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Education Department Newsletter

6th July 2026

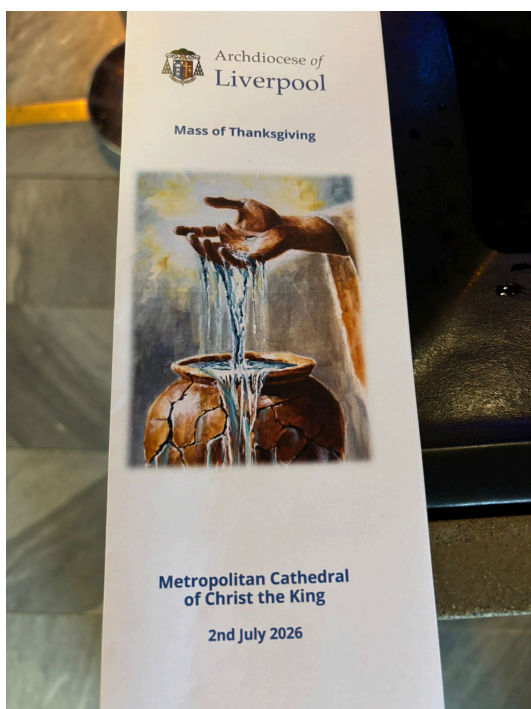
Joan McCarthy
Director of Education

In last Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 11:25–30), Jesus offers a message of comfort and encouragement: *"Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest."* As we approach the end of another busy academic year, these words remind us that while our work in Catholic education is demanding, it is also rooted in faith, hope and service. We are invited to place our trust in Christ, who walks alongside us and strengthens us in our vocation.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral last Thursday. It was wonderful to see so many recipients of the award, as well as so many others in attendance.

Thank you for ensuring that individuals were nominated, giving us the opportunity to recognise and celebrate their dedicated service to Catholic education. These awards are an important way of acknowledging the commitment and contribution of staff across our schools and communities.

My sincere thanks also go to the Education Team for their hard work in preparing for the Mass and the reception afterwards. A special word of thanks to the choir of Broughton Hall Catholic High School, Liverpool for their beautiful contribution to the liturgy, which helped make the celebration such a memorable occasion.



I hope you have a positive and productive week .

Ben McMullen
Deputy Director of Education

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 acronym of LACE. It now means Liverpool Archdiocesan Conferences and Events.

Calendar 2026-27

Michael Boland

Education Estates

School Capital Programme 2026 2027

The School Capital Programme has been approved by Trustees and is now available on the website [Capital Programme 2026 2027](#) Area surveyors will work with schools identified for support to enable projects to progress. We

have tried to ensure a focus on making schools safe, warm and dry as a priority as reflected in our Education Estates Strategy. As you will be aware, we have a limited budget and would like to do much more if we had funds available.

The information provided by schools and surveyors will be kept and used to form the basis for future projects in order to assure schools that the process is both ongoing and transparent.

Ged Preston, Steve Coyle and Vikki Borlase

Secondary School Improvement Team



Upcoming meeting

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

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

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

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our first Best Practice Network meeting on 30 June. It was a highly positive and productive session, and we greatly appreciated the excellent feedback from delegates.

Comments included:

"Great to network."

"Listening to other schools and gaining ideas to take back to school."

"Sharing good practice and comparing where we're at currently and where we'd like to be."

"Hearing from colleagues and their experiences of Ofsted and the journey they have been on."

"Thank you – really useful session."

It was encouraging to see colleagues openly sharing experiences, ideas and practical approaches to support school improvement across our network.

Our next Best Practice Network meeting will take place on 24 September. We would be delighted to welcome both returning delegates and colleagues attending for the first time. Please see the details below.

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.

Pat Peel, Julie Rourke and Julia Ashton

Primary School RE Advisers



LIVE Assembly: The Big World Cup Celebration: What Can Football Teach Us?

Monday 13th July, 2.15 - 2.45pm

Join schools across the country for a special end-of-year live assembly inspired by the World Cup! Together, we'll celebrate the excitement of the tournament, reflect on the highs and lows of the school year, and explore what football can teach us about teamwork, resilience, pride, disappointment and belonging.

Register here: <https://picture-news.co.uk/training-register/live-assembly-the-big-world-cup-celebration-what-can-football-teach-us>

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

Whilst the dateline below falls within the school holiday period, most of the topics could be undertaken in advance.

The Encouragement of the Scriptures.

Share our new *Bible Book Club* resource - www.godwhospeaks.uk/bible-book-club-resource/

22nd July - Feast of St Mary Magdalene - www.godwhospeaks.uk/saint-mary-magdalene/

Apostle to the Apostles - www.godwhospeaks.uk/apostle-to-the-apostles-reclaiming-st-mary-of-magdala/

Mary Magdalene in Art - www.godwhospeaks.uk/mary-magdalene/

26th July - World Day for Grandparenting & the Elderly

Papal Message, poster and prayer - www.godwhospeaks.uk/world-day-for-grandparents-and-the-elderly/

26th July - Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne

Who were they and why are they important? -

www.godwhospeaks.uk/joachim-and-anne/

Divine Designs: Art Competition – still time to enter.

Remaining unregistered book covers: 2 Samuel, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Ecclesiasticus (Sirach or Ben Sirach), Baruch, 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

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

Please enter and share this link with artists you know.

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES CCRS

CCRS Contacts:

New Candidates

Please keep them coming! Contact either or both of us for details.

Webpage

Liverpool Archdiocesan Education/Staff Training/CCRS

For all dates, handbook and other information.

Submission of all assignments

These are due on 11th September or before. Please avoid August. They all come to Deacon Paul.

Qualification for Departing Year 2 Members

All assignments must have been submitted and passed, with any unauthorised absences made good. Certificates will be issued when you have passed. Successful candidates, family and friends will be invited to our annual Archdiocesan Education Mass the following summer (2027), so keep your certificates safe because we will need them again for presentation.

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. 29/6/2026

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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