

The Maximilian

A monthly newsletter for governors within the Archdiocese of Southwark

September 2025

Reflection

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Welcome back to school, and I trust you have had some form of rest during the summer months. September is such a special and beautiful month. It brings with it numerous liturgical feasts and celebrations for us to reflect and continue to grow in our Faith. Soon, the leaves on the trees will start to change their colours, and the days will begin to get even darker. In the Church's liturgical calendar, we remain in ordinary time. In many ways, September is always a month of profound change.

In our Catholic world, this September, we thanked God for two new Saints, as our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, declared on 7th September that Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Blessed Carlo Acutis are Saints, officially recognising that God has already glorified them in Heaven. Saint Frassati said: "If you have God at the centre of all your actions, then you will reach the goal and Saint Acutis said: "To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan". Both are young men who continue to inspire our world.

As we continue in September, let us take some time to reflect on the major celebrations we have. Firstly, we have three Marian Celebrations: 8th, the Feast of the Birth of the Virgin Mary; 12th, the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary; and 15th September, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. May our Mother Mary continue to pray for us all. Next, on Sunday 14th, we celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross, a special day for us in Education, because we celebrate Education Sunday. It is very fitting that the theme for Education Sunday 2025 is "The Son of Man must be lifted up", taken from St John's Gospel (John 3:13-17). The Bishop's Conference for England and Wales remind us that: "Education Sunday 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. ... [It is always worth remembering that] the Catholic Church was arguably the first provider of schools and universities in England and Wales..."

At the end of the month, on the 29th, we will celebrate the feast of our three Archangels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. On that day, we thank them for their constant intercession for us before the throne of God. Finally, on the 30th, we celebrate Saint Jerome, a doctor of the Church who translated the Bible into Latin. St. Jerome is such an inspiration for this Jubilee Year, as we continue to encourage everyone to reflect on Scripture.

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There is a date I would like you to keep in mind. It is not a feast, but it happens each year, often unnoticed. On Tuesday, 16th September, it will be 100 days until Christmas Day.

Whatever September brings, let us ask the Lord to give us the graces we need. Amen.

Canon Victor Darlington
Episcopal Vicar for Education

Use of AI Notetaking

We have recently had an instance of AI notetaking facilities being used by a delegate at an online meeting, with the result that the AI generated notes of that meeting were taken without consent.

Any devices that are a duplicate of an attendee or not someone who has registered, will be removed. Please make sure your name matches the name used for your booking or send a chat message to the admin on the call.

Please be aware that slides from all sessions, where used, will be sent out after the meeting to all delegates that have attended.

Free Furniture for Your School

Collaborating with the charity, [Business 2 Schools](#), we are able to offer our schools free furniture donated from businesses.

You need to register with Business 2 Schools to be able to either collect from our hub or receive a delivery. [Register here](#).

To view what we have available for collection please [click here](#). This page is updated regularly with our current items.



Courses & Events

Details for our upcoming courses and events for this academic year are available on our website.
<https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/governor-cpd/>

Safeguarding for Governors

Thursday 9th October 2025 5.30-7pm. Zoom

Admissions for Governors

Wednesday 15th October 2025 5.30-7pm. Zoom

Finance for Governors

Tuesday 11th November 2025. 2-3.30pm. Zoom

Succession Planning and Recruiting a Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher

Wednesday 12th November 2025. 4-5.30pm. Zoom

Governors Gatherings

Tuesday 25th November 2025. 5.30-6.30pm. Zoom

Clerks to Governors Forum

The next date for the Clerks to Governors Forums is Wednesday 15th October 2025. Further details can be viewed here: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/clerks-to-governors-forum-topics/>

