

The Maximilian

A monthly newsletter for governors within the Archdiocese of Southwark

Edition 112
September & October 2024

September Reflection - Canon Victor Darlington

Beloved Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome back to school. I trust many of you have had a restful holiday and have returned refreshed to begin a new academic year.

September seems packed with a range of celebrations, events and activities. We begin the month of September with the Season of Creation, starting on 1 September and finishing on the feast of St Francis, 4 October. 'During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.'

In the Church's liturgical calendar, we remain in ordinary time. We look forward to the celebration of the birthday of our Mother Mary on 8 September. In a providential way this year for us, we join Catholics all over the country on this most sacred day to celebrate Education Sunday. The theme for 2024 is, "He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak", taken from St Mark's Gospel (7:31-37). The Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales said: "Education Sunday falls on the second Sunday of September) just as the new academic year starts. It is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales, established 175 years ago in 1848. It provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making Catholic schools places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation of the year ahead."

On the 14th, we will celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross. The Entrance Antiphon for that day is taken from Saint Paul's letter to the Galatians Chapter 6 Verse 14, where he said: We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.'

In a way, I like the idea that September ends with the celebration of Saint Jerome on the 30th. He was a Priest and Doctor of the Church. It was Saint Jerome who translated the Bible into Latin. Saint Jerome, Patron saint of translators, librarians and encyclopedists, pray for us.

Keep giving your best in all you do; we appreciate the excellent work you are doing.

God bless.



Canon Victor Darlington

Episcopal Vicar for the Southeast Area,
Commissions for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion,
Education and Director of Caritas, Archdiocese of Southwark

Ofsted Inspections and Visits

Guidance about Ofsted inspections and visits: deferring, pausing and gathering additional evidence dated 15th October 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>

Sutton Trust

Access to apprenticeships and Pathways to Professions for students in Years 10,11,12 & 13.

<https://www.suttontrust.com/our-programmes/>

Recently Shared Documents

Please use the links below to view/access the documents that were recently shared.

Occupation document: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Occupation-of-school-premises-Southwark-Sept-2021.pdf>

Memorandum: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Bishops-Memorandum-Approved-September-2024.pdf>

When clicking on the following link, a word document will be automatically downloaded. To access these downloads, please go to the downloads file on your device.

Code of Conduct Governors and Local Governors 2024 -2025: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Code-of-Conduct-Governors-and-Local-Governors-2024-2025.docx>

CAT Code of Conduct: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/CAT-Code-of-Conduct.docx>

Length of service as a foundation governor/director in one school.

Please be aware Foundation Governors/Directors can only serve a maximum of three terms of office i.e. 12 years in one school. After 12 years you are welcome to become a Foundation Governor/Director at any other school in the Diocese.



Cyber Security Check up for Schools (DfE/SWGfL)

Cyber security is a frequent topic here on the briefing. The reason for that is because of its essentiality to the security of the modern educational establishment. What we could call the 'E-estate' of the 21st century school, is every bit as important as the integrity of the ground estate. All files pertaining to pupil records, safeguarding records, government information and all other aspects are now digitised. Taken together this makes a cyber break in as dangerous as a traditional break in.

CyberSecure is a free to use self-assessment tool for schools aimed at erecting an improved barrier between the e-state, and those who wish to infiltrate it. This tool is structured to provide understandable feedback as to the state of online security protocols. If interested in acquiring this tool, please follow the link below:

<https://cybersecurecheckforschools.uk/>

DfE offers funding to establish 300 school-based nurseries (SBN)

Last Thursday (17th October), the Department for Education announced the launch of funding to establish 300 school-based nurseries (SBN).

Between 17 October and 19 December 2024, state-funded primary-phase schools will be able to apply for up to £150,000 of capital funding to upgrade spare space to create or expand on-site nurseries. These nurseries can be school-run or delivered by private and voluntary providers or childminders on the school's site. They can also cater for any early years age group, providing there is local demand.

Full guidance, key dates and details on how to apply can be found via the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-school-based-nursery-provision>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-based-nursery-capital-grant>

On 5th November 24: 10:00 -11:00, the DfE will be hosting a webinar for schools interested in applying for funding through the SBN capital grant via [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#).

On 28th November 24, 14:00-15:00, the DfE will be hosting another webinar for schools, LAs and other responsible bodies and will offer a chance to ask further questions before the closure of the bidding on 19th December. [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)



Courses & Events

Details for our upcoming courses and events for this academic year are available on our website.
<https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/governor-cpd/>

Finance For Governors

Thursday 24th October 2024. 2-3.30pm. Zoom

Future Proofing Governance, Succession Planning for Governors

Wednesday 13th November 2024. 4-5.30pm
Zoom

Governors of School and Directors of CAT Conference

Saturday 16th November 2024. 10am-3pm.
£25. St George's Cathedral School

Safeguarding for Governors

Wednesday 20th November 2024. 5.30pm-7pm
Zoom

School Building Responsibilities as a Governor

Thursday 28th November 2024. 5.30-6.30pm
Zoom

Succession Planning and Recruiting a Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher

Thursday 5th December 2024 5.30-7pm
Zoom

