View this email in your browser

Archdiocese of Liverpool

Education Department Newsletter

16 November 2026

Joan McCarthy
Director of Education

As we begin another week, I want to thank you all for everything you continue to do in the service of our schools, children and young people.

It was humbling to see the many thoughtful and moving acts of remembrance across our schools last week, marking Remembrance Day. Thank you for the care and sensitivity with which you made these moments so meaningful for our children and young people.

Last week was also an interesting and, at times, challenging one for those of us in the Education Department. I am particularly grateful for your prayers, kindness and messages of support. Please be assured of our continued commitment to walking alongside you, serving and supporting you in the important work that you do.

Yesterday's Gospel, the Parable of the Talents, reminds us that we are each called to use the gifts entrusted to us in the service of others. Across our school communities, these gifts are shared in so many different ways, often quietly and without recognition, but always making a difference to the lives of others. Thank you for the generosity, dedication and faith with which you serve our children, young people and one another.

May God bless you and all those in our school communities in the week ahead.

Joan

Ben McMullen
Deputy Director of Education

Education Mass

Our Mass for Headteachers, Senior Leaders and Governors takes place on Thursday 26 November at 4pm at St. Mary's Church, Leyland PR25 1PD. It would be lovely to fill the church, so please put the date in your diaries and join us for this celebration with the Archbishop. There will be a short rite of commissioning and presentation to our new

headteachers after Holy Communion.

Thurs 26 Nov	Mass for Headteachers, Senior Leaders & Governors	4pm	St Mary's Church, Leyland	All Schools and Colleges	Book here

Chaplains' Commissioning with Archbishop John

Our high school chaplains recently celebrated a service of commissioning at the Carmelite Monastery in Liverpool with Archbishop John and Father Mark Beattie. It was a lovely afternoon and great to spend time together in prayer and conversation. We thank our chaplains for their continued ministry in our schools.









Calendar for 2026-2027 Autumn Term

Please find attached our Calendar for the Autumn Term.

Calendar 2026-27

Gill Donohoe & Michael Boland

Published Admission Number

In order for admission authorities to consider a reduction in Published Admission Number (PAN) for admissions for 2028 2029, a period of consultation will need to be arranged. This would be for a six week period and undertaken between 1 October 2026 to 29 January 2027. Prior to this consultation, we would expect admission authorities (Governing Bodies, Local Academy Council/ Trust Boards) to have met to consider proposals and to have this minuted. We would then expect admission authorities to seek approval from the Archbishop (as per Diocesan Protocols) through the Director of Education as his representative.

The normal process of consultation would require admission authorities to consult with a range of interested parties, which would include a narrative to explain the reasons for a reduction. We would, of course be available to support admission authorities in this process.

Please contact either Gill Donohoe or Michael Boland for further advice.
Gill Donohoe g.donohoe@rcaol.org.uk
Michael Boland m.boland@rcaol.org.uk

Admission Policy 2027 2028

The majority of schools across the archdiocese have now consulted and determined the policy for admissions as recommended by the Catholic Education Service and adopted by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. A number of schools, however, have not completed the process and so will be using policies from previous years for admissions in 2027 2028. The opportunity to align with the rest of the archdiocese will be available to these schools for admissions in 2028 2029.

Admission Policy 2028 2029

The consultation period for this process began on 1 October 2026 to 29 January 2027 and we would expect all schools who have not yet completed the consultation successfully to engage. We will be available to support admission authorities in this process and provide specific guidance to ensure that all schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool have admission policies which reflect current guidance.

Please contact either Gill Donohoe or Michael Boland for further advice.
Gill Donohoe g.donohoe@rcaol.org.uk
Michael Boland m.boland@rcaol.org.uk

Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if you need any clarification on any aspect of the admissions process.

Ged Preston, Steve Coyle and Vikki Borlase
Secondary School Improvement Team



Upcoming Events (Secondary Schools and Colleges only)

Mon 16 Nov 2026

14:00 - 16:00 **Sociology (Teams)**

Please book here

Tue 17 Nov 2026

09:00 - 11.30 **New to SENDCo (Session 2) for Primary and Secondary colleagues**

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

Please book here

13:00 - 15:30 **SEND Congition and Learning (Primary and Secondary colleagues)**

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

Please book here

13:30 - 16:00 **HoD Drama Meeting**

Venue: Holy Family High School, Virgin's Ln, Thornton, Liverpool L23 4UL

Please book here

15:45 - 17:00 **Aspiring SENDCo (Session 2) for Primary and Secondary colleagues (Teams)**

Please book here

Wed 18 Nov 2026

09:30 – 14:30 **COP31 Student Event with Liverpool World Centre**

Venue: Hope Academy

Thu 19 Nov 2026

13:30 - 16:00 **HoD Computer Science (Teams)**

Please book here

Mon 23 Nov 2026

13:30 - 16:00 **HoD Music Meeting (Teams)**

Please book here

Tue 24 Nov 2026

13:30 - 16:00 HoD Food Meeting (Teams)

Please book here

14:00 – 16:30 **Physics Partners Programme session 3 (Energy)**

Venue: St Edmund Arrowsmith CHS, Rookery Ave, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan WN4 9PF

Please book here

Wed 25 Nov 2026

13:30 - 16:00 **HoD Business Meeting (Teams)**

Please book here

Thu 26 Nov 2026

13:30 - 16:00 **HoD Dance Meeting (Teams)**

Please book here

Tue 1 Dec 2026

13:30 - 16:00 **HoD Health & Social Care Meeting (Teams)**

Please book here

Wed 2 Dec 2026

9:00 – 11:30 **Foundational Knowledge SEND Inclusion session**

Venue: Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic High School

Please book here

Building Inclusive Practice: A Whole-School Guide to Establishing Inclusion Bases
30 November | Accredited CPD points, with a certificate available afterwards

Through our partnership with Zen Educate, school staff are invited to explore how Inclusion Bases can help children who are finding school difficult to learn, participate and belong. The webinar looks at bringing together SEND, behaviour, attendance and pastoral support while keeping children connected to learning and their school community.

This supports Zen's commitment to providing professional development opportunities for Archdiocese schools.

This webinar is for both primary and secondary schools. Please share with your teaching and support teams and encourage them to sign up.

Find out more and register

Mental Health Support
for children & young people in Liverpool

Funded Training Opportunities for Staff in Liverpool Schools

You can access resources and all free training here

Secondary School Improvement Flyer

Ged Preston, Dave Smith, Sandra Martin and Andrea Gerrard

Primary School Improvement Team

Upcoming CPD Events

Please see below our autumn term training offer. If you require any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

16 November - Attendance: for Primary School Leaders and Attendance Leads
17 November - EY2P Training Events - Autumn Term EYFS Leadership Network Meeting
27 November - Safeguarding: Quality assurance of the Single Central Record
30 November - Disadvantaged Students - Ensuring inclusion, securing outcomes
1 December - EY2P Training Events - Autumn Term HT & DHT Briefing
9 December - Safeguarding: Getting the Basics Right
11 December - Analyse Your New IDSR and ASP with Expert Help
6 January - "Floating on a sea of talk..." - Early Years Conference with Ruth Swailes
14 January - Leaders - Monitoring & Evaluating for Foundational Knowledge
19 January - Safeguarding: Quality assurance of the Single Central Record
22 January - Writing Session with Jo Duckworth of DBE Services
24 February - Inspection Training - Leading Your School Through a Successful Inspection
8 March - Safeguarding: Getting the Basics Right

Anti-Bullying Week 2026

Anti-Bullying Week takes place 16 – 20 November 2026, with this year's theme, 'Break the Silence', encouraging children and adults to speak up, listen and take action against bullying. Schools can access free primary and secondary resources, including materials to help bring the campaign to life.

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 Liverpool Archdiocesan Conferences and Events (LACE) or in the adjacent St Margaret Clitherow Centre.

What is happening nationally?

Catholic Life and Mission Directory: Draft 2 is currently being prepared and is expected to be shared with the advisory panel later this month. Subsequent stages of development, including timelines, will be determined following consideration of the panel's response.

KS4 Update: The bishops approved the first draft of the KS4 RED in September. The next stage will involve consultation with teachers of RE and Heads of RE, working with ATCRE over the coming months. This consultation will take place online, following the approach used in previous ATCRE consultations.

KS4/KS5 Advisory Panel: Membership of the KS4/5 Advisory Panel is now being expanded to include sixth-form representation, particularly to support the development of the KS5 RED. Possible meeting dates will be circulated.

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
CCRS

Year 1 Tuesday 17 November ONLINE: Session 5 of Hebrew Scriptures

Submission of Journals for Hebrew Scriptures (Year 1) and Church (Year 2): These are due in on 1 December. Please follow the instructions within the writing frame.

Submission of Specialist Journal: This is not due until Summer 2027.

For Paul Crilly: Any changes of school and/or email between now and the end of January should be notified as soon as possible.

Contacts

All academic, attendance and progress assistance or issues: Deacon Paul Mannings
p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk

Finance, registration and all contact details renewals: Paul Crilly
p.crilly@rcaol.org.uk

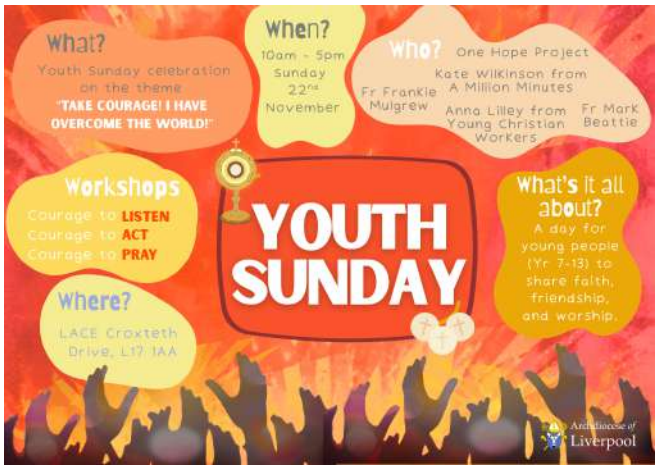
News from around the Archdiocese

Remembrance Day

Thank you to St Margaret Mary Junior School in Knowsley for sharing these wonderful pictures of their Remembrance Day displays;




Remembrance Day



Youth Sunday celebration – Sunday 22 November

Please encourage your young people to come to this year's YOUTH FEST! (Youth Sunday Celebration). Below is essential information, and also please print out this poster and share around!

WHAT? Youth Sunday Celebration on the theme of Take courage! **I have overcome the world!**

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? A day for young people (age 11 – 17) to share faith, friendship and worship.

WHERE? LACE Croxteth Drive L17 1AA

WHEN? Sunday 22 November – starts at 10am finishes after 4pm Mass with Archbishop John (So ends 5pm)

WHO? One Hope Project, Fr Frankie Mulgrew, Fr Mark Beattie, Kate Wilkinson from A Million Minutes, Anna Lilley from Young Christian Workers

WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING?
Workshops COURAGE TO LISTEN, COURAGE TO ACT, COURAGE TO PRAY – all exploring how to get closer to Jesus and how to be a young Catholic in today's world. **Reconciliation** will be available and there will be lots of information about groups that young people can get involved with to make a difference in the world

FREE entry. Bring a packed lunch – there will be a tuckshop to buy drinks and snacks.

HOW IT WORKS...!

You can either:

- **BRING A GROUP WITH YOU** - (Remember the ratio is 1-8 for 11-12 year old and 1-10 for 13-17 year olds.)

- **OR YOU CAN ENCOURAGE THE YOUNG PEOPLE TO SIGN UP INDIVIDUALLY** - (please note that we would much prefer if you came with your young people as we have limited DBS'd volunteers)

Once people have registered we will send their parents a Microsoft form to fill in. This form includes medical information, emergency contact information, photography permission, and other essential information as required by our safeguarding and legal teams.

Sign up using the QR code:-

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. 9/11/2026

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

This email was sent to s.hughes@rcaol.org.uk
why did I get this? unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences
Archdiocese of Liverpool · Liverpool Archdiocesan Office · Croxteth Drive · Liverpool, Merseyside L17 1AA · United Kingdom