



Boost for Karuri school

The Northampton Cathedral SVP invited their parish community to join them in their annual knitting campaign to aid the Karuri School Project in Kenya.

The Project was instigated by Wangari Mwane, whose goals are to fight poverty through education, and to give hope, love and a future to orphans and poor children, especially those suffering from Aids.

Wangari, with the help and support of many of the people in Northampton, has achieved her dream. The school is now open with an intake of sixty children.

This year the SVP, along with members of the parish, knitted sixty jumpers which were sent to Kenya in time for the African winter.

Teaching school status for St. Thomas More

St Thomas More Upper School in Bedford has become one of the first in the country to be selected for an important new role aimed at further raising standards. The School is one of only 100 schools in England to be granted teaching school status - a new designation entitling it to lead the training and professional development of staff.

As a Catholic School this is a huge endorsement of our ethos. Headteacher Joe Richardson commented: "The work of staff and students at St Thomas More has been recognised in a very special way through the award of this status. It is an exciting opportunity for all schools in the Diocese as together we will be

at the forefront of shaping Catholic Education for years to come."

In recognising the role of the school's strategic partners, Joe added, "I cannot speak highly enough of the quality of the strategic partners in our bid. We were delighted to receive support from all schools in the Federation of Bedford Catholic Schools along with powerful support from St Joseph's Junior, Luton, St Paul's Milton Keynes and Cardinal Newman School, Luton."

St Thomas More School was selected by the National College for School Leadership which had about 1,200 expressions of interest in the first recruitment round. Staff from the school will now be

invited to the National College's Learning and Conference Centre in Nottingham in September for a formal induction.

The milestone marks a shift towards school-centred training and development. Teaching schools will be responsible for leading a group of schools, working with other partners including at least one university, to deliver high quality support for teachers and leaders at all stages in their career.

National Leader of Education and Executive Principal for the Catholic Federation, Dr Alan Lee expressed his delight, stating that: "This is a marvellous opportunity, along with our partners, to support school improve-

ment and serve young people throughout Bedford Borough. St Thomas More thoroughly deserves the numerous accolades the school is currently receiving - Ofsted 'outstanding', National School, Teaching School - to name but a few. These successes are the result of much hard work, by many, over a number of years. I am humbled and extremely grateful."

Steve Munby, Chief Executive of the National College, said: "To take on this role, teaching schools like St Thomas More need to be among the best in the country - outstanding in their own performance and have a track record of raising standards through school-to-school sup-

port.

"Over time teaching schools will harness the finest teaching talent in the profession to drive school improvement, and bring real benefits to pupils. Trainees will learn from the best teachers in action and those who want to step up to more senior leadership positions will be exposed to excellent practice within and beyond their immediate school."

Councillor David Sawyer Portfolio holder for Education, Bedford Borough Council commented: "This is a real accolade for the school. St Thomas More Catholic School has a deserved reputation as an outstanding school."

