

FAITH IN ACTION



Forward

Final Pieces

Each final piece should include evidence of reflection, the active work that candidates have done, and a conclusion of what they have gained from the award.

If a candidate has done more than one award level they should try to refer back to previous years to demonstrate how they have grown over the year and how the award has helped them in that.

No matter what level or age of the candidate, one question should always remain constant... **WHAT KIND OF PERSON AM I BECOMING?**

Pin: Seeking, Searching

Pin is all about discovery, discovery is highly important within this award as it is the foundation on which their Faith in Action Scheme will be built. The candidate should highlight the activities which they have taken part in and reflect on how these activities have had a positive effect in the life of themselves, the people they have met, and the wider life of the Church and society.

Bronze: Belonging

The bronze award is all about service. When we look at the scripture from John 13 we are all called to be a servant of God. It is also the first level in the award which asks the young people to be involved in the outside community as well as in their parish/school. It's the first stepping stone in learning about authentic faith, being that it shows in all of their lives not just at Church. The candidate should display in their final piece what service they have offered to those around them and what they have learnt from serving others.

Silver: Vocation

Silver is focused on leadership. Giving the young people the opportunity to grow more in their abilities, leading at whatever level is appropriate for them (not everyone can stand at the front). It shows a commitment to being a key player in the mentorship of their brothers and sisters in faith. The final piece should outline the ways that the candidate has used their God given gifts to lead those around them, including what they have gained and any challenges they may have faced and how they overcame them.

Gold: Mission

Gold is about innovation, creating and helping fulfil the needs of those around them. When Jesus sent out the apostles he called them to be missionaries in the world, in the same way we too must become missionaries in our communities and the wider world. It is the culmination of all the previous tiers' work focusing on the candidate's pioneering work in their communities, with a deeper understanding of why they're doing what they are. The final work should include evidence of them trying to cultivate new projects/groups to accommodate the spiritual as well as physical needs of those around them.

Pin – Discovery

These examples have been chosen because:

- Two different ways of submitting final piece – either as a group or as an individual
- Example 1 is a good way of presenting the work that the young people have been involved in. Each month had a page to say what the young people had been doing, each child wrote small message about what they had done that month and lots of pictures demonstrating the young people's reflections.
- Example 2 demonstrates an individual piece that has split the 4 reflection points and the young person has reflected on the work done under the headings and how it has impacted them.

Things to consider:

Group submissions work well but whole class submissions, by default, do not allow for individual work to shine through. Consider having maximum group sizes of 10.

The final piece for Pin Level does not need to be too detailed but should include some sense of 'journey'; from what was done early in the award to what was done later in the year and some small comments/reflections by the young person why they did certain work and why it was important.

Example 1:

Faith's Alive!

@St John's

September

We meet:
Thursdays: 12-15pm-12-45pm

The children began by choosing a name for our group that they thought would be suitable and fit in with the type of activities we would be doing in school. We had a short list of five and then voted on this. School staff had a vote too!

Once we had the name, they designed a logo. The 'dancing heart' was chosen because it represented love in action, in particular the love we show because of our faith in following Jesus.

The group also wanted to establish the qualities they thought they should have during the year in their work with each other and the people they helped.

Enjoying faith and fun together!

Faith's Alive!

Change, Unique, Spirit, Strength, Helpfulness, Kindness, Love, Honesty, Togetherness, Faith, Happiness, Generosity, Trust, Belief, Bravery, Loyalty, Laughter, Forgiving, Learn together, Respect, Friendship, Caring

Let's Get Started!

March

Prayer Stations

I have taken part in activities like when we was doing the reflection point for the mustard seed and when we also done holy week stations with the year 2s. In the assemblies we do drama and readings, with drama we do lots of actions and we always do of try to read perfectly or analyse.



Faith's Alive very much wanted to do something along similar lines to the Stations of Mercy they had witnessed in the previous year.

After a word with the teachers, we decided on Holy Week Stations which would also have a wider relevance throughout the year.

The children decided to select 4 stations and knew that the children they would be guiding around the stations would be from Y2. They picked out Palm Sunday, Washing the Feet of the Disciples (The Servant King!), the Last Supper and the way from the Cross to the Resurrection of Jesus.

They introduced the narrative to the younger children, linked the events to their lives and helped them with an activity at each station.



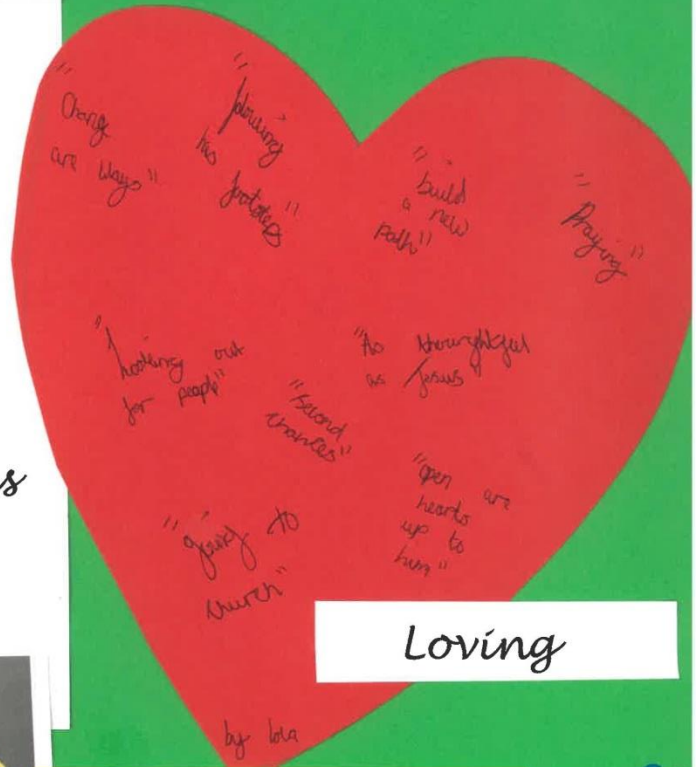
We have helped Y2 children go round all of the Holy Week Stations by helping them understand the story of Jesus. Also they write down what they wanted to be (ambition). They also blessed themselves.

Faith-in-Action 2018

5th Sunday of Easter

Second Reading from the first letter of St John 3: 18-24

"... my children,
Our love is not to be just words
or mere talk,
But something real and
active..."



Loving

Spreading the Good News

I enjoyed doing something that I have never done before and I have also become more confident in assembly and I have enjoyed getting lots of respect from younger people

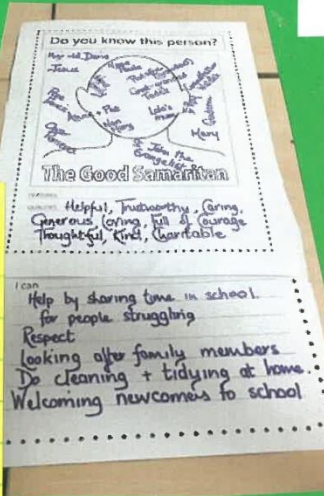
Helping

I have changed for being more confident in speaking in front of the crowd also I have grown as a person because I am also confident with my reading in front of the whole school.

I have grown because I am no longer nervous of the whole school and leading activities also I have more ideas and not nervous to share them, also enjoyed working in the same team as we all enjoy it and because we are not scared * being in front of.
to get involved,

Caring

I have change alot since I joined Faiths Alive for example I got so much more confident and I got more joyfull and I got better at joining in and I got even more ideas and I am not afraid to share them.



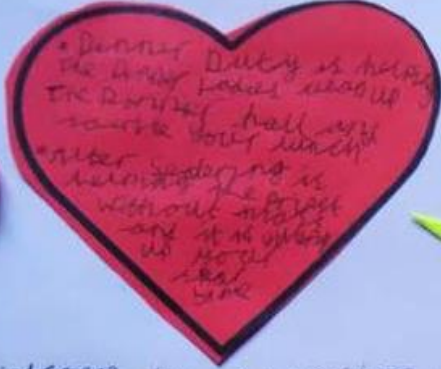
Showing Mercy

Example 2:

Reflection Point 1:

We love because we are loved

We go to Sarah Dutton court
so we can make friends with
the elderly and keep them
company so they don't feel
ALONE!!!

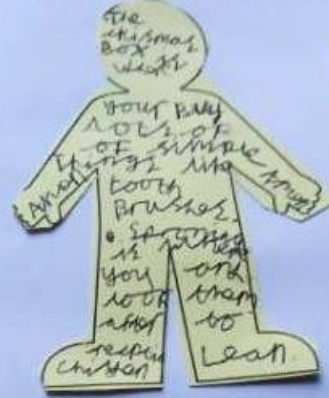


We welcome the reception children by making them welcome at assembly to welcome them so they so feel nervous.

Reflection Point 2:

Loving our neighbour is loving Jesus

making love with our
change of so that our
change with change the
homeless peoples lives.



giving love and kindness by making someone happy that is called a poem called smiling is infectious.

Reflection Point 3:

Our active love builds the Kingdom of God

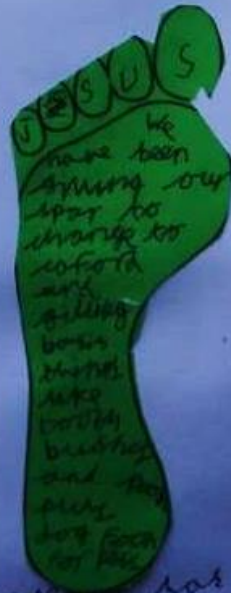
making Jesus happy by following in his foot steps, by being nice to one another being kind to each other and making sure there happy



make sure there is no thing getting in the way of your love with Jesus just do the right thing,

Reflection Point 4:

Servant Leadership
giving is making other people happy and giving them help.



After seeing that change my life I have being looking after people and its being to god.

Bronze - Service

These examples have been chosen because:

- The young people have spoken about the work done as part of the award and how it has impacted them
- They have included reference to the work done outside of their school/parish and how they have worked in the local community
- Piece of artwork along with description gave moderator enough information to write about and was impressed by the young person's thoughts and reflections that had gone into making their piece

Things to consider:

Try to highlight how this year was different to doing Pin Level (if appropriate).

Some comments about the difference between working in your 'home' base and away from home are useful. Specific mention of the 'outreach' work and the charity/church the young person worked in is good.

Comments about the extra challenges of this level are good.

Has the candidate understood their faith more at this level through a more mature view of the reflection points?

Example 1:

As soon as I knew that the school was starting a Faith in Action group I knew straight away that I wanted to do it. I really do enjoy school and love getting involved with activities. I do a whole range of stuff like drama, sports and choir but nothing that involves my faith. I don't really understand my faith very well and how to take God's word and use it my daily life. I didn't understand why some parts of mass are done and said or the true meaning behind them. This is why I joined Faith in Action.

Every part of Faith in Action I have thoroughly enjoyed up to now and thought of getting an award after this really means something to me. Even if we were doing something I didn't want to do I still manage to learn something about my faith and to use it in my everyday life. For example: I didn't understand Jesus' most important commandment, "Treat your neighbours how you would like to be treated" and now in this year I realised that if I would like to be treated with kindness I should treat other people with kindness. I have loved that my friends have followed me and joined Faith in Action as well so we can have fun and learn together. Finally I enjoyed knowing that, by putting my faith in action I am helping people and making them happy.

When I heard about my sister and a girl in her class, I admired my sister. She told me what she did to help. This girl sometimes gets in trouble because some of the boys wind her up and can get annoyed and mad easily. So my sister went up to her and said, 'If they ever wind you up come to me. I can help calm you down and tell them to stop ok?' This made a difference to her as she felt happy that someone cared and eventually she didn't get in to trouble as often as she did. My sister was very kind by doing good and basically putting her faith into action and I want to do the same. That's why it made a difference to me and to the girl she helped.

There is one particular community in the church that I am close to. That is being an altar server. This is because I have been serving for nearly 6 years. Even though we all serve at different Masses we all come together at celebrations such as Easter and Christmas Masses. There we can all give out roles and jobs fairly to each other. Being part of this special community has highlighted some of the other communities in the church such as the readers and the choir. We all have to work together and we all have an important role to play ensuring that the Mass will run smoothly. That is what I have learnt about my church community. I've also learnt that each week that there will be a different money collections, food collections and fair trade stalls. This gives me an understanding on how we serve the wider community to the Preston community to the national and even the global community. I learn about my faith everyday but being an altar server has provided me with a greater understanding and insight into what the mass is about. Every week the liturgy of the Word gives us a different theme to listen to and I use that in my everyday life. But it's not just about mass it's about putting that faith into action. Also many activities has taught me about my faith for example, a holiday

that I volunteer to help to take care of children with disabilities has shown me to love and care for any child of God.

I have learnt many things during the project and many things have become clearer for me. But I have most of all learnt many things about me, how Faith in Action has changed me and how I am going to continue these things in future life. However small my role seems to be (altar serving, running charity sales and being a helper) it all adds up and makes a big difference if we all play our parts. It can be very easy to get wrapped up in your own world, with only your own needs and desires but playing an active part in a community is far more rewarding than I ever imagined.

I am now determined that in whatever direction life takes me, I will always try my best to serve my community however small that role may be whenever possible. In the light of what I have just said, I will continue to serve on the altar, helping out with holiday for children with disabilities and playing an active catholic part in my high school community. In the future when I reach 16 I would like to become a young adult helper on the holiday which means that I will be solely responsible for a young person that week. I am also hoping to join the diocese on a trip to Lourdes and have a future career that can make a positive difference to people's lives.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to put my Faith into Action.

Other things I have done that I didn't mention above to go towards my award

In School

- Mass preparation 20 mins 7/06/17
- Form Mass preparation 20 mins 7/06/17
- Mass 70 30 mins 7/06/17
- Read in Form Mass 10 mins 7/06/17
- 70 form assembly 10 mins 3/10/16
- Taking part in whole school Mass 1hr 12/07/17
- Y11 Mass- Goodie bags 20 mins
- Morning prayer 1hr (in total) 4 times
- Preparing for assembly (choir) 1hr
- Assembly (choir) 30 mins
- Preparation for Y7 Mass (choir) 1hr

- Y7 Mass (choir) 1hr
- English open evening 2hrs
- Easter vigil preparation 4hrs
- Easter vigils 4hr
- Christmas vigil Choir 1hr

Out of school

- St Marys and St Michaels 3hrs 18/10/17
- Serving at Mass 10hrs
- Children with disabilities 6 days

Example 2:

Faith in Action Final piece

I decided to do the faith in action award to learn more about my faith and find out how you can put it into actions to help other people. I had done a few things with my grandma at Church and enjoyed helping her, but not really done anything to get me thinking about my own faith.

The part that I enjoyed the most about being involved in the award is when we went to visit Liverpool Cathedral because I met people who had their faith strengthened by experiencing miracles. It helped me to see people in the real world who had their own faith strengthened and showed me that miracles really can happen. Jesus performed many miracles to help people and teach them in the Bible, but I had never met anybody who had experienced something like that for themselves. I heard and saw that people who didn't believe in God had a special calling or sign that happened to them and then they started to believe.

The most important lesson that I learnt about on my faith journey is that if you do good then good things will happen to you later in your life. It is not the reason that we should be doing good things, but bringing good to others makes you feel good and happy with yourself. It will also show others how to be good and in turn they will be good to you. It is what Jesus taught us when he said 'love one another as I have loved you.' The message is simple and if we all did it there would be lots of good happening to us all. The story of the good samaritan shows us that anybody can be like Jesus by helping others and that sometimes we might forget or make the wrong

choice. It is our actions that are most important, not just that we believe. St Therese of Lisieux did small acts of kindness to others to help make them happy. Little ways to help and show how much Jesus loves us can add up to a big thing. It is a good place to start.

A good lesson that I learnt is that in the church there are people who can help you if you feel down or just want to learn more about faith and how you can do more in your actions. Sometimes it is difficult to talk to your family about problems. Some people don't have a family and it makes me feel good to know that there is someone that they can go to. I learnt about many saints on my journey who have given their whole lives to helping others. I really enjoyed learning about Maximilian Kolbe who was in a concentration camp. He took the place of a person who was about to be killed because he knew that they had family back at home. He made the ultimate sacrifice to save someone else from death. This is like when Jesus gave up his life for us and died on the cross. We should make small sacrifices for others to help make their lives better. We are showing them love if we do this and this makes us feel good about ourselves.

I also learnt that there are people within my own community who are there for you and can help you if you're not feeling well or feel sad. The Samaritans is a charity that you can phone or visit if you need help or somebody to chat to. They promise not to judge you by your beliefs or background and can guide you on the right path.

I am different now because I know more about other people's faiths and how I can help other people by doing things in my actions. I know that there are lots of people who live out a life like Jesus in

many different ways and that small actions can make a big difference to some people.

I would like to do more to raise money for charities and for people who are poor. Also I would like to do volunteer work to help other people. Talking and helping elderly people. I go to police cadets on Tuesdays and I really enjoy it. We get to learn about different aspects of police work including how they serve the community. I can't wait to get in the older group because they go out to be stewards at different events throughout the year. When i'm older I want to be in the police force to help out others if they are in danger or require assistance.

Example 3:

I wanted to join 'Faith In Action', as my friends had recommended it to me. When they told me what it was all about, and what they had been doing, it inspired me to join and do all of the things that they had done. My most enjoyable part is fundraising and Charity work. Also it was a great way to make new friends at my new school. Being in this environment has taught me to think of others and not just myself and be grateful for what I have in life. I have developed many skills whilst being in this group of friends by learning to listen and not judge when someone is expressing a view that I don't agree with. Another skill that I have developed is knowing how important it is to have a relationship with God.

I feel it is very important to help vulnerable people, including the homeless, which is very close to my heart as it's become more of an issue in my city. We see it, not just in the City Centre, but also in my local area. So I decided I wanted to help and last week, I chose to use my pocket money to buy ingredients to make cakes and sell them in my community so that I could donate the profits into buying necessities for the homeless.

FIA has really helped me to be a more confident person, especially when meeting new people and reading aloud. I now feel less embarrassed when I'm reading from The Bible. Faith In Action has encouraged me to go back to church and pray to God. It has made me realize that talking to God, I now have a deeper relationship with him. I feel that I can depend on him no matter what. Being part of this amazing,

talented, loving group has helped me to learn a stronger meaning of The Bible, we're all capable of making mistakes but we will always be forgiven.

In conclusion, FIA is a group that makes you feel good and makes differences in people's lives, its all about making positive changes and helping others so we can make a big difference together through God.

Then the world will be a happier place and we will all be inspired by one another.

has contributed
well through their group
masses; college masses,
morning prayer,
rosary and service
to the community.
BRONZE -

Example 4:

What have I enjoyed the most about Faith in Action?

Since taking part in Faith in Action I have taken a more active role in celebrating mass. I have been an alter server in my local parish church of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs since my first Holy Communion. Faith in Action has helped me to also serve mass in my school (St Edwards) and in the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. I really enjoyed serving mass for each different group year group in school. I have also been attending morning prayers before school which helps me focus for the day ahead. I have enjoyed helping out within the school chapel and doing all kinds of different jobs. There is a lot of spare time in the school and FIA has helped me to use that time to do something of value. I have learnt lots of things about how to prepare for holy mass and helped me better understand what different parts of the mass mean. My favourite part of the mass is the gospel, I enjoy the stories of Jesus in the bible and it has helped me learn about holy people. I have learnt special jobs such as the thurible and I have met people lots of different people like Archbishop Patrick.

Faith in Action has also helped me do different charity work for good causes such as The Medaille Trust and CAFOD.

The charity work I done and the role I played.

I have given a lot of my time helping to prepare and set up the mass, this involves preparing offertory gifts, lighting the candles, organising the priest's papers for the readings and gospel. In the mass I carry out jobs such as, carrying candles, ringing the bells as a sign of god's presence and lighting the thurible. I have also actively encouraged my friends in school to go to mass and morning prayers so they can learn what I have learnt. Over all I have served more than 100 hours this year at different masses.

For charity I have helped to raise money for the Medaille Trust. The Medaille trust helps survivors of human trafficking with money to protect them and give them a new start in life. To raise money I went from class to class with other FiA members to sell Christmas cards, key rings, rosary beads and nativity sets. All the money we raised was given to the charity. I really enjoyed this work as it helped me meet new people in the school and raise awareness of human trafficking, not only did we raise money but hopefully inspired others to do something for charity. I also like cross country running so during the Christmas half term I did a sponsored 8km race for CAFOD. I raised sponsors from my

family, friends and neighbours I raised 10 pounds for the charity. The best bit was that the television cameras were there and I was on BBC News at the start of the race. ✓



Figure 1 CAFOD Race 2017

Waverley ✓

Jav ✓

What I have learnt from Faith in Action?

Being part of Faith in Action has helped me to meet lots of new people both in other classes and years at school and especially in the Cathedral. I have served in lots of different masses such as midnight mass in the cathedral and during the veneration of the Relics of SS Jacinta & Francisco/ Fatima. I have really enjoyed being part of the Faith in Action team and going around the school with my friends to raise money and do something really useful. It has helped my religious education as it has taught me more about god, mass and the bible. It has also taught me the value of helping others and doing things to help others. ✓

My conclusions

Faith in action has made me a better person and it has helped me learn more about god. It has also improved my religious education and it has made me to be more organised as a person. ✓

Very interesting
journey on your
journey through
FIA! well done

A large, stylized handwritten scribble in green ink, possibly a signature or initials.

Example 5:

Over the past few months of being in Faith In Action, I have enjoyed working with older pupils and developing my skills such as; teamwork skills when I made a lot of new friends and worked with them well. Secondly, I have enjoyed getting to know myself more as a person and realizing what I can do with my new talents to become closer to God.

Throughout the past few months I have taken part in college events such as the Requiem mass where I read a piece in front of people, which made my anxiety spike. As a result, I felt closer to God and it made me feel like I finally belonged properly in the group. From doing Faith In Action, I have experienced and heard different opinions which have made a difference to me, for example, when I was first part of and meeting or mass, I saw the unity in what we do as a whole in the eyes of God and it was like a camera pulled into focus as I realised that this is what I love, to embrace what I am passionate about with the people that I have grown to love.

Being a part of Faith In Action allowed me to learn a lot about my community itself. Firstly, I learnt that although we may be different in age, we are all there for each other regardless of the situation we may go through. The people that work in our community will always be there to support and help us whether it may be to help set a good example and be a role model for the rest of the school, or to help with a charity event, which through the love and support of our community can raise lots of money and help those less fortunate than us. Secondly, despite the age gap between our Faith In Action members, I learnt that all members including myself had something in common, that we all signed up to make a difference within our community and to help others through our charity work by raising money to benefit people such as the elderly by visiting them to make them feel loved and happy and make them realize that they are not alone and that they always have someone there for them whether it be day or night.

Faith In Action has made me realize how much my local church does and how if I was involved more within my church community, how much more I could help out. Therefore, when I am able to volunteer more after school for example, I shall become more involved in my church and the activities such as being an assistance at masses.

If anything that I have learnt during my time in Faith In Action, it would be my faith and how much more I believe that God will be here for us if we need him. For example, in Faith In Action I have had an emotional experience and through these times I developed my faith further and asked God to watch over me as I face the challenges that I faced during reading in front of many people. As a result, I was able to connect with God on a deeper, spiritual level allowing me to be calm and in a peaceful place when I came to do his work in spreading the word, readings and even school work. Therefore, through the past year I have been able to trust God more and realize that if I need him he will be here for me regardless of the situation I am in.

Finally, through this entire experience, I have learnt one thing that I will hold with me forever and has impacted me the most as a person today. That people come and go, but the ones that stick around are worth fighting for and to hold them close to my heart where my religion lies.

Example 6:

Since September I have been part of Faith In Action and since I joined I have gained numerous skills such as confidence, for example, I was quite shy when I was asked to read, over time my confidence has grown where I am now able to read out passages from the Bible. ✓

Every Wednesday when I was off I would go down to small change charity shop and help my Nan out, at first I thought that would be the only work I would ever do for charity but joining FIA has changed that. For a month my group of friends and I would go to the chaplaincy area and wrap shoe boxes up for the shoe box of love appeal. This allowed me to develop leadership and teamwork skills as I was able to categorise what items would go in each box. Furthermore, I volunteered at my Nans charity shop where I was able to volunteer my services and act on the greatest commandment "Love thy neighbour" because I gave two young refugees a Paddington teddy bear which they were unable to afford making me feel happy about myself for I had brought joy to another human being. ✓

Being part of FIA has made me realise a lot about the community of Liverpool, for example the way there is a huge amount of suffering such as homelessness. This made me realise that if we do not stand up and put our faith in action then moral issues like this would become worse. By raising money and doing events we were able to bring happiness to people in our community who don't have the same resources. FIA has also given me hope that a few people can do something big which subsequently has a small impact on the human race and that will have a huge impact on the world changing lives forever. ✓

All together being part of this truly, wonderful group has made me realise the whole meaning of "Love thy neighbour" and what it means to be a true Catholic. I have also learnt that throughout my life I have taken my amazing upbringing for granted because now I see that there are other people in our country who have nothing but some food and water, I have realised that I have more than enough items that I just don't need. I have realised that throughout the whole award scheme I have bonded a lot more with God and my prayer life has evolved into something truly wonderful and nothing can change that. I have also realised that if I'm sad, lonely, happy or bored that God will always be there for me if I want him there or not. ✓

Example 7:

I am part of the Faith in Action group at St Edward's College. We meet every Thursday after school for are weekly meetings, we also help out at masses held in school and attend morning prayer as much as we can. I am in year seven and have started the club at the start of this school year.

I think the programme is a great idea and lets young adults such as myself learn about are faith and our community in a fun way. We make new friends at the group and have fun whilst learning about our faith. We helped out with the Medaille Trust by selling handmade gifts from Africa, Christmas cards as well as wrapping paper which helped raise a significant amount of money. Faith in Action, the staff and the rest of the pupils brought shoeboxes, or suitable items to fill the shoeboxes and give them to 'The Shoebox of Love'.

Now we are collecting the money we raised for the sleepout that we recently took place in at The Anglican Cathedral to raise money for the homeless. On the holidays I go to the charity shop were my Nan volunteers on a Wednesday and help her to make sure the shop is tidy and looks appealing to the customers, I also used to go the shops with my dad for an elderly who used to live over the road from my house until she sadly passed away a couple of months ago.

I also go around to my Nan and Grandads when my Nan is not in because my Grandad gets lonely, so I'll talk to him and keep him company, I will also teach him new things on his tablet and on his laptop. I will also try to make him laugh and get him to smile. I will talk to my dad who is going through a rough time because his little brother who wasn't very well sadly passed away and still makes my dad very emotional.

I think The Faith in Action group is a brilliant idea because it lets you have fun while helping others as well as working on your faith with God, I think the Faith in Action group is a group that will never die out and will let children learn more about their religion.

Example 8:



This is My final entry for Faith in Action. This scheme has taught me that if we love others like God did then we can make a difference in the world we live in.

This painting symbolises things I have learnt and things I have participated in throughout my Faith in Action Journey. It shows God holding the world in His Love. The two different skin tones show that God isn't a gender or a race - He is one - He looks different to everyone. However we view God, He will always be wrapping us in His love and loving and protecting us.

The chalice and the host symbolise when I altar serve in mass and when I helped my dad, a chatecist, with the first Holy Communion preparation meetings.

The green and blue background symbolises when I helped Halewood Books organise a sponsored walk, from Halewood to New-Brighton, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support (taking place on 12th May). I have chosen the colours because these are the colours of Macmillan (green) and Books (blue).

The quote, "Gods love endures" symbolises the sessions I went to with Kate (our school chaplain) and Fr Matt (one of our parish priests). I chose this quote because the sessions ~~were~~ were about loving others and loving God and how God will never stop loving us.

Silver – Leadership

These examples have been chosen because:

- Included examples of things that they have led on
- Examples of how their faith has grown and developed
- Examples of what they would like to do in the future – thinking ahead to the next level of the award and the next stage of their faith journey
- Made reference to the reflection points and what they have taken away from them
- Mentioned skills that they have been able to develop as part of the award – aware of their own personal development as well as faith development

Things to consider:

Silver is a good time to offer a detailed set of reflections on how faith has been a part of the actions the individual has performed. Perhaps this is a moment to move away from the final piece as a 'diary' and focus on the faith aspect?

Noting the challenges of the Silver Award in respect of 'outreach' work and leading within that outreach would be good.

Example 1:

My Faith Journey

As part of my faith journey I wanted to gain confidence and try to integrate more in my Parish community. After discussion with Fr Bruce we decided that as part of my Faith in Action I would help out at the piety stall, as this would help me to be confident in talking to different types of people. I now help run the piety stall at both Saturday evening mass and Sunday mass. I have found that helping in the piety stall has been a great confidence booster as I love helping the people to select different items and enjoy chatting to them about all kinds of different topics and celebrations that they have coming up in their lives. At the start of the year I was very shy and avoided speaking to new people, however, now I really look forward to helping at the piety stall and getting to know the people of my parish community and I have made friends of all ages.

I also help out at little Church which has been such a great experience. It has been especially rewarding to see the children preparing for the sacrament of Holy Communion and the excitement that I see each week. During little Church I

help by giving out the sheets and sit with the children that need help with their work. I have particularly helped a little girl who has some learning difficulties and it has been very humbling to share her journey through the sacrament of Holy Communion. During mass when the children come back in a share what they have learnt I am always extremely proud of the message of the Gospel that they share with the congregation. Little Church has also helped me to be more confident and I know feel that I can continue to build on this in the future.

I am also a member of the outreach team at St Benet's and so far I have delivered three sessions to the group on, St John Bosco, The Holy Spirit and Euthanasia at first I was apprehensive delivering sessions to 15 adults but I gained confidence and now feel very relaxed and able to share my views on the different topics. During Lent I also helped the Parish with the Lenten CAFOD appeal and helped with the cake sale and Lenten Lunches. I have really enjoyed the raising money for CAFOD and meeting Sr Yvonne and I hope to continue to help the CAFOD representatives in raising money in the future and bringing CAFOD into school.

I attend Savio Salesian College and the founder of the Salesian Schools was St John Bosco. Every week in school we have a meeting of the St John Bosco group where we meet to share our common faith. During our time together at the St

John Bosco group we plan the mass for Friday and I am responsible for taking up the offertory. I have found that the St John Bosco group allows me to learn about my faith and be able to share it with members of my school community. In advent 2017 I also helped with the Whitechapel appeal, where we collected shoe boxes filled with tooth paste, toothbrushes, soap and a lot of other things. The chaplaincy team from my school took the shoe boxes to the Whitechapel centre along with a cheque for £90 and they were distributed to the people in need. My form in school is 9DeSales and I was extremely proud that we collected the most shoes boxes for this excellent project. The Whitechapel appeal was of particular interest to me as during the Christmas season I was out shopping in Liverpool city centre with my parents when we came across a young man who was homeless and had died during the night. I was very upset that a young life could be taken simply because he didn't have the means to have a roof over his head in the winter. I witnessed the volunteers from the Whitechapel centre come to help him and I was in awe at their compassion for strangers. In the future I intend to continue to help the homeless and people less fortunate than myself as will allow me to live the Gospel in my everyday life.

In the group reflections I have gained a lot of information about my faith that I did not know, during the group reflection we learnt about Oscar Romero and I really enjoyed

learning about this fascinating man. I liked him because he stood up for what he believed in and didn't care what happened to him. In his masses he would teach the people to stand up for what they wanted to, because of this, the government persecuted him and eventually had him killed. This happened when he lifted the Eucharist up to heaven and was shot in the head which immediately killed him. My favourite discussion point was 'We love because we know we are loved' in this section I learned about Maximillian Kolbe who was captured by the Nazis and taken to Auschwitz where he suffered terrible beatings, three months later it was announced that ten men would die because one man had escaped, one man was told he would be killed but Maximillian said he would take his place as the man had a wife and children. The men were then starved but by the end four people were left alive, the jailer came to finish them off, Maximillian was injected with carbolic acid and his body was burned with all of the others.

On reflection in the group sessions both Oscar Romero and Maximillian were both extraordinary men as they sacrificed their own lives for the common good. They both put themselves forward to make a difference regardless of the consequences for their own wellbeing. It was very informative and encouraging to hear their stories and how they made a difference to the world.

Since starting my Faith in Action I have enjoyed doing the piety stall the most, as I got to meet more people and make more friends that I would never have thought to speak to before. It also gave me the skills to handle money that will be a bonus in school. In the future I aim to carry on with the things I am doing in school and parish, I also want to become a Eucharistic minister and take a more leading role in some of the activities I do.

In conclusion I have really enjoyed Faith in Action as it has given me a greater insight into the workings of the parish and the Catholic life.

Example 2:

For my final reflection piece, I am going to write about my personal journey for this year.

What I have been involved with in church and school / What I have learnt about myself and others

This year, I have continued to serve as an altar server at my church, St Benet's. As part of this I have helped and supported my younger brother who became an altar boy after making his holy communion last year. I have learnt that I am quite good at helping others, such as instructing the other altar servers. I divide up the various jobs which involve the cross, candles, cruets and bells. This helps us to all know our roles and we can feel a bit more confident.

I am proud of myself as I have achieved my aim from last year which was to be able to carry the big special cross in church at the start and end of mass.

I have attended and served at the Ash Wednesday service and at the Easter masses; Good Friday and Easter Sunday. At the Good Friday mass, I helped with wiping the cross when the parishioners came up to kiss it. During Lent, I attended a couple of the Stations of the Cross services. I have learnt more about holy week, Jesus's journey and the story of Easter.

In holy week, I attended the special Chrism mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral. Here, I learnt more about the various oils that were blessed and are then used in church for the various sacraments. On Easter Sunday, three children were baptised in our church and I saw Father Bruce using the oils that I had saw being blessed; the oils of catechumen and chrism.

I helped with the little church nativity play again which involved helping in the background and included instructing the younger children in the play as to when they needed to go up to the altar.

I have helped with the Christmas shoe box appeal. Here, various items were donated by our parish and then given to the homeless people of Merseyside. These included food, clothing and toiletries. I have learnt about the work of the Whitechapel centre. I provided wrapping paper for the boxes and other items including dog treats. I helped to wrap the boxes. I have seen the article about this in the catholic pictorial. I have learnt that this is part of helping our neighbours, by showing love and by doing a good deed.

I have started to help with the raffle after mass to raise money for charity. I also made some craft sets at home to take in to church to sell for Nugent Care and provided some sweets to go with these.

I have helped out with fund raising in school for the good shepherd charity, by helping with an Easter raffle. I bought an Easter egg and raffle ticket book as part of this.

This year's journey has taught me more about charities and that I want to always try and do the right thing, be a good person and help others where I can. I have learnt that I like to be part of my community and seeing people from my parish at church.

Recently, I watched a film called 'Wonder' about a boy who was disfigured and it was about him trying to fit in at school. A lot of children were mean to him because of the way he looked. However, as they got to know him they saw beyond his looks and he ended up with lots of friends. It made me feel sad that people can be cruel and makes me feel that if I am faced with a situation like this then I would stand up to the bullies.

What I have learnt from the reflection group sessions / How this has affected me

I have attended all the Faith in Action sessions. I have learnt about St Francis of Assisi and that he served others. As part of the meetings, we had a talk from a parishioner about the Whitechapel centre. This made me feel sad to know there are lots of people sleeping in our city streets. It made me want to help them. Some homeless people have dogs so I brought some dog treats for them.

I was given a thanksgiving jar and asked to remember to give thanks for all the blessings that are given to us. This reminded me of all the things that I am thankful for; my family, friends and the food I eat. In another session we were given various items to make up a special hot chocolate, which was a recipe of love and we were to make this for someone we love and care about.

I understand that it feels good to be nice but also it is what God asks of each of us and we should all try helping one another. We learn in school in RE lessons that we should treat each other how we would like to be treated.

What I have enjoyed this year / Next steps

Over this year I have enjoyed lots of things from my service and group reflection sessions.

In my group sessions, I enjoyed being part of a group and learning about other people, such as St Francis of Assisi. I especially liked the ideas behind the thankful jar and recipe of love. I liked decorating the jar and making the hot chocolate using the items given to me as each one represented a kind thought or deed. I enjoy arts and crafts and enjoyed doing the craft Easter egg baskets at home to sell at church to raise money.

At church, I enjoyed:

Helping with the Christmas shoebox appeal.

Helping Father Bruce on the altar and giving out the communion crosses and information packs at the welcome mass for this year's communion children.

The trip to the Cathedral with my parish. It was nice to see Archbishop Malcolm and all the other priests come together. It was good to see my old priest, Father Sean, who baptised me and who I made my holy communion with.

Writing out stars of remembrance for my family (my nans and granddads). These were put on the Christmas trees in church.

I aim to continue to serve on the altar and to help others in my parish and community.

Gold – Innovation

These examples have been chosen because:

- Mature reflections of the impact of being a part of the award
- Clearly states the work that they have been involved in and how it has affect them and their faith
- Evidence of Reflection Points by mentioning the points, Saints and scripture from them
- Gives evidence of faith journey and how roles that the young person was familiar with (such as altar serving) has now taken on a deeper meaning by taking part in the award and its reflection points
- Mentioned projects that they have initiated

Things to consider:

The Gold final piece should be a suitable culmination of all that has been done and learned not just this year but over the whole life of the award. Why not take time to reflect on how the young person has changed over the years?

Perhaps refer to the wider church through quotes from saints, church documents or church teachings.

Do not be afraid to comment on the difficulties had through the year. It is only through acknowledging difficulties and overcoming them that we grow.

Has the view/understanding of the young person of actions performed before changed due to a more mature, faith filled view of life and society?

Example 1:

I originally only signed up for the award as I thought it would be something to make me stand out on my CV. However, as I progressed through the award, I learnt that the award may have been one of the most rewarding experience of my life as I learnt more about myself and my faith.

My most enjoyed experience in this award was working at the children's liturgies at my local church. Although I had quite a rough start as I had never been to church at my own accord, I soon grew more comfortable with working with the children. I read the gospel, planned activities, and even taught sign language during advent. Working with the children reminded me how much of a bonding experience faith can be.

I felt as if the children taught me more than I taught them because they were all very inclusive during liturgies so that nobody was left out. They seemed to know Jesus' commandment "Love thy neighbour" very well; they all supported each other and loved each other despite the fact that not all of them knew each other well. The fact that they helped each other without knowing each other well shows that they are selfless just like Maximilian Kolbe; this shows that love has no identity.

Something that impacted me was the togetherness of the Church community, like one large family. It shows that God's love prevails in the Christian community.

What I learnt about my faith is that God is always here watching over us even in times of doubt because I could feel God's love through the parish community when I was in doubt about continuing the award. This showed me that God truly is omnibenevolent.

One thing that I learnt about myself throughout the award is that I love volunteering. I really enjoyed working with the children at the liturgies but I also quite enjoyed linking my faith with my volunteering job at the British Heart Foundation as the charity's objective of serving the sick. The British Heart charity work links to Matthew 25:31-46 where God said "I was sick and you nursed me".

Currently, I find myself to be quite a different person as I am more open-minded about others and more willing to help people. This is due to all of the volunteering and parish experience I received. Thus, I would really like to continue volunteering so that I may continue to learn more and grow more as a person.

Example 2:

Faith into Action Award

I signed up for the Faith into action award when I was told about it in assembly last year by Dennis and decided to do it as I wanted to build upon the things I was involved in at school and felt it would be a great opportunity to be more involved, particularly with things that related to my faith. I enjoyed being more involved in school life, learning more about what I wanted to achieve with my faith and also how to put my own faith into action, both for now and the future.

As part of my work towards the award I did my alter serving at my local parish St Mary's Lea town every week (as I have been doing for the past 10 years now) and also started reading at mass as well. Alongside this work outside of school, I became a Eucharistic Minister through school which was an amazing opportunity for me to involve myself more in masses. I also did some charity events with Terry (our school's youth worker) such as fund raisers at school and at our parish along with some other people, and finally I also took part in our school's mission week in which I did a range of acting, music, masses and other things in aiding the week to go well. I am also going to Lourdes on pilgrimage in July as an assistant to the sick, and by doing this award it has enabled me to understand even more as to why it is so important to help others at any chance you can and that by doing so you can help others in so many different ways and also encourage and inspire others to do the same.

Something that has made a difference to me has definitely been the inspirational work I have witnessed by other people I know from different communities, such as other young people in the diocese who have always tried to do their part in helping others, and by seeing other people get so involved, especially with their faith, it encouraged me to do the same.

Something that I have learnt about my community over the past year is that everyone has a role, regardless of what kind of community, whether it be in school, at church or somewhere else. We all work together in order for things to work and run smoothly and every person plays an important role in every community. I have seen this personally through doing my alter serving and reading at church and school and realising that if I didn't do it then I wouldn't be there to encourage younger people to do it and also that by doing so I'm perusing my role in the community. Something that I have learnt about the Church is that it always encourages us to be the best versions of ourselves, to have faith that what we are doing is always a part of God's plan for us and also to go out and spread the things that we believe are right or just and by each and every one of us doing this we will be creating a nicer atmosphere, if not world, to be in.

Over the course of this award I learnt how strong my faith was, which has only grown more and more over the past year, and I've also learnt that I want to use it in the future to help and aid others in any way possible through whatever work I do. I've learnt that there is always something more that we can be doing to build our communities and also build our faith, as we often put it aside from our daily lives or don't make as much time for it as perhaps we would like to or should do. I wouldn't

say that by just doing this award alone has changed me as a person, but rather that it has helped me to become even more involved in doing things and also adding to the commitment I already had to my faith. Something I would like to continue would have to be trying to make more of a difference in my own community and church and also branching out to use my faith and put it into action elsewhere in the future – such as potentially doing volunteer work or youth work (something that this award and the process of it has definitely encouraged me to do more than ever). I would like to spend more time encouraging younger people to embrace their faith and not be afraid to admit what they believe in, regardless of what other people may think.

The reflection points enabled me to see other people who have almost always put their faith first or using it to benefit others in the most amazing ways possible, and gave me an insight as to what putting your faith into action truly meant. People such as Sean Deveraux, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Oscar Romero and many more, all of whom were phenomenal examples of people who didn't care what other people thought and instead put their faith and trust in God and gave everything to other people.

Overall, this award has really helped me to see how I can put my faith into action and to understand that I have a gift and a responsibility to fulfil the role that God has called me to do.

Example 3:

Since taking part in faith in action I have got to know pupils younger and older and I have made lots of new friends. I have also worked on developing skills for example confidence and teamwork skills. I have worked with the Lead International Prefect on my confidence skills but also on how to show more respect to others. This year I have enjoyed getting to know myself more as a person and I have also enjoyed being able to come closer to God. ✓✓

Faith in action this year has helped me to do different charity work for good causes such as the Medaille Trust and CAFOD. I have also taken some leadership roles around the chapel such as supervising the purple blazers take round the charity box to different forms. I have learned that taking a leadership role especially with year 7s can be very hard at times. ✓

This year the thing I liked the most was the shoebox of love. I liked this because it made me feel like I was doing something to help others, this is because when we sorted and took the shoeboxes over to the minibus we were helping people we don't know and who don't have as much as us by giving them a shoebox filled with toys and toiletries. ✓✓

I have also given a lot of my time helping to prepare and set up the mass on a Monday morning. This involves preparing the offertory gifts, lighting the candles and putting the mass sheets on every seat. I also serve mass in the cathedral on Sundays and sometimes I serve mass on a Saturday at our lady queen of martyrs. On a Sunday at the cathedral we do stuff like taking up the bells, taking up the offertory, taking the thurible stand up and the tray to go with it. In the mass I carry out jobs such as carrying candles, ringing the bells as a sign of Gods presence and lighting the thurible. On a Saturday at my parish it is similar to the cathedral we carry out the same jobs and set up the same things. ✓

For charity I have helped raise money for the Medaille Trust this is a charity that helps survivors of human trafficking with money to protect them and also give them a new start to life. To help this charity the faith in action group went round different forms to sell Christmas cards, key rings and nativity sets. Doing this has helped me develop my confidence skills, worked on my leadership skills and also by going round each class it made them more aware about what human trafficking is and how they can help them. Outside of school for charity me and my brother did a sponsored 8km race for CAFOD (because we both like to run) this was during the Christmas holidays. I raised sponsors from my family, friends and neighbours. All together my brother I and raised £20 for the charity. ✓✓

Being a part of faith in action has helped me meet lots of new people and has also helped me get on with people all ages (from 11-18). It has also helped me with my religious education and has helped me learn more about God, what we do in the mass and how to properly set it up and it has improved my religious education altogether. It has also showed me that doing things to help others who are not as lucky as us is a nice thing to do. ✓

Something I have learned about my faith during my time at faith in action this year is that sometimes it can be difficult to show but from that I learned that when it is we should just carry on and not let other people get us down or knock are confidence. ✓

Example 4:

Last year I, along with several of my peers participated in the bronze level 'faith in action' award. The journey the award took me upon as one of great spiritual enlightenment into how little I was previously engaging with in my community and the vast variety of ways and activities I could have engaged in. There was thus a greater opportunity to further my involvement in the community and my own personal faith when the gold level was offered towards the end of the year.

During the bronze level award, I was deeply involved in the chaplaincy and sacristy work of my school. Although I had no formal responsibility for overseeing the work of the sacristy, I was still more than willing to provide help wherever it was needed be it leading prayer sessions in the chapel or helping prepare for our year group masses. As well as this, I was also involved in the preparations for and the procession our school held in the summer of 2017 when Archbishop Malcolm McMahon attended and processed the Blessed Sacrament through the school grounds. Not only did these activities allow me to serve the school practically they provided me with a deep sense of satisfaction. However my involvement in the school was to prove beneficial at the beginning of Year 13 when I was appointed to the new position of Head Sacristan, a role that carried great responsibilities. As Head Sacristan it was my responsibility to oversee preparations for mass and also to ensure that the chapel area was always open for the rest of the school to come and worship in. During the year there were only very few morning when I was not at morning prayers in the chapel either leading them or taking part such as through reading. Although at the end of the academic year of 2018 I had to take exam leave and thus pass on the title and duties to my replacement Sacristan, the year's work spent in the chapel provided me with another chance to further my involvement in the community and serve my college in more ways than I had previously done the year before.

As well as my commitment to my school community, I remained extremely active if not more involved with my work as an altar server in the Metropolitan Cathedral where I have served for almost ten years. My work as an altar server has been one of the most rewarding and enjoyable activities I have ever participated in therefore to continue doing so whilst engaging in activities in school only helped in advancing my own faith. Besides solemn mass every Sunday, I have served at numerous larger occasions such as when the Fatima statue and relic visited the city last year as well as the 50th anniversary of the cathedral which was a momentous event with thousands of people in attendance. I was also heavily involved with the recent celebrations of Easter when I was at the Cathedral from the Wednesday of the Chrism mass through till Easter Sunday which was a deeply moving and joyous occasion for the cathedral community as are other celebrations such as Christmas. As a server it has been and is my responsibility to prepare the sanctuary and altar for mass and to either act as acolytes, a thurifer, a Eucharistic minister or, more recently, as the MC as I was on Maundy Thursday, a role that involves coordinating the sanctuary party and ensuring the mass runs as smoothly as possible. Therefore with regards to my work outside of school in the wider community, the Metropolitan Cathedral provided me with yet another way to participate in the religious life of my community.

My journey throughout the Faith in Action gold award has deepened my faith through engaging with my community and involving myself even more in activities when they present themselves. The numerous reflection points that I regularly attended were immensely helpful in returning to the key message of the faith in action award that is the message that without deeds to follow up our actions,

our faith is not truly fulfilled. Participating in the award scheme has therefore been extremely beneficial to me as a student yet more importantly as a Catholic. It is clear to me now more than ever that actions must follow on from what we profess every week at mass or through prayer. I would highly recommend the award scheme to anyone who wishes to seek further fulfilment for their work in their local community or their school as it has provided me with such a useful experience as my time in school draws in to an end. I am also very grateful to those who have made the scheme possible from the organisers, to my supervisor to even my peers who have led reflection points, yet supported me along my journey to truly put my faith into action.



Example 5:

From being part of the Faith in Action Award Scheme this year, I have been able to grow more of a connection with my own Parish and other Churches in the community by offering my services when they wanted to do Charity Fundraisers. This has allowed me to flourish more as a person because I have been able to give back to a community and know that I have done the correct thing making me feel more of a virtuous person.

During my time in Faith in Action I have seen the lower years be motivated and inspired by the work they have seen me do previously and now as the schools Lead International Prefect and Head of Cafod, this made a huge difference in the Charity Events from the beginning of the year as more people got involved for the greater good to raise money for either CAFOD or other charities such as Zoe's Place. As a result, to see the amount of motivation in the younger years wanting to volunteer and help with the fundraising made me feel their love because they had a genuine motivation to come and help myself and other sixth formers with the event instead of doing it to be recognised and receive praise which made me really happy to know I was working with genuine people who cared for the community as much as I did.

If it is anything that I have learnt from doing the Faith in Action Scheme is that my community is not as ambitious and motivated to do charity work than I was, this made me feel slightly deflated but it meant that I could try and find a way to motivate the community to become involved more. Therefore, when it came to helping at my local church I came up with ideas such as cake sales and fun days which myself and other Church members ran to help the community become more ambitious with their Charity work and get involved with church life.

Regarding my character, I feel that I have learnt so much more about myself which I never thought would be possible. For example, I have come to realise that I am more of an emotional person when it comes to witnessing disasters which we help raise money for because although I understand that they are in a serious situation, I never really realised that the situation was extreme to the extent people have no food or water. Overall, I have become more of an understanding person to world disasters, I now know that I am fully aware of situations I never thought I was before and finally, when helping our leader Miss Fitzgerald when she was absent, I learnt that I have strong leadership and communication skills allowing me to earn the respect from the lower years when they carried out an instruction or order which I asked them to do.

In conclusion, the Faith in Action Award Scheme has made me realise that when I leave for University, I would like to be a part of a group which requires helping others and raising money for Charities which would benefit from the funds raised. From my passion of Charity Work growing, I would like to, one day, start my own Charity or Foundation which would help benefit children who are in need of an education or shelter, food and water because I strongly believe that education is an important tool to have as a child because it helps you grow and flourish as a person while meeting new people and socialising with different age groups.

Example 6:

Three- part question: what does Faith in Action mean to me? Why is it important to be proactive in faith? How has Faith in Action influenced who I am over the year?

Faith in action is a very important development programme of faith, incorporating volunteering, which aims to reward those young people, like me, who put in many hours into evangelising the word of the Lord. This can be done in many ways: whether it be serving; or singing in a choral group; reading during mass; or going to the old; sick or lonely; taking part in a sponsored sleepout or fundraising! ✓

This is very important as it shows a proactive church, the Catholic Church has vision and since the changes of the sixties has been a lot more appealing to young people. The reason why I believe in this award is because it rewards those who do extra: I for example have spent many many hours serving because that's the way I believe I can assist the priest best at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and I can praise God most. However these positions, just like any other earthly possession, shouldn't be taken for granted, it is an honour to assist at the sanctuary, it is a position which is visible, therefore fulfilling the "action" part of the award title, therefore it is a position which should only be carried out when in the spiritual readiness to do so... otherwise there would be absolutely no point in doing so, it is both meaningless and priceless. Therefore, faith is important. It must be at the forefront of the mind of every Catholic, to fulfil the task our Lord tasked us with "to love thy neighbour as thyself." ✓

Faith in Action has helped me grow in faith. ✓ This year as I am doing the Gold award I had to step up even more to a leadership role. But by this, I have managed to find God even more. When leading, it can sometimes mean giving up more time for a task, but equally it should require more time for God. Later, I'll mention some of the things I have done, but I should add that there is usually one time in the week where I feel closest to God. That is when I serve mass once a week in the extraordinary form. I took this on last summer, and never have I regretted the decision. I think that the silence and the mysticism really attracts me towards God. ✓

To me, Faith in Action really busts the old protestant phrase "by faith alone we are saved," in no place in the bible does that verse appear, it is completely made up. To truly gain our reward, we must put our faith in action, lots of little acts which create a true movement within different communities which eventually escalate to society. ✓

That is what Faith in Action (FIA) truly is: a movement, a "youth-quake," if all the young Catholics work together, the UK would be a different place altogether—that must be the target of FIA. To reward the efforts of every catholic under the age of 18. By saying yes, by under taking the challenge of FIA, by saying "yes," we are becoming successors of Our Lady; the greatest, full, human every to live. For without her the Holy Roman Catholic Apostolic Faith would not have been established, salvation would not have been one for the faults of our souls. To say yes to FIA, we are saying yes to God, like our Lady we open our hearts to change and grow. When saying yes to FIA we much like The Blessed Virgin, we try to be at Jesus' side, even when it is challenging and we need to call on help our faith is strengthened in Him, from the start of the award to end, but not the end however; even

exc
ins
ch
F
m
CAMO
ch

ig
hon

further, at the end of this year's award its not a goodbye ceremony, its welcome back for another year in the fellowship of Christ, then another, and then another decade with Christ, deepening our relationship with Him, and finally be it in pour prayers a life time in the service of God. ✓

That is why I believe Faith in Action to me is not really a challenge of what I need to do or volunteer, it's the challenge to say yes to God, like the Faith. I used to think that daily Mass was for those people who had nothing better to do; and I was right!! Who has got something better to do than go to the Holy Sacrifice where God is truly present. But of course, FIA is not just Mass, it everything else, and although in this award we do get rewarded for our deeds, we don't deserve to be, we are instructed by Christ "to tell no one." If we do something good, let's not brag, or rave about the amazing thing we have done, stay silent, for the reward is that God knows. ✓

Over the year I have been strengthened and enthused by FIA to attempt at least to strive for perfection. Let's remember there is only perfection in three main things: ✓

- 1) Creation- the whole of creation is perfect and therefore we must act as stewards to make sure it is looked after for generations to come, this can be done by acting as dominions as well as stewards—creation is there for us, we shouldn't forget this. ✓
- 2) Triune God- God is perfect. Nothing can compare to him and therefore it is the most important of everything in the universe. God the Father, God the Holy Ghost and God the Son (God incarnate, Jesus, the messiah, Prince of Peace, etc) is the example that we have and must constantly keep our eyes fixed upon the end goal, to try and be perfect, though no one has/is/will ever be that. ✓
- 3) The Divine Must- the prophecy that Christ must die, act as a sacrificial lamb is perfection because it means we are saved. ✓

But to perfect ourselves we must accept we have done wrong. ✓ This can be done in the form of apology, but the best way is to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But all the sacraments are important, based upon the philosophy that: we are what we eat, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Regular participation in the sacraments especially the Eucharist and Confession assist us in the development and strengthening of faith. Our faith is like an athlete; we have to challenge ourselves regularly to become stronger, just like a runner will not just do the same three mile run forever, it has to be built up to four, five and six mile runs. So, like that athlete we must build up our time for God. ✓

great analogy about our faith!

Faith in action has influenced me to do many things which include:

- serving, ✓ ✓
- sacristy work, ✓
- poppy selling, ✓
- assisting younger pupils, ✓
- leading a reflection point, ✓
- Assisting in the planning and organising of whole school processions, ✓
- Serving and organising whole school Mass at the Cathedral, ✓

along with
assisting me
Lead
Internationo

- Assisting weekly at every weekly year group mass. ✓

I find it important to give up one's time for the benefit of others, in fact it is a type of love. And thus, I believe that it should go unrewarded but, in this case, the Catholic Church of England and Wales think that their young people should be rewarded. ✓

At the heart of FIA is the idea that we are all a community. As a result, having to spend nine months with a group of people we become a family, community and most importantly a team, and within the walls of the chaplaincy we take that out to the school, then to society. And through that not only did my faith grow but more importantly we hope it built the kingdom of God elsewhere. ✓

In Conclusion Faith in Action has helped me make friends but I have found the most important thing is that I have grown in faith and love of God and hence for each other too. ✓