

Newsletter



In this Newsletter:

24th September 2025

[Free Webinar](#)
[Admissions](#)
[Postgraduate Certificate](#)
[Leadership Programmes](#)
[SSSNB](#)
[Use of AI Notetaking](#)
[Oscar Romero Award Trust](#)

[Updates to CSI](#)
[Pupil Premium](#)
[New to Catholic Education](#)
[Nursery Capital Works](#)
[Artwork Competition](#)
[Christmas Card Competition](#)
[CSI Update Session](#)

[Free Furniture](#)
[Jubilee Pledge](#)
[Wintershall](#)
[RISE Theatre](#)
[Recruitment](#)
[Events & Training](#)
[News](#)

Reflection

October is a month especially dear to the Catholic heart. Traditionally, it is dedicated to the **Most Holy Rosary**, with the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary celebrated on **October 7**. The Church invites us to deepen our devotion to Mary, who always leads us closer to her Son, Jesus.

As the days grow shorter and the seasons begin to change, October reminds us of the **mystery of time and God's providence**. Just as the leaves fall in preparation for winter, we are called to let go of sin, pride, and attachments that keep us from Christ. Mary, through the Rosary, helps us to meditate on the life of Jesus—the mysteries of His joy, His suffering, and His glory—so that our lives may be conformed more fully to His.

This month also brings the **feast of many saints**, including St. Thérèse of Lisieux (October 1), St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), and St. Teresa of Ávila (October 15). Each of them, in their unique way, reminds us that holiness is possible when we surrender to God's love and trust in His will.

In a world often filled with noise, worry, and distraction, the Rosary becomes a simple yet profound prayer of peace. As Pope St. John Paul II once said, the Rosary is "a prayer of great significance, destined to bring fruits of holiness." Praying it daily can help us find calm, strengthen our families, and intercede for peace in the world.

Reflection Question for October:

How can I make time to pray the Rosary this month, not only as a devotion, but as a way of allowing Mary to lead me more deeply into the heart of Christ?

Prayer:

Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, intercede for us. Help us to meditate on the mysteries of your Son with love and fidelity. May our lives reflect His light, and may we become instruments of peace in the world. Amen.

PG 1





Free webinar — register now!

We welcome all to join the Archdiocese of Southwark's **Commission for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion** for a timely webinar exploring how cultural and ethnic identities can be celebrated within our parishes.


Held in October (the month dedicated to Our Lady) — this webinar offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect, share and entrust our work to Mary's intercession.


What to expect:

- ✓ Reflections on the Archdiocese's ongoing story of inclusion, plus real stories from parishes
- ✓ A lively panel discussion with clergy and parish/chaplaincy reps
- ✓ Practical tools and next steps for your parish/ministry



For more information contact:

 caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk

 07521 425400

Scan the QR code
to register for free!



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Admissions

We know how busy school offices can be and we are grateful for the warm welcome so many of you give to prospective families. **In today's climate of declining rolls, every enquiry really does matter.** First impressions count, and sometimes the smallest gesture - a friendly voice on the phone or a clear answer to a question - can make all the difference when a parent is deciding where to apply. **In London, EVERY child now counts.**

From our experience, schools make a strong impression when:

- **Phones are answered promptly** and messages are returned quickly.
- **Answerphones are checked regularly** to ensure families can leave messages.
- **Staff have the right information to hand** to guide families through the process.
- **Every call is acknowledged**, even briefly - it reassures parents that they've been heard.

These small touches help families feel valued and encourage them to apply.

For those of you new to school admissions or with queries or needing a refresher, there is a briefing on Wednesday 15th October 2025 5.30-7pm. Zoom for HTs, governors and staff managing applications. [Click here for more details.](#)

Potential Postgraduate Certificate in Coaching and Mentoring in a Catholic Context

With Hope University Liverpool, Leeds Trinity University and Newman University, we are exploring the possibility of offering a Post Graduate Certificate in Coaching and Mentoring in a Catholic context for those in leadership, positions in our schools and CMATs.

In order to ascertain whether there is a demand for such a programme we would be very grateful to receive your feedback via the questionnaire which can be accessed [here](#).

[Click here to view details of the forthcoming conference at St Mary's.](#)

Flourishing Leadership Programmes delivered by Avila Partnership

The Avila Partnership is delighted to share details of an exciting opportunity for school leaders to engage in Flourishing Leadership Programmes designed by the National Society of Education.

The programmes will support headteachers and senior leaders in developing sustainable leadership practices that nurture personal wellbeing, enhance team effectiveness, and foster thriving school communities.

Each programme combines practical strategies, reflective practice, and peer learning, with Avila's expertise ensuring a supportive and empowering environment through the facilitation of face-to-face days and coaching.

Courses are available for Headteachers, Emerging Leaders and Leaders of EDIJ. [Read more](#)



School Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSSNB)

The DfE have produced the below documents to provide further information for those who wish to know more about the SSSNB and/or engage in the consultation.

[Briefing](#)

[FAQ](#)

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.

Oscar Romero Award Trust - Important Dates

To be able to receive your award for participator, developer and innovator level of the Oscar Romero Award at the Mass in March 2026 please note the dates below for submission of evidence deadlines. These allow enough time for the assessment to take place.

Participator level 13 February 2026

Developer level 9 January 2026

Innovator level 9 January 2026

Updates to CSI

There have been several updates to the September version of the CSI Handbook. Please ensure that you use the most up to date version of materials for training staff or preparing for CSI. These changes can be found here: [CSI Change Log](#).

The materials can now all be found on the Catholic Education Service website. [Catholic Schools Inspectorate](#).

Training will be across the year for various aspects of CSI. We encourage leads of Religious Education, governors and Senior Leaders to attend training so that the process does not come as any surprise.

Should you have a query, please email csi@rcaos.org.uk



Pupil Premium and Recovery Premium Evaluation

This evaluation report explores how schools and academy trusts:

- plan and use pupil premium
- used recovery premium

It also presents the reported impacts of each of these.

[Evaluation report](#)

This report examines the relationship between attendance and academic achievement for pupils in state-funded mainstream schools during the 2022 to 2023 academic year at the end of:

- Key Stage 2
- Key Stage 4

The study, which builds on previous research from 2016, uses a regression model to account for various factors that could influence attainment, such as prior performance and pupil characteristics.

It uses recent data to look at how similar pupils with different attendance rates perform, isolating the impact of attendance on the likelihood of achieving successful outcomes at each key stage.

[Research report](#)

New to Catholic Education – Induction CPD

Sam Gower (TRO) delivered a supportive and engaging induction session for five new members of staff joining our Catholic schools. The CPD aimed to introduce colleagues to the distinctive mission and ethos of Catholic education, helping them feel confident and equipped as they begin their journey in a Catholic school.

The session was warmly received, with attendees appreciating both the content and delivery:

“I enjoyed this session. It eased my worries about knowing certain ways of Catholic teaching, and presented all information clearly and with teaching in mind. It all felt very supportive, and I can tell everyone is passionate about Catholicism and Catholic teaching.”

“A very helpful course, thank you. The activities were helpful (and just the right amount). Great to learn more and get clarification. Also useful for ideas about next steps in school.”

Many thanks to St Stephen’s for hosting the session and for your warm hospitality. We’re excited to announce that our upcoming New to Catholic Education session at the Education office is now fully booked, with 16 staff members signed up!



Nursery Capital Works

The DfE has announced the launch of phase 2 of the School-based Nurseries programme which will prioritise bids from schools serving some of the most disadvantaged communities. This is a link to the guidance which explains

- the purpose of this grant
- who is eligible to apply
- how to submit an application
- how applications will be assessed and funding awarded

[Guidance](#)

Should any school (VA or SAT) wish to create or make changes to the buildings of their school, there must be a business case put forward to the Diocesan Education Service prior to application to the DfE. Please send the proposal to; ecbuildings@rcaos.org.uk and a member of the Property Team will work with you. If you are a school in a Catholic Academy Trust, the school leaders and the CAT property team will work alongside the Diocesan property team on these plans.

Headteachers' Conference Artwork Competition



Last year we were fortunate to have an original piece of artwork from Jemima Filbee Y11, St Ursula's, as our focal point for our Headteachers' Conference.

This year the conference is influenced by the following quote from Hans Urs von Balthasar **"What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God."**

We are opening up a competition for all artists from Y7- Y13 to provide us with an original work of art, painted, graphic design or alternative media. The piece should be A3 or larger so that it can be displayed on the HTC focal point. An Amazon voucher will be presented to the winner and the original artwork will be turned into a prayer card for the conference delegates.

Original artwork should be delivered or posted to the Education Service's office by Friday 24th October computer-generated images should be sent as either a JPEG or PDF to clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk

Christmas Card Competition

Our Christmas card competition for Nursery - Y6 pupils is now open!

This year's entries will be used to produce next year's cards.



Please email designs as either a JPEG or PDF to clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk by Friday 21st November 2025 Midday.

Themes for the entries can be chosen from:

- **While Shepherds Watched**
- **We three Kings**
- **Go tell it on the mountains**

CSI Update Session – Thursday 18th September at Amigo Hall

Colette, Susan, and Louise were given the privilege of leading the CSI update on Thursday 18th September at the wonderful Amigo Hall. A heartfelt thank you to Canon Michael for generously allowing us to use the space—it was the perfect setting for a productive and inspiring day. Thank you so much to everyone who attended. You were a very engaging audience, and your contributions made the session a great success.

A special thank you to Susan Elderfield (Chaplaincy and Staff Formation Officer) for her insightful input on the 18 parts of the Mass—a thoughtful and enriching session that was well received by all.

And thank you to Colette for delivering the main CSI update and facilitating an excellent practical moderation session, where inspectors had the opportunity to review and discuss student work. It was a fantastic hands-on segment that encouraged real collaboration and reflection. Here's to another year of maintaining—and raising—our standards!

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.



PG 7



Jubilee Pledge

All Catholic schools are invited to make a Jubilee Pledge to live out Catholic Social Teaching.

A better world needs all of us, and the Pledge will be a whole school, long-term commitment to building a fairer world.

Add your school to Cafod's online map to show you have made a Jubilee Pledge, and you will receive a certificate to display as a sign of your commitment to building a better world!

Click here: <https://cafod.org.uk/jubilee-schools/jubilee-pledge/jubilee-pledge-map>

Wintershall

Wintershall have opened up their bookings for their Advent Travelling Crib at Lambeth Palace. Please complete the form and they will confirm your booking via email as soon as possible. Limited availability. Please use this link to book: <https://forms.gle/81dzMrSeDhcZiP926>



The Travelling Crib at Lambeth
10-14 November 2025

Join the characters of the Nativity on the journey to Bethlehem,
at this very special workshop experience in the gardens of Lambeth Palace.
Outdoor Advent themed education workshops suitable for KS1 & KS2

Workshop 1 10:00 - 12:00
Workshop 2 12:30-14:30

To find out more and book your place
schools@wintershall.org.uk

www.wintershall.org.uk Call: 01483 892167

The poster includes four small images: a group of children in winter clothing, a child interacting with a sheep, a person in a blue robe standing in a garden, and a close-up of a donkey's head.





Recruitment

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

Headteacher, St Andrew's Catholic Primary School

London

Closing date: 26th September 2025

Head of Governance and Growth, Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust

Merton

Closing date: 28th September 2025

Headteacher, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

London

Closing date: 30th September 2025

Headteacher, Notre Dame Girls School

London

Closing date: 30th September 2025

Director of Year 8 & 9, St Ursula's Convent School

To advertise any school vacancy with us for free, please email clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk

Greenwich

Closing date: 3rd October 2025

Director of Standards (Secondary), St Oscar Romero Catholic Academy Trust

Closing date: 6th October 2025

Headteacher, Holy Innocent's Catholic Primary School

Bromley

Closing date: 6th October 2025

Director of Standards (Secondary), St Oscar Romero Catholic Academy Trust

Closing date: 6th October 2025



Events & Training

All sessions are available to book on our website: www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/et

Autumn 2025

Effective Support and Challenge for Governors

Wednesday 1st October 2025 4-5.30pm.

Zoom

Diocesan Chaplaincy Day

Tuesday 7th October 2025, 9.30am-3.30pm.

Amigo Hall

Lighting the Path, the new Primary Religious Education Resource – Early Years

Tuesday 7th October 2025. 9-11am.

Multiple venues

Lighting the Path, the new Primary Religious Education Resource – Year One

Tuesday 7th October 2025. 11.30am – 1.30pm.

Multiple venues

Lighting the Path, the new Primary Religious Education Resource – Year Two

Tuesday 7th October 2025. 2-4pm.

Multiple venues

New to Catholic Schools

Thursday 9th October 2025 9.30am-4pm.

Education Service, Orpington.

Safeguarding for Governors

Thursday 9th October 2025 5.30-7pm.

Zoom

Induction for new DHT and AHT

Monday 13th October 2025. 2-4pm

Education Service, Orpington

New to Leading Religious Education in Primary Schools

Tuesday 14th October 2025 9.30am-4pm.

Cowderoy Room, Amigo Hall

Admissions for Governors

Wednesday 15th October 2025 5.30-7pm.

Zoom.

CPD: Music for Liturgy in RC Schools

Thursday 16th October 2025, 4-5pm (Online)

Racial Justice and Inclusion in Education

Tuesday 21st October 2025. 3-5pm.

Zoom

Headteachers Conference 2025

Wednesday 19th at 9am to Thursday 20th

November 2025 at 1.30pm

Ashford International, Simone Weil Avenue,

Ashford, TN24 8UX

Save the Date!

Advent Service - Primary Schools - Tuesday 9th December 2025

Oscar Romero Award Trust Session- Thursday 15th January 2026

Oscar Romero Award Trust Mass - Thursday 26th March 2026



St Margaret Clitherow Primary School Visits The Houses of Parliament.

On Thursday 18th September 2025, the Year 5 class from St Margaret Clitherow Primary, Thamesmead got the opportunity to visit The Houses of Parliament.

They were thrilled to receive a guided tour and find out all about what goes on inside and how things are debated. [Continue reading.](#)



Marvellous Me at St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School and Nursery



At St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, their school mission is to be a school with 'high expectations for all, in the Light of Christ', and this begins in their Early Years!

The Nursery children have settled into Term 1 incredibly well. They have been getting used to the rules and routines and enjoying the calm and creative Nursery environment.

[Continue reading.](#)

Archbishop John Wilson inspires schools to find hope in Jesus

The Archbishop said, "Our hope is because in Jesus, God is with us... so let's be people of real hope who know Jesus is with us."

Please [click here](#) to view the full video.

