

Newsletter



9th October 2024

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Reflection from Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for Education

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are now well into the autumn season. In my local area, as may be in yours, the leaves have started to change their colours, and the days are getting darker and colder.

The first day of October this year begins with the celebration of our dear Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus. The Second day of the month invites us to join in the celebration of The Holy Guard Angels and thank them for the many ways they look after us. On the Fourth, we will celebrate Saint Francis of Assisi, who reminds us to care for all of God's creation with love.

So far, you have already spent a month in school and will have many events and activities to do. For us as a Church, October is when we honour our Lady of the Rosary, and we are invited to pray the Rosary during this month. Archbishop John Wilson said in May this year, "Turning to Our Blessed Lady through the Rosary helps us draw closer to Christ. Through praying the Rosary and Our Lady's intercession, we recall God's promise to us in the Lord Jesus. Our Mother Mary is a model for all of us. She shows us how to be a true follower of Christ."

By the 9th, we will celebrate the feast of Saint John Henry Newman, our English Saint; on the 18th, we celebrate Saint Luke the Evangelist; and on the 28th, we celebrate the Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles of Jesus Christ. In all these feasts, we seek the intercession of our role models and saints as we journey in Faith.

The Month of October is also when we celebrate Black History Month as a country. As I mentioned

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last year, Black History Month has taken different forms, and societies and communities will celebrate it with different emphases, motivations, and aspirations. For us as Catholics, Black History Month is a month of great joy in thanksgiving to God for all the many blessings he has bestowed on Black people. It recognises the many hardships and sadness that black people have endured through slavery and systemic racism, prejudice, and stereotypes through the centuries to the present day. Finally, it is a time of reflection, fostering inclusion and integration in the spirit of oneness in Christ, where all are welcome in Christ, and acknowledging that there is always space for one more.

Finally, I wish you a well-deserved rest in your soon coming half term this month. Whatever your plans are, I wish you many blessings and good wishes. 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

[Reflection for Black History Month](#)

Action Required: FAO of all MATs and Single Academy Trusts. Land and Buildings Collection Tool 2024

It is the time of year when academies are required to make their return to the DfE on their land and buildings. The LBCT window is open from 8 October 2024 until 12 November 2024.

The diocese needs to receive the returns in order to give the diocesan checker sufficient time to check them and deal with any issues arising, prior to the window closing. We welcome returns as soon as possible but the last date for submitting them to us will be Monday 4 November 2024.

Lyle Jeeves will be the diocesan checker. Lylejeeves@rcaos.org.uk

Ideally Lyle will be fully aware of any capital work carried out in the school as you will have sought approval, but just in case anything else needs reviewing, please do not leave this work to the last minute. The DfE have already loaded previously entered data on the Tool ready for this year.

The department has advised that they will be holding an online LBCT power hour on 17th October 2024 to assist with the completing of the LBCT and as soon as we have the link, we will share it with you.

ESFA guidance on the LBCT can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academies-land-and-buildings-collection-tool/land-and-buildings-collection-tool-summary-guidance-for-academies>

If you have any queries in relation to this matter or have not completed the Tool before, do not hesitate to ask for advice from Lyle or Angela.



Action Required: Additional Nursery Places

You will be aware of the government's pledge to create an additional three thousand nursery places. The DfE will, in the coming months, be setting out plans to use surplus capacity in primary schools to create or expand nurseries run from school premises which will include both school-run nurseries and schools partnering with private, voluntary, and independent providers.

The department is working closely with schools, local authorities, and providers to:

- understand what is needed to deliver this
- ensure provision meets the needs of families and schools
- reflect the LA's role in managing childcare sufficiency in funding decisions

Guidance for schools in relation to these proposals will be available in due course but in the meantime, please be aware that schools must have the consent of their diocese or religious order (if relevant) before taking any steps. Matters of provision be it type (nursery, resource sixth form etc) or size are matters for the Education Committee to approve. You must obtain any relevant consents from ourselves or religious order before taking any steps in this regard and that early consultation is paramount.

Upcoming School Grants

[Kellogg's Breakfast Club Grants](#)

£1,000 grant - Priority for schools with over 40% of pupil premium eligibility - No deadline

[Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust](#)

£100 - £100,000 - Project schemes directed towards capital expenditure - No deadline

[SHINE Trust](#)

£20,000 - £100,000 - Projects that develop communication skills and give parents support to build language skills at home - End of October

[Foyle School Library Scheme](#)

Up to £10,000 - Grant to help buy books, e-readers, library software, IT equipment and furniture - No deadline

Big Questions and the Cosmos

Primary and Secondary Science and Maths are fundamental contributors to the Catholic Life and Mission of a school but rarely have bespoke formation. Within the clarity of lessons students challenge existential boundaries of life beyond God, faith and religion and look to staff for answers, searching to make sense of big questions. This formation day offers an excellent opportunity to inspire, equip and sustain Teachers of Maths and Science, in both Primary and Secondary, with their key role in the Mission of the Catholic school.

[Flyer](#)



Synod in Rome

The 30 September is the start of the reconvening of the Synod in Rome. Please keep Archbishop John and Bishop Marcus in your prayers as they return to Rome for the month. The Synodal prayer is below.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we go together in Your name.

With you alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the
wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we made journey together to
eternal life
and not straight from the way of the truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and Son,
forever and ever.
Amen.

Email Addresses

As we begin a new year, it is a good time to check that all governors are using school based email addresses for governor/school business.

Please take the time to ensure that all governors have access to and are able to log on to these addresses. If these are new for them, please ask them to email governance@rcaos.org.uk using their school email with their full name as the subject and advise of the changes. These will then be stored for contacting them.

The same applies for the directors of our Catholic Academy/Education Trusts.



Recruitment

Vacancies can be viewed in full here: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/recruitment/>

Chaplain, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Teacher of Geography, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Main Scale Teacher of Art & DT, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Teacher of Food Technology, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Midday Supervisor, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Classroom Teacher, St Chad's Catholic Primary

School

South Norwood

Closing date: 11th October 2024

Music Head of Department, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Closing date: 11th October 2024

Teaching Assistant, St Chad's Catholic Primary School

South Norwood

Closing date: 18th October 2024

School Librarian, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Closing date: 11th October 2024

Events & Training

Autumn 2024

New to Leading Religious Education in Primary Schools

Tuesday 15th October 2024 9.30-4pm
£25, Amigo Hall, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HU.

[Book](#)

New to Catholic Schools

Thursday 10th October 2024 9.30am-4pm.
£25, Amigo Hall, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR

[Book](#)

Academisation for Governors

Tuesday 15th October 2024 5.30-7pm.
Zoom

[Book](#)

Preparing Your New Religious Education Leads

Multiple dates and venues

[Book](#)

Chair of Governors Drop ins – Autumn Term

Wednesday 23rd October 2024 5pm-6pm, Zoom
or Friday 25th October 2024 4pm-5pm, Zoom

[Book](#)

Aspiring Leaders

Tuesday 5th November 2024. Zoom.

[Book](#)

Headteachers' Conference 2024

Thursday 7th November 2024 9.30am – Friday 8th
November 2024 1pm. Ashford International Hotel
& Spa, Simone Weil Avenue, Ashford TN24 8UX.

[Book](#)



Big Questions and the Cosmos

Friday 8th November 2024. 9.15am-3.30pm.
London Jesuit Centre, Mount Street, W1K 3AH
£65

[Book](#)

Catholic Leaders Drop in

Multiple dates and venues.

[Book](#)

Future Proofing Governance, Succession Planning for Governors

Wednesday 13th November 2024. 4-5.30pm Zoom

Book Governors of School and Directors of CAT Conference

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

[Book](#)

Headteachers as the Responsible Person for

Health and Safety and Buildings Update

Tuesday 19th November 2024. 2-3pm. Zoom.

[Book](#)

Safeguarding for Governors

Wednesday 20th November 2024. 5.30pm-7pm

Zoom

[Book](#)

Aspiring Leaders

Tuesday 26th November and Wednesday 27th November 2024. 9.30am-3pm.

Education Service, St Edward's House, St Pauls Wood Hill, Orpington, BR5 2SR

[Book](#)

Advent Service 2024

Friday 6th December 2024 2pm

St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR

[Book](#)

News

St George's Cathedral Choirs release much-loved hymns

Video recordings of many beloved hymns have been released by the St George's Cathedral Choirs to promote the power of worship through music and song.

[Continue reading.](#)



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Attend Educators' Mass



On Wednesday 18th September, St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Gomm Road, held an Educators' Mass for local Catholic schools. As this was the first of its kind for schools in their area, they were extremely blessed to invite Canon Victor Darlington to lead this beautiful celebration.

[Continue reading.](#)

