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Education Department Newsletter

20th October 2025



Joan McCarthy
Director of Education

Thank you for taking the time to read this week's letter. As half term approaches, I am sure weariness is setting in for some, and I do hope you all manage to find some time for rest and renewal.

It was lovely to meet so many governors at the conference at the Cathedral on Saturday, 11th October. We are so fortunate to have people willing to put themselves forward for this vital service to the Church's mission. My thanks to Gill Donohoe and the team for organising such a successful event.

This week, I attended the Diocesan Schools Commissioners' Conference in Sheffield. It was good to spend time with colleagues who work on behalf of

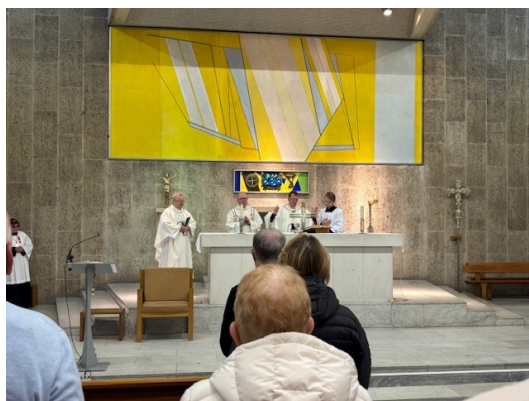
our schools. Dr Philip Robinson from the Catholic Schools Inspectorate shared national feedback from recent inspections. One comment that particularly resonated with me was:

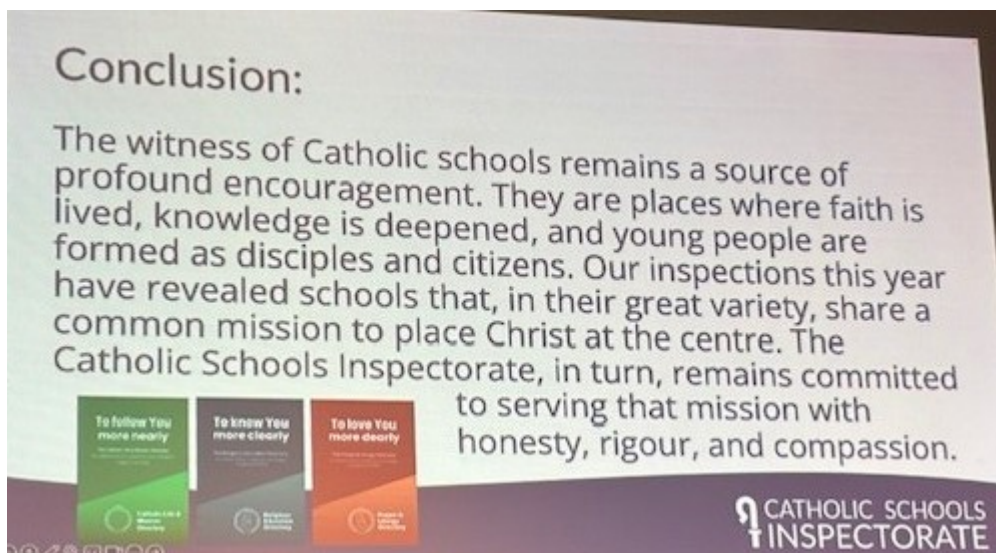
"The witness of Catholic schools remains a source of profound encouragement. They are places where faith is lived, knowledge is deepened, and young people are formed as disciples and citizens."

I wish you all a happy week ahead and a restful half term when it arrives.
Thank you, as always, for all that you do.

With best wishes,

Joan McCarthy
Director of Education

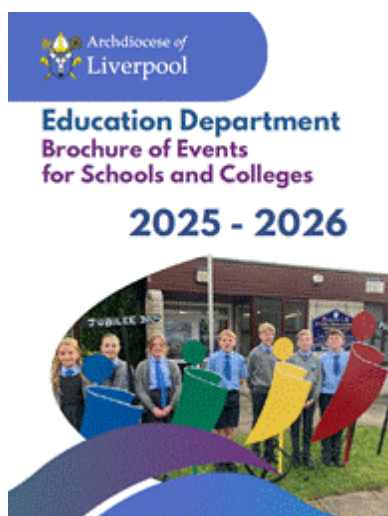




Ben McMullen Deputy Director of Education

Brochure of events 2025-26

Please remember to collect a copy of this year's Brochure from one of the Archdiocesan officers at any forthcoming training events you attend.



RSHE: Policy and Practice

Thank you to the many primary and secondary colleagues who attended our RSHE: Policy and Practice training on Thursday. This training will be repeated at the end of January.

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.

Key Stage 3 Religious Education Quality Teaching and Learning

Thanks for the very good attendance at this practical day held last Monday.

The content included a detailed update on progress toward and national policy for RED assessment to be available without obligation. There were excellent exemplars shared of existing assessment practises in our schools.

Dialogue and Encounter received a robust demonstration of effective teaching. We are thankful as ever for the resources and report provided by CAFOD. During the afternoon Andy Lewis zoomed in to share effective use of the RED. Overall we shared confident methodology in Religious Education.

Religious Education for Non-Specialists

This is a call for members new and old to send in required areas of study in preparation for the next session.

The God Who Speaks

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

Action points

The big job now is getting the assignments back to present and former members of Year 2. Those who have successfully completed the full two-year course will then receive letters of confirmation. Certificates will be ordered and then sent out or held for those who would prefer to have them presented at our Education Department Mass in the final term. There are just two sessions to go, one each for Years 1 and 2 this term. The remainder of the time is for the day job (!) and completion of assignments, accompanied by any assistance you may need. Regarding the submission of assignments. They all come to Dcn Paul by the date of the next session in January.

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

This week - Seesaw Webinars

Seesaw will deliver 2 short webinar sessions to primary schools to demonstrate how they can support high impact teaching, learning and assessment across your whole school.

The sessions will take place on **Tuesday 21st October 4:00 – 4:30pm** or
Wednesday 22nd October 4:00-4:30pm.

Please book onto a session via the QR code below.

Seesaw currently costs £8 per pupil for whole school, or £9.50 for partial school (180 pupils minimum).



Archdiocese of
Liverpool

In partnership
with
Seesaw

Exclusive Partnership Webinar

Getting Started with Seesaw

Join Adam Hill, UK Professional Learning Partner, for a
live 30-minute webinar.

What you'll learn in the webinar:

- How Seesaw supports high-impact teaching, learning, and assessment across **your whole school!**
- How to use Seesaw to foster high-quality, **two-way parent partnerships.**
- A **sneak peek** at what's new and coming to Seesaw **including Seesaw AI!**

seesaw.com

**Save
Your Space**



21st October
4.00pm-4.30pm



22nd October
4.00pm-4.30pm

Can't attend live?

All registrants will be sent the
webinar recording after the session!

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](#)

Steplab Coaching Hub Day

The Trinity
Catholic Academy
Tuesday 4 November,
12–4pm



The Trinity
Catholic Academy



 **Steplab**



Steplab: Open to both Primary and Secondary Schools

The Trinity Academy (part of SJCMAT) has recently been awarded Steplab Coaching Hub status, and is one of only 20 schools in the country to attain this status. Three times a year, the Coaching Hub will be hosting Hub Days which are for leaders interested in launching Instructional Coaching or improving their delivery of Instructional Coaching. Leaders do not need to be signed up to Steplab in order to attend.

[Information on how to book by contacting STEPLAB](#)

All enquiries regarding this should be directed to hello@steplab.co



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



The **NOW Festival** is a highlight of the calendar for Liverpool's Mental Health Support for Children and Young People's Partnership. Held annually during **Children's Mental Health Week**, next year's performances will take place from **3-5 February**.

We're excited to announce that the festival will return to its original home — the **Epstein Theatre**.

Want to be part of NOW Festival 2026? [Register here](#)

What is the NOW Festival?

The NOW Festival aims to...

- Improve children and young people's personal and social development and enhance their communication and social skills by giving youth a voice.
 - Empowers them through participation and working as part of a team collaboratively.
 - Helps raise awareness and gain knowledge of mental health and specific themes, including targeted prevention and early intervention.
 - Tackling stigma by creating conversations and inspiring change.
 - Highlighting the importance of building resilience through community and creativity.
-



British Science Week 6th-15th March 2026

[British Science Week](#), run by the [British Science Association](#), is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths, featuring entertaining and engaging events and activities across the UK for people of all ages.

British Science Week provides a platform to stimulate and support teachers, STEM professionals, science communicators and the general public to produce and participate in STEM events and activities.

[You can now download the Activity Pack here](#)

Secondary School Improvement Flyer



Greater Manchester
Youth Federation

Greater Manchester Combined Authority's [Violence Reduction Unit](#) Education board are proud to sponsor an event by [Reign Collective](#).

REIGN's bespoke training workshops are for professionals wishing to gain insight into child sexual abuse and exploitation from the perspective of survivors.

Their facilitators are qualified professionals either working or researching in the fields of education, youth work, counselling, or health and social care. They take a unique approach to our training, combining lived-experience with up-to-date research and developments in CSE, trauma, and safeguarding.

This event is **FREE** and open to professionals in the public sector, or those voluntary groups supporting young people.

The next session of note is 19th January 2026 at Partington Youth Centre.
The link to the event is [here](#).

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!

Education Department Newsletter W.C. 13/10/2025

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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