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Education Department Newsletter

19th January 2026

Joan McCarthy
Director of Education

Welcome to another edition of our weekly newsletter!

We hope the week ahead is a positive, productive, and rewarding one for you.

Working in schools is about more than lessons and timetables; it is about nurturing people, building relationships, and helping every individual to grow. As Pope Leo reminds us in *Drawing New Maps of Hope*, "*Education is an act of hope and a passion that is renewed because it manifests the promise we see in the future of humanity.*"

He also highlights the importance of community in education, stating that "*Christian education is a collective endeavour: no one educates alone.*"

And because it's January – which somehow feels longer than the rest of the year combined – we thought we'd add a little humour for **Blue Monday**: "*January is the month that lasts 84 days, and Blue Monday is the day we all realise it.*"

Thank you for everything you do, and here's to brighter days ahead!

Ben McMullen
Deputy Director of Education

Catholic Schools Inspectorate

Please note that inspections resume week commencing 26th January.

Prayer and Liturgy Events

Please note that our forthcoming events on planning Liturgy and Celebration of the Word on 9th, 10th and 12th February are being extended to a full day. We are hoping to run the third day at a location further north in the Archdiocese. More details to follow.

Education Department Calendar 2025-26

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

[Calendar 2025-26](#)

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



Booking Reminder: Cambridge OCR Active Results Training Session

Getting Started with Cambridge OCR's Active Results | Tuesday 20th January | 10:00am (45 minutes) | [Register here](#)

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.



New - Numeracy Coordinators' Meeting, 26th January 2026

The first Numeracy Coordinators' meeting will take place 9.00am until 10.30am on Monday 26th January at St John Fisher Catholic High School, Wigan, Baytree Rd, Wigan WN6 7RN.

This meeting will cover the current picture of numeracy in schools and Foundational Knowledge (Ofsted) Catch up: Number facts and more.

[Please use this link to confirm your attendance or to send apologies and receive any resources and further information](#)

What A Waste! Circular Economy for Educators

Exciting CPD opportunity for schools across LCR!

Your school is invited to join 'What a Waste!' - a free CPD session where your team can learn and plan around zero waste, circular economies and climate change alongside colleagues from across the city region, supporting the development of your Climate Action Plan and related classroom work.

WHAT?

An experiential and participatory workshop

WHEN?

Wednesday 28th January: 9-12noon (FACE TO FACE)

WHERE?

Liverpool Central Library, William Brown Street

WHO?

- ✓ Teachers
- ✓ Teaching Assistants
- ✓ Sustainability leads
- ✓ Senior Leadership

Please email neil@liverpoolworldcentre.org to book
FIRST COME FIRST SERVED – limited places available!

WHY JOIN US?!

- Meet and work with like-minded professionals
- Explore strategies and content for the classroom and the staffroom
- Work on your Climate Action Plan / feed into School Development Planning
- Share ideas, barriers - and successes!



Free 'What a Waste!' CPD Opportunity

Liverpool World Centre

28th January 2026

If the above is of interest, then please contact Neil Sledge directly
at neil@liverpoolworldcentre.org



National Apprenticeship Week 2026: Monday 9th to Sunday 15 February 2026

This week-long celebration brings together businesses and apprentices across the country to shine a light on the positive impact apprenticeships make to individuals, businesses and the wider economy.

Resources have been circulated to all Careers Leads. Below is a link to the NAW website, where lots more resources can be found.

[National Apprenticeship Week 2026, 9 - 15 February 2026](#)



Funded Training Opportunities for Staff in Liverpool Schools

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

Secondary School Improvement Flyer

Ged Preston and Sandra Martin Primary School Improvement Team

Be Inspection Ready!

Join us on Thursday 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](#)

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. Unless otherwise stated most courses take place here at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre, with any exceptions clearly noted.

Catholic Schools: Meeting the Challenges of Contemporary Education

**National Catholic Education Day:
Thursday, 5 March 2026**

Leading International and National Speakers share insights on the Church's mission in education in this fast-changing world.



Key speakers
Bishop Michael Brehl CSsR
Dr Christine Allen CAFOD
Abbot Christopher Jamison OSB

Hosted at Coombe Abbey - An iconic 12th-century Cistercian abbey set amidst 500 acres of scenic grounds. The conference is open to everyone working in Catholic Education regardless of their role or background. Join us for a day of inspiration, networking, and practical strategies to strengthen Catholic education for the future.

Conference Fee: £99 (one delegate) | £179 (two delegates from same school)

To apply, please contact Miss Sue Riley, sueriley@educarem.co.uk

Residential for early arrivals on Wednesday 4th March. Book early as residential places are limited.



Catholic Education Service
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Faith in Action Award

Fr Simon has contacted to provided us with the current rate of uptake. There are 62 groups, 22 new groups, 24 high schools, 2101 young people, 1616 pin, 299 bronze, 149 silver, 38 gold. Some schools have not submitted numbers yet so we are thinking we will be well over 2500 all told. Fourteen high schools are still to send numbers so there may be another 500 in addition to the 2101 young people.

Monthly Q&A Judaism drop-in

This Tuesday 20th January we have the next session led by Anna Silver. The informal style of the meeting allows for a free-flowing and informative conversation.

Tuesday January 20th 2026, 3.45-4.45pm

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89349637244?
pwd=8QofFAaIGbXaZuHzGvfkjCeHm8AZrj.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89349637244?pwd=8QofFAaIGbXaZuHzGvfkjCeHm8AZrj.1)

Meeting ID: 893 4963 7244 Passcode: 279652

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES CCRS

Completed assignments

Thanks for your submissions which will be marked internally and then subject to external moderation. They will be returned by February half-term.

Modules

As far as possible we complete each core module during the first half of each term to allow ample time for the completion of the assignment.

Candidates' information

Please keep us updated regarding any changes of last name or address.

Course and content guidance

Advice and support are available by appointment, live or online.

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

News from around the Archdiocese

HOLY COMMUNION BADGE COMPETITION

Following the success of last year's holy communion badge competition, we are pleased to announce that the **closing date** for this year's competition will be **Monday 6th February 2026**. It is an opportunity for children making their holy communion to design a special badge that will be given out to every child who participates in this sacrament next year. If you are a

teacher or a catechist or a parent, please click [here](#) for more details: or email badges@rcaol.org.uk.

CAFOD SPRING TERM 2026 UPDATE

Please click [here](#).

Archdiocese of Liverpool

ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT

Workshop



Scan here to register



Who Can Apply:

Are you a DSC member, a chaplain or a catechist? Have you ever thought about how can you increase the awareness and confidence towards becoming an Adventurous Accompanier?

Through the journey of a 6-week programme including 3 full-day workshops, you will not only explore the core principles of accompaniment but also going in-depth to embed those principles in practice.

You can choose either workshop for each weekend when you sign up.

- Saturday 7 February
- Saturday 28 February
- Saturday 21 March

10am - 2pm
@ St Margaret Clitherow Centre,
Liverpool, L17 1AA

- Sunday 8 February
- Sunday 1 March
- Sunday 22 March

12pm - 4pm
@ St Joseph's Church, Penketh,
Warrington, WA5 2BB

or

All costs of the programme will be covered by the archdiocese.

For more information, contact
Moses Mui, Training Coordinator:
✉ m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

HOPE UNIVERSITY TEACHER DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP WEBINAR

The webinar will take place on Tuesday 20th January 2026 3.30pm - 4.30pm.

Interested parties must register in advance via this link: [REGISTER HERE](#)

The event is for anyone who is interested in finding out more about the teacher degree apprenticeship for September 2026. Headteachers, HR

Leads and Business Managers are welcome to attend to learn how apprenticeships can strengthen their workforce, as well as gain practical information regarding the funding and delivery model of the course.

Webinar

Teacher Degree Apprenticeship

What you need to know

Are you interested in our Teacher Degree Apprenticeship at Liverpool Hope University? Come and hear more about our apprenticeship and what we have to offer.

20th Jan 3:30-4:30pm



Register here before the session



Apprenticeships AT LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

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

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

Catholic Pic Newsletter

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

[Education Department Newsletter W.C. 12/1/2026](#)

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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