

Newsletter



25th February 2026

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Director's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you have had a restful half term and have had a smooth return to school life since Monday. Thank you to everyone who has completed the Education Service Feedback Questionnaire. We have collated the responses and you will see a link to the "You said, We do, We will..." further in the newsletter. We are open to ideas for improvement to the service, please get in touch with your TRO if further ideas come to mind.

The vast majority AGMs of the CATs and SATs have been completed in the last half term, thank you to the Heads and Governor/Director representatives who presented to the Members. We recognise the work that goes into all of our schools and academies. The TROs feedback to our team on the visits they have to schools, these visits are vital in establishing the link between us, for support and challenge in the best of ways. If you have not yet had time to respond to a request for a visit, please contact your TRO to make arrangements.

We have seen an increase in attendance at Governor training which we hope will help them carry out their roles even more successfully. Next Friday, the Education Service team are gathered together to work on the training programme for next year. Our intention is to revitalise the offer, keep what was well attended and redesign or scrap those sessions that were not so useful.

In carrying out their responsibility as Foundation Governors, we want to reach out to as many governors as possible providing training that is relevant and practical. As a result of this, the offer next year will all be linked to the Protocols, in doing so governors with particular responsibilities on the board, will be able to attend relevant to their role and feedback to boards. We hope that this will save their valuable time and make training purposeful for your schools.

PG 1



We will also be looking at the offer for school leaders, chaplains and religious education leaders, how they are packaged and when they are delivered for maximum benefit. Other members of the wider Diocesan team are keen to offer sessions on their areas of expertise, this will develop over time and will enhance the Diocesan offer as a whole to you.

Thank you to those who have responded about the White Paper discussion. We are holding a meeting this Thursday for leaders to share their thoughts. Once collated, we will publish the thoughts of the group.

As we work through these changes, keep us all in your prayers and be assured that you are always remembered in ours.



Colette Doran-Hannon
Diocesan Schools Commissioner

London RISE Education Fortnight

The London RISE Open Education Fortnight is a collaborative pan-London initiative dedicated to showcasing and sharing exemplary educational practices that are making a positive impact on children's learning and development across all age phases.

Please find details below of schools within the Archdiocese of Southwark hosting visits as part of RISE Fortnight.

[St Philomena's High School for Girls - 12th & 19th March](#)

[St Michael's Catholic College - 9th & 16th March](#)

[St Elphege's Junior School - 11th & 12th March](#)

[Ursuline High School - 10th and 17th March](#)

[St Joseph's Catholic Primary School - 9th & 17th March](#)

Details of all schools participating and their visit dates can be found by following this link: [London RISE Education Fortnight](#)

The Big Lent Walk

For Lent, our Susan Elderfield has challenged herself to complete The Big Lent Walk!

Susan would love to join some of our schools on their walk whilst raising money for CAFOD. Please email susanelderfield@rcaos.org.uk with the date of your CAOD Big Lent Walk.

So far, Susan has walked 30km! You can track her progress here [Susan Elderfield's fundraising page is fundraising for CAFOD.](#)



Watch CAFOD's film to find out how the money you could raise on the Big Lent Walk will make a difference to communities in Bangladesh affected by climate change - cafod.org.uk/blwschools

The Easter Project 2026!



Springs Dance Company's much-loved Easter Project workshops bring the narrative to life through movement, imagination and joyful participation.

"The team have been amazing with the children and had every single child engaged and on board... calm, fun and inspiring!" — Deputy Headteacher, Great Horwood Primary School.

Our Easter workshops can be delivered as a one-day experience or a longer project, and can even culminate in a pupil sharing or performance. A perfect way to enrich RE learning this Spring!

- Now booking for Spring–Summer 2026 and beyond
- touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk
- 07775 628 442
- Find out more: springsdancecompany.org.uk/join-in

ATCRE Virtual Conference



ATCRE are holding a Virtual Conference this year that supports both Primary and Secondary RE Leaders.

Highlights will be Holly Marriott on supporting SEND and SEMH learners with the RED & Carol Gregson on Practical AI for the Classroom.

[Click here](#) to download the poster.

Monday 2nd March

Anna Silver - Teaching Authentic Judaism Today

Tuesday 3rd March

Hollie Marriott - Supporting Primary & Secondary SEND and SEMH Learners with the RED

Wednesday 4th March

Dave Legrand - Assessment and the RED

Thursday 5th March

Carol Gregson - Practical AI for the Classroom: CPD for Primary & Secondary

Sign up using the QR code. Sessions begin at 16:30 and last 45 minutes.



Chaplaincy Retreat (Second Diocesan Chaplaincy Day)

Thursday 5th March 2026. 10am-3pm

Walsingham House at Abbotswick

The Youth Ministry team will lead our retreat in a place of prayer and tranquillity and opportunity to look around a setting for residential school retreats, Staff Insets, Conference facilities.

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

Chaplaincy Review

Since September 2025, Susan has been spending time with Chaplains, to review Chaplaincy practice, discuss the unique strengths and challenges they encounter, and ensure that your voice is represented in the wider Diocesan vision.

Participation is crucial in helping to craft a comprehensive understanding of Chaplaincy provision and ultimately, in shaping a future that honours both tradition and innovation within our community. To book a review, please use the following link and provide a summary of the ministry in your school.

[Book time with Susan Elderfield: Chaplaincy Review](#)

Primary RE Leaders Conference Feedback

Thank you to everyone for coming to the RE Leader's conference and to those people who took the time to fill in the evaluation form at the end. There were 36 responses to this.

We asked three questions:

What were the strengths of the day?

What could have been better?

What could we offer in future conferences?

There was some really positive feedback saying there were many strengths and many things to takeaway. There were also some valid points raised about what could have been better and we will ensure we take this on board for future conferences. We will try to use your ideas to inform future training events. **Please follow the [link](#) to view the feedback in more detail.**

Evaluation of the Education Service Feedback

Thank you for taking the time to give feedback about how we can improve how we support schools at the Education Service. We asked for areas we could develop and suggestions about what we could do moving forward. **Please follow the [link](#) to view the feedback in more detail.**



The Ofsted Academy

[The Ofsted Academy](#) has published all inspector training videos about the renewed education inspection framework. You can find them in the schools, further education and skills, and early years sections. [Ofsted Academy - GOV.UK](#)

There is a requirement to register in order to watch the videos. All material is presented in the very format shared with inspectors and so will be useful for schools who are preparing for their next inspection under the new framework.

Expanding our recruitment networks to support schools

We are working hard to expand our recruitment networks to support our schools in attracting excellent teachers.

We would like to thank Jonathan Sims for his support promoting the diocesan website recently at St Mary's University, Twickenham, helping us connect with trainee teachers and graduates interested in Catholic education.

This week we also had diocesan representation at the University of Coleraine, continuing our work to build strong links with prospective teachers.

We are promoting our website and LinkedIn presence with graduates as a central place to explore opportunities within our schools.

If you have any vacancies (class teacher - executive level) in your school / trust, please do send a link to the job advert to [Claire Williams](#) and we will be happy to promote these for FREE on our central recruitment page.

Early Intervention: Knife Crime

'Operation Forgiveness' is an early intervention initiative delivered to both primary and secondary school children by London City Mission in order to prevent and reduce the incidents of knife crime amongst young people.

The programme, free of charge for schools, is designed to engage children by discuss the full reality of the impact of knife crime on families and communities, whilst also exploring the concept of forgiveness. The session is delivered by the family of a 15-year old boy who lost his life to knife crime, and they share their experiences of loss as well as the long-term impact on the wider community. The programme varies upon age range. For primary schools, primarily Years 5 and 6, it is delivered as an all-day, highly interactive session with one class at a time. For secondary schools, primarily Year 7, it is delivered as a more concise one-hour assembly-style session, with less opportunity for in-depth interaction, but the chance to reach an entire year group in one session.

Mark Choonara, Director of Caritas for the Archdiocese of Southwark, recently sat in on an all-day PG 5



session delivered to a Year 6 class, and was deeply impressed with the quality and impact of the session, as well as the emotional maturity of the children in responding to this issue, and can be contacted to discuss this if you are interested in finding out more about the programme.

Further information about the initiative can be found at: <https://www.operationforgiveness.org.uk/>
To arrange for a workshop to be delivered in your school, please contact: markchoonara@rcaos.org.uk

Getting Inspection Ready for 2026 - WorkNest

This free one-hour webinar on **26th February at 2pm** is designed to help employers reduce risk. WorkNest's Health & Safety experts, including a former HSE inspector, will break down what inspectors are really looking for in 2026, where businesses most commonly fall short, and what you can do now to protect your organisation.

You'll leave with a clear understanding of how to embed inspection readiness into daily operations, reduce the likelihood of enforcement action, and demonstrate compliance with confidence all year round.

[Register here](#)

St Ursula's School - Events



St Ursula's School
I AM AN URSULINE : TODAY, TOMORROW, ALWAYS

YEAR 6 VIP GOLDEN TICKET ACTIVITY DAY!

FREE BREAKFAST • LEGO ROBOT COMPETITION • SCIENCE EXPERIMENT • MATHEMATICS TREASURE HUNT • DRAMA GAMES • PRIZES • FREE LUNCH

SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY • 9 AM - 2PM



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

PLEASE NOTE: ALL PARENTS AND CARERS ARE WELCOME TO STAY THROUGHOUT THE DAY, BUT YOU ARE ALSO FREE TO LEAVE THE PREMISES AND RETURN LATER FOR THE AWARDS CELEBRATION.

Year 5 Transition Events

Maths Challenge 30th June

Science Fayre 6th July

Key Stage 2 Literature Quiz 8th July

At: St Ursula's Convent School



Contact Miss Groves on: mgroves@stursulas.com
Book your place by Thursday 21st May at the latest!



Prayer and Reflection Days

New Story Theatre Company offers prayer and reflection days to Catholic primary schools in the diocese. They support pupils' spiritual growth using scripture, storytelling, creative activities, music, liturgical dance and drama. They work with a class of 30 KS2 pupils and their teacher to deliver a spiritually enriching day based on each school's theme and focus.

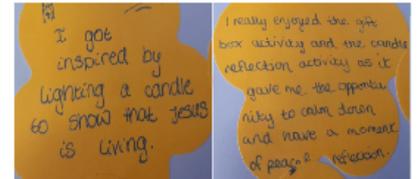
Martin was a primary school teacher in our diocese before starting his own business. He has already led reflection days in two of our schools and received excellent feedback. Fees are negotiable depending on what is being delivered but you would be looking at approximately £200 for the day. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact him directly via martin@newstorytheatrecompany.co.uk

Prayer and Reflection Days for Catholic Primary Schools



We provide opportunities for prayer and reflection to support pupils' spiritual growth using scripture, storytelling, creative activities, music, liturgical dance and drama.

We plan and deliver prayer and reflection days based on school themes and focus.



For further information and pricing, please contact: martin@newstorytheatrecompany.co.uk

Recruitment

To advertise any school [vacancy](#) with us for free, please email clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk

Deputy Headteacher, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Primary School

Charlton

Closing date: 27th February 2026

Headteacher, St Francis Catholic Primary School

Peckham

Closing date: 27th February 2026

Headteacher, St Thomas' Catholic Primary School

Canterbury

Closing date: 2nd March 2026

Headteacher, St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Brentwood)

Hornchurch

Closing date: 6th March 2026

Headteacher, Holy Innocents Catholic Primary School

Orpington

Closing date: 16th March 2026



From the team that brought you God's Planet
RISE Theatre presents...

TREASURE WITHIN
A theatre production on
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING
for primary schools - Summer Term 2026

Treasure Within's immersive theatrical story follows a school child who is set a unique homework assignment - to find 7 treasures (Catholic Social Teaching principles), in 7 different locations, and apply them to their own lives.



Costs & Booking

'Treasure Within' will take the whole school off timetable for the day to immersively explore the theme through live performances, music, workshops & classroom activities.
Email admin@risetheatre.co.uk to reserve your 2026 date today!

Price Per School	
School size under 125 children	- £549
Under 325 children	- £599
Under 450 children	- £649
All other schools	- £699

Discounts available when 3 or more schools book consecutive dates from the same local area or academy

Costs for the day (based on school size)

- £549 – under 125 pupils
 - £599 – under 325 pupils
 - £649 – under 450 pupils
 - £699 – over 450 pupils
- Group discounts available when 3+ schools book together in the same area or academy.

Summer Term 2026 - Bookings now open!

Please email admin@risetheatre.co.uk to reserve a date.

Events & Training

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

Spring 2026

Clerk to Governors Forum

Thursday 26th February 2026. 2-3pm
Zoom

Effective Support and Challenge for Governors

Wednesday 4th March 2026. 5.30-7pm
Zoom

Diocesan Chaplains Retreat

Thursday 5th March 2026. 10am-3pm
Walsingham House at Abbotswick

Racial Justice and Inclusion in Education

Thursday 5th March 2026. 4-5.30pm
Zoom



Catholic Social Teaching – Next steps to Really Live it Out

Tuesday 10th March 2026. 4-5.30pm
Zoom

Directors Training Day

Wednesday 11th March 2026. 1-4pm
Zoom

The Way of Beauty: The Evangelising Power of the Arts in Education and Catechesis

Friday 12th March 2026. 10am-4pm
Amigo Hall, SE1 6HR. £25

Induction for New Foundation Directors, Governors and Clerks

Tuesday 17th March 2026. 5.30-7pm
Zoom

New to Catholic Schools

Tuesday 17th March 2026. 9.30am-4pm
Education Service, Orpington, BR5 2SR

Senior Leaders Briefings

Wednesday 25th March 2026. 8-8.30am
Zoom

Aspiring to Governance

Wednesday 25th March 2026. 5.30pm-6.30pm
Zoom

St Oscar Romero Feast Day Mass

Thursday 26th March 2026. 12.30pm
St George's Cathedral

What Should you Expect from your CEO Reports

Thursday 26th March 2026. 5.30-7pm
Zoom

Save the Date!

Good Shepherd Mass (secondary and Sixth Form Colleges) - 28th April 2026

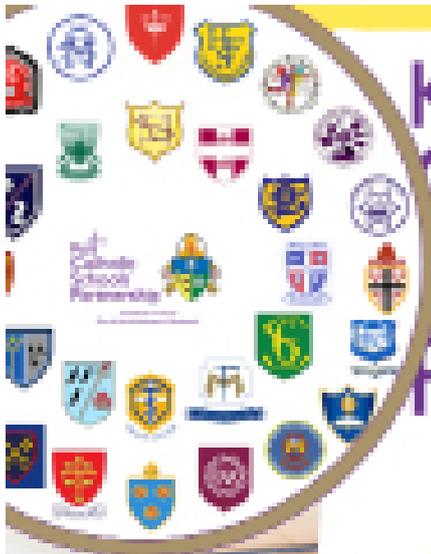
Deputy Headteachers Conference - 19th May 2026

Celebration of Service Mass - 17th June 2026

Beginning of Year Mass - 25th September 2026

Headteachers Conference - 19th & 20th November 2026





Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership



'Academies in Christ'
of the Archdiocese of Southwark



KCSP GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE 2026

JOIN US

17 MARCH 2026: ST SIMON STOCK CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, MAIDSTONE, ME16 0JP

Session 1: CSI Inspections, Catholic Education, and the updated Religious Education Directory (RED) - KCSP

Session 2: CSI Panel discussion with the Chair of the Trust Board

Session 3: Supporting distinctive panels and the legal requirements - HR Connect

25 MARCH 2026: ST ANSELM'S CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, CANTERBURY, CT1 3EN

Session 1: SEND strategy and the changing landscape - KCSP

Session 2: Ofsted Panel discussion with the Chair of the Trust Board

Session 3: The new Ofsted framework and its implications for governance - NGA

Agenda for both events:

Arrival from 16:30

16:50: Opening remarks

17:00: Session 1

18:00: Networking

18:30: Session 2

18:50: Session 3

20:00: Q&A

20:15: Closing remarks

20:30: Finish

BOOKING FEBRUARY CLOSING 2026

