DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

The Diocesan Board of Education

# Celebrating the **Achievements** of Church **Single-Academy Trusts** in the Diocese of Lincoln

## Celebrating the good things

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. – Psalm 126:3

There is so much to celebrate across our standalone academies, and this week we are delighted to share some of the stories that highlight the wonderful things happening in our schools. From the achievements of pupils and the dedication of staff, to the creative initiatives and positive experiences that are making a difference to school communities, these stories remind us of the many reasons we have to be thankful.

As we share these examples, we are reminded of the importance of taking time to recognise and celebrate success. Psalm 126:3 encourages us to rejoice in the great things that have been accomplished and to give thanks. We hope these stories bring encouragement, inspire others and help us celebrate the fantastic work taking place across our schools

Next week, we want to celebrate stories from our Local Authority schools. If you have something happening in your school that you would like us to celebrate and share, please send your story to Ellen Cross (Ellen.Cross@lincoln.anglican.org) by this Friday.

Lynsey Norris

**Assistant Diocesan Director of Education**



Ellison Boulters CofE Academy

# “ The Dreamers ” – Ellison Boulters Church of England Art Project

**"The Dreamers": Celebrating Stories, Community, and Faith**

Ellison Boulters Church of England Primary School recently commissioned a whole-school art project to transform our school entrance. We approached Alicia Isabel Delacruz an artist and teacher who already works with our children providing a ‘Stitch -Up’ after school club, to work with our school community to create something really special. Bringing together pupils, Stitch-Up club members, and Arts Award group members, "The Dreamers" features four vibrant fabric banners celebrating the power of imagination.
The initiative was designed to support the Department for Education’s declaration of 2026 as the National Year of Reading, a campaign launched to spark a "reading revolution" and reignite a love of books among young people.





**Bringing the Vision to Life**

Alicia came up with the concept and ideas following discussions with staff. The overall vision was to capture the magic of getting lost in a story. The banners depict four figures completely immersed in books amidst natural landscapes. Drawing inspiration from the rich, decorative styles of Gustav Klimt and the whimsical world of the Anne of Green Gables series, Anne with an E, each panel represents a different season through organic motifs and shifting colour palettes.

In keeping with the important message of recycle and re-use that forms Stitch-Up's eco-friendly approach, the banners were created using upcycled textiles donated by our school community. Under Alicia's expert guidance, pupils explored collage, paint, surface manipulation, and embellishment—proving that when small hands work together, they can weave recycled materials into something monumental.
Honouring Dedicated Service

The project also offered a special opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Campling, our beloved site manager, who is retiring after nearly 25 years of faithful service. Alicia incorporated an illustration of Mr. Campling into the Autumn panel. This inclusion has delighted the entire school community and serves as a fitting recognition of someone who has quietly shaped our school environment with humility, kindness, and dedication.



**Rooted in Vision and Values**

As a school family, "The Dreamers" reflects our commitment to holistic growth and Christian values:

- Fellowship & Belonging: By bringing children, staff, and families together in a shared creative journey, the seasonal panels celebrate the beauty of God's creation and our place within it.
- Aspiration & Reflection: Intertwining visual art with our Year of Reading and character education encourages pupils to reflect deeply on stories and personal growth, raising aspirations across all year groups.
- Hope, Love, and Unity: Working collaboratively on a permanent piece of artwork allowed pupils to practice respect and mutual support, helping them grow in confidence and faith.

In essence, "The Dreamers" is a joyful celebration of our whole community—honouring the past, engaging the present, and inspiring the future.

Follow our journey:
@stitch_up_sustainablefashion

# Lisle Marsden CofE Primary Academy

**Lisle Marsden Church of England Primary Academy was delighted to welcome the Right Reverend Jean Burgess, Bishop of Grimsby, for a truly special visit that marks an important moment in the life of both the academy and the Diocese of Lincoln.**

We were honoured to host Bishop Jean for her first visit to a school in the Diocese of Lincoln since her appointment as the new Bishop of Grimsby. Bishop Jean will also become the new Diocesan Chair of the Board of Education, making her visit to our school particularly significant.

As an academy, we were thrilled to receive this privilege, especially as we have not welcomed a bishop to visit Lisle Marsden for more than twenty years.

During her visit, Bishop Jean enjoyed a tour of the academy, spending time seeing learning in action across our 21 classes. She met staff and pupils and was delighted to see over 600 children engaged in learning, demonstrating the academy's values, enthusiasm and sense of community.



A highlight of the morning visit was a special act of collective worship led by Bishop Jean. She spoke warmly to the children and staff about her journey to becoming a bishop and explained her role in serving churches, schools and communities across North East Lincolnshire and the wider diocese. The children were fascinated as she shared and explained the significance of her episcopal vestments, including her bishop's robes and mitre, helping them understand the traditions and symbolism associated with her ministry.

Bishop Jean also spent time with the Lisle Marsden Doves, the academy's pupil worship group. The Doves shared how they support and lead collective worship within the school, helping to nurture the academy's distinctive Christian character. Bishop Jean was interested to hear about their ideas, experiences and commitment to serving others through worship and reflection.

Education is a passion for Bishop Jean, and she spoke of her desire to learn more about the diverse communities and schools across the Diocese of Lincoln. As part of this commitment, she hopes to visit a different school each month, listening to pupils and staff, celebrating their achievements and gaining a deeper understanding of education across the diocese.

**Reflecting on the visit, staff and pupils agreed that it was a wonderful and inspiring experience. We are incredibly grateful to Bishop Jean for spending time with our school community and sharing her faith, wisdom and enthusiasm; and look forward to welcoming her back in the future.**

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**Welton St Mary** CofE
Primary Academy

## Noticing God's World: The Impact of Collective Worship

Last term, our school was trialling resources from the Diocese's Collective Worship materials, and the impact has been remarkable. What has been particularly encouraging is that the learning has extended far beyond the worship sessions themselves, shaping the daily conversations and reflections of both children and staff.

As part of our journey towards Harvest, we began with Lincolnshire Day and then widened our thinking and understanding by using the EYFS Creation resources within a sequence of collective worships focused on gratitude for God's creation.

Each worship started with a time of quiet reflection. As children and staff gathered, they were invited to consider a simple question: "What was your 'wow' moment on the way to school today?"
This prompted an interesting discussion. I reflected on my own assumption that everyone would have experienced a "wow" moment. We then explored whether we actively notice the world around us. Do we walk to school with our heads down or our heads up? If we travel by car, do we look out of the window or spend the journey focused on a screen? The conversation challenged us all to consider how often we truly pay attention to the beauty surrounding us.

We then moved on to think about gratitude and how we show thankfulness for God's creation. Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children were asked, ‘If you were drawing a picture that said 'thank you', what would be in it?’ Their responses included the world, family, animals, trees, and caring for the environment by not dropping litter. Key Stage 2 children considered how they could actively show gratitude, speaking about expressing it through both words and actions and being ‘agents of positive change’, a key aspect of our school's vision.

It was clear that the children were thinking more deeply about what it means to be thankful.

Building on the previous collective worship celebrating Lincolnshire Day, we reflected on the beauty of God's creation within our own county. We considered the landscapes, wildlife, and natural wonders around us and asked ourselves: Do we notice them, or do we take them for granted? How do we show gratitude for the place where we live?

The conversation then expanded beyond Lincolnshire as we explored Christianity as a global faith through resources focusing on Japan.

The children watched footage of cherry blossom falling from the trees and reflected on its fleeting beauty. This resonated strongly with them because we have cherry blossom trees in our own school grounds. Many children immediately recalled throwing blossom like confetti during the springtime and recognised that this beauty is seasonal and temporary. Through this simple connection, children linked an experience from Japan directly to their own environment.

They then identified other temporary examples of God's creation that we should stop and appreciate: rainbows, flowers, crops, clouds, changing seasons, autumn leaves, and rainfall. Together, we reflected on how busy life can become and how easily we can miss these brief but precious moments of beauty.
We left that worship with a simple challenge: notice, stop, reflect, and be grateful.
The impact was immediate.

At the end of the worship, one member of staff commented:

"I'm quite emotional. We sometimes forget about all the things around us that we need to be grateful for. There is good in every day."

That very lunchtime, a rainbow appeared while the children were outside playing. Several rushed over to adults excitedly sharing, ‘That's my wow moment for today!’ and ‘A rainbow, something beautiful but temporary.’ I was called out to the playground to see it.  It was a joyful reminder that the message had already begun to take root.

Our subsequent collective worships continued to use the Christianity as a Global Faith resources. For Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, we explored materials inspired by Moana. Children were shown four images: people, oceans, plants, and animals, and asked which was most important and why.

Their responses demonstrated thoughtful reasoning and growing environmental awareness. Some argued that plants were the most important because trees remove carbon dioxide and provide oxygen. Others spoke about the oceans as homes for animals and sources of water. Some felt people were most important because humans can care for both plants and animals. Many began to recognise the interdependence of all four.

A short clip from Moana was used to introduce the discussion, showing the young Moana protecting a turtle and guiding it safely to the sea. This opened the door to exploring Māori culture in New Zealand and the concept of Kaitiakitanga; the belief that people, animals, plants, and the oceans are deeply connected and that each person has a responsibility to care for creation.

To help visualise this, we created a large 'spider's web' using four children representing people, plants, animals, and oceans. Through discussion, children explored what would happen if one part was damaged. As the web was broken, they quickly recognised how harm to one area affects all others. For example, if people are harmed, they cannot care for the environment; if plants are damaged, both humans and animals lose food sources.

Together, we explored prayers from the New Zealand Prayer Book and reflected on what we are thankful for within our own school and community. Children spoke about friendship, kindness, responsibility, caring for school resources, and protecting nature. They made thoughtful links to our school rules, OPAL Play Charter, bird houses, and bug hotels.

For Key Stage 2, the focus shifted more explicitly to the Māori understanding of guardianship and the Christian concept of stewardship. Discussions around the importance of the oceans quickly connected to prior learning from science, including the water cycle, ecosystems, and the impact of plastic pollution. Conversation flowed naturally, and it was clear that the worship had inspired the children to think carefully about how their actions affect the wider world.

The overall impact of this sequence of collective worships has been significant.

The language of 'wow moments' is becoming embedded in daily school life. Staff and children regularly share the moments of wonder they encounter during their journeys to school and throughout the day. Children have spoken excitedly about spotting birds flying in formation, watching a magpie during cross-country club, collecting conkers, observing leaves fall from trees, standing in the rain, and simply taking time to notice the world around them.

Shortly before half-term, our Year 6 pupils visited North Yorkshire on residential. The phrase 'That's my wow moment for today!' became a frequent phrase as children marvelled at sheep grazing on the moors, paddled canoes into Whitby Harbour, explored the River Esk during beck-scrambling activities, rock pooling at the coast and pausing to watch deer cross the road. These moments of awe demonstrated just how deeply the learning is becoming part of their daily lives.

We are already looking forward to the return of the cherry blossom in our school grounds in spring so that we can revisit and deepen this learning further.

Most importantly, children and staff have become more appreciative of the world around them. They are recognising both the beauty and fragility of creation, understanding that some of life's most precious gifts are temporary, and learning the importance of taking time to stop, notice, reflect, and give thanks.

Through these worship experiences, they have also discovered that this is not something unique to our community in Welton. Christians around the world are doing the very same: celebrating God's creation, practising gratitude, and embracing their responsibility to care for the world God has entrusted to us.

# **William Alvey** CofE Academy

## We love singing at the Alvey

I was recently asked to write about what makes me proud about being the Headteacher of the William Alvey School. I'm glad to say I was spoilt for choice. I decided, instead of listing many things, I would concentrate on one. I also decided that rather than writing about it, I would make a film about it (or ask one of my younger, more IT savvy colleagues to do that).

If you have five minutes, or 3:28 to be more precise, please take a look at our film via this link – https://canva.link/iiqko6kehn27s27

As you will see, the film gives you a flavour of our singing and I hope will act as a soothing tonic if you are feeling a little jaded. I also hope it will be more interesting than reading about us singing. There's nothing like seeing things in action, in my opinion.

Enjoy
Shaun Farrington – HT