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Education Department Newsletter

29th June 2026

Joan McCarthy
Director of Education

This Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 10:37–42) reminds us that leadership and service often call for clarity of purpose and the courage to place what truly matters at the centre of our decisions. Jesus speaks about commitment, sacrifice, and the willingness to place him and his mission above competing demands. For those of us working in Catholic education, it is a timely reflection on the values that shape our schools and the example we set for our communities. The passage also highlights the importance of small acts of kindness and welcome reminding us that even the simplest gestures can have a lasting impact. As we move into the coming week, it offers an invitation to lead with integrity, generosity, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Last week certainly brought its own challenges, not least the exceptionally high temperatures. Thank you to all of you who had to navigate the difficult decisions around whether to remain open or close—never an easy judgement, and one that required both care and professionalism in equal measure. It was also great to see so many of you at the Headteachers' Cluster Meetings. My apologies to colleagues who attended the meeting at The Edge and had to contend with the malfunctioning air conditioning—unfortunately very memorable for all the wrong reasons! As someone wisely (and perhaps optimistically) said, *"If you can't stand the heat, there's always next week..."*—so here's hoping the days ahead are a little cooler for us all.

Ben McMullen
Deputy Director of Education

Headteacher Thanksgiving Mass

We look forward to welcoming our retiring staff at the Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday evening at the Cathedral, celebrated by Archbishop John Sherrington. It is not too late to let us know of someone retiring – please contact Jo Ball at j.ball@rcaol.org.uk.

Catholic Schools Inspectorate

This is the final week of inspections for this academic year. I would like to thank all our inspectors for their hard work and service to the Archdiocese over the past school year.

Calendar for 2026-2027 Autumn Term

Please find attached our Calendar for the Autumn Term. Booking links will be added over the summer holidays. There are still venues to be confirmed – please note that the conference side of the St Margaret Clitherow has reverted to its former name – LACE (Liverpool Archdiocese Conferences and Events).

Calendar 2026-27

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 29 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](#)

Tue 30 Jun 2026

10:00 - 12:00 **West Public Speaking Competition**

Venue: Archbishop Beck Catholic College

Wed 1 Jul 2026

10:00 - 12:00 **Central Public Speaking Competition**

Venue: Carmel College

Thu 2 Jul 2026

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

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

[Please book here](#)

Fri 3 Jul 2026

09:00 - 12:00 **Headteacher (All Clusters) Meeting**

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

[Please book here](#)

Wed 8 Jul 2026

10:00 - 12:00 **East Public Speaking Competition**

Venue: St John Rigby College



Eduqas Professional Learning Events: Feedback on Summer 2026 Assessments

Colleagues can use the link below to be notified when the Eduqas free professional learning events programme (Which covers feedback on summer 2026 assessments) is published and open for registration

[Subscribe for updates](#)



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

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](#)
-

Nexus Education – Expression of Interest

Nexus Education provide expert support and guidance across key areas of school development, working closely with schools to meet their individual priorities and needs.

We have provisionally scheduled a session for Friday 18th September at 10:00am. If there is sufficient interest (a minimum of 12 schools), Nexus Education will design and deliver the session based on the specific interests and needs of those who sign up.

If you are interested in attending, please register your interest using the link below:

[Sign up link](#)

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.

Key Stage 3

Earlier in the year we started a remote working group for Dialogue and Encounter. The fruits will begin to be shared next term.

Key Stages 3 and 4

The outcomes of the Curriculum and Assessment Review conducted

nationally for Religious Education in all schools, have been presented to the DfE for approval and publication. Whilst Religious Education is secure within the faith sector, the report is as much about assessing its position within state schools. However, now as much as ever, we need to ensure that our Catholic and Joint Denominational Voice is heard within the SACREs. We shall include more about this next week, but I would ask existing SACRE representatives to get in touch with me.

Faith in Action Award

Many congratulations to all schools involved as the presentations carry on across the diocese. This award is certainly a proven 'go to' for our secondary schools; a first-class approach to living Catholic social teaching in the home, school and parish.

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES CCRS

Forthcoming Final Sessions:

This Academic Year

All sessions have now been completed, and it has been a joy to be on board with you all, live and in person. Not that you have heard the last of us! We remain available for any queries until the end of term and then from September. Some key points:

- Do a quick check now please and ensure your session notes are to hand.
- All assignments, core and specialist are due in by 11th September.
- They all come to Dcn Paul as usual.
- Ensure please that any new candidates come our way. Numbers are already encouraging.

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

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. 22/6/2026

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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