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Education Department Newsletter

1st June 2026

Joan McCarthy
Director of Education

Welcome back to all headteachers and school leaders returning today. I hope you had a restful half-term break and enjoyed valuable time with family and friends. The welcome sunshine certainly gave many of us the opportunity to pause, reflect, and recharge.

As you begin the second half of term, I want to wish you, your staff, and your wider school communities every success in the weeks ahead. I remember being told during my own school days that this was the 'easier' term - but how far from the truth that proved to be!

Yesterday, as we celebrated Trinity Sunday, we were reminded in the Gospel of God's immense love for the world and the call to lead with faith, hope, and compassion. As Catholic school leaders, may that message continue to inspire your leadership in the days ahead, as you support and guide your communities through what is often a busy and demanding part of the academic year.

Thank you for your continued dedication, service, and faithful leadership. Wishing you strength, peace, and every blessing for a successful remainder of term.

Headteacher Cluster Meetings

Please note the summer term Headteacher Cluster Meetings are fast approaching and we look forward to seeing you there. Please book your place [here](#).

DATE	TIME	VENUE	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	BOOK HERE
Mon 22nd June	9.30-11.30am	St Margaret Clitherow Centre, L17 1AA	Liverpool	Book here
Mon 22nd June	1.30-3.30pm	The Engine Rooms, Warrington WA3 6YN	Warrington & Halton	Book here
Wed 24th June	9.30-11.30am	Mercure Hotel, Haydock WA11 9SG	Knowsley & St Helens	Book here
Wed 24th June	1.30-3.30pm	The Edge, Wigan WN3 5AB	Lancashire & Wigan	Book here
Fri 26th June	9.30-11.30am	Formby Hall Golf Resort & Spa L37 0AB	Sefton	Book here

Governors' Termly Meeting

Please book your place here:-

Wed 24th June	Governors' termly meeting	6.30pm-8pm	Online - Teams	Governance	Book here
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School Business Manager & Bursars Termly Meeting

Please book your place here:-

Thurs 25th June	School Business Manager & Bursars Meeting	9.30am-12pm	St Margaret Clitherow Centre	All schools and colleges	Book here
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Thanksgiving Mass

The Annual Thanksgiving Mass for all those engaged in our educational establishments will be held on 2nd July.

This occasion presents a wonderful opportunity for the whole Archdiocese to come together in prayer and celebration, not only for teaching staff, but also for all those connected with our schools in any way.

We are delighted that Archbishop John Sherrington will concelebrate the Mass, and we would especially like to invite all those retiring from school service so that we may thank them for their contribution to Catholic education and present them with a small memento.

It would therefore be helpful if the booking form below could be completed as soon as possible,

particularly indicating whether those retiring will be present:-

Thurs 2 nd July	Thanksgiving Mass	7pm	Metropolitan Cathedral	All schools and colleges	Book here
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Ben McMullen
Deputy Director of Education

Spirituality Day for RE Leads and Chaplains

Our final Spirituality Day of the academic year takes place on Tuesday 9th June at Theodore House on the Stonyhurst Estate. It is getting quite booked up now with over 50 places allocated. If you would like to attend but have not yet booked then I advise you to do it as soon as possible this week.

Tues 9 th June	Spirituality Day for RE Leads and Chaplains	9.30am- 3pm	Theodore House, Stonyhurst	All schools and colleges	Book here
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Cluster Meetings for School Chaplains

Our summer series of cluster meetings for school chaplains takes place week commencing Monday 8th June. The details are as follows:

Mon 8 th June	Chaplaincy East Cluster Meeting	1.30pm- 3.30pm	OLQP, Skelmersdale	Chaplaincy	Book here
Wed 10 th June	Chaplaincy West Cluster Meeting	1.30pm- 3.30pm	Venue tbc	Chaplaincy	Book here
Thurs 11 th June	Chaplaincy Central Cluster Meeting	1.30pm- 3.30pm	Sacred Heart, Crosby	Chaplaincy	Book here

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



Upcoming meetings

Wed 10th June 2026

09:00 – 11:30 **Professional Learning Leads (All Clusters) Meeting**

Venue: The Wrightington Hotel, Moss Ln, Wrightington, Wigan WN6 9PB

[Please book here](#)

Wed 17th June 2026

09:00 - 15:30 **New to SENDCo (Primary and Secondary colleagues) Session 3**

Venue: The Wrightington Hotel, Moss Ln, Wrightington, Wigan WN6 9PB

15:30 - 17:00 **Aspiring SENDCo Course (Primary and Secondary colleagues) Session 3**

Venue: Via Teams

Thu 18th June 2026

09:00 – 16:00 **Safeguarding Leads Conference**

Venue: The Wrightington Hotel, Moss Ln, Wrightington, Wigan WN6 9PB

[Please book here](#)



New Literacy Leads meeting

25th June 2026

Our first Literacy Leads meeting will take place 1.30pm until 4.00pm on Thursday 25th June at The Wrightington Hotel.

This session will cover:
A background to Literacy
Reading and Writing in Action
Communication, Language and Oracy

[Please use this link to confirm attendance](#)



National Education Nature Park: Activities for Summer Term

The Nature Park are having a [Nature Discovery Week](#) (it's officially happening between 29th June - 3rd July, but schools can take part at any time).

There are now [three exciting nature survey's](#) that schools can take part in:

[Grassland Plant Survey](#): this uses quadrats and explores the plants within grassy spaces to look for key indicator species. This survey links to the National Plant Monitoring Scheme and has curriculum links for Science and Geography.

[Pollinator Count](#): this survey focuses on counting the variety of pollinators visiting specific flowers. This survey links to the national FIT Count and has curriculum links for Science, Maths and Computer Science (the Maths activity is called [Exploring Data](#), it uses a data set from RHS gardens as the demo data, but if a school did their own Pollinator Count then the data should be easy to add. There's a KS3 Computer Science resource coming very soon, but in the meantime please see [Bumblebee Image Recognition](#) activity with a nice teaching point in the third part about how your image recognition tool is only as good as what you train it on).

[iNaturalist](#): a great way to create a species list for the school.

All of these activities can also be actions for the Biodiversity pillar of the Climate Action Plan.



Summer Term Conferences - Bookings now open!

Please find below details for our summer conferences

Thu 18th Jun 2026

09:00 – 16:00 **Safeguarding Leads Conference**

Venue: The Wrightington Hotel, Moss Ln, Wrightington, Wigan WN6 9PB

[Please book here](#)

Phil Threlfall will deliver the keynote during the morning session, and we are pleased to welcome Nicky Noon for the afternoon. In addition, colleagues from CPOMS will deliver a presentation, alongside valuable contributions from colleagues across our schools.

Thu 2nd Jul 2026

09:00-16:00 **PSHE Leads Conference**

Venue: The Wrightington Hotel, Moss Ln, Wrightington, Wigan WN6 9PB

[Please book here](#)

The session will be led by Julie McCann. Her previous session in February was extremely well received, and we are confident that this workshop will provide valuable support as we prepare for the introduction of the revised DfE guidance on RSE in September. In addition, the PSHE Working Party will share a brief update on recent developments and the excellent work they have carried out to support schools.



**Geography 2026: Capturing the Zeitgeist
Subject Enrichment Residential 9th and 10th July 2026**

The PTI Geography Symposium in partnership with the **Royal Geographical Society** and **Geographical Association** will take place on 9th and 10th July 2026.

PTI's first-ever Geography Symposium is designed to empower and inspire teachers to be advocates for their subject inside and outside of the classroom for a curriculum that is challenging, innovative and enriching. The Symposium will encourage teachers to introduce all learners, regardless of their socio-economic background or academic ability, to challenging and enriching ideas, materials and activities, through curricular, extra-curricular and supra-curricular provision in their schools and colleges.

Through academic talks, workshops and sharing of best practice, the Symposium will celebrate Geography, enrich and develop your knowledge and love of the subject, and motivate teachers to consider how to inspire their learners through engagement, enjoyment and empowerment. In celebrating Geography's interdisciplinarity, this event captures how Geography's cross-curricular

core can ignite learners' enthusiasm across a diverse cross-section of subjects at schools and colleges. This Symposium will capture, cultivate and celebrate the zeitgeist.

[Further information can be accessed here](#)

Themes:

Everyday Geographies
Supra-curricular concept capture
Fieldwork

Confirmed guest speakers include:

Dr Olivia Taylor
Professor Iain Stewart MBE
Dr Jonathan Higham
Steve Brace
Dr Rebecca Kitchen
Alan Parkinson
J. Willgoose
Professor Bill McGuire
Dr Charlene Rose

Pricing:

Included in PTI Unlimited membership
The PTI / RGS / GA Members: £319 + VAT
Others: £419 + VAT

Eligibility:

All Geography teachers

Please note that The PTI Geography DDP Day is being incorporated into this Symposium on Friday 10th July. This means members of The PTI Department Development Programme should attend this Symposium rather than a separate DDP even



Funded Training Opportunities for Staff in Liverpool Schools

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

Secondary School Improvement Flyer

Dave Smith, Sandra Martin and Andrea Gerrard
Primary School Improvement Team

New Training

Strong Foundations – Foundational Knowledge- Teachers & Leaders

5th June 9am-11am, Online

This is a new training session that will be delivered online by Karen Morris from ECM.

Following the publication of this important Ofsted research, this course provides EYFS and KS1 teachers and leaders with the key messages, together with exemplification of highly effective practice from a range of settings. Delegates will have the opportunity to consider the implications for their own schools and settings and ensure pedagogy and curriculum is driven by the most up-to-date research. The course will also discuss the implications for settings that are inspected and includes information from recent training for inspectors. As such, it is a really useful course for schools likely to be inspected soon.

As a result of attending this course, delegates will:

- Gain an understanding of the key messages from the latest research into EYFS and KS1
- Be able to use the research to benchmark and evaluate their own practice, identifying strengths and areas for further development
- Be able to strengthen transition between EYFS and KS1, ensuring even better progress for the pupils
- Be up to date with the latest Ofsted training in this area
- Be better prepared for inspection.

[Booking link](#)

EY2P Summer Term Training Sessions

Summer Term Headteacher & Deputy Headteacher Briefing

Tuesday, 16th June 2026

1:00pm - 3:00pm

[Booking link](#)

Securing Strong Progression for Pupils

The session “Securing Strong Progression for Pupils: Using Assessment Effectively In and Beyond Lessons” has now been rescheduled to **Thursday 18th June, 9:30am–12:30pm** at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre. This 3-hour course, led by Karen Morris (ECM), is designed for senior, middle and subject leaders looking to strengthen whole-school approaches to assessment. The session explores effective in-lesson and beyond-lesson strategies, examples of good practice, and what ‘strong progress’ looks like across Years 1–6. Delegates will leave with practical tools and a clear action plan to support improved outcomes back in school.

[Booking link.](#)

Best Practice Network

30th June 9:15-11:30 - St Margaret Clitherow Centre

The Best Practice Network is a collaborative professional learning event designed to bring primary school leaders together to share effective practice, reflect on improvement journeys, and learn from one another in a supportive, non-judgemental environment.

The network prioritises high-quality practice and impact, rather than inspection or compliance, and is underpinned by professional trust, openness and meaningful local collaboration.

Each session showcases schools that are willing to share their improvement journeys honestly, including successes, challenges and key learning.

All presenting schools have recently been inspected under the new Ofsted framework and will be sharing their school improvement journey. Please see the link below for more info and to book your place.

[Booking link](#)

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.

The God Who Speaks

Hello Scripture Champions & Influencers,
I'm delighted to announce our new Biblical Art Competition & Exhibition.

Divine Designs: Between the Covers.

Celebrating the 73 books of the Bible.

www.godwhospeaks.uk/divine-designs-art-exhibition/

From Genesis to Revelation – is the greatest story ever told. Our passion is to bring these stories alive through the medium of art. We invite artists, graphic designers and illustrators from across

the UK to design the front covers of any of the 73 books of the Bible. With seven cash prizes, a catalogue and exhibition in Lent 2027, join us in celebrating the Scriptures anew.

Partners: God who Speaks; St John's Waterloo and Art + Christianity.

Spectrum Bereavement Care

This is the secondary schools branch of Rainbows UK. Many of our schools are registered centres. Those wishing to train more staff or to join anew, are invited to attend the new online sessions that will start in the Autumn term. One session of three hours will provide the initial training. More details will follow.

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

CCRS

Year 1

A complete set of session note and the assignment details will be resent this term. Your remaining sessions for this term:

Person of Jesus: 11 June - online, 18 June - in-person, 25 June - online

Year 2

The Sacraments assignments were returned to you on 22 May and what a joy they were to mark.

The remaining sessions:

Christian Morality: 9 June - in-person, 23 June - online

Final Specialist Session: Tuesday 16 June - in-person

New Intake for September

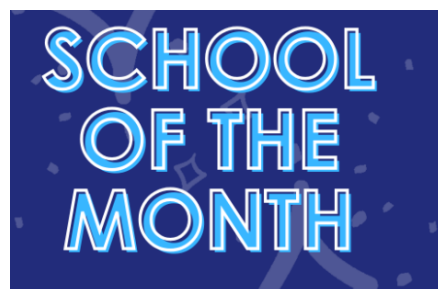
The details for joining have been with your schools for some time now and people are signing up which is great. Please contact Paul Crilly (below).

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



Congratulations to St Mary's Infant and Junior Catholic Academies, Newton-le-Willows, who are our school of the month!

Please read the full article here:- <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/news/school-of-the-month-st-marys-infant-and-junior-catholic-academies-newton-le-willows>



The graphic features a central image of the School Cathedral with a tall spire. To the left and right of the image are decorative gold starburst icons. Below the image is the title 'School Cathedral Calendar 2027 Competition'. The content is organized into several sections: 'What We Want' (a white box with a gold border), 'Requirements' (a dark blue box with white text), 'How to Apply' (a white box with a gold border), 'Timeline' (a gold box with white text), and a final dark blue box stating the winner's prize. A gold text line at the bottom reads 'Good luck – we can't wait to see your creative designs!'.

School Cathedral Calendar 2027 Competition

What We Want

We want schools to put their creativity to the test and design a front cover for our 60th Anniversary 2027 Calendar for the Cathedral!
These will be available for people to buy.

Requirements

- Open to all schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool
- Design must follow the theme of the Cathedral's 60th birthday
- Must be the student's own work
- Submit digitally (JPEG preferred), A4 size, landscape or portrait
- School must get parental permission for every submission

How to Apply

- Send designs to e.potts@rcaol.org.uk by **5pm on 26 June**
- Include: student name, age, year group, school, and parent permission confirmation.
- No limit on entries per school! Our judges will shortlist entries, then share them on the Cathedral social media for followers to vote for the winner.

Timeline

1 June: Launch | 26 June: Deadline | 1 July: Voting | 8 July: Winner!

Winner receives a **£50 Amazon voucher** + their design shared across Liverpool in 2027!

Good luck – we can't wait to see your creative designs!

School Cathedral Calendar 2027 Competition

We're inviting all schools across the Archdiocese of Liverpool to design a front cover for our 60th Anniversary 2027 Cathedral Calendar.

Entries should celebrate the Cathedral's 60th birthday and be the student's own original work.

No limit on entries per school! Our judges will shortlist entries, then share them on Cathedral social media for followers to vote for the winner.

The winner receives a £50 Amazon voucher and their design featured on the official calendar.

To enter, please send designs to e.potts@rcaol.org.uk by **5pm on 26th June**.

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

Education Department Newsletter W.C. 18/5/2026

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!

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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