

Newsletter



21st May 2025

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Reflection

Beloved Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his Homily on Sunday 18th of May (the Birthday of Saint Pope John Paul II) at the beginning of his Pontificate, our new Holy Father Pope Leo XVI said: "In these days, we have experienced intense emotions ..." How right was he. From 14th February, when Pope Francis went into hospital, through to his time of illness, his death, days of mourning, the period of interregnum, the conclave, the white smoke, the election of the new Holy Father, we have moved from sadness to joy. Our Faith has been reawakened, refreshed and nourished. During these days, with our eyes and hearts fixed on Rome, on TV, and in prayer, I have felt so proud of being a Catholic seeing the Holy Spirit at work in his Church.

The Month of May this year for our Church has been one of great witness and expression of profound Faith. Recognising the importance of this Month of May in our devotion to our Lady, you would have noticed that Pope Leo XVI ended his address at the balcony by inviting us to pray the Regina Caeli. It is sung from Easter Vigil through Pentecost Sunday. Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia; quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia; resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia; ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia. Translation: Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia; for He whom thou was chosen to bear, alleluia; has risen as He said, alleluia; pray for us to God, alleluia.

We also have three other traditional Anthems to our Lady: Alma Redemptoris Mater: Sung from the first Sunday of Advent until the Feast of the Purification on February 2 (the original ending date of the Christmas season), this prayer tells of Gabriel's announcement, and of Mary's divine motherhood. Ave Regina Caelorum: This anthem is sung from after Purification (February 2 or Candlemas) until Easter Vigil. Salve Regina is sung as a seasonal anthem from the day after Pentecost Sunday until the first Sunday of Advent; and at different times during the year.



During these busy exam season for your schools, find solace in praying the Regina Caeli. It is such a beautiful prayer.

I entrust you to our Lady Seat of Wisdom and of Good Counsel. May she support us all at our time of need, and be there for us when we need refreshment, light and peace. Amen.

Canon Victor Darlington
Episcopal Vicar for Education

Archbishop's Appeal Grant 2025

What is the Archbishop's Appeal Grant?

The Archbishop's Appeal is a fundraising appeal that takes place across parishes in the Archdiocese of Southwark each year. Launched in November 2022, this fundraising effort seeks to invest faith, hope, love, and charity into the missionary work of the Archdiocese in three key areas: Youth and Evangelisation, Social Outreach and Clergy Care. Funds are collected and held centrally by the Archdiocese of Southwark and ring-fenced for the Archbishop's Appeal, a portion of which is designated to be granted back to parishes and schools to support their local work.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to support innovative projects taking place in Southwark parishes, schools, commissions, and other Catholic entities working alongside the Archdiocese, which seek to enhance one or more of the key missionary areas: Youth/Evangelisation or Social Outreach.

More information available: <https://rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal-grant>

Catholic School Inspections

We welcome Leila Coward to the Education Service team who is supporting with CSI for this term. Leila will be working approximately 10 hours a week and so CSI has a new mailbox csi@rcaos.org.uk which will be shared between, Leila, Donna and Colette to ensure all queries will be addressed in a timely manner.

Please add Leila to the Office Staff list of names to be aware of, especially if you are awaiting a call about CSI!

SE Hub Collaboration to Recruit More RE Specialists

Arundel & Brighton Diocese are delighted to announce a further collaboration between the diocese and St Mary's University, Twickenham which we hope will support with the recruitment and training of secondary RE teachers.

[Click here](#) to view details of a course for non-specialist Key Stage 3 RE teachers, which is being delivered by Dave Legrand, Secondary RE Adviser and St Mary's University at a significantly reduced PG 2



cost of £800. Those who complete the course will be awarded a Post-Graduate Certificate in Religious Education and will gain 60 credits that could be used towards a Masters qualification.

There is an Information event for the [Post-Graduate Certificate in RE \(24-Jun-2025\) ChurchSuite Events on](#) June 24th at 4pm or for further details, please email Dave Legrand dave.legrand@abdiocese.org.uk

Holy See Press Office

The Holy See press office has released a photo of Pope Leo XIV, which can be used for free for “institutional purposes”. It can be download here: <https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/it/special/habemus-papam/habemus-papam-2025/foto-leone-xiv.html>. The terms of usage are copied below for ease.

The Catholic Bishops’ Conference is continuing to publish photos too, including from the inauguration yesterday. Please see here for the latest photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/catholicism/albums/>. If we use any of their images, they have requested we please credit: **Mazur/CBCEW**.

Celebration of Service Mass

Archbishop John looks forward to meeting headteachers at the Mass to celebrate Catholic Education and those who serve as leaders that will be held on 18th June 2025 at 4pm. All headteachers are encouraged to attend and pupils are also welcome. Heads are invited to bring a future leader with them be it a member of the teaching, support or administrative staff who you wish to encourage into leadership in their area of school responsibility.

Please [click here](#) to view more details and book.

Contact with Property

Please send all queries relating to property, land and buildings to ecbuildings@rcaos.org.uk in the first instance. This will be picked up by a relevant member of the team.

Wintershall Life of Christ performances

17th-21st June 2025. 10am-3.30pm

Discover the wonder of Jesus’ life with an unforgettable event for all the family. The Life of Christ is a play like no other, placing you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. Join over a hundred actors in the stunning grounds of Wintershall Estate as this magnificent story is movingly recreated with authentic detail in an epic open-air production.

Further details can be viewed here: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/life-of-christ/>



Support Requested – Global Survey for Catholic Teachers (UMEC-WUCT)

The World Union of Catholic Teachers (UMEC-WUCT) UMEC-WUCT, an international body recognised by the Holy See, is conducting a worldwide survey to understand more about the identity, values, and lived experience of Catholic teachers in all educational settings. The University of Glasgow (a WUCT member) is collaborating with the Pontifical University of Chile and Saint Louis University, Missouri, to analyse the data. The survey has ethical approval and contains no identifiable data.
Subject: Invitation to Participate – Global Survey for Catholic Teachers

Dear Colleagues in Catholic Education,

I hope this message finds you in good heart and uplifted by the renewed attention and energy surrounding our Church, particularly under the leadership of Pope Leo XIV.

As President of the Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges ([CATSC](#)), I warmly invite you to take part in a short international survey launched by the World Union of Catholic Teachers ([UMEC-WUCT](#)), which is recognised by the Holy See and works closely with the Dicastery for Culture and Education and the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

The aim of the survey is to explore the identity, values and lived experience of Catholic teachers working in all settings. It is being supported by the University of Glasgow in partnership with the Pontifical University of Chile and Saint Louis University, Missouri.

Key details:

The survey is anonymous and has received full ethical approval.

It takes only 5–10 minutes to complete.

It forms part of the Church's contribution to the Jubilee Year 2025.

Results will be shared at the Jubilee Conference on Education later this year.

Please consider completing the survey and encouraging your colleagues to do the same. Your voice and experience are greatly valued and important.

Survey Link: https://uofg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7TyF0wIxiV7zJ6m

The survey closes on 4 July 2025.

Thank you for your continued service to Catholic education.

Kind regards,

John Nish

President

Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges (CATSC)

www.catsc.org



Savings for School Staff

See Martin Lewis Moneysavingexpert page for details of savings for school staff. The very successful emergency services Bluelight discount card is now available to school staff.

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/discounts-for-teachers/>

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

Foyle School Library Scheme

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

Recruitment

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

Trust Relationship Officer, Education Service

Orpington

Closing date: 23rd May 2025

Class Teacher, St Cecilia's Catholic School

Sutton

Closing date: 23rd May 2025

Classroom Teacher, St Chad's Catholic Primary School

South Norwood

Closing date: 30th May 2025

ECT/Mainscale Class Teacher, Notre Dame Catholic Primary School

London

Closing date: 6th June 2025

RE Teacher, Ursuline High School

Wimbledon

Closing date: 6th June 2025

Site Manager, St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Mitcham

Closing date: 21st May 2025

Catering Assistant, Ursuline High School

Wimbledon

Closing date: 6th June 2025

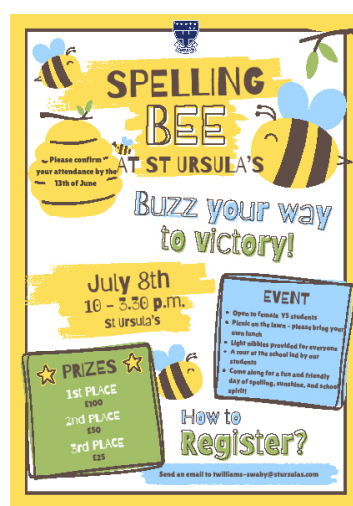
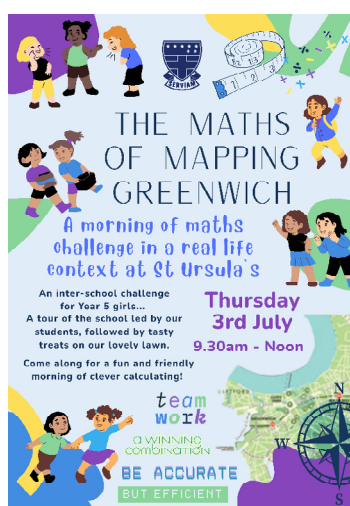
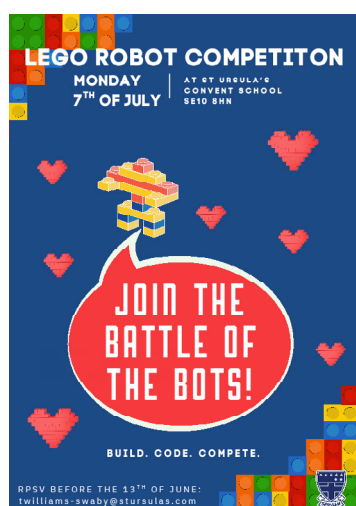


Support for Parents from Catholic Marriage Care

Catholic Marriage Care offer Relationship Counselling, Marriage Preparation and more, online and in-person. Research tells us that family issues come high on the list of the things that young people worry about. Therefore, if we can offer support for those relationships, we will be helping pupils.

[Click here](#) to view more details.

Events at St Ursula's Covent School



Events & Training

Summer 2025

Induction for New Foundation Directors, Governors and Clerks

Tuesday 3rd June 2025 4-5.30pm. Zoom or
Thursday 26th June 2025 5.30-7pm. Zoom
[Book](#)

Buildings Termly Update Meeting

Tuesday 10th June 2025. 2-3pm. Zoom
[Book](#)

School Building Responsibilities as a Governor

Thursday 12th June 2025. 5.30-6.30pm. Zoom
[Book](#)

Foundation Governors Retreat Day

Saturday 14th June 2025. 9.30am-3.30pm.

£25, Cowderoy Room, Amigo Hall, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR
[Book](#)

Celebration of Service Mass

Wednesday 18th June 2025. 4pm
St George's Cathedral
[Book](#)

Finance for Governors

Tuesday 24th June 2025 5.30-7pm. Zoom
[Book](#)

Festival of Hope - fully booked

Wednesday 25th June 2025. 9am-3pm
The Friars, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BY
[Book](#)

Chaplaincy Retreat

Friday 27th June 2025. 9.30am-4pm.
£55. Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, The Precincts,
Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2EH

[Book](#)

Deputy and Assistant Headteacher Conference

Wednesday, 9th July 2025. 9.15am – 4pm
£25. St Mary's High Catholic School, Woburn
Road, Croydon, CR9 2EE

[Book](#)

Foundation Directors of CAT's Training Session: Catholic Social Teaching

Monday 7th July 2025 5.30-7pm.

Zoom

[Book](#)

Save the Date!

Beginning of Year Mass - 24th September 2025

Headteachers' Conference 2025 -Ashford International Hotel - 20th and 21st November 2025

News

Headteacher at St Edmund's Catholic School Receives Headteachers of the Year Award!



Headteacher, Mrs Grainne Parsons at St Edmund's Catholic School in Dover has been named Headteacher of the Year for the Dover District at the Kent Teacher of the Year Awards 2025!

[Continue reading.](#)

Month of Mary in May at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, Tunbridge Wells have set up a rosary prayer area for children, and adults to pray the rosary. It has been lovely to watch children approach the prayer area to pray and bring flowers.

[Continue reading.](#)

