

Newsletter



19th June 2025

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Reflection

Beloved Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During this Exam Season for your schools, I am thinking of you all and praying for you.

The Month of June, which sits right in the middle of the year, gives us a time to reflect on the past six months as we look forward to the next six months and what they mean to us. The summer months are coming, exams will be over, and some of your students are preparing to move to secondary schools, universities, or vocational programmes and skill acquisitions. Some of you may be seeking new opportunities and exploring greater outcomes. I wish you many blessings in all your endeavours.

Liturgically, June is packed with Solemnities: On June 8th, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church; with that celebration, the Easter Season comes to end, and the beautiful season of Ordinary Time begins. You will once again notice that the colours in your Church will change to Green. Ordinary time is such a lovely season in the Church. It invites us to focus on Jesus, our Saviour, when no significant ceremonies exist.

We also have the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity on Sunday, June 15th, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) on Sunday, June 22nd, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 27th, and the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, on Sunday, June 29th.

In June, we will also celebrate the feast day of several Saints, such as Saint Barnabas, Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Saints John Fisher and Thomas More, the Birth of Saint John the Baptist, and Saint Irenaeus. In different ways, all these Saints inspire us to lead a life of holiness and speak to us to have courage and keep Hope alive. To never give up.

PG 1



As a child, my mum registered every one of us in the family as devotees of the Sacred Heart. During our family prayer, we all turn to face the picture of the Sacred Heart and say this prayer: "Christ is the head of this house, the unseen guest at every meal, the silent listener to every conversation." I would like to introduce this prayer to you. I always draw strength and feel the love, mercy and compassion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus any time I say this prayer.

Let us continue to draw close to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, especially in this month of June, recognising that He is the head of our schools, of our homes and of our families, and in His heart, we find unconditional and ever-giving love that we so desire. The Sacred Heart of Jesus invites us to have a heart-to-heart conversation with Him.

May we continue to find solace and strength in the Most Sacred of Jesus, Amen.

Canon Victor Darlington
Episcopal Vicar for Education

Archbishop's Appeal Grant 2025

The Archbishop's Appeal is a fundraising appeal that takes place across parishes in the Archdiocese of Southwark each year.

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>

Please be aware that the closing date for applications to the Archbishop's Appeal is Tuesday 1st July. Anyone involved with parishes or groups whose activities could benefit from financial support should check out the eligibility criteria as soon as possible.

If you have any queries, please contact priscilaraine@rcaos.org.uk

Financial Benchmarking and Insights Tool

The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 ("the 2025 Regulations") comes into effect on 16 June 2025 and requires governing bodies of maintained schools to publish on their website a link to the specific page on the Financial Benchmarking and Insights Tool, that is dedicated to their school.

At present, Schedule 4 to the School Information (England) Regulations 2008 ("the 2008 Regulations") require there to be a link to the Schools Financial Benchmarking website, which is due to be retired. The purpose of the 2025 Regulations then is to amend the 2008 Regulations, so as to replace "Schools Financial Benchmarking website", with "Financial Benchmarking and Insights Tool".

[Find a school, trust or local authority - Financial Benchmarking and Insights Tool - GOV.UK](#)



DFE Consultation- School Support Staff Negotiating Body

The DfE launched its consultation on proposals for setting up the SSSNB on 11 June 2025. The consultation can be found by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/setting-up-the-school-support-staff-negotiating-body-sssnb>

The consultation closes on 18th July 2025.

The Government intends to give greater recognition to the value and professionalism of the whole school workforce through establishing the SSSNB which is an important part of delivering its Plan to Make Work Pay and Opportunity Mission. The SSSNB will have a remit for pay, terms and conditions, training, and career progression for support staff in all state funded schools in England.

In order to ensure that the SSSNB is set up to reflect the context in schools today, the DfE is consulting on:

- the definition of 'school support staff' for the purposes of SSSNB, this will determine which staff are within the remit of the SSSNB
- whether to include agency workers in the scope of the SSSNB in the future.

They are also gathering evidence on current pay and conditions arrangements for school support staff. It is important that school support staff are encouraged to engage with the consultation. Employers and school leaders are encouraged to respond.

The DfE is hosting two informal Q&A sessions to support engagement, and officials will be available in these sessions to answer questions and provide support in completing the consultation:

Session 1 details: Friday 20 June, 11:00am – 12:00pm.

Use this link to join the meeting: Meeting ID: 397 709 197 375 1 / Passcode: UG7eB6Fq

Dial in by phone: +44 20 3321 5238,,835774153#

Phone conference ID: 835 774 153#

Session 2 details: Thursday 26 June, 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Use this link to join the meeting: Meeting ID: 361 548 782 702 6 / Passcode: mR775Xj9

Dial in by phone: +44 20 3321 5238,,3200061#

Phone conference ID: 320 006 1#

School support staff and leaders are welcome to attend these sessions. Questions can also be sent to School.SUPPORTSTAFF@education.gov.uk.

Photos from the Jubilee Year

Please send photos from activities from the Jubilee Year of Hope to Claire Williams (claire.williams@rcaos.org.uk) at the Education Service. We would like to take time in the Headteacher Conference to celebrate all the wonderful things going on in our schools.



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.

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_7TyF0wlxiV7zJ6m

The survey closes on 4 July 2025.

WorkNest - Upcoming Webinars

HSE's Priorities for 2025/26 | how to prepare and protect your businesses

What can you expect from regulatory inspections and enforcement over the coming year? And, how can you ensure your business is ready?

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has released its updated Local Authority Circular (LAC 67/2), revealing its key priorities for 2025/26. Join WorkNest's free webinar for insight and advice on the 26th June at 2pm.

Register here: <https://worknest.com/training/hses-priorities-for-2025-26-how-to-prepare-and-protect-your-business-partners/?v=ADOSW>

Employment Rights Bill | understanding employers' legal obligations

This practical briefing is suitable for business owners, MDs and senior decision makers within any UK-based organisation, keen to learn more about the upcoming changes to employment laws that define workers' rights.

This is your opportunity to ask WorkNest's legal experts on the 8th July at 2pm any pertinent questions you may have about the changes affecting your business.

Register here: <https://worknest.com/training/employment-rights-bill-understanding-employers-legal-obligations-partners/?v=ADOSW>



Employment Rights Bill | understanding employers' legal obligations

The biggest shake up to UK employment law is coming. Are you ready? With 28 major reforms on the horizon, businesses that fail to prepare could face legal disputes, costly fines, and operational disruptions.

Join WorkNest's in-person free seminars covering everything you need to be aware of as an employer at a location near you.

Find out more: https://worknest.com/regional_events/employment-rights-bill/?v=ADOSW

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

The CCRS is a knowledge-based, internationally recognised qualification that provides participants with an understanding of the teachings of the Catholic faith. It enhances the understanding that education within the Church is a life-long process which leads to greater intimacy with Jesus Christ.

This course presents the basic foundational teachings of the Catholic Church in a manner that is captivating, inspiring, and applicable. The CCRS is designed and intended to support the Archbishop's vision of missionary parishes and schools by cultivating an evangelistic spirit. Participants will be equipped to make an informed and practical contributions to their chosen field of ministry within the Church.

Please visit aec.rcaos.org.uk/ccrs or email ccrs@rcaos.org.uk for further information.

Zen Educate x Southwark Diocese Partnership

Zen Educate are a recruitment platform which works with Catholic partnerships across the country. With the partnership with the Southwark Diocese, we offer exclusive discounted rates as well as no temp to perm fees when taking staff from them.

As well as this we offer training free of charge as well as great opportunities to find staff from across the rest of the UK, Ireland and Australia.

My name is Sam Leggitt, and I have worked with schools and within the Catholic diocese for Zen Educate for the past 15 years.



My upbringing through the Catholic system meant that when I started out in education recruitment I approached my old school first and from that my love of working closely with Catholic schools to make a difference started. I always intend to get to know each school personally and make sure that we understand your ethos so we find the best staff for you.

If you want to know more then please give feel free to email me on sam.leggitt@zeneducate.com



Deputy and Assistant Headteacher Conference - Reframe your Brain

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

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Romans 12:2 (EIV)

This year's Deputy and Assistant Headteacher Conference will be split into two parts. The morning session will begin with Catherine McLoughlin and will give leaders the opportunity to develop greater positivity and resilience in their roles, creating a solution focused attitude to the challenges faced every day. The afternoon session will be led by Dr Nancy Walbank, supporting leaders to develop their understanding of the Religious Education Directory, which is expected to be in place in all schools in September 2026.

Book: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/deputy-and-assistant-headteacher-conference/>

Recruitment

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

Trust Relationship Officer, Education Service
Orpington

Class Teacher, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Primary School

Charlton

Closing date: 19th June 2025

Head of Year (Teacher), St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Closing date: 26th June 2025

Headteacher, St Andrew's Catholic Primary School

London

Closing date: 27th June 2025

School Admissions / Admin Officer, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Closing date: 30th June 2025

Inclusion Support Assistant, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Closing date: 30th June 2025

Teaching Assistant, Good Shepherd Catholic Primary & Nursery School

Croydon

Closing date: 10th July 2025

Pastoral Lead, Good Shepherd Catholic Primary & Nursery School

Croydon

Closing date: 10th July 2025

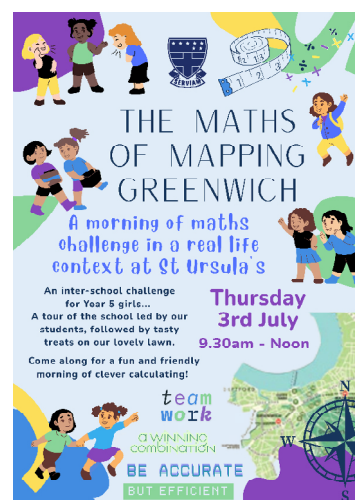
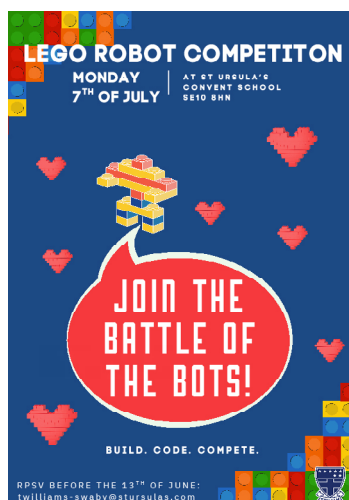


Support for Parents from Catholic Marriage Care

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

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](#)

Foundation Directors of CAT's Training Session:

Catholic Social Teaching

Monday 7th July 2025 5.30-7pm.
Zoom
[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](#)

Autumn 2025

Beginning of Year Mass 2025

Wednesday 24th September 2025. 11am.
St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR
[Book](#)



Save the Date!

Headteachers' Conference 2025 -Ashford International Hotel - 19th and 20th November 2025

News

Service for Feast of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians at Sacred Heart RC Primary School



Sacred Heart RC Primary School in Battersea held a service in the school hall, led by Deacon Michael to crown Mary – for the feast of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians.

[Continue reading.](#)

Pupils at Our Lady and St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School Sound a Fanfare for DfE Director General

John Edwards Director General Regions Team (centre) at DfE and two of his staff that support the schools in the Archdiocese of Southwark visited the recently refurbished Our Lady and St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School in Sydenham. He met the headteacher Matthew Ringham and CEO of St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust. The refurbishment has provided a light and airy building with bespoke music and arts rooms.

[Continue reading.](#)

