

Newsletter



10th June 2026

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Reflection

Beloved Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The month of June, standing at the midpoint of the year, offers us a timely opportunity to pause and reflect on the past six months, while looking ahead with hope to the months still to come. As the summer approaches, examinations continue, and many pupils and students prepare for important transitions — whether to secondary school, university, vocational pathways, or skills-based training. Some among us may also be discerning new opportunities and seeking fresh possibilities for growth. I wish you every blessing in all your endeavours.

Liturgically, June is a rich and grace-filled month. We celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Corpus Christi, on Sunday, 7 June; the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, 12 June; and the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, on Sunday, 28 June.

During this month, we also honour the feast days of many saints, including Saint Justin, Saint Barnabas, Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Saints John Fisher and Thomas More, the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, and Saint Irenaeus. In their different ways, these saints inspire us to pursue holiness, to act with courage, and to keep hope alive. Their witness is especially meaningful as we continue to pray for peace in our world and for true compassion to flourish within our schools, parishes, families, and wider communities.

Last month, our Holy Father released his first encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, a document of relevance to Catholic schools in Southwark. It helps us to respond to the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. The encyclical reminds us that technology must always serve the human person, protect truth, promote the common good, and never reduce pupils, staff, or communities to data, performance, or productivity.

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For our Catholic schools in Southwark, whose mission is to form young people spiritually, morally, intellectually, and socially, Magnifica Humanitas offers a powerful foundation for reflection and action. It can help shape our approach to AI policies, classroom practice, safeguarding, digital literacy, and the wider Catholic life of the school.

I warmly encourage you to engage with the document and to consider how its message may guide our shared mission in Catholic education. May the month of June fill us with many blessings and great joy, now and always.

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.

Director's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this latest edition of our newsletter finds you and your school communities well. This summer term is always busy for schools, the transition for year groups moving on and moving up, the farewells and preparation for next year has no doubt already begun. We at the Education Service are also preparing to navigate into the new academic year: planning our CPD for leaders and governors has been Claire's project and we hope that when released, you will hold in your diary the dates for the sessions that you feel will be most relevant to you.

We put the content of courses, at the very least a flavouring onto our learning platform [The Well](#). If you do not have your sign in details, [Claire](#) will happily set up you or anyone else on your team an account. We want The Well to be a repository for you to dip in and out of as you need or have time, so that you are not tied to the times of our training sessions. With forewarning and forward planning we can also provide training for groups of leaders and governors during the working day. So again if there is something we can do to provide you with support let us know and we will do all we can to accommodate.

New year will bring new staff to the Education Service: Charmaine Lee will join us as Trust Relationship Officer full time and Leila Coward has been appointed as CSI Co-Ordinator, with Elizabeth Cahill joining us as the Primary RE Advisor. September will be a busy time for the Service as we settle everyone into their new roles. We remain advertising for one more [TRO post](#) and are hopeful for finding the right person for the role.

The [Primary Heads' Retreat](#) has been planned for the 15th July. While we know this is a busy time, taking a day out for formation, reflection and preparation for the next year, as well as talk with other colleagues can only be a good thing.

We have also prepared a [retreat day for Governors and Directors](#). Please encourage your governors to sign up for this opportunity, led by Fr Valentine Erhahon. I am sure it will be a wonderful day.



On the last SLB, I encouraged the use of a free platform, [Perspective, Angel Solutions](#), a useful tool for those of you expecting an Ofsted visit as it provides information about recent inspections. It also gives a pen portrait of inspectors and will save time on navigating the Ofsted website for similar information.

We continue to make contact and set up familiarisation meetings with the Local Authorities across London, Medway and Kent. Those that we have had have been interesting and useful to date. As Vanessa Ogden settles into her new role as our Regional Director for the DFE, she has set up an introductory webinar. Should you wish to sign up to the event please use the following link: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/7747e625-64f2-4a5d-a5c0-2b57ccec2348@fad277c9-c60a-4da1-b5f3-b3b8b34a82f9>

Traditionally June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, commemorating the boundless love of Jesus. We wish our Sacred Heart schools, Battersea, Camberwell, Merton, and Roehampton all a happy feast month and pray that the Sacred Heart of Jesus is ignited in us all as we go through the last term of the school year.

Colette Doran-Hannon

Diocesan Schools Commissioner

Headteachers' Conference Competition



Last year we were fortunate to have an original piece of artwork from Max Brown, The John Fisher School, as our focal point for our Headteachers' Conference.

This year the conference is theme is "All that I am"

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 focal point at the Headteachers' Conference. An Amazon voucher will be presented to the winner and the original artwork will be turned into a prayer card for the conference delegates.

The artwork will be the focal point for the rest of the year at St Edward's.

Original artwork should be delivered or posted to the Education Service's office by Friday 23rd October. Computer-generated images should be sent as either a JPEG or PDF to clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk



Secondary RE Leaders' Meeting

Tuesday 23rd June 2026. 4-5.30pm. Teams

Our online Secondary RE Leaders' Meeting will focus on:

- RSHE updates (TenTen)
- Esther Zarif from AQA will be attending on any changes
- CES Core RE requirements/updates
- Right to Withdraw
- GCSE and A level Data requirements
- Assessment toolkit for KS3 & 4 has been developed

Please [click here](#) to book.

Diocesan Chaplaincy Day

Tuesday 30th June 2026. 9.30am-4pm
£25. St Therese, The Friars, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BY

We look forward to welcoming you to Aylesford for the third Diocesan Formation day for Chaplains, Chaplaincy Coordinators and those responsible for Catholic Life and Mission.

This day will focus on the importance of What is Charism and Living the Charism. We welcome Rob Peachy from Mary's Meals to update us on the new developments with the charity. Will Desmond, Director of ASCENT will be speaking on 'Maintenance to Mission' for schools and Deacon Liam Lynch will be speaking on Collaborative Ministry as Chaplains.

Please [click here](#) to book.

Southwark Singing Programme - Kent

The Southwark Singing Programme is the diocesan sacred music programme for schools, operating at primary and secondary level. Diocesan choral directors visit schools each week for 30 weeks of the year running whole-class singing sessions and choirs based on liturgical music, building confidence among pupils and broadening the musical offering in school liturgies. This work is subsidised by the diocese and comes at a low cost to schools.



The programme is expanding into Kent and we would welcome enquiries from schools in West Kent and Medway in particular. Please contact the Diocesan Director of Music, Jonathan Schranz, on singing@rcaos.org.uk for further information or to arrange a trial session.



Archbishop's Appeal 2026 Grant Scheme

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 within the geographical boundaries of the Archdiocese of Southwark and led by parishes, schools, diocesan commissions, or other entities working alongside the Archdiocese, which seek to enhance one or more of the key missionary areas: Youth and Evangelisation or Social Outreach.

Closing date: 1st July 2026

Website: <https://rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal-grant>

Application form: <https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal-grant-application/>

Eligibility criteria: <https://rcaos.org.uk/media/xamfcf2r/archbishop-s-appeal-grant-guidelines-and-eligibility.pdf>

Recruitment

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

**Trust Relationship Officer, Education Service
Orpington**

**Full Time Class Teacher, St Anne's Catholic
Primary School**

Vauxhall

Closing date: 12th June 2026

**Class Teacher, St Thomas A Becket RC Primary
School**

Abbey Wood

Closing date: 18th June 2026

**Class Teacher, Margaret Roper Catholic
Primary School**

Purley

Closing date: 19th June 2026

**PPA Teacher (Computing), St Mary's Catholic
Junior School**

Croydon

Closing date: 19th June 2026

**Deputy Headteacher, St Thomas A Becket RC
Primary School**

Abbey Wood

Closing date: 26th June 2026

**Experienced SENDCo, Margaret Roper Catholic
Primary School**

Purley

Closing date: 26th June 2026

**Headteacher, St Anthony's Catholic Primary
School**

Dulwich

Closing date: 30th June 2026

**Premises Manager, St Peter's Catholic Primary
School**

Woolwich

Closing date: 3rd July 2026



Save the Date!

Beginning of Year Mass - 25th September 2026

Headteachers Conference - 19th & 20th November 2026

Events & Training

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

Summer 2026

Governors Gathering

Thursday 11th June 2026 4pm-5pm
Zoom

Role of the Local Governing Body in your Trust

Thursday 11th June 2026. 5.30-7pm
Zoom

ECT Celebration Event

Tuesday 16th June 2026.
Amigo hall, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR

What Does Good Prayer and Liturgy Look Like?

Thursday 18th June 2026. 1-4pm.
Zoom

Clerk to Governors Forum

Thursday 18th June 2026. 2-3pm.
Zoom

Directors & Governors Retreat

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

Secondary RE Leaders Meeting

Tuesday 23rd June 2026. 4-5.30pm.
Teams

Safeguarding for Governors

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

Pupil Celebration Day

Thursday 25th June 2026. 9.30am-4pm
Aylesford Priory, Kent ME20 7BY

Lighting the Path KS2 Year 3

Monday 29th June 2026. 9.30-11.30am
Teams

Lighting the Path KS2 Year 6

Monday 29th June 2026. 12-2pm
Teams

Diocesan Chaplaincy Day

Tuesday 30th June 2026. 9.30am-4pm
£25. The Friars, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BY

Lighting the Path KS2 Year 5

Monday 6th July 2026. 9.30-11.30am
Teams

Lighting the Path KS2 Year 4

Monday 6th July 2026. 12-2pm
Teams

Drop in Session for Parish Priests

Wednesday 8th July 2026. 2-3pm. Teams

Senior Leaders Briefings

Wednesday 15th July 2026. 8am
Teams

Primary Headteacher's Retreat

Wednesday 15th July 2026. 9.30am-3pm. Kairos Centre

Directors Keeping in Touch (KIT)

Thursday 16th July 2026. 8-8.30am. Teams

Governors Gathering

Thursday 16th July 2026 4-5pm. Teams



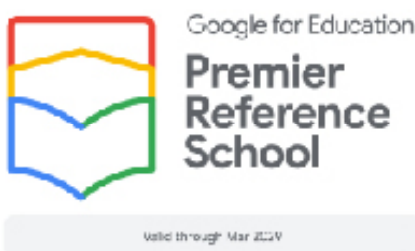
Google Open Day at St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

Teaching with Chromebooks at St Fidelis



Integrating Google in practice

to be held on Thursday 25 June 2026 from 1:30 – 3:00pm
at St Fidelis Catholic Primary School.



The session will be presented by Ben Kennor, Assistant Head Teacher and facilitated by Mark Hannon, Executive Head Teacher at St Fidelis Catholic Primary School.

The afternoon is open to anyone who wishes to find out more about how Chromebooks and the Google Workspace for Education can be implemented into a primary school or to those who want to see how another setting is addressing implementing new technology into school.

1:00 - 1:30pm	Tea and coffee on arrival
1:30 - 2:00pm	Ben will explain what our approach to leading, planning and teaching with Chromebooks looks like at St Fidelis and the reasoning for the approaches we use and the impact of these.
2:00 - 2:45pm	Visitors explore different classes and year groups teaching their lessons using Chromebooks.
2:45 - 3:00pm	Question and answer session with Year 5 & 6 pupils about their experience of using Chromebooks and technology at school.
3:00 - 3:30pm	Question and answer session with the Executive and Assistant Headteacher.

To reserve a place, contact Sam Rushbrook on 01322 337752 or admin@st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk or sign up directly on the School website: St-Fidelis.Bexley.sch.uk



Catholic Education Webinars



Summer 2026 Series of Catholic Education Webinars

Seminar 3: Thursday 11 June | 4pm UK time

Catholic educational mission: To proclaim or protect?

Speaker: Dr Mike Antram

Dr Michael Antram is Trust Secondary Executive Headteacher for Plymouth CAST, and additionally, until recently, the Headteacher of an 11-18 joint-church school. He recently completed his doctoral studies in Catholic Educational leadership at St Mary's University, Twickenham.

Future webinar:

Seminar 4: Thursday 18 June
4pm UK time
Speaker: Dr Margaret Carswell
Australian Catholic University



To attend this online webinar please contact
Mary Mihovilovic at MAEducation@stmarys.ac.uk

26-10-2025



Summer 2026 Series of Catholic Education Webinars

Seminar 4: Thursday 18 June | 4pm UK time

Before you open the Bible... what to feel confident about!

Speaker: Dr Margaret Carswell

The Bible is the sacred text of Christianity. In its word of the human word for a God who takes on human form, the potential for brokenness, of the human person, and the search for a way of being in a world which embraces evil is its fulcrum.

But the Bible is a complex book of books. With God as its constant character, and as the source of fundamental beliefs about His death, heaven and hell, how we need and teach this text matters.

Using principles of Catholic Biblical scholarship, this session will explore the nature of the Bible, identifying 5 'before you begin' features. In the hope that they provide a foundation from which you can begin.

1. Expect teaching the Bible to be an engagement of head and heart.
2. Know about the world the authors write about.
3. Recognise the gap between event and writing.
4. Respect the authors as creators, not archivists, as interpreters not reporters.
5. Remember, at its most basic, the Bible is literal.

Dr Margaret Carswell is a Senior Lecturer in the faculty of Theology and Philosophy at Australian Catholic University. In 2008 she completed her PhD on the placement of scripture in religious education curriculum documents, an article remains the area of her formal research. Margaret has extensive experience in Catholic Schools and the teaching of Religious Education in both the United Kingdom and Australia.

During her time with the Diocese of Westminster from 2009 to 2011 she wrote a series of exemplar units to model a changed view of religious education curricula, in line with the liturgical year. This remains in use today. Margaret was a consultant in the writing of the new Religious Education Directory, 'To Know Your More Closely'. Margaret is passionate about bridging theology and the classroom by promoting improved religious education practices and approaches to teaching scripture. She is well known for developing teacher resources, classroom strategies, and methods that make teaching the Bible engaging for both head and heart.



To attend this online webinar please contact
Mary Mihovilovic at
MAEducation@stmarys.ac.uk

St Ursula's School - Events

Year 5 Transition Events

7 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!



Celebrations at Sacred Heart RC Primary School



Sacred Heart Sacred Heart RC Primary School in Battersea came together with Deacon Michael to celebrate the Feast of Mary Help of Christians.

[Continue reading](#)

Community Mass at St Gregory Catholic Secondary School

Year one pupils from St Augustine's Catholic Primary School in Tunbridge Wells, attended a special Community Mass at St Gregory Catholic Secondary School.

[Continue reading](#)

