

The Maximilian

A monthly newsletter for governors within the Archdiocese of Southwark

July 2026

End of Year Message

Dear Colleagues,

As we reach the end of another academic year, Canon Victor and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication, leadership, and faithful service to the children, families, and communities entrusted to your care.

This year has brought both opportunities and change. Within the Diocesan Education Service, there has been a period of transition, and we would like to thank you for the warm welcome, encouragement, and support that has been shown to us both over the last 6 months of our shared role. The generosity of spirit, professionalism, and commitment to our shared mission that we have encountered across our schools has been a source of great encouragement.

We want to ensure that Christ is placed at the heart of education, ensuring that our schools remain places where young people can flourish academically, spiritually, and personally. This is only possible because of the steadfast leadership demonstrated by you and your colleagues every day.

We wish to recognise the continued commitment of leaders at every level within our school communities—the members of senior leadership teams, middle leaders, governors, directors, trustees, and all those who support and guide our schools. Your collective wisdom, dedication, and generosity of service make an invaluable contribution to the mission of Catholic education.

We extend our particular gratitude to those Headteachers who will be leaving the Archdiocese at the end of this academic year, whether through retirement or to take up new opportunities. Your contribution to Catholic education in Southwark has enriched countless lives. You leave a legacy of service, care, and leadership for which we are deeply grateful. We assure you of our prayers and best wishes for the future. It was wonderful to see some of you at the Celebration of Service Mass alongside governors who have also given collectively, centuries of service.

Farewell goes to: Shireen Razey, Kirsty Everson, Ronnie Maher, Angela Kinslow, Will Liddle, Liz Cahill, Marie Baxter, Liz Harris and Diarmuid Skeeahan. Some other Heads move onto other schools within the diocese and we wish Hester Seager-Fleming and Louise Chabvuka all the very best with the move to their new schools. Others leave their schools to take on roles within the Trusts, Joanne Hawthorne as Director of Primary for St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust, Felicity Corcoran as Director of

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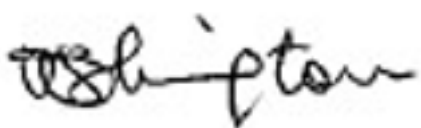
Secondary for St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust, Jonathan Sims as Director of Primary for St Oscar Romero Catholic Academy Trust, Martin Jones and Vince Burke who become Regional Trust Leads for Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust.

And we wish Louise Holden all the very best for her Headship with KCSP. While it has only been 11 months, Louise fitted into the team so very well It felt like she was always here. Louise, you will be missed but we know you will not be a stranger!

As the academic year draws to a close, we hope that the summer months will provide an opportunity for rest, renewal, and time with those closest to you. Thank you for all that you have done this year and for the difference you make every day in the lives of children and young people.

May God bless you, your families, and your school communities throughout the summer break.

With gratitude and every good wish,



Canon Victor Darlington
Episcopal Vicar for Education



Colette Doran-Hannon
Diocesan Schools Commissioner
Archdiocese of Southwark

Thank You

As we come to the end of another academic year, The Education Service would like to express its sincere gratitude to all our Governors and Directors for your dedicated service.

Your commitment to our Catholic schools, and to the mission and values that underpin all that we do, is greatly appreciated. Through your wisdom, generosity of time and prayerful leadership, you help ensure that our schools remain places where faith, learning and community flourish. As Pope Leo XIV recently reflected, Catholic educational communities, when guided by Christ, "do not raise walls but build bridges." Through your governance, commitment and encouragement, you help our schools continue to build those bridges every day — nurturing faith, fostering excellence and creating opportunities for every child to thrive.

Thank you for the care and encouragement you offer to our staff, pupils and families, and for the many hours you give in support of governance. Your contribution plays a vital role in helping our schools provide the very best educational experience while remaining true to our shared Catholic mission. We would not have our Catholic schools and Catholic Academy Trusts without your dedication. As the academic year draws to a close, we pray that you enjoy a restful and blessed summer break, with time to relax, renew and spend with family and friends.

The changing world calls for new commitment to Catholic schools, with digital technology invading almost every aspect of life, Pope Leo wrote, Catholic schools have not lost their importance and may be the best way to ensure that people and their dignity remain.





A Call to Return – Serving Our Catholic Schools



Tuesday 15th September 2026. 6.30pm – 8.30pm
St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School, City Way, Rochester ME1 2FA

Hosted by the Archdiocese of Southwark Education Service

Are you passionate about making a difference in the lives of children and young people?

Whether you are considering a career in teaching, interested in leadership, governance, chaplaincy, support roles, or simply wish to learn more about serving our Catholic schools, this event is for you.

Further details and the booking form can be found by scanning the QR code.



**Education
Service**
ARCHDIOCESE of SOUTHWARK

CPD for 2026-2027

Please [click here](#) to view our CPD booklet for the 2026-2027 academic year.

