

Birmingham Schools and Colleges of Sanctuary

Newsletter No 13 June 2022

What a busy term this has been - with enough activity to fill two newsletters! There is much to celebrate, in spite of our government's growing hostility to people seeking sanctuary.

First of all we congratulate nine schools which have received the School of Sanctuary Award this term! - **Adderley, Bordesley Village, Holy Family, Sacred Heart, St Alban's, St John Fisher, St Mary's, St Paul's, St Thomas More**. It has been a real privilege to visit all these schools and meet articulate, well-informed and compassionate pupils, and inspiring members of staff! We are also grateful to teachers from awarded schools who have been willing to take the time to join in the "assessment" visits - you know who you are! These schools are all primaries, but we're anticipating some new awards in secondary schools in the next academic year, and re-accreditations of three other secondaries. All in all, in this academic year we have had fourteen schools awarded for the first time, and four schools which have been re-accredited. You are all fabulous!

Little Amal came back to Birmingham and was made most welcome! And several schools showed their imagination and artistic ability when invited to take part in an installation at a local art gallery in honour of those who have crossed dangerous waters in their attempts to reach safety.

It's really exciting to see that, increasingly, schools are sharing information about their activities on their web-sites, which we are also able to share on our Birmingham School of Sanctuary web-page. More and more schools are also active on twitter, and as well as @BrumSchOfSanc, we also have our own hashtag #BrumSoS so that we can collect information in one place.

In this edition, we are delighted to share news from primary schools, secondary schools, Halesowen College, and the Department of Education at Birmingham City University which has been working with some of our schools for quite a few years now.

After all the hard work from teachers and pupils, it's time for a well-earned rest!

With very best wishes,
Birmingham School of Sanctuary team

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Our campaigning back in February had a follow-up in April and May!

In April, pupils at **St Dunstan's RC Primary** were thrilled when their MP Tahir Ali read from their Valentine's Day cards during the House of Commons debate on the Nationality and Borders Bill. They were delighted to welcome him to the school in May, and he was also delighted to be there and clearly supportive of our Schools of Sanctuary.



We need more @SchsofSanctuary in Birmingham to ensure our city is welcoming to all those seeking asylum.

Thanks to the inspiring pupils and teachers!



Showing solidarity in public

St Bernard's Primary in Moseley made paper chains along the road outside their school to demonstrate their solidarity with those seeking sanctuary.

Meeting a local MP

In July, pupils from **Erdington Academy** and **Abbey Primary** met their new MP Paulette Hamilton and discussed with her how we can make the UK a more welcoming place for refugees.



Huge thanks to Charlotte from @The_BikeProject leading our dedicated #Y6 team in today's marketing session. Our Bike Donation hub will be open on Friday 17th June, please help us reach our target of 50 bikes for refugees. Any bike, any condition! @BrumSchofSanc #catholiclife



Practical support for refugees

In June, **Abbey Primary** showed its support for **The Bike Project** by turning the school into a Bike Donation Hub for a day to collect bikes for refugees.



Exhibition at Carrs Lane

Thanks to all your hard work, we had lots of information to share in our exhibition at Carrs Lane at the end of June. We had more information than space, and are hoping that we will be able to expand the exhibition later in the year.



Gifts of love and hope



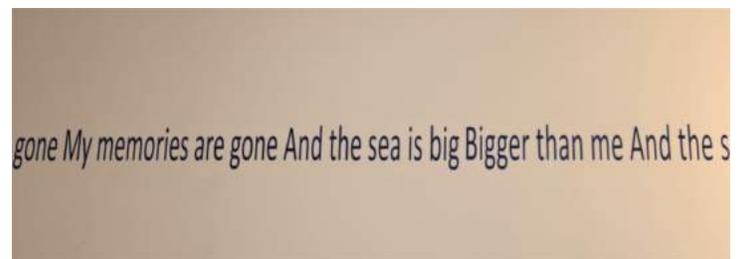
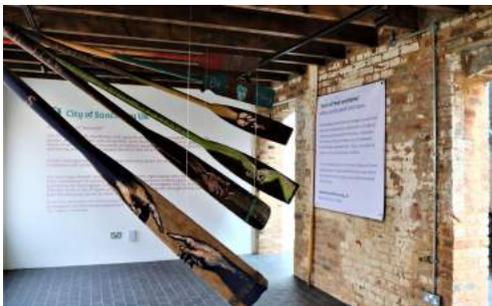
At St John and Monica's Primary in Moseley,

each class read a book for Refugee Week and made beautiful small gifts based on what they had read. With the help of Birch Network, these were passed on to asylum-seekers currently living in hotels - and you can see that they were very happy to receive them!



The Sea is Big

We were very fortunate to be put in touch with Location29, a small private art gallery in the Jewellery Quarter with a mission to encourage its visitors to think about important issues in today's society. The installation *The Sea is Big* was inspired by poetry based on experiences of crossing dangerous waters in the search for safety, and the first thing visitors saw was a room full of oars with words and images inspired by the work of *Stories of Hope and Home* and accompanied by the sound of waves over the loudspeakers. In the next room, the installation showed a raft crowded with skittle-people (created by over 200 pupils from eight of our schools). (Above, Head Teachers from **Bordesley Village** and **Cromwell** Primary Schools admire the pupils' work.)



A huge thanks to Jan and Malcolm from Location29 and to the pupils who produced this moving artwork.



Little Amal returns to Birmingham!

Little Amal's last visit was during October half-term when it wasn't possible to arrange groups from schools to travel over to Erdington to meet her. But now that she came to the city centre, some of our schools turned out in force and gave her an exuberant and enthusiastic welcome!



Read [here](#) about how her visit was reported in the press.

Before her arrival in the city centre, Little Amal visited Abbey RC Primary in Erdington where the pupils showed her the kites they had made for Refugee Week and sang to her. You can share in this event [here](#). On the next page, read about Abbey Primary's School of Sanctuary story.



The life of a School of Sanctuary - The Abbey RC Primary School in Erdington (led by the indefatigable Mrs Lonergan, Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)

At The Abbey, we have been working as a School of Sanctuary for the past three years and have built a community that understands the issues faced by people seeking safety. Over the past four years we have worked with many charities and groups to raise money, collect donations, do outreach work, campaign and raise awareness both in our school community and our wider community. Our pupils' lives have been enriched by the experiences and the people they have met through this journey.

Last year we eagerly followed Little Amal's journey weekly in school and completed our own sponsored walk covering the distance between Calais and Erdington to give us an understanding of the epic scale of Amal's journey.

With asylum, refugees and migration taking centre stage in the news recently, our pupils have campaigned vigorously against the new Nationality and Borders Bill, the forced deportations to Rwanda and the right to work (Lift the Ban). We are constantly calling for compassion to be shown and making a stand – to show that this hostile environment is not who we are! Refugee Week represents a chance to celebrate the rich and diverse contribution refugees make as well as recognise the perilous journeys they undertake to reach safety.

The focus for our celebration of Refugee Week this year was an Afghan kite flying event. We were ecstatic when we heard that Little Amal, the giant puppet of a Syrian refugee girl, would visit the Abbey as her first stop on her return visit to Birmingham..

On Thursday 23rd June Little Amal met the children and participated in a joyful mass kite flying event. Kite flying is a national sport in Afghanistan, and this was chosen to represent the culture of one of the many countries which people have had to flee. Kites made by the pupils were visible pledges and a symbol of hope and freedom. Children also created a beautiful outdoor gallery art wall inspired by refugee artists, and shared poetry written by local charity 'Stories of Hope and Home' and by the pupils. We were thankful to share the day with members of our local community including local Councillors Robert Alden and Gareth Moore, Six Ways Baptist Church, and St Edmund Campion School. The visit ended with the children teaching Little Amal the actions to two of their favourite songs.

Reflecting on the day, J said 'We got to meet Little Amal in person, and it really lifts your spirits!' G said, 'Refugee week reminds us it's really important to welcome the stranger into a new community.' A said 'We welcome refugees, and we welcome everybody.' L said, 'We want everyone to feel part of our community, and not to feel left out.'

We hope that our event has helped to draw attention to the issues and needs of displaced people around the world as we call on everyone to show love and compassion to all our brothers and sisters.

Kites for Refugee Week!

Inspired by the tradition of kite-running in Afghanistan, several schools decided to make kites this year. Some of the kites featured Orange Hearts, as here at **St Alban's Primary**.



At **Oscott Manor** community special school, the pupils made kites and shared the sense of freedom when flying them. The pupils also made sunflower welcome cards with a view to sending them to people newly arrived in Birmingham.



Simple Acts - planting seeds

Bordesley Village received the Sanctuary Award in June! Here they tell us about one of the "Simple Acts" with EYFS during Refugee Week.

During the week we discussed what a refugee is, and why they may seek safety. We talked about how they may feel and what we can do to help.

We planted seeds and talked to the children about new beginnings. We talked about growing in new surroundings and what we need to be able to be good and kind people in the world. Plants need and rely on water and the sun to grow just as people need other people to grow and help one another.



All the activities you've shared would fill several newsletters, so right now we can only offer a selection.



At **St Thomas More**, this pupil was encouraged to teach Arabic to his friends.

At **St Vincent's Primary**, reflecting on the theme of "Healing", pupils decided that hugs were definitely a good thing.



At **St Dunstan's Primary**, pupils painted orange footprints to represent the journeys refugees have to make every single day to find their home, and also thought about what it must be like to have to leave your home.



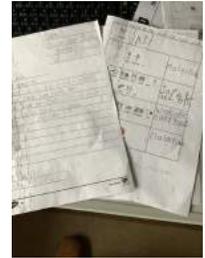
Holy Family Primary invited parents to take part in a creative Healing workshop.



Across our Schools of Sanctuary, hundreds of children read and reflected on books written by and about refugees and wrote messages of welcome and hope. Here are a few snapshots.



At **St Alban's Primary** (left), children wrote moving letters to refugees, as did pupils at **Oscott Manor School**.



At **St Bernard's Catholic Primary**, Year 3 used *The Day the War Came* as inspiration to write a letter to a refugee child. The pupils also shared the



story *Welcome* and made a chain to show their solidarity.

At **Holy Family Primary**, Year 2 read *Lubna and Pebble*, and then hot-seated Lubna and asked her questions about her life.



Encouraged to share small acts of kindness, pupils at **St Peter's** wrote messages of solidarity to refugees (left), and the pupils at



St Vincent's reflected on how they could contribute to the process of healing.



Our schools are proud to share their commitment to the vision of a world of welcome and hospitality by displaying their Orange Hearts, posters and banners as here at **St Dunstan's**.



Meanwhile, pupils at **Holy Cross** in Walmley have been looking ahead and designing Christmas cards for the next national Schools of Sanctuary competition!



At **St Peter's** Primary School, pupils are in charge of producing a School of Sanctuary newsletter each term, which then goes on the school web-site. Here is this term's newsletter, which can be found on the website under the [link to the main School of Sanctuary page](#).

We are always excited to learn about schools who find new contacts and engage in imaginative and exciting projects. St Dunstan's Primary worked on an art project Fly High Swim Free with local artist [Jane Thakoordin](#) and a group of refugees. Year 6 made two beautiful textiles and the group of refugees made Worry Dolls for the pupils, each handmade with love.



Sharing good practice

When schools tell us about everything they have done, we are only too happy to share! Here are examples from two schools - Shaw Hill Primary in Alum Rock, which was recently re-accredited as a School of Sanctuary, and St John Wall Secondary School in Handsworth, a very recent member of our network.

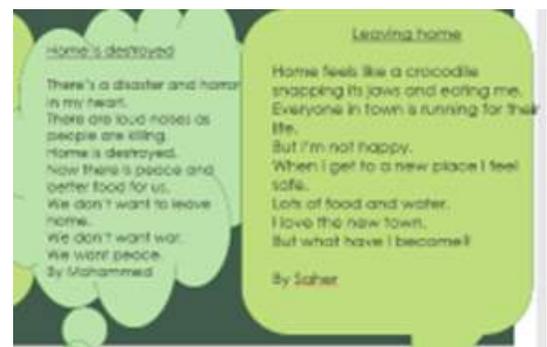
Shaw Hill Primary held an assembly at the end of Refugee Week where each class shared the work they had done. The school is also full of Orange Hearts!



In Reception the children read "The Suitcase" and discussed what it must feel like to be leaving everything behind. They created their own suitcases and wrote about what they would take with them.



Year 2 pupils studied migration, first migration of animals and then the reasons why people feel forced to migrate. They read the poem "Home" by Warsan Shire and wrote their own poems.



Year 3 watched the video of The Story of Harry and Ahmed, where 92-year-old Harry remembers his experience of fleeing from the Nazis and 12-year-old Ahmed tells about his experience of escaping from the war in Syria. They created heart-shaped kites to represent their stories.



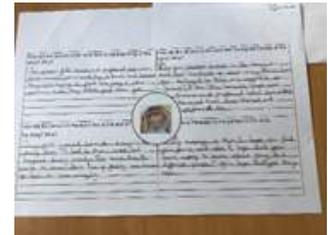
Year 4 pupils thought about what it meant to be a climate change refugee and created posters to show what we can do to heal the world to try and reverse the effects of climate change.



Year 5 learnt about identity and belonging, and all the reasons why people have to leave their country. They discussed how to help people feel comfortable in difficult situations.



Year 6 read a story about a refugee and created a "thinkboard" about their possible thoughts and feelings. They also analysed statistics about refugees worldwide and completed a myth-busting activity about misconceptions around refugees.



Thank you to staff and pupils from Shaw Hill Primary for sharing this with us. And it was great to see Little Amal meeting your Junior Leadership Team!



St John Wall Secondary School in Handsworth had a jam-packed Refugee Week across the whole curriculum!

Read all about it in their newsletter [here](#). Here are some of the highlights:

As a Catholic school, they started the week with a special day of prayer for refugees.

In **Arts and Crafts**, pupils created “doll houses” reflecting a time when they felt isolated and empathising with those around the world who didn’t have a safe place to stay during the pandemic.

Year 8 and 9 pupils took part in a **Reading Relay** based on Manjeet Mann’s book “The Crossing”, which tells the story of two refugee teenagers.

In **English**, groups read short extracts from Refugee Boy and The Kite Runner, reflecting on the situations of the characters before writing their own poems or short stories.



In **RE**, pupils considered what it feels like to be a refugee arriving in a new country and thought about the values, feelings and actions of people and how they can become less isolated and more integrated into a society. Staff commented: *“In Year 7 lessons this week pupils used the Refugee Week 2022 website to identify a significant individual who became a refugee because of their religious beliefs.”* Pupils created a ‘Fact File’ with key information about their chosen person. *“Pupils were compassionate and*

loving in how they retold the stories of the significant individuals who had been persecuted because of their religion.”

In **Geography**, pupils looked at the lives of refugees through photographs. Pupils worked in groups to look at various photographs depicting the lives of refugees including what they are fleeing, their journey and refugee camps. Pupils used the 5 Ws scaffold (who, what, where, why and when) to help decipher what the images show us about refugees and their struggle.

In **Spanish** lessons, the tasks consisted of watching a short clip on YouTube about a Honduran man who was forced to leave his country with his family due to organised crime. The video ended with the open question “what would you have done?” Pupils then had to answer the questions in Spanish by giving their own opinions and justifying them.

In **Computing**, pupils had the chance to play and review the online video game “Path Out”. Path Out is a game that has been produced by a games designer who was a refugee that had fled a war-torn country. In this very first chapter of the adventure, Abdullah recalls life before the war, a family decision that led to his departure and the perilous journey from his hometown Hama to the Turkish border through the war-torn Aleppo province. Pupils had to give initial expectations of the game and then review what they had learnt from the experience. Presenting some of the harsh realities of war and being a refugee in the style of a cartoony game allowed pupils to understand about refugees in a more accessible way. The game is free to play and can be found here: https://store.steampowered.com/app/725980/Path_Out

Pupils said: *“I liked the game because it gave me a fun and realistic view of what refugees have/had to go through in order to seek safety. It has taught me a lot about what it is like and gave me an idea at how dangerous it can be to leave a bad place.”*

“The game told me that refugees struggle to leave countries and have no support from others. It also showed me that not all people are kind to help as they would trick you or leave you stranded in the middle of nowhere. They have limited spaces in their suitcases which means it’s hard to bring everything you need. This game taught me a lot about refugees and how it’s not easy to move from one place to another with such short notice.”

In **Music** pupils listened to the story of Rita Ora and her journey as a refugee from Kosovo. She says 'I felt like an outsider': Rita Ora reflects on growing up as a refugee in the UK after fleeing Kosovo with her family and how music helped her cope. Rita Ora has described what it was like to grow up as a refugee in the UK as she admitted she often felt like an 'outsider' during her childhood.

Monday 20th June – Friday 24th June is Refugee Week 2022
We are going to look at some of the figures behind the movement of refugees across the world.

Number of persons claiming asylum in selected countries (as a % of pop) from 2014 – 2019

Country	2014	2015				2016				2017			
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Germany	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
UK	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Write down as many statements you can make using the figures in the table above.

Number of persons claiming asylum in United Kingdom and Germany from 2014-2019

Country	2014	2015				2016				2017			
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Germany	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
UK	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Write down as many statements you can make using the figures in the table above.

In **Maths**, pupils looked at the number of persons claiming asylum in the UK and in Germany. After discussion in class, they then wrote five sentences each about the information they had found. Pupils said that they learnt information they did not know before, and it was scary to see how many people had to move for various reasons.

Thank you to St John Wall Secondary School for sharing all these ideas!

Erdington Academy was one of our first Schools of Sanctuary and is still a committed member of our network, as EAL Coordinator Francis Johnson reports here.

In our role as a School of Sanctuary, this year we have been fortunate enough to be able to offer students Art Therapy and an after-school Wellbeing club with experts from Birmingham Centre of Arts Therapies.

What is Art Therapy? The Art Therapist tells us here:

Art Therapy is a process of exploring and expressing difficult thoughts and feelings using a variety of material. A range of creative art materials are used such as painting, drawing, collage, and working with modelling materials to make 2D or 3D images. The creative process and images made may help young people in communicating complex emotions and experiences that may be difficult to put into words.

Art Therapy helps those who may have experienced recent or post traumatic experiences and those who might struggle to manage feelings such as anger, low mood and/or anxiety; who have difficulties in relationships with others/family problems, who experience loss or grief, or who struggle with other issues. It is not necessary to be good at art but willingness to engage is expected. A visual language enables the young person to explore their strengths and difficulties, helping them to develop coping strategies and build resilience. Often the process of making creative art within a safe space is just as important as the work itself. Art Therapy takes place within a confidential framework in which information, including artwork, is not to be shared with others without consent unless there are concerns about the young person's safety.

Wellbeing club - from the well-being coach.

As a well-being coach and educator, I see how important it is that young people's well-being is nurtured so that they learn key life skills which helps them to succeed in all areas of their life. The art and wellbeing sessions I have been running in this school have given the young people who attend an outlet to relax, have fun and talk about their lives. I have seen students become more confident socially as well as students tell me that these classes have helped their minds to calm down as they have felt overwhelmed before the Art session.

The work produced has been great, but the atmosphere and openness of the pupils in discussing their concerns has been amazing. *'I like Art therapy - it really helps me stay calm'*

***Student Y10. 'The wellbeing club is good for getting the stress out after lessons.'* Student Y9**

Washwood Heath Academy celebrated a Culture Day to educate and celebrate the cultural diversity and history of Birmingham. While pupils were also broadening their cultural horizons and enriching their knowledge, they also took the opportunity to showcase the cultures of their own family heritage.

Student leadership teams spent many hours in discussion with staff to plan the day, which included Brazilian dancing, learning about Azad Kashmir, and enjoying a performance of "Land of Hope and Glory".



Riverside Performing Arts who put on stalls to educate pupils about Chinese, Irish and Caribbean culture and their Birmingham heritage, with demonstrations of dancing, cooking, kitchen utensils, language and dress. There was a performance from the Drama Club who had written a piece about the importance of learning about other cultures and nurturing empathy.

Their performance was succeeded by a Steel Pan Rendition from the highly popular PanMaestro and the day then continued with bespoke lessons on Romania's role in the European economy and around the peace talks in Somalia. Before ending the day in form rooms, the school community were treated to Somalian Balwo and Romanian Doina music over the speaker system.



While the secondary school had a special literacy task about the day's events and a culture Kahoot competition, the Sixth Form finished their lessons and began their cultural celebrations. They put on a fashion show and shared a meal together. This was with cultural music in the background and celebrations around the identity of Afghanistan. The day was enjoyed by all and there are already plans for another Cultural celebration next year.

Halesowen College Diversity Day

Halesowen College celebrated Diversity Day in April, which was an opportunity to celebrate the diverse backgrounds of our student community. We hosted a programme of lectures throughout the day covering topics such as living with Asperger's, deaf awareness, challenging gender roles and talking about race. We also held a talk highlighting the importance of the month of April from Christian, Muslim and Sikh perspectives, which was delivered by Reverend Canon Dominic Melville, Tariq Ali and Manjit Johal.



Students were encouraged to wear clothing from their cultures if they felt comfortable doing so, and it was fantastic to see so many students enthusiastic about sharing their culture with peers at college

Alongside the lecture programme we also had stalls offering students and staff the opportunity to get a

mehndi henna design on their hands, learn more about how Afro-Caribbean hair is looked after and also learn how hair is linked to culture.

Students could also find out more about the college's LGBT+ enrichment group and try food from different ethnic backgrounds, which was available for free for all attendees.

Haroon Bashir, Equality & Diversity Lead for Halesowen College and organiser of the event said, "As leaders in diversity we wanted to celebrate the rich diverse make-up of our students and staff. We hope this event will be the first of many. We want Halesowen College to be the place where all students are valued, respected and successful regardless of their diverse background."

Halesowen ESOL students' visit to Lapworth Museum

Students on our ESOL programme visited Lapworth Museum recently, located at the University of Birmingham. They had a guided tour of the museum and were shown a variety of geological samples and fossils, linking to what they have been studying in their science lessons back on campus. All students were engaged and enjoyed the visit, taking lots of photos of exhibits.

This trip gave learners the opportunity to view a world-class university campus. We hope to raise the aspirations of our ESOL learners and encourage them to consider education at a higher level.



Halesowen students - Fundraising for the Disaster Emergency Fund and UNICEF

Our Early Years Students had a poster competition to raise awareness for the tragic situation currently underway in Ukraine. Students shared their thoughts and feelings about the events on their posters and encouraged the wider college community to donate to the Disaster Emergency Committee and UNICEF. Pictured below are students Priya Randhawa, Romany Siviter and Seema Begum. Romany (centre) created the winning poster (right) which was then displayed around college.



Priya, Romany and Seema, along with other learners in the Early Years department, collected donations across college for the week, and our catering department made and sold dove-shaped biscuits, raising an impressive £585!

Head of Department for Early Years Education Katie Skett says, "I am extremely proud of all learners that volunteered to collect throughout the week. The amount raised reflects how much world events have affected us here at college."

Birmingham Schools of Sanctuary were again invited by Birmingham City University to participate in another international project!

The 'Collaborative, Community Mapping of Young People's Learning Experiences during COVID-19' (Co-MAP) Erasmus+ project, led by Birmingham City University, is building a community of young people, researchers, school practitioners, families, community artists, charities, and street newspapers across five European countries. In the latest phase of the project, the CoMAP artists have worked with children and young people across four Birmingham Schools of Sanctuary: two primary schools, one secondary, and one college.

Two of the workshops, led by artists Mia Osborne and Polly Brant, were based on mask making as a way for young people to represent their feelings of learning during the lockdown periods. The children at **Somerville Primary** described the way in which they had used colours to symbolise particular feelings.



In another workshop, Year 5 and 6 children from **Oasis Academy Foundry** worked with artist Marwa Sayed using watercolour paints as a medium to represent their experiences of learning during lockdown. Before the session, Marwa moved all of the furniture out of the way and laid out a long watercolour paper scroll on the floor and asked the children to work collaboratively on one sheet, sitting or lying on the floor as they wished whilst creating.

The young people from the three schools and the college which participated in the workshops were invited to BCU's Centre for the Study & Practice of Culture in Education (CSPACE) annual conference in July 2022 where they worked with the artists to learn digital animation skills. Their work up to this point was also exhibited at the conference. One of the artists, Marwa Sayed, was also invited to contribute to *The Sea is Big* exhibition for Refugee Week with Birmingham Schools of Sanctuary at the Location29 Gallery (see above, page.....) As well as giving Marwa the opportunity to do voluntary work to support refugees, her involvement in this exhibition will also support her portfolio and creative employment prospects, one of the aims of the CoMAP project.

And so the term ended in a blaze of glory.....

National Schools of Sanctuary held an end-of-year celebration in which Dawn Cooper from Sacred Heart Primary took part to describe how the school supports pupils and their families who are put in danger by the hostile environment. Other schools who featured were from Inverness, Suffolk, Durham, the Wirral, London, and Wales.

Read the report [here](#), and watch the recording of the event [here](#).



And just days before the end of term, a dozen of our schools were at the Rep to watch a performance of “Refugee: What do you know about me?” an opera produced through the collaboration of Stories of Hope and Home and Welsh National Opera. They were only too happy to share their thoughts on social media:



A big thank you to all our generous pupils and staff.

We know that many of our schools support St Chad's Sanctuary which is one of the most important services to asylum-seekers in the city. We are also delighted to welcome to our network **Our Lady and St Kenelm Primary** which is officially "not in Birmingham" but is in close contact with some of our Birmingham schools, and which already has flourishing links with Halesowen Welcome.

St Columba's RC Primary School donated to the work of Birmingham City of Sanctuary through the sales of plants and hand-made felt Orange Hearts. We are really moved by this support!

St John Wall organised a cake sale which raised £200 for Stories of Hope and Home!

When fund-raising, you might also like to consider one of the following local charities:

[The Bike Project](#) - which refurbishes donated bikes and passes them on to refugees;

[Hope Projects](#) - which maintains houses across the city for destitute asylum-seekers;

[Birch Network](#) - which coordinates home-stays for destitute asylum-seekers, works with unaccompanied minors and also with families and individuals in the hotels.

Pupils at **Bordesley Green Primary** recently worked with Green Lane Mosque to help provide food parcels for people in need, including refugees. If your school is near the mosque, you might like to share in this activity.

Check out our [Birmingham Schools of Sanctuary website](#) where you will find all our previous newsletters and links to some wonderful web-pages from our schools!

If you are not already part of our network but are a teacher, parent or governor at a school which you think could become involved in this inspiring work, please e-mail info@birmingham.cityofsanctuary.org .

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