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## Education Department Newsletter

**12th January 2026**

**Ben McMullen**  
Deputy Director of Education

### Welcome back

You may have seen on the news this week that Pope XIV closed the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica in Rome on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. This marked the official end of the Jubilee Year of Hope, which was called by Pope Francis, and concluded by Pope Leo. It has been an enriching experience for so many. It is estimated that over 33 million people visited Rome for the Jubilee Year, and a highlight for me was accompanying the group of our headteachers on pilgrimage in September.

When a Jubilee Year ended in the Bible, life would go back to normal. Yet people held onto the hope of the coming Messiah, who was prophesised to declare not just a Jubilee Year but a Jubilee eternity. Our Jubilee Year has reminded us that we are Jubilee people. We have experienced a renewal of 'hope' – despite the uncertainties and fears that exist in our world. The good news of the Jubilee Year, and for us as pilgrims of hope, is that God is with us in all the challenges we face. We are empowered and animated by hope to strive for a more just world through acts of charity, mercy and care for creation in our homes and schools.

It has been a real privilege for us in the Education Department to see the work that has taken place in our schools and colleges to mark this special year and we are hugely grateful for all your efforts.  
Thank you for all that you have done over the past year.

*Lord, we thank you that the grace of the Jubilee  
reawakened in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a desire to cultivate the seeds of the Gospel.*

*May we go on, beyond Jubilee,  
to share your message of hope  
to those we serve and love in our schools and colleges.*

*Amen.*

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### **Confirmation**

A reminder that registration for Confirmation is open. Registration takes place at [www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk) and is open until 14<sup>th</sup> February. Fr Simon has already sent out posters, information and a letter from the Archbishop to schools.

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### **Education Department Calendar 2025-26**

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

[Calendar 2025-26](#)

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### **Survey on X**

Thank you to the schools who completed the survey regarding X before Christmas. For those schools who haven't yet completed it, there is still time!

The Archdiocese of Liverpool is considering its presence on X (formally Twitter) due to ethical reasons.

We are aware that a number of our schools are active on the social media platform, so we wanted to gather feedback from our schools on this before we came to a conclusion.

We would welcome you to complete [this survey](#) so we can gauge the opinions of our schools.

If you have any further questions, please contact communications manager Lizzie Williams on [e.williams@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:e.williams@rcaol.org.uk)

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## **Insurance Arrangements Buildings**

It has been brought to our attention that some schools have been contacted by Zurich offering insurance cover directly or through the local authority. We have advised that all schools (other than Sefton schools who have a separate arrangement) should continue with RPA until further notice. This cover will renew automatically in April this year. We are working with the Catholic Insurance Service to secure the best services for schools and will update you in due course if our advice changes.

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## **Annual Civic Mass**

All Schools are invited to the Annual Civic Mass which will take place on Sunday 15th February 2026 at 11.00am in the Metropolitan Cathedral, and to the light refreshments immediately afterwards in the Gibberd Room.

This is always a great occasion to show how important the Cathedral is in the life of the City. The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop John Sherrington. This will be the first one that our new Archbishop will be celebrating so it would be wonderful to have your school represented.

The invitation is also extended to the Head Boy and/or Head Girl of the school, as a way of encouraging young people to appreciate the opportunities which service to the community may offer them in the future.

I do hope you will be able to join us on this special occasion. If you are, please would you reply to Claire Hanlon using the slip [here](#), or email [c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk](mailto:c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk) as soon as possible.

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**Ged Preston, Steve Coyle and Vikki Borlase**

Secondary School Improvement Team



## **Booking Reminder: Cambridge OCR Active Results Training Sessions**

We have arranged online training with OCR on their Active Results portal with two slots on offer as below.

This session provides an introduction to Cambridge OCR's **Active Results** system, designed to help you access and interpret assessment data with ease. You'll learn how to navigate the platform, generate reports, and use insights to support teaching and learning. By the end of the session, you'll feel confident in using Active Results to monitor performance and inform decision-making.

Please note this will not cover individual exam papers or feedback from exam performance.

- Getting Started with Cambridge OCR's Active Results | Tuesday 13th January | 3:30pm | [Register here](#)
- Getting Started with Cambridge OCR's Active Results | Tuesday 20th January | 10:00am | [Register here](#)

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## January Bulletin

You can access the January Secondary School Improvement bulletin, shared by Steve Coyle [here](#)

This covers the latest updates for:

Safeguarding  
Behaviour  
Attendance  
Mental Health and Wellbeing  
Personal Development  
Awareness event dates

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## Children's Mental Health Week 9th - 15th February 2026

Please find [via this link](#) resources shared by Steve Coyle for Children's Mental Health Week 9th - 15th February 2026

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## **Safer Internet Day 2026 - 10th February 2026**

Please find below resources from the UK Safer internet Centre.

There are resources for KS3 and for 14-18 year olds.

In addition to the [resources accessed here](#) are links to:

A quiz for KS3 pupils - [Quiz for 11-14s - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Tips for parents/carers - [Top Tips for parents and carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Tips for pupils - [Top Tips for young people - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)



### **Physics Partners: What Lights Up Your Love of Physics Competition**

Following the success of their inaugural competition, Physics Partners are once again inviting Year 12 students, individually or in teams of up to three, to create a 3-minute video showcasing what inspires their love of physics.

The video could explore anything from tackling Net Zero challenges and uncovering the physics behind gaming, to understanding medical imaging or imagining the future of space exploration.

The top 10 finalist teams will be invited to an overnight visit to King's College, Cambridge for the Prize Event, where they'll present their videos, take part in Q&A sessions, and enjoy inspiring physics talks and activities.

### **Prizes**

- Each finalist team: £600 in Amazon vouchers (£400 for solo entries)
- £500s worth of physics equipment for their school
- The overall winning team will also receive funding to visit CERN!

Eligibility: Year 12 students from state schools and colleges in England

**Deadline: 24th February 2026, 11:59 pm**

For full details and how to apply,  
visit: <https://physicspartners.com/competition/>



**Funded Training Opportunities for Staff in Liverpool Schools**

[You can access resources and all free training here](#)

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**Secondary School Improvement Flyer**

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**Ged Preston and Sandra Martin**  
Primary School Improvement Team

**Be Inspection Ready!**

Join us on 22nd January, 9:30–12:30 at St Margaret Clitherow Centre for a training day - *Assessment in Foundation Subjects – Being Inspection Ready*. This hands-on session will help leaders at all levels develop a whole-school approach to assessment, showcase outstanding practice, and equip you with exemplar materials and an action plan to track pupil progress with confidence. You can find out more or book your place here: [Assessment in Foundation Subjects - Being Inspection Ready \(22-Jan-2026\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

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**Deacon Paul Mannings**  
Secondary School RE Adviser

[p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk)

**When booking diocesan CPD events please see the calendar and brochure for details and links. Unless otherwise stated most courses take place here at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre, with any exceptions clearly noted.**

**The God who speaks:**

**11<sup>th</sup> January - Baptism of the Lord**

The River Jordan: Themes and Echoes in Scripture by David McLoughlin -  
[www.godwhospeaks.uk/river-jordan-echoes-themes/](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/river-jordan-echoes-themes/)

**25<sup>th</sup> January - Sunday of the Word of God - "Let the word of Christ dwell among you." (Colossians 3:16).**

Use and share our range of resources - [www.godwhospeaks.uk/sunday-of-the-word-of-god-resources/](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/sunday-of-the-word-of-god-resources/)

Including the international Liturgical & Pastoral Handbook.

**Inclusive Catechetical Resources by Deacon Mark Paine -**

[www.godwhospeaks.uk/autism-friendly-resources/](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/autism-friendly-resources/)

**Called by Name:** Guide for Religious Education with Autistic Pupils aged 5 – 11 years.

**Radical Belonging:** Guide for Sacramental Preparation with Young Autistic People.

***Resources coming up in February...***

Racial Justice Sunday

Feast of the Presentation of our Lord

National Marriage Week

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Dilexi Te: Biblical Resource for Parish Group Discussions

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**CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**CCRS**

**All** sessions this term are online, beginning at 6.30pm.

Thank you for the assignments which are flowing and for the most part laid out according to plan. We shall follow up any that do not reach us by the required dates. Be careful to store joining links and to file all session notes. We start our sessions this week and look forward very much to seeing you.

Year 1: New Testament – Sue Mannings  
Year 2: The Sacraments – Deacon Paul Mannings

### **CCRS Contacts:**

All academic, attendance, progress  
issues: Dcn Paul Mannings  
[p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk)

Finance, registration and all  
contact details renewals: Paul Crilly  
[p.crilly@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:p.crilly@rcaol.org.uk)

## **News from around the Archdiocese**

### **Well done to Adwita, Year 3!**

The Warrington South MP, Sarah Hall, visited Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Warrington to award the Warrington Christmas Card Competition runner-up prize to one of their Year 3 students. Adwita was the runner-up and her design was featured on the Christmas card that Sarah Hall MP sent out to everyone, including King Charles!



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  
[j.ball@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:j.ball@rcaol.org.uk)

If your school would like a hard copy of the Catholic Pic Newsletter please  
contact [communications@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:communications@rcaol.org.uk)

### **Catholic Pic Newsletter**

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

**Education Department Newsletter W.C. 15/12/2025**

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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