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Education Department Newsletter

2nd February 2026

Joan McCarthy
Director of Education

Thank you for taking the time to read the Education Newsletter, which includes details of all our upcoming events and training opportunities.

Last week we held the Chaplaincy Cluster Meetings, and my thanks go to all our chaplains for taking the time to attend. Thank you also to everyone who joined the RSHE Catholic Policy and Practice training in Haydock last Thursday. I hope colleagues who attended the North West Diocesan Catholic Headteacher Residential found it a valuable and enriching experience.

This week sees a full programme of events, including *Leaders of RE: Making and Leading Schools through Inspection*, as well as the *New to Headship* headteachers' meeting.

January is finally behind us, and as we move into the spring term we look forward with renewed hope and energy.

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth."
— Song of Songs 2:11-12

Ben McMullen
Deputy Director of Education



School Chaplaincy

It was lovely to meet with our school chaplains last week across our three clusters. We were delighted to be joined by Joanne from Nugent Care and Kate Wilkinson from Million Minutes. Both gave excellent presentations on how schools can get involved with their projects. Both do so much valuable work in supporting young people and our Catholic mission.

We had an excellent turn out at the Central Cluster meeting as you can see in this photo. Thanks again for all your support.

A reminder that we have our Lent retreat fast approaching. Please use the booking link below to confirm your attendance.

12 th Feb	Chaplains Lent Retreat	9.30am- 3pm	Hynning Hall, Carnforth	Chaplaincy	Book here
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2026 Census

Over 100 of our schools have made their census return so far – thank you for doing this so quickly. Please can all schools ensure they complete the process by **11th February 2026** – when support is available to them via the Helpdesk.

Horizons Coaching

Several of our schools have benefitted from the counselling, coaching and training offered by Horizons Coaching. Please see the attached [flyer](#) for more information of what is available.

**Please note that this event is for your English HoD and SLT English link
(2 places per school)**

There are limited places available so please register using the link below as soon as possible

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

The session will cover:

Common areas for development in curriculum plans and implementation

Creating preparedness for KS4 without being an exam factory in KS3

Planning and resourcing for success- including everyone in success

KS4 plans ' Do the maths'- common barriers to results

Mark distribution data and what it tells us about Planning, Teaching and Learning

Results boosting materials and approaches



Reminders

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

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](#)

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



Chris Tomlinson, Unity Theatre Drama Head of Department meeting 12th February 2026

Chris Tomlinson from Unity Theatre has been invited to deliver a CPD workshop on devising theatre, developing character, scenes, multi rolling and text development to Drama Heads of Department.

This will take place 1.30pm until 4.00pm on Thursday 12th February at
Our Lady Queen of Peace Engineering College,
Glenburn Rd, Skelmersdale WN8 6JW

[Please use this booking link to register](#)



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

LEADING YOUR SCHOOL THROUGH A SUCCESSFUL OFSTED INSPECTION

Join us on **4th February, 9:30am–12:30pm at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre** for a focused 3-hour development session designed specifically for senior and middle leaders preparing for upcoming inspections. This practical course will guide leaders through what to expect before, during and after an inspection, ensuring they feel confident, informed and equipped with a clear, personalised action plan. If you want to ensure a positive inspection experience for all, sign up here:

[Leading Your School Through a Successful Inspection 2025/26 \(04-Feb-2026\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

New Headteacher Meeting

The second session takes place at St Margaret Clitherow Centre on Wednesday 4th February 9:30 – 12:30.

Gill Donohoe

Governance Officer

ACT [Action Counters Terrorism] Awareness

Two sessions on ACT Awareness for our schools (senior leaders or business managers), have been organised – **Link to sign up** - [ACT \[Action Counters Terrorism\] Awareness \(02-Mar-2026 and 03-Mar-2026\)](#).

Monday 2 March 2026 – 10am till 12noon
St Joseph's Parish Hall, Wrightington, WN6 9PA
[To be delivered by Greater Manchester Police]
Cap at 64

Tuesday 3 March 2026 – 10am till 12noon
St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Liverpool, L17 1AA
[To be delivered by Merseyside Police]
Cap at 120

The sessions are a, 'facilitated awareness presentation to a general audience, which are designed to raise awareness of the threat from terrorism, and actions which can be taken to protect themselves, and their organisation from, or during an attack'.

It does not matter which session you sign up for as the message is the same from both Greater Manchester and Merseyside Police.

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.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

This is a mandatory local statutory body in England and Wales that advises local authorities on Religious Education and collective worship in community schools. Comprised of representatives from faith groups, teacher associations, and local authorities, it ensures Religious Education curricula are appropriate and promote quality experiences in schools.

Within the Archdiocese we have several long-standing representatives from Catholic schools in our local authorities. Please keep us informed if you are that representative. Others have been approached by the SACREs to join. If the latter applies to you, please note that we at the Archdiocesan Education Department make the appointments from our schools and we would be delighted to hear from you. Certainly, the dioceses of England and Wales are encouraging membership to keep the state sector aware of what we offer and indeed to safeguard what we have.

Rainbows and Spectrum

Many of our schools are members of this group, dedicated to providing support for bereaved young people.

- Is your school already a registered centre? If so, please send the name of the facilitator, together with contact details.
- If you would like to become a registered centre, please get in touch.

Metropolitan Cathedral Education Service

The Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King is a unique learning environment for children and students of all ages whether as an iconic place of worship, a place of historical significance or a

building of great architectural and artistic note. We passionately believe a visit to our Cathedral can deeply enrich a pupil's education – whether they're at school, college or university. For full details visit the Cathedral website or contact: education@metcathedral.org.uk

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES CCRS

Some notes about attendance

We are proud to state that our standard of attendance is very high. However, to maintain this we need to clarify some points of procedure. Wherever possible please provide advance notice of absence. Sadly, emergencies can happen at the last minute. Online sessions are only up to ninety minutes maximum, and we do insist on attendance for the full session. Car online access even for a passenger is unauthorised and so is access from any public space such as a café or bar. Professional standards include no eating meals or drinking alcohol whilst at a session.

Ensure conscientious usage of the mute button. Reading up of notes is an expectation for everyone and not an alternative for absentees. Finally, camera view of the participant is an essential for attendance. Thanks to everyone who already follow these procedures to the letter.

Studies advice and consultation

Never hesitate to email or to book a phone-call regarding studies, advice about resources or indeed any queries you may have.

The Board of Studies

This is the administrative body of the CCRS working under the authority of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales, thus making it a national qualification for these two countries. The Bishops Conference of Ireland (All Ireland) and the Bishops Conference of Scotland will each join us over the next year, so making CCRS an approved qualification within every diocese in four countries. This will mean even more students, tutors and professional options for participants who relocate.

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 **Friday 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.

Easter communications - we need your help!

The archdiocesan communications team would like your help with their social media content this Lent.

As per previous years, we would like to show Lent through the eyes of our students, so we are asking schools to send in any questions that their pupils may have about Lent or Easter e.g. why do we fast on Ash Wednesday/ Good Friday; what should we eat on these days, why do we not say Alleluia during Lent etc.

These questions will then be answered by clergy and will be used in a video for our social media channels.

The questions can be in two formats:

- Video of the pupil asking the question (videos can be filmed vertically on a smartphone. Don't worry about editing the clip, we can do that before publication if needed)
- or
- Written format

All questions should be sent with the name and school year of the pupil and include parental permission that the video and/or the child's name can be used on our social media channels.

Please send any questions to communications@rcaol.org.uk. The content will be used throughout Lent and we will tag your school into the post.

Adventurous Accompaniment

Throughout February and March, the Pastoral Development Department will be hosting sessions on Adventurous Accompaniment at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre and at St Joseph's in Penketh, Warrington and everyone from our schools is invited to join.

Adventurous Accompaniment is a Spirit-led, relationship-centred way of being Church, focused on listening, walking together, and helping people flourish in dignity and faith. It blends tradition, pastoral experience, and contemporary research to strengthen Catholic communities and deepen their ability to accompany one another well.

There are limited spaces left so if you are interested, please sign up below:

<https://archdioceseofliverpool.org/accompaniment>

Watch this video: <https://fb.watch/EX4Yt-b98J/>

ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT

Workshop



Scan here
to register



Who is it for?

Are you interested in accompanying people in the church?

Have you ever thought about increasing your awareness and confidence towards becoming an accompanier?

If so, this programme is definitely for you.

Adventurous Accompaniment focuses on walking **alongside** people in their faith journey, empowering people to discover their own path, rather than directing them.

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

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

or

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

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

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

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. 26/1/2026

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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