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Education Department Newsletter

Joan McCarthy
Director of Education



Yesterday, as the Church celebrated the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, we heard once again Jesus' powerful words:

"I am the living bread which has come down from heaven... anyone who eats this bread will live for ever."

This Gospel invites us to pause and reflect on what it means to nourish and sustain life in others. In our schools, this mission is at the heart of everything we do. Beyond academic outcomes, we create communities where children and adults alike are supported, valued, and given what they need to grow and flourish.

For Headteachers, this message feels particularly pertinent. Leadership is, at its core, an act of service and generosity - a daily commitment to giving of ourselves so that others may thrive. In the busyness and complexity of school life, yesterday's Gospel offers a moment to reconnect with that deeper purpose.

As we begin a new week, may we carry forward this sense of calling: to lead with compassion, to build communities of belonging, and to ensure that our schools remain places where hope is sustained and dignity upheld.

Thank you, as always, for the dedication and care you bring to your role each day.

Dates for your diary

A reminder that our Leavers' Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop John at the Cathedral on Thursday 2nd July at 7.00 pm.

We ask all schools to notify us of any staff and governors who are retiring, or who have retired during this academic year, so that we can ensure they receive their award. It is always a wonderful evening and a valuable opportunity to give thanks for their service and dedication [book here](#).

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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Ben McMullen
Deputy Director of Education

Cluster Meetings for School Chaplains

We have our three cluster meetings for school chaplains this week. Agendas have been sent out. Please encourage your school chaplain to attend one of the meetings – even if it is not the cluster

that they are part of.

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	Broughton Hall	Chaplaincy	Book here
Thurs 11 th June	Chaplaincy Central Cluster Meeting	1.30pm- 3.30pm	Sacred Heart, Crosby	Chaplaincy	Book here

Spirituality Day for RE Leads and Chaplains

We are looking forward to welcoming 60 participants on Tuesday to our Spirituality Day led by Sheila McNamara. Please use the attached [map](#) and directions and put postcode BB7 9QB in your SatNav.

Calendar for 2026-27

We are finalising our calendar for next year and hope to send the initial version to you very soon.

Education Department Calendar 2025-26

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

Calendar 2025-26



Launching the Academisation Strategy - One Month On

It has been one month since Archbishop John Sherrington [launched his vision](#) for the future of Catholic education under the strapline "A family in Christ, our future together" to all headteachers and chair of governors from every Catholic school across the archdiocese. Please read the article below for an overview of the progress so far.

<https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/news/launching-the-academisation-strategy--one-month-on>

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 surveys](#) 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

Important: Primary School Improvement Subscriptions 2026/27

We are starting to ask schools which subscriptions they would like to continue with for 2026/27. Please use the form below to let us know your choices. The pricing for each service is included on the form:

National College
School Bus
Seesaw
FFT
SIP Service

Could you please complete the form by 26th June. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please email primaryimprovement@rcaol.org.uk

[Link](#)



Water Safety Discussion Resource

Please find below a special resource around water safety. This has been in the news a lot recently and is such an important topic. As 13th-19th June is Drowning Prevention Week, we hope it will support some of these discussions with your classes.

[Picture News Primary Special - Open Water](#)

EY2P Summer Term Training Sessions

Summer Term Headteacher & Deputy Headteacher Briefing

Tuesday, 16th June 2026

1:00pm - 3:00pm

[Booking link](#)

My self-care plan: primary | Anna Freud

With the summer holidays approaching, this can be a helpful opportunity to support children and young people to think about small activities and routines that promote positive mental health and wellbeing.

Self-care looks different for everyone, so encouraging students to explore a range of approaches can help them identify what works best for them over the summer break.

These resources help young people create a personalised self-care plan, with suggested activities including mindfulness, creativity, physical activity and social connection.

[My self-care plan: primary | Anna Freud](#)

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, Liverpool L17 1AA

[Booking link](#)

24th September

9:15 - 11:30

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, Lydiate L31 2LB

[Booking link](#)

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.

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

**New Art & Interfaith School Resources inspired from our exhibition: 'Cloud of Witnesses'.
Secondary schools**

Searching for God: Art and RE – www.godwhospeaks.uk/searching-for-god-re-and-art-secondary/
Four ready-to-use Secondary RE lesson plans using art, different faiths and the imagination. Exploring big questions about faith and belief creatively.

Please enter or promote our exciting Biblical Art Competition.

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.

The God who Sings: Music & Cosmic Reconciliation - www.godwhospeaks.uk/god-who-sings-music-cosmic-reconciliation/

6th June - 'Joy of Limits' Retreat, FCJ Centre for Spirituality and Ecojustice, Euston.

A theological reflection on the limits of the human creature explored through the limits in art.

Led by Sr MaryAnne Francalanza, FCJ and John Paul de Quay, Director of the Ecological Conversion Group charity.

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/the-ecological-conversion-group/event/art-of-limits-june-2026>

12th June: Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - www.godwhospeaks.uk/liturgy-celebrate-sacred-heart/

28th June: Feast of Saints Peter & Paul - www.godwhospeaks.uk/paul-and-the-letters/

Paul: The Man and the Mission - www.godwhospeaks.uk/paul-man-and-mission/

Paul: Great posters to use & share - www.godwhospeaks.uk/paul-the-posters/

**CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
CCRS**

Sessions this week:

Year 1

Thursday 11th June online from 18.30: Person of Jesus

Year 2

Christian Morality: Tuesday 9th June, in-person at St Margaret Clitherow from 18.30.

Next week, on Tuesday 16th June, we are in-person here at St Margaret Clitherow, for your final specialist session, which begins at the usual time of 18.30.

New Intake for September

Another reminder that 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



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!

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. 1/6/2026

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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