newman University for Inset [In Service Training] on 'A New Year - A Year of Mercy'.

The Board is particularly grateful to local Parish Priests: Monsignor John Moran, Father Christopher Greaney, Father Seamus Hetherington, Father Douglas Lamb, Father Gary Mantle, Father Cecil Rogerson and to Hagley Chaplain, Father Martin, for their Ministries to our young people and their families, and welcomes Father Des Devenney as he becomes Parish Priest of Our Lady & All Saints, Stourbridge.

Motto and Mission Statement

Learn Well; Live in Christ; Serve Others

**We are committed to excellent education for all
based on
Catholic Virtues and Values
A Passion for life-long Learning
and
Christ's example of Service to the Community**

Have Your Say

Dear Parents, earlier this term, SNOMAC Principals and Headteachers, together with a small group of Directors, met twice to reflect on and consider our Aims, our SNOMAC Prayer, a possible Motto and a potential Mission Statement. We felt it best to continue to work with the Aims of each School rather than creating another set for all of the Schools. We thought our current SNOMAC Prayer needed no amendment. But we are proposing to put in place a SNOMAC Motto and a SNOMAC Mission Statement. The **Draft** is shown above. If you want to suggest changes, ask questions, make comments – in other words *Have Your Say* - then please drop an e-mail to the school which your children attend. [Of course, if you have children in more than one school then you can send two e-mails!] The e-mail addresses to use are below. **The Consultation ends on Wednesday 20 January 2016 at 4:00pm.**

Mrs Jo Griffin [Chair of the BoD] and Ms Deirdre Finucane [Chair of the BoD Standards & Performance Committee]

Hagley Catholic High School: Consultation@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk	Our Lady of Fatima: enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk
St Ambrose's: stamconsult@gmail.com	St Joseph's: data@st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk
St Mary's: admin@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk	St Wulstan's: head@wulsev.worcs.sch.uk

Parish Consultation: There will be formal Consultation about the proposed SNOMAC Motto and Mission Statement with local Parish Priests, and through them, their Parishioners, in February 2016.



Hagley Pyramid of School's presented Music by Elton John Thursday 12 Feb 2015



Last year our annual musical project focused on songs by Elton John. Mr Mallinson rehearsed with each school once a fortnight, teaching them the material, performance skills, vocal techniques and of course.....to have fun with music!! The show started with three uplifting hymns: *Rejoice, Lord of the Earth* and *Go out in the World*. The individual schools then told the story of Elton through their own video links and famous songs throughout the decades. The finale brought the whole "Pyramid" back together for some spine tingling versions of *Crocodile Rock*, *Candle in the Wind*, *Passengers*, *Are you ready for Love?* and *I'm still Standing*. The Hagley band were allowed to let their hair down on the last number whilst accompanying our very own Elton John "lookalike". The audience joined in with *Saturday Night*, the smoke machines went into overdrive and the confetti cannons added that extra Pizzazz!!

Hang onto your hats for this year's Pyramid Concert (Thursday 4 February 2016) which will feature "Stars of the Midlands". Tickets available now from your child's school!

Photographs of recent activities in our schools



Visit of James McNeillie HMI: On Monday 28 September Hagley Catholic High School, on behalf of St Nicholas Owen Catholic Multi-Academy Company, hosted a talk given by James McNeillie, HMI [Her Majesty's Inspector] on the changes to the new Ofsted Framework, introduced for all schools from September 2015. Mr McNeillie is now the Senior HMI in the West Midlands area and you may have seen him on the news very recently responding to an Ofsted report on Midland schools by Lorna Fitzjohn, another HMI. Invitations were sent out to the Diocesan Education Service and to a number of local multi-academy companies and by 7 o'clock the Hall was full of headteachers, principals, senior staff, representatives and directors from Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Halesowen, Birmingham, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. The talk was informative, positive and very well received by all the delegates. The two points Mr McNeillie emphasised above everything else to this audience were (i) the critical importance of all aspects of Safeguarding and (ii) the level of challenge Ofsted now directs at Representatives and Directors and, in particular, the independence of the sources from which they draw their knowledge and understanding of the schools they govern.



Tribute to Sue Mooney (1953–2015) Assistant Principal at St Joseph's



Sue was a truly valiant and remarkable woman. She often spoke of how difficult it had been to become a student whilst being a mother extremely early morning starts marking, planning and studying ... working late into the night after she had settled the children down in their beds became the norm for Sue. Problem solving was her forté– if Sue felt that something could be done then it was done. This was a defining feature in the Sue that we all knew and loved. She always had a strong commitment to ensuring that the children in her care had effective learning experiences of a high calibre ... not just in the classroom but in all the places where learning happens, and Sue felt that was everywhere.

Sue encouraged children to go further than they thought they could, to run faster than they hoped they would, to reach higher than they dreamed, to stretch further than they expected, and to become the people they needed to be.

(Norah Painter, former Headteacher of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School)

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The Chair of the Board of Directors would like to extend her sincere thanks to:- Mr John Peeney, Mr Paul Collins, Mrs Barbara Boffey, Professor Stephen Rayner, and Monsignor John Moran for their service as Directors and to Mrs Charlotte Colesby for her service as Academy Committee Chair at St Joseph's during the Multi-Academy Company's first year.

