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Education Department Newsletter

22nd June 2026

Joan McCarthy
Director of Education

"Have No Fear"

In yesterday's Gospel (Matthew 10:26–33), Jesus repeats a simple but powerful message: **"Have no fear."** He reminds his disciples that they are known, loved, and cared for by God, even in the midst of challenge and uncertainty.

These words speak directly to us as leaders of Catholic schools and colleges. As another busy term draws towards its conclusion, we can take comfort from knowing that God accompanies us in our ministry, giving us the courage, wisdom, and strength we need to serve the young people and communities entrusted to our care.

Please keep in your prayers the school community of St Jude's and St Aidan's, Wigan, following the recent bereavement of a young pupil. May God's loving presence bring comfort and peace to the family and to all who mourn.

A reminder also that our Mass of Thanksgiving for colleagues leaving Catholic education will take place on **2nd July**. It will be an opportunity to give thanks for their dedicated service and the lasting contribution they have made to Catholic education.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at the cluster meetings this week.

Have a great week.

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



As our schools continue to live out their Live Simply pledges, you may be beginning to look at widening your Catholic Life and Mission through the Oscar Romero Award.

Our Work

We support schools to embed the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching in their ethos and culture, so that all within the school can experience life to the full. We also support

schools to find ways of being 'good news' to the local, national and global community in their own unique way.

Subscription fee

Primary Schools = £150

Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Colleges = £300

All Through Schools = £400

Who can participate?

All Catholic schools; primary, secondary and sixth form colleges in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and The Republic of Ireland can take part.

The Award is available at THREE Levels:

- **Participator Level** – the school promotes social justice through charitable work as well having regard to human dignity and justice in its policies, curriculum and practices.
- **Developer Level** – the school develops resources and starts embedding Catholic Social Teaching principles in its every-day life.
- **Innovator Level** – the school works with other schools to promote Catholic Social Teaching and social justice is embedded in every aspect of the school's life and work.

This is a process, a journey that a school community embarks on. It is not an event or a tick box exercise. It is a way of the school examining its culture and ethos and seeing how they can align it more closely to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. We expect that schools will take some time to move from one level to the next as they build these principles into their school life.

Our challenges

How do we...

- Support young people to play an active role in bringing about God's Kingdom?
- Inspire others to act justly?
- Celebrate our Catholic Faith and acknowledge the work we do to ensure that our world is a better place for all?
- Play a part in tackling poverty and injustice in all its manifestations?
- Connect with issues in our neighbourhood, the wider community and beyond?
- Capitalise on young peoples' enthusiasm to create centres of evangelisation in action?

Get started by registering at:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/OscarRomeroAward/Register>

For further information please contact: admin@romeroaward.co.uk

The Oscar Romero Award is looking for validators

Who is a Validator?

A Validator is a person who will review and assess applications from schools or colleges to

see if they meet the criteria to be awarded the appropriate level of the Award. For the Participator Level, this review and assessment will be done online. The review and assessment for the Developer and Innovator Levels will take place online as well as a physical visit to the school or college.

A Validator will need to:

- Have an understanding of Catholic Social Teaching.
- Have an empathy and awareness of how school communities work and operate
- Be sympathetic to Catholic faith, its teachings including its understanding of social justice.
- Have a basic working knowledge of use of IT including the ability to complete validations online.
- Undertake an Enhanced DBS check/Children's Barred list check to ensure suitability to work with children and schools.

For further information: <https://www.romeroaward.co.uk/validators>

Please contact: admin@romeroaward.co.uk

"Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately at the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men and women now." (Teresa of Avila)

Michael Boland
Education Estates

Annual Assurance Document - Education Estates Strategy

The Archdiocese of Liverpool has requested that **all schools** (including academies, joint faith, independent, Religious Order schools and sixth form colleges that sit within the estate of the archdiocese) complete an **annual assurance review**. This has been developed to establish whether schools and academies are meeting their compliance obligations and are ensuring that the site is safe and suitable for learning. This was identified as part of the launch of the Education Estates Strategy at briefings held in June 2025.

Please note that **governors are responsible** (and **Trust Boards** within MATs) for the maintenance and compliance of schools and should ensure that they have appropriate contracts, processes and procedures in place.

Completing this document will align with the requirements set out within the **Archdiocese of Liverpool Estates Strategy** and associated documents such as the **Archdiocesan Protocols** and the **Occupancy Document**.

The assurance document will be a **Microsoft Form** distributed on an annual basis. The Archdiocese of Liverpool will **arrange visits to schools** to evaluate the responses and to

establish whether appropriate processes, procedures and provisions are in place. This will initially be conducted on a random selection basis. The link to the form is:

[Microsoft Form](#)

We would ask that the form is completed and returned by **31st October 2026** as this is the first time of asking. In future, we would expect the form to be submitted by the end of the academic year. Any schools that do not submit the forms by the due date will be contacted directly by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Ged Preston, Steve Coyle and Vikki Borlase

Secondary School Improvement Team



Upcoming meetings

Mon 22nd June 2026

13:30 - 16:00 **Sociology and Government and Politics HoD meeting**

Venue: via Teams

[Please book here](#)

Tue 23rd June 2026

08:30 - 10:30 **Post 16 Leads Meeting**

Venue: Broughton Hall Catholic High School

[Please book here](#)

Thu 25th June 2026

09:00 - 11:30 **Pastoral Leads meeting**

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

[Please book here](#)

13:30 - 16:00 **Literacy Leads meeting (First meeting)**

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

[Please book here](#)

Mon 29th June 2026

09:00 - 11:30 **SENDCo Meeting**

Venue: St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School, Rookery Ave, Ashton-in-Makerfield,

Wigan WN4 9PF

[Please book here](#)**Summer Term Conference: Booking reminder**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 work they have carried out to support schools.

**COP 31 Mock Student Events 2026****Registration now open!**

We are pleased to announce that the archdiocese have again partnered with Liverpool World Centre to run two mock COP 31 events for students. Each event is for a maximum of 16 schools, each sending a team of 8 students (This is aimed at pupils across KS3/4/5).

The cost of attending is £250 per school (The archdiocese is subsidising this event).

We have split the events based on locations of schools, so please check the links below to find the event your school is invited to attend. If you are unable to attend on the date allocated to your school, please get in touch and we will check capacity at the other event.

[9.30am until 2.30pm on 11th November 2026](#)

[at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Archdiocesan Office, Croxteth Dr, Liverpool L17 1AA](#)

[9.30am until 2.30pm on 18th November 2026](#)

[at Hope Academy, Ashton Rd, Newton-le-Willows WA12 0AQ.](#)



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 asking 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](#)

SeeSaw - two subscription options available and SeeSaw info meeting

For schools currently using Seesaw, we are asking whether you would be interested in adding an AI element to your subscription (see link above). Please note that this is available at an additional cost. Further information is provided below to help support your decision. If you have any specific questions please contact Sangam: sangam@seesaw.me

Meeting 2nd July 11am - [sign up](#)

SeeSaw is going to host an online meeting to go through the AI features and answer any questions.

- [Seesaw AI Hub Overview](#)
- [Generate Auto-Graded Quizzes in Seconds with Seesaw AI](#)
- [Convert a Resource Video](#)
- [Generate from a Topic or Prompt](#)

	Seesaw Instruction & Insights	Seesaw AI
AI Features		
Generate quiz questions from a topic or prompt	✓	✓
Auto-graded Reading Fluency & Comprehension Assessments	✓	✓
Scaffolded Reading Support - Read-with-Me	✓	✓
AI literacy lessons		✓
Convert any resource into a multimodal activity		✓
Generate multimodal activities from a topic or prompt		✓
Translate any activity into 100+ languages		✓
Embed & generate interactive activities around YouTube Edu videos		✓
Generate newsletters, reminders and more with the AI Announcement Assistant		✓

Best Practice Network

30th June - Liverpool

9:15 - 11:30

St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Liverpool L17 1AA

[Booking link](#)

24th September - Sefton

9:15 - 11:30

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

[Booking link](#)

8th October - Warrington

9:15 - 11:30

St Paul of the Cross, Milnthorpe Road, Burtonwood, Warrington, WA5 4PN

[Booking link](#)

10th November - St Helens

9:15 - 11:30

St Theresa's CPS, Cannon Street, Sutton Manor, St Helens WA9 4XU

[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.

Office Drop In

As we begin our post exam season visits to RE departments there are some who would prefer a team meeting or phone call. Also, one or two have expressed a preference to visit our St Margaret Clitherow Centre. This can all be done by emailing me at the above email address and we look forward to seeing as many as possible.

Key Stage 3

Our national assessment tool kit has been presented at our training during the year. It will be the key focus for our cluster meetings and Key Stage 3 gatherings next term.

Key Stage 4

Please could the Eduqas schools make yourselves known so that contact lists can be updated.

Key Stage 5 General (Core) Religious Education

Whilst we still await national options for any proposed changes, please ensure your policy remains in-date, that 5% curriculum allocation remains in place and the timetable clearly

expresses identifiable lessons. This is required for CSI compliance but more than that it is about 'keeping oiled' the proven good and better provision in place.

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES CCRS

Forthcoming Final Sessions:

Year 2

Christian Morality: Tuesday 23rd June, online from 18.30

Year 1

Person of Jesus: Thursday 25th June online from 18.30

To Headteachers

Thanks so much to all of you who have already provided candidates. We are moving rapidly towards the next season of the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) and some time ago we sent out the schedule and dates for the forthcoming two-year cohort. Numbers are always high within the archdiocese, and we ask you to send us your new or indeed experienced staff who would benefit from this qualification to teach Religious Education.

As usual we shall be delivering through a blended approach online and in-person at our St Margaret Clitherow Centre (all online during the Spring term). Sessions for Year 1 will be on Tuesdays and for Year 2 on Thursdays beginning at 18.30 and lasting for up to ninety minutes (120 minutes for each of the three specialist sessions).

Costings and further details are in the schedule. We invite you to enrol members as soon as possible. For all course and academic queries contact me on p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk and for direct registration and payments of fees, the Administrator Paul Crilly on p.crilly@rcaol.org.uk.

We look forward to another successful year blessed by your support.

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

Volunteer Your Teaching Talent

Are you a retired or part time qualified teacher? You could be part of the Cathedral's Education Service team!

Come and help hundreds of school children and young people to learn about this wonderful Cathedral.

"It's a joy to watch children be amazed by the sheer beauty of John Piper's lantern of light and colour and be able to bring the Cathedral to life for the generations of the future."

Contact us at

education@metcathedral.org.uk



**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

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 link below to view it!

Education Department Newsletter W.C. 15/6/2026

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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