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Education Department Newsletter

6th October 2025



Joan McCarthy
Director of Education



Headteachers' Pilgrimage to Rome

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter, which includes updates on recent events and upcoming activities across our schools.

I have recently returned from the Headteachers' Pilgrimage to Rome — a truly wonderful experience and a precious opportunity to reflect on the message of *hope and joy* in this Jubilee Year.

I would also like to thank you all for your support of CAFOD Harvest Fast Day last Friday.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful week ahead.

Joan McCarthy
Director of Education

Ben McMullen
Deputy Director of Education

Thank you to all those who participated in, or supported, last week's Year of Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome. It was a wonderful experience to share the time with the 35 other participants. I am sure you will be able to read about it in a forthcoming edition of the Catholic Pic, but highlights of the week included passing through the Holy Doors of the four papal basilicas, attending the weekly Papal audience, and our special visit to the Vatican for a reception with Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary of Relations with States. I am enormously grateful to David Hayes, Headteacher of SFX, Liverpool, for initiating this reception with the Archbishop, a former student of SFX. We held all our schools, leaders, staff, pupils and governors in prayer throughout our pilgrimage.

Chaplaincy Cluster meetings

This week our high school chaplains will have their Autumn series of cluster meetings. Full details of dates and venues can be found in the Calendar.

Postponed event

Our Formation event '*Have you thought about becoming a RE teacher?*' was originally scheduled for this Wednesday. This has been postponed and a new date will be set soon.

Education Department Calendar 2025-26

Please find attached the latest version of our calendar of events, including booking links.

[Calendar 2025-26](#)

Deacon Paul Mannings
Secondary School RE Adviser

p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk

When booking diocesan CPD events please see the calendar and brochure for details and links.

Recent and Forthcoming Training

Thanks to those who joined our sessions for new leaders of Religious

Education and assistant leaders of Religious Education. If anyone would like to be part of the presentation teams for these groups, please get in touch. We also had our first session for creating specialists in Religious Education. Members had chosen areas of study in advance. Please keep to this arrangement.

Monday 13 October is a day's training with a focus on Key Stage 3.

The God Who Speaks

Our focus for October is on **Practical Liturgy** -

www.godwhospeaks.uk/practical-liturgy/

Liturgy is the jewel of the church. Explore our new practical series by Maria Hall.

With helpful ideas, plenty of resources and fascinating background information:

Rituals and Gestures - www.godwhospeaks.uk/rituals-and-gestures/

Seasons and Feasts - www.godwhospeaks.uk/seasons-and-feasts/

Ministries and Formation - www.godwhospeaks.uk/ministries-and-formation/

New Poster - Pope Leo's Prayer for Formation in Discernment -

www.godwhospeaks.uk/pope-leo-discernment-prayer-poster/

Good Money Week – 6th-12th October

Seven articles for each day of the week on work and money -

www.godwhospeaks.uk/good-work/

More information about Good Money Week - <https://goodmoneyweek.com/>

Feast of St Luke - Saturday 18th October

Celebrate the Feast of St Luke - www.godwhospeaks.uk/st-lukes-gospel/

Try our St Luke reading challenge - www.godwhospeaks.uk/st-lukes-day-by-day/

St Luke Posters for schools & parishes - www.godwhospeaks.uk/st-lukes-posters/

Whistlestop Tour of St Luke's Gospel - www.godwhospeaks.uk/a-whistlestop-tour-of-luke/

Listen with our Audio version of St Luke's Gospel -

www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-gospel-according-to-st-luke/

60th Anniversary of Nostra Aetate - Sunday 26th October

The Psalms are a Doorway to Jewish-Catholic Dialogue -

www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-psalms-a-doorway-to-jewish-catholic-dialogue/

Use this resource to see how each tradition approaches these sacred texts.

**CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
CCRS**

Year 1 Specialist 1, Session 1: The Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School

Please note this is a scheduled live session that will take place at the St Margaret Clitheroe Centre on Thursday 9th October from 6.30pm and up to two hours will be required. There are only three sessions for this specialist teachers' module held at the rate of one each term, so attendance is essential for qualification. However, we do have a couple of members who are catechists and separate arrangements will be made for them to study an appropriate specialist module at a different date and time.

CCRS Contacts:

All academic, attendance, progress
issues: Dcn Paul Mannings
p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk

Finance, registration and all
contact details renewals: Paul Crilly
p.crilly@rcaol.org.uk

Ged Preston and Joanne Ball
Primary School Improvement Team

EY2P - The role of the Teaching Assistant in EYFS

7th October 2025, 1pm - 4pm, Online - Zoom [book here](#)

The course will:

- Recognise the unique and important role of the teaching assistant in the early years.

- Provide key documentation to support an understanding of child development.

- Share guidance on how to...
 - Support children's social and emotional well-being
 - Promote independence within self-care routines
 - Develop high-quality interactions
 - Facilitate small group adult-led activities
- Scaffold and extend child-initiated / independent learning
- 'Target' identified children to narrow the attainment gap
- Maintain and develop a high-quality and purposeful learning space

- Discuss strategies to work as a team to maximise learning for all children.

Subject Leadership - Coaching, mentoring and modelling approaches to secure impact following monitoring

Tuesday 14th October 2025, 1pm - 4pm, St Margaret Clitherow Centre
[book here](#)

This course has been designed for newly appointed senior and middle leaders who undertake monitoring activities and now want to ensure that the feedback they provide to colleagues is highly effective, especially when having to give 'difficult' messages.

The course explores how organisations develop a culture of feedback, and how we can learn from this in schools. The training then looks at specific strategies and models for wording feedback conversations to ensure clarity and ensuring a shared understanding of the next steps, building into a coaching or mentoring model of support.

Delegates will then explore how colleagues can benefit from seeing high-quality teaching modelled for them and then practised, and how these opportunities can be developed in a setting and across settings.

The course includes opportunities to practice structuring feedback conversations after watching lesson clips and then discussing possible next steps and development approaches with other delegates.

As a result of attending, delegates will:

- Have considered how a culture of positive feedback and continuous professional development can be established in a setting.
- Have a range of strategies and tools to structure feedback conversations to ensure impact.
- Developed their feedback skills through watching lesson clips and discussing subsequent actions with other delegates.
- Have considered how meaningful feedback is a key element of successful coaching and mentoring.

Course facilitator - Tim Nelson from ECM.

Ged Preston, Steve Coyle and Vikki Borlase

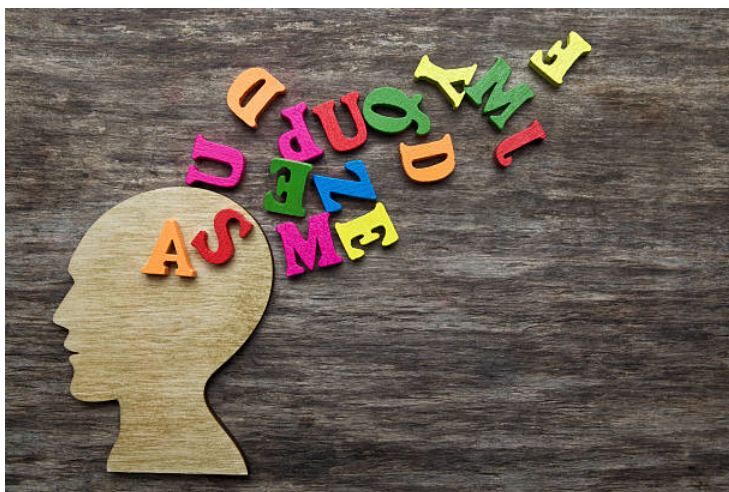
Secondary School Improvement Team



Upcoming meetings

Sessions will take place next week for PSHE, History HoD's, New to SENDCo (Primary and Secondary) and Aspiring SENDCo (Primary and Secondary)

Links to book your place at any of our meetings can be found in the
Education Department Calendar 2025-26
at the top of the newsletter



Final few places remaining!

New to SENDCo Programme 2025/26
(Open to Primary and Secondary colleagues)

16th October 2025 - 9.00am until 3.30pm at The Wrightington Hotel

3rd March 2026 - 9.00-3.30pm at The Wrightington Hotel

17th June 2026 - 9.00-3.30pm at The Wrightington Hotel

Final 4 places available

[Register here now](#)

**Aspiring SENDCo Programme 2025/26
(Open to Primary and Secondary colleagues)**

16th October 2025 - 3.30pm-5.00pm at The Wrightington Hotel

3rd March 2026 - 3.30pm-5.00pm via Teams (online)

17th June 2026 - 3.30pm-5.00pm via Teams (online)

Final 3 places available

[Register here now](#)



Mock COP 30 Student Events 2025

**Book your place to attend the online preparation session with
Liverpool World Centre on 15th October 2025
(Repeat of session on 24th September)**

We are pleased to announce that Secondary School Improvement have partnered with Liverpool World Centre to run a mock COP 30 events for students. This is for a maximum of 16 schools, each sending a team of 8 students (This is aimed at pupils across KS3/4/5).

The event will cover:
Formal UN Style presentations and negotiations
Workshops and action planning
Q&A with an expert panel

Schools can use the links below to book.
Please check the link to ensure your school is listed for that event.
Schools are allocated to each event by location.

- 9.30am until 2.30pm on **11th November at St Margaret Clitherow Centre**, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool L17 1AA [Please book here](#)
- 9.30am until 2.30pm on **19th November at Hope Academy**, Ashton Rd, Newton-le-Willows WA12 0AQ [Please book here](#)

If you've have any queries please contact Vikki Borlase
at v.borlase@rcaolp.co.uk



Merseyside Youth Association's mental health promotion team (RAISE Team) deliver a range of FREE bite-size courses covering a range of mental health issues that impact children, young people and their families.

Bite-size sessions coming up in October delivered via Zoom...

Mental Health Support for Children and Young People in

Liverpool 06/10/2025 11:00 am - 12:30 pm [Book here](#)

Managing Challenging Conversations 06/10/2025 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm [Book here](#)

Behaviour as Communication - 06/10/2025 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm [Book here](#)

Understanding and Managing Anxiety - 07/10/2025 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm [Book here](#)

Introduction to Self-Harm - 09/10/2025 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm [Book here](#)

Understanding Low Mood and Depression - 13/10/2025 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm [Book here](#)

Adolescent Brain Development - 15/10/2025 9:30 am - 10:30 am [Book here](#)

An Introduction to Eating Disorders - 15/10/2025 11:00 am - 12:00 pm [Book here](#)

Body Image - 15/10/2025 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm [Book here](#)

Cultivating Self-Compassion - 15/10/2025 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm [Book here](#)

Nutrition and Wellbeing 15/10/2025 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm [Book here](#)

Emotionally-Based School Avoidance - 20/10/2025 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm [Book here](#)

The Online World and Mental Health - 28/10/2025 10:00 am - 11:00 am [Book here](#)

The Importance of Sleep - 28/10/2025 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm [Book here](#)

Secondary School Improvement

News from Around the Archdiocese



Christmas card competition!

The archdiocesan Christmas card competition is back for 2025!

Please find [attached](#) the pack with all of the information in. As usual, there are two categories – one for primary schools and one for secondary and there are no limits for number of entries per school, so we encourage as many of your students as possible to enter.

If you have any questions, please contact our communications team on communications@rcaol.org.uk.

Good luck!

To view current school vacancies, please click on the link below:-

Vacancies

If you would like to add a vacancy or a news article to the newsletter, please email aes@rcaol.org.uk

Catholic Pic Newsletter

If your school would like a hard copy of the Catholic Pic Newsletter please contact communications@rcaol.org.uk

Missed last week's newsletter? Click on the button below to view it!

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter. Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.



St Margaret Clitherow Centre

Liverpool Archdiocesan Office | Croxteth Drive | Liverpool | L17 1AA



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