

# The Maximilian

A monthly newsletter for governors within the Archdiocese of Southwark

April 2026

## Reflection

Beloved friends, brothers and sisters in Christ,

I wish you all a very Happy Easter as we continue to share the paschal joy of this holy season.

I pray you had a blessed Easter and Divine Mercy Sundays. We now look forward to 14th May the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, as we await his coming again in glory. After that, we will prepare even more fervently for 24th May, the Solemnity of Pentecost—the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and the Church was born.

As we reach the middle of April, many of you are steadily entering the exam season. Please know that I am praying for you and for your revision. Continue to strive for excellence in your own unique way.

The month of May is dedicated to honouring our Mother Mary; we call this period the May Devotion. On 13th May, we celebrate Our Lady of Fatima, and on 31st May, we celebrate the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on Our Lady's life: from her humble beginnings as the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne, to her betrothal to Joseph, and to her vocation as the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

We recall the great love and devotion she showed her Son throughout his earthly life—from the crib to the cross—and then to his disciples after his Ascension into heaven. Today, in our own time, Our Lady continues to intercede for us in heaven.

In these times, we continue to pray for Peace in the World. Our Holy Father Pope Leo, addressing global instability, emphasises that the “eyes filled with anguish and hope” of those fleeing violence must not be met with coldness or discrimination. Let us renew our commitment to love everyone, and to seek peace in our homes, in our communities and in the world.

May Our Lady Queen of Peace continue to intercede for us. Amen.

**Canon Victor Darlington**

**Archdiocese of Southwark Episcopal Vicar for the Southeast Area; for CARITAS Southwark, Racial & Cultural Inclusion and Justice & Peace, and for Education.**

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## Growing up in the online world: a national consultation

Consultation on further measures to prepare children for the future in an age of rapid technological change.

This includes potential age restrictions on social media and other services such as gaming sites and AI chatbots, restrictions on addictive design features and risky functionalities, and better support for parents and families.

**This consultation closes at 11:59pm on 26 May 2026**

View the consultation [here](#).

## DBS Verification

The Education Service is ensuring that DBS certificates are obtained through the Safeguarding office of the Diocese. Verification checks may be undertaken by either a Verifier in the school or by the Parish Safeguarding Representative. A DBS 3c form must be completed <https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/identity-verifier-dbs-3c-form/>.

**If this form is not completed by the Verifier, the Safeguarding office will be unable to process the application.**

## Length of Service as a Foundation Governor/Director in One School

Please be aware Foundation Governors/Directors can only serve a maximum of **three terms of office i.e. 12 years in one school**.

After 12 years you are welcome to become a Foundation Governor/ Director at any other school in the Diocese.

## Clerk to Governors Forum

Clerks to governors are encouraged to join our forums. These are held once per term and the dates and booking forms are detailed below.

These forums provide an important opportunity to receive key updates directly from the diocesan team, as well as a valuable space for clerks to share information, exchange ideas, and learn from one another's experiences.

The next forum is on **Thursday 18th June 2026**.

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



## 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/>

### **Induction for New Foundation Directors, Governors and Clerks**

Thursday 14th May 2026. 5.30-7pm  
Zoom

### **Finance for Governors**

Tuesday 9th June 2026 5.30-7pm  
Zoom

### **Directors & Governors Retreat**

Saturday 20th June 2026. 9.30am-4pm  
Education Service, BR5 2SR. £20

### **Directors Keeping in Touch (KIT)**

Wednesday 3rd June 2026. 8-8.30am.  
Teams

### **Governors Gathering**

Thursday 11th June 2026 4pm-5pm  
Zoom

### **Safeguarding for Governors**

Tuesday 23rd June 2026. 5.30pm-7pm.  
Zoom

