

Newsletter



25th September 2024

In this Newsletter

- [Action Required: FAO of all MATs and Single Academy Trusts. Land and Buildings Collection Tool](#)
- [Action Required: Additional Nursery Places](#)
 - [Upcoming School Grants](#)
 - [NPQ Places](#)
 - [Email Addresses](#)
- [Synod in Rome](#)
- [Tips for Managing Asbestos in Educational Institutions](#)
 - [Aspiring Leaders](#)
 - [Recruitment](#)
 - [Events & Training](#)
 - [News](#)

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

PG 1



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

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

[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 \(education.gov.uk\)](#)**

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 focused 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

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.



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 leaders 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.

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/>

Aspiring Leaders

Thank you so much for the overwhelming support for the Aspiring Heads programme. I have had so many headteachers come forward to offer their time to be shadowed and I really appreciate this. I will not be able to take up everyone this year but I am thankful to be able to offer this as part of the course.

We do however, need more candidates to take up the course to make it work well. If you have an Assistant or Deputy Headteacher who are ready for the next step in their career journey, please can you book by [clicking here](#). The first session is on the 1/10/24 so there isn't much time.

In the new year, I will be starting the next course which is aimed more at middle leaders to support them in taking on the senior leadership positions left behind when these new heads and deputies start in their roles. This is not yet available to book but if you could please start thinking about anyone who might be interested.

If you have any queries please email Sam Gower: samgower@rcaos.org.uk

Recruitment

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

Chaplain, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Teacher of Religious Education, Bishop Thomas Grant School

London

Closing date: 7th October 2024

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



Clerk to Governing Board, Bishop Thomas Grant School

London
Closing date: 30th September 2024

Teaching Assistant, St Chad's Catholic Primary School

South Norwood
Closing date: 18th October 2024

Music Head of Department, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich
Closing date: 11th October 2024

School Librarian, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich
Closing date: 11th October 2024

Events & Training

Autumn 2024

Induction for New Foundation Directors, Governors and Clerks

Monday 30th September 5pm-6.30pm
Free, Zoom
[Book](#)

CSI What Does it Mean for Your School?

Multiple dates and venues
[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](#)

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](#)

Admissions for Schools

Thursday 3rd October 2024 2pm-4pm
Teams
[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](#)

Admissions for Governors

Wednesday 9th October 2024 5.30-7pm.
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](#)

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](#)

News

Art Creation at St Catherine's School

St Catherine's School have had the great opportunity of having a piece of art created by a past student, Chloe Norman, which depicts Genesis chapters 2&3. [Continue reading.](#)



Bishop Philip Moger appointed as new Bishop of Plymouth



Archbishop John congratulates Bishop Philip on his appointment. Bishop Philip Moger has been appointed as the 10th Bishop of Plymouth by Pope Francis. [Continue reading.](#)

