

January 2026



Paul is currently providing emotional and spiritual support to a number of staff and students who are experiencing bereavement or personal loss.

Students are welcome to visit the chapel whenever they feel the need to check in with Paul, seek pastoral conversation, or spend time in quiet reflection. The chapel remains an accessible place of stillness amid the demands of school life, allowing students to pause, process their emotions and find a sense of grounding.

Staff are also invited to make use of the chapel as a place of remembrance. They may choose to light a candle in honour of loved ones or simply sit in an atmosphere of peace, silence and prayer. Paul ensures that the chapel is maintained as a respectful and supportive environment where all members of the community can find comfort, spiritual reassurance and a moment of calm when needed.

Through his presence and ministry, Paul continues to play a vital role in fostering wellbeing, compassion and pastoral care across the school community.

Year 9 Reflection days

On Thursday 15th and 16th January, the school welcomed back the Ignite team from the Diocese of East Anglia in leading reflection days for Year 9 Students.



As part of the reflection day, students had team building activities, faith testimonials from all the team on what inspires them and how it can relate to faith in action. The theme of the reflection was what is important to us, both as individuals and as a community, reflecting the life and mission of the school.



In the afternoon, students were split up into groups, with one group taking part in prayer activities and adoration in the school chapel.



The students were great in participating in the prayer activities and many commented how peaceful it was to take time out of the business of the school to think about what is important to them and what makes them happy.

20th January



After consultation with the Staff Chaplaincy Team and student SVP members, a decision was made to update the house saints in the school from September. As part of this process, the names of the houses will also be changed to better reflect the lives and values of saints who inspire today's students and staff.

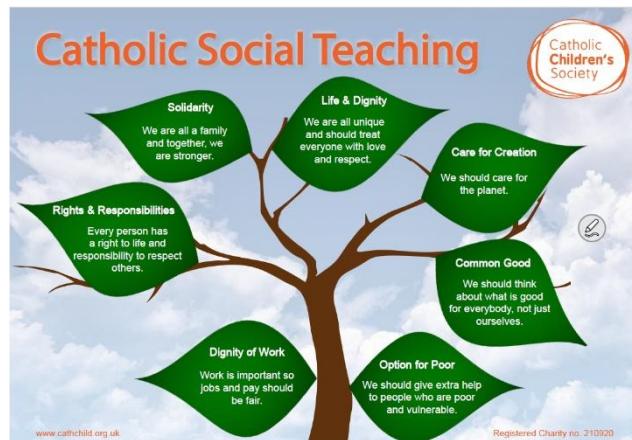
A nomination period was opened, during which over 20 different saints were suggested by members of the school community. From these, the Staff Chaplaincy Team created a shortlist of 12 saints, all chosen for the significant influence they have had on modern Catholic life and how closely their work links with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

These saints represent strong role models whose stories are more accessible, relatable, and inspirational for young people today.

One of the key reasons for updating the house saints was that some of the current saints had very little information available about their lives, making it difficult for students to connect with them.

The new selection aims to ensure that each house is named after a saint whose contributions, values, and witness can be actively explored and celebrated in lessons, assemblies, and liturgical events.

The shortlisted saints have now been put forward for a whole-school vote, giving both staff and students the opportunity to play an active role in shaping the identity of the school's house system. The results will be announced once all votes have been counted.



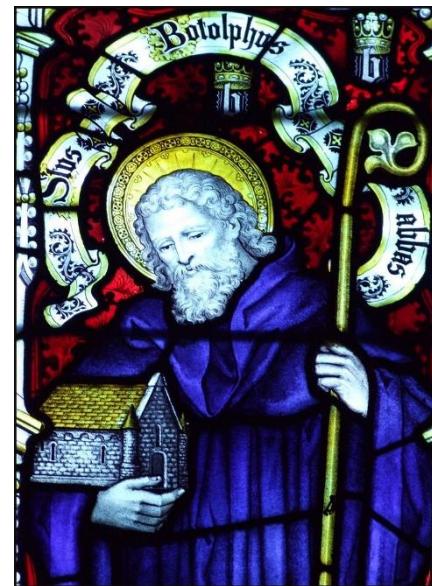
Although the names will change, the house colours will remain the same, ensuring continuity and preserving the visual identity of each house while refreshing the stories and patronage they represent. This change marks an exciting step forward in strengthening the school's Catholic ethos and helping students develop a deeper connection to the values lived out by these remarkable saints.

21st January

Students in Botolph House came together in the school hall for a special Mass celebrated by a visiting priest from St Mary's Parish in Ipswich. The service provided an opportunity for reflection, prayer, and community as students gathered to begin the term with a shared sense of faith and unity.

Many students also came in non-uniform as part of a charitable fundraising initiative. Through donations collected throughout the day, students helped raise money for several local charities that support vulnerable families, community wellbeing projects, and outreach services across Ipswich.

The event highlighted the strong sense of community within Botolph House, bringing together students and staff also offered students a meaningful chance to contribute to causes that make a positive difference in the local area.



Tuesday 27th January



On Holocaust Memorial Day, Paul led staff in the chapel in a prayer issued by the Catholic Bishops' Conference, creating a moment of stillness and reflection as the community honoured the millions who suffered under the horrors of the Holocaust.

A commemorative slide was displayed to guide the reflection, and a candle was lit in remembrance of all who suffered, offering a poignant symbol of hope, dignity, and resilience. Marking this day together in the sacred space of the chapel emphasised its profound importance and encouraged staff to renew their commitment to peace, justice and human solidarity.

Students were sent a video of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz from events last year and were asked to pause for a moment of silent reflection.

Wednesday 28th January

Bosco House kicked off their House Day on Wednesday, 29 January with a brilliant celebration of St John Bosco! Students came in non-uniform, took part in fun activities, and helped raise £94 for charity.

The day was full of community spirit, generosity, and true Bosco energy. As St John Bosco himself taught, “Charity is the queen of virtues,” and that spirit of giving was clearly alive throughout the celebration.

