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Education Department Newsletter

13th October 2025



Joan McCarthy
Director of Education

Thank you for taking the time to read this week's newsletter.

As I write, we are hearing news of a proposed peace deal for the Holy Land. Let us continue to pray for all those who have suffered, and who continue to suffer, as a result of this conflict.

Thank you, too, for all that you are doing to bring peace to your schools and wider communities.

Last Wednesday, I had the privilege of attending the celebration at the parish of St Wilfrid's, Widnes, for all those involved in Catholic education in

the area. It was wonderful to see so many schools coming together, and I am very grateful to the clergy for their ongoing support.

And on Tuesday, 7th October, at St Mary's, Leyland, the schools of Leyland, Farington, Euxton and Mawdesley came together for a special Mass to celebrate the Jubilee Year.

From your social media posts, I can see that many of our schools are organising opportunities for children to celebrate Mass — thank you for making this possible and for all that you do to nurture the faith life of your communities.

Wishing you a peaceful and blessed week ahead.

Joan McCarthy
Director of Education



Apostolic Exhortation

Pope Leo XIV released his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexi Te* ("I Have Loved You"), in which he reflects deeply on the Church's duty to love and serve the poor. In it, he highlights the essential role of Catholic education in promoting human dignity and transforming society.

From *Dilexi Te*, n. 72:

"For the Christian faith, the education of the poor is not a favor but a duty. Children have a right to knowledge as a fundamental requirement for the recognition of human dignity.

Teaching them affirms their value, giving them the tools to transform their reality.

Christian tradition considers knowledge a gift from God and a community responsibility.

Christian education does not only form professionals, but also people open to goodness, beauty, and truth.

Catholic schools, therefore, when they are faithful to their name, are places of inclusion, integral formation, and human development.

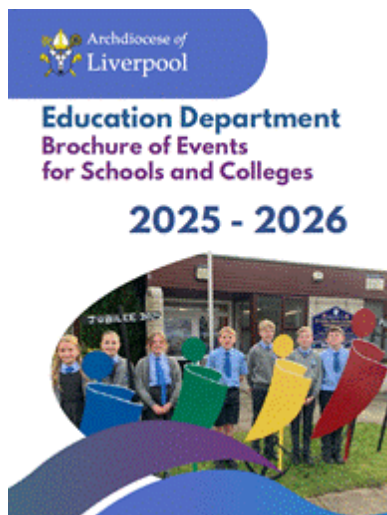
By combining faith and culture, they sow the seeds of the future, honor the image of God, and build a better society."

You can access this document online by going to [Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi te of the Holy Father Leo XIV on Love for the Poor \(4 October 2025\)](#)

Ben McMullen
Deputy Director of Education

Brochure of Events 2025-26

Our Brochure for this year is now available to schools. Rather than send it out in the post, we are making it available at our meetings and events over the next few weeks. Please make sure that someone picks up a copy for your school when they are next at one of our meetings or training sessions.



RSE: Catholic Policy and Practice

We are running this training session twice on Thursday 16th October at the Mercure Hotel in Haydock. You have the choice of attending from 9.30am – 11.30am or 1.30pm – 3.30pm. This training will be suitable for both primary and secondary colleagues and explore Catholic teaching and how to put this into practice in your RSE curriculum.

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 cluster meetings for Religious Education Leads

The content of our agenda included post inspection updates from schools, RED development in Year 9, GCSE performance and training updates, forthcoming training events, local business and areas for action. Notes of the meeting will follow. Those schools unable to attend will be brought up to date during this term's round of schools' visits. A big thank you to David at All Hallows and to Catha at Hope Academy for being excellent hosts and to their school communities for the warmth of welcome.

GCSE Moderation Clusters

Some schools have switched examination boards, so membership contacts are being updated.

A Level Support Partnerships

These are being prepared to include other regional dioceses.

The God Who Speaks

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

Marking of assignments

This refers to those assignments submitted for the modules of Summer Term 2025 namely, Specialists 1 and 2, Person of Jesus and Christian Morality. These will be returned speedily by half-term. We have succeeded in fast tracking the moderation process to make that possible.

What next?

This term's modules for Years 1 and 2, namely Hebrew Scriptures and Church will be completed before half term. This leaves a complete period in November/December for the completion of assignments and any personal support needed. Assignments will be due on the day of your first session in January. We always advise you to get them completed prior to Christmas.

The word total is only 1,500, so that makes an ongoing project possible amidst everything else you are doing.

Thanks for being part of the CCRS community!

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



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 courses 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.

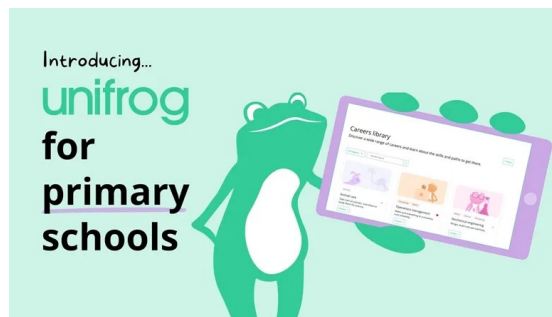
The course includes opportunities to practice structuring feedback conversations after watching lesson clips and then discussing possible next

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.



Unifrog for Primary Schools is Here!

Created by primary teachers *for* primary teachers, Unifrog for primary schools combines fully-comprehensive, ready-made **PSHE lessons with Careers and Personal Development resources** for Years 1 to 6.

Mapped against the **PSHE Association Framework** and **CDI Learning Areas**, lessons are adaptable, ready to download, and fully planned.

The platform also helps primary schools introduce children to a diverse range of future careers through the Careers library, as well as get inspection-ready with centralised tracking and reporting of their PSHE and Careers programmes.

[Join the team for the launch webinar: 3.30pm on Tuesday 14 October!](#)

Ged Preston, Steve Coyle and Vikki Borlase
Secondary School Improvement Team



Upcoming meetings

After half term our Head of Department meetings continue with Maths on 3rd November, PE on 4th November and Psychology on 5th November. The second session of Physics Parters (Electricity) also takes place on 5th November.

Links to book your place at any of our meetings can be found in the [Education Department Calendar 2025-26](#)



Anti-Bullying Week 2025: Power for Good

Monday 10th to Friday 14th November 2025

In the pack, which you can [access here](#), you will find:

Social Media Toolkit

Lesson plans

Assembly plan

Cross-curricular activities

Ideas to help you bring Anti-Bullying Week 2025 to life

Handouts and PowerPoint presentations
Anti-Bullying Week 2025 poem video (<https://youtu.be/7b11rdnQsl0>)

The pack contains a 20-minute assembly style activity, two 60-minute lesson/activity plans and cross-curricular activity ideas that are designed to encourage students to think critically about how we can use our 'Power for Good' to address bullying both online and offline.

[Additional Anti-Bullying Week 2025 resources can be accessed here](#)

Social Media Toolkit Assets

Social Media Assets

Logo

Partners Comms Pack (Theme Launch)

Partners Comms Pack (Resources Launch)



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...

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](#)

Ketamine's Impact on Mental Health - 28/10/2025 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm [Book here](#)

News from Around the Archdiocese



Request from CAFOD: Are any school groups visiting Rome for the Jubilee of Education (30th October - 1st November)?

In the light of the incredible engagement of Catholic schools throughout England and Wales in this Jubilee year, CAFOD has been invited by the Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education to share this experience during the **Jubilee for the World of Education** taking place in the Vatican from 30th October to 1st November.

We are keen to link up with any schools that may be in Rome during this time. If you are aware of any such schools or planned visits, we would be grateful for any connections or information you can share. Please email aes@rcaol.org.uk.

St Francis Students Get Creative

St Francis of Assisi Primary School in Skelmersdale recently celebrated its 20th anniversary which coincided with the 50th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi Church.

To mark the occasion, the school invited their children to create a prayer card that would be shared with people in both the school and the parish.

Due to the high quality of the entries, there were two winners - George Niblock and Bridget Ward.



Meanwhile, Key Stage 1 children at the school made some Pilgrims of Hope gifts to share with students at another nearby school.

They chose their own symbols of hope and made keyrings and a special dove for the reception children and for the Year 6 children, who received them on their final day of school.

Samantha Tsang, teacher at St Francis of Assisi, said: "It was lovely to see the children so thoughtful about their gifts and what the symbols meant to them."



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

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!

Education Department Newsletter W.C. 06/10/2025

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



St Margaret Clitherow Centre

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