

Newsletter



11th September 2024

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Reflection from Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for Education

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

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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

Staff Responsibilities

Just a reminder that Sam Gower has joined the Education Service as Trust Relationship Officer for Christ the Redeemer and Sancta Familia trust areas. Colette has KCSP and Daniel has St Benedict and SELCAT. Daniel continues to make good progress after his hip replacement. Our prayers are with him.

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

[Engineering Education Grant Scheme](#) - £5,000 - £15,000 - Projects that demonstrate diverse expertise and a range of skills from a variety of sectors - 7th October

[Foyle School Library Scheme](#) - Up to £10,000 - Grant to help buy books, e-readers, library software, IT equipment and furniture - No deadline

NPQ Places

There is still time to apply for fully-funded NPQ places in Senior Leadership or Leading Behaviour and Culture.

The Avila Partnership (the partnership of Ursuline High School, Wimbledon and St Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls, Carshalton) has a limited number of places available starting



in Autumn 2024. The courses are run in association with The Church of England and Catholic Education Service and are nationally recognised qualifications, accredited by the Department for Education.

Fully funded places are available to teachers and leaders from the 50% of schools with the highest proportion of students who attract pupil premium funding.

Apply now to secure a place- [Register for a national professional qualification \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.education.gov.uk)

The deadline for applications is Friday 27th September but funded spaces are likely to go before then.

For information on either the NPQ in Senior Leadership or the NPQ in Leading Behaviour and Culture, please visit the Avila website: www.npqavila.co.uk

How can NPQs benefit your school?

Deliver meaningful change – participants will be encouraged to translate their learning from the latest research and evidence informed practices to their own school context.

Professional confidence - your teachers and leaders will build their professional confidence and be inspired to bring their learnings back to the classroom and monitor the impact.

Wider school impact – learning can filter down through the school, especially when multiple members of staff are undertaking an NPQ.

Better outcomes for pupils – higher quality teaching will have a positive impact on the behaviour and engagement of pupils.

Staff retention – the suite of NPQs on offer can provide staff with a career pathway focussed on leadership from an early stage.

Flexible training – the programme is designed to be flexible and to fit with a busy working role. Training is delivered in bite-sized chunks, and at a time and pace that suits the participant.

For further information on the courses or to apply, please visit www.npqavila.co.uk or contact Nicola Adams, NPQ Administrator at the Avila Partnership: nicola.adams@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Mighty Writer

Mighty Writer is an exciting, visual teaching resource which simplifies the process of learning to write.

Please [click here](#) to view their flyer.

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.



Tips for Managing Asbestos in Educational Institutions

Asbestos has been a critical safety concern for decades. Despite this, recent Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspections have highlighted that it remains a significant issue in some educational settings. While many schools have implemented effective procedures to manage asbestos, some are still falling short, with outdated registers and incomplete management plans being identified as key concerns.

Join WorkNest on the 26th September at 9.30am to learn how to manage your asbestos, update your asbestos management plan, and meet HSE requirements so you can maintain a safe environment and ensure your school is inspection-ready.

Register here: <https://worknest.com/training/tips-for-managing-asbestos-in-educational-institutions-partners/?v=rcaos>

Worknest: <https://worknest.com/services/archdiocese-of-southwark-education-commission-useful-resources-for-schools-partners/>

Mary's Meals

In 1992 a Scottish fish farmer called Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow took a week off work to deliver aid to Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He never returned to that job because the aid kept flowing into his shed in Argyll, the same shed that is now the headquarters of Mary's Meals, a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities, where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

The global Mary's Meals campaign was born in 2002 when Magnus visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When he asked her eldest son, Edward, what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: "To have enough food to eat and to be able to go to school one day." We now feed over 2.4 million children each year.

If you are looking for an assembly, lesson, or enrichment session, the Supporter Engagement Office for our area, Roy Peachey, who was until recently a schoolteacher, would be delighted to visit your school. He can be contacted at roy.peachey@marysmeals.org or on 07593 447297.

If you are looking for fundraising ideas, please see: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising>

If you want children's resources, see: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/childrens-resources>
For information about volunteering opportunities, see <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer> and, for 16-25 year olds, see <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/youth-ambassador-program>

Christ the Redeemer

Congratulations to St Agatha Catholic Primary School that became the first school to convert to an academy and join Christ the Redeemer Catholic Academy Trust on 1st September. Thank you. If your school is not making progress in converting, please contact Colette.



Recruitment

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

Headteacher, St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Walderslade

Closing date: 13th September 2024

Headteacher, St Ursula's Convent School Greenwich

Closing date: 13th September 2024

Chaplain, St Ursula's Convent School Greenwich

Head of Religious Education, St Ursula's Convent School Greenwich

Greenwich

Teacher of Geography, St Ursula's Convent School Greenwich

Greenwich

Teacher of Drama, St Ursula's Convent School Greenwich

Greenwich

Teacher of History, St Ursula's Convent School Greenwich

Teacher of RE, St Ursula's Convent School Greenwich

Teacher of English, St Ursula's Convent School Greenwich

Teacher of Mathematics, St Ursula's Convent School Greenwich

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

Greenwich

Teacher of Food Technology, St Ursula's Convent School Greenwich

Greenwich

Midday Supervisor, St Ursula's Convent School Greenwich

Greenwich

Events & Training

Autumn 2024

Induction for New Foundation Directors, Governors and Clerks

Tuesday 10th September 4pm-5.30pm or

Thursday 19th September 5.30pm-7pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

CSI What Does it Mean for Your School?

Multiple dates and venues

[Book](#)

Aspiring to Governance

Tuesday 24th September 2024. 5.30pm-7pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

How to Use Statlog

Tuesday 24th September 2024. 9.45am-

11.15pm or 12.45pm – 2.15pm

Free, Teams

[Book](#)

Beginning of Year Mass 2024

Thursday 26th September 2024. 10.45am

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

[Book](#)

Prayer & Liturgy

Multiple dates and venues

[Book](#)



Aspiring Leaders

Tuesday 1st October 2024 9.30am-4pm
Education Service, St Edward's House, St Pauls
Wood Hill, Orpington, BR5 2SR

[Book](#)

Effective Support and Challenge for Governors

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 4-5.30pm or
Monday 7th October 2024. 5.30-7pm
Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Diocesan Chaplaincy Day

Tuesday 8th October 2024 9.30am-3pm.
Education Service, St Edward's House, St Pauls
Wood Hill, Orpington, BR5 2SR.

[Book](#)

Preparations for the Year of Jubilee

Wednesday 9th October 2024, 2pm-3.30pm
Zoom

[Book](#)

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](#)

Chair of Governors Drop ins – Autumn Term

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

[Book](#)

Archbishop's Fund Awards

Congratulations to the successful schools in the latest round of awards from the Archbishop's Fund. We look forward to seeing photos and accounts of your completed projects.

School	Category	Project	Total Project Cost	Requested	Awarded
St John Bosco College, Wandsworth	Youth Evangelisation	Prayer Garden	£7,526.00	£5,000.00	£700.00
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School - New Malden	Youth Evangelisation	Prayer Garden Space	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£700.00
St Boniface Catholic Primary School, Wandsworth	Youth Evangelisation	Prayer Garden Mosaic	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£700.00
St Catherine's Catholic School, Bexley	Social Outreach	Youth Social Action: Poverty Foodbank	£7,000.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School - Erith	Social Outreach	Develop our Forest School	£9,000.00	£3,930.09	£700.00
St Joseph's College, Beulah Hill	Youth / Evangelisation / Social Outreach	Projects for the "Student-led CST Chaplaincy Group"	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£1,200.00
St Mary's Catholic Primary School - Eltham	Youth	Prayer Spaces in St Mary's	£4,500.00	£4,500.00	£700.00
St Paul's Academy, Abbey Wood	Youth Evangelisation	Residential retreat	£3,760.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
St Simon Stock Catholic School, Maidstone	Youth / Social Outreach	Eco Garden	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£500.00
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School - Rotherhithe	Youth	Retreat Programme for KS2	£7,780.00	£5,000.00	£3,000.00
Stella Maris Catholic Primary School, Folkestone	Youth	Chapel for the school	£1,300.00	£1,300.00	£1,300.00
Ursuline College, Birchington-on-Sea, Kent	Youth / Evangelisation / Social Outreach	Tranquillity Garden	£8,750.00	£5,000.00	£700.00

News

St Catherine's Catholic School – GCSE Results 2024

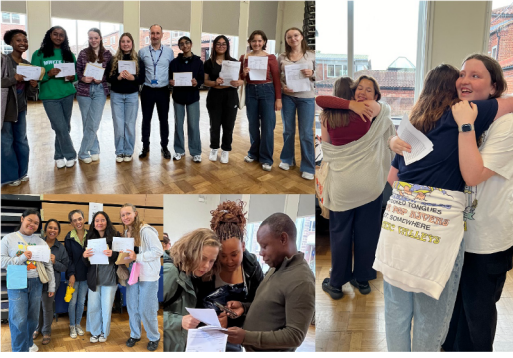
"Congratulations to our amazing Class of 2024. I am exceedingly proud of all our girls in achieving remarkable results. Thank you to all my staff for supporting the girls on their journey to success". Mrs Thompson – Headteacher [Continue reading.](#)



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Ursuline High School Wimbledon Celebrates Fantastic GCSE Results



It was smiles and celebration today as the GCSE results were published.

The schools' outcomes are really outstanding at GCSE with 44% of all grades were grade 7+ [Continue reading.](#)

