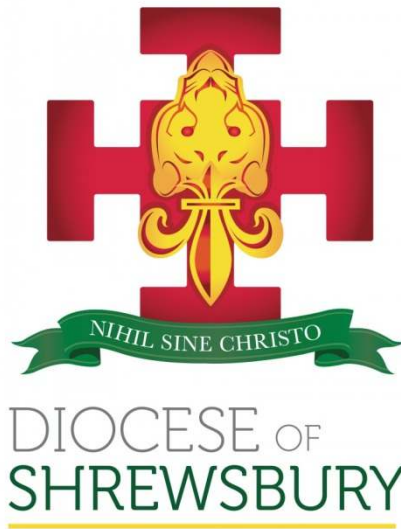




Diocese of Shrewsbury

Department of Education



NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2023 No.2

Dear Colleague

1. INTRODUCTION

I hope that you have all had a restful half term, mindful that Lent has already begun and for many it is a very short term until Easter.

2. CHANGES OF HEADTEACHER

Miss A Freeman has been appointed Headteacher at St Chad's, Runcorn.

Mr C Burns will take up his post as Headteacher at St Nicholas, Hartford from 17th April 2023

We wish them both every success in their new posts.

3. OFSTED

I attended an Ofsted briefing earlier this term and the slides are below for those interested. There do not seem to have been any significant changes.

[Ofsted Presentation](#)

4. EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

I am now able to be able to confirm the members of the Education Advisory Board:

- The Bishop : Bishop Mark Davies
- Diocesan Trustee: Canon Phil Moor
- Clergy representative: Canon Jonathan Brandon
- Director of Education: Canon David Roberts (Episcopal Vicar for Education)
- Director of Schools: Damian Cunningham
- Deputy Director of Schools: Richard Woods
- Diocesan RE Coordinator & CSI Coordinator: Julia Cunningham
- Primary Headteachers: Kevin Platt (Chair of DAPH)
Claire Marrin (DAPH Delegate)
- Secondary Headteacher: Caroline Vile (Chair of DAPH)
- Primary Chair of Governor: Elaine Morrissey (COGs St Wilfrid's, Northwich)
- Secondary Chair of Governors: John Wilbraham (COGs Harrytown CHS, Stockport)

The first meeting of the board will take place on Wednesday 22nd March in Shrewsbury thereafter they will meet half termly. I will ensure that colleagues are aware of the dates of future meetings to enable them to speak with representatives prior to the meeting.

5. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - ITN

I am reissuing the advice sent to schools regarding a Freedom of information request that is being issued by ITN in relation to reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete:

*Further to a recent email received by certain schools in both our and other Diocese. I write to advise schools that they should respond saying **“we do not hold any information that will enable us to answer the questions asked”**.*

The reason for this response is that when responding to an FOI request organisations are only obliged to provide any recorded information that they hold in relation to the questions asked, they are not obliged to create new recorded information.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this matter then please contact me.

Kind regards

Richard Crawford BSc (Hons) MCIOB

Director of Property

6. ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Many thanks to all those schools who have submitted their admissions policies for 2024-25 to the Diocese. To date we have had 42 policies sent to the Diocese and would ask that those schools who have not as yet submitted their policies to the Diocese do so by the 15th March 2023 as detailed below.

For those schools which have been out to consultation, the final policy needs to be formally adopted by the Governing Body by 28th February 2023. The finalised policy for 2024-25 should be sent to the LA and Diocese by 15th March 2023 and published on your school website. If you have not made any changes to your admissions policy this year can you please ensure that the policy for 2024-25 has the correct dates for the closing date, and the date when the waiting list will be closed.

7. RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION, RSE AND HEALTH EDUCATION WITHIN PSHE

A reminder to schools that for the teaching of the statutory element of PSHE, i.e. relationships and health education or relationships, sex and health education, schools must use the schemes as directed by Bishop Mark, namely, Life to the Full, A Journey in Love or Fertile Heart. It is therefore not permissible for schools to use secular published schemes, in part or whole, as these have not been written through the Catholic lens. It is very much the view of the Catholic Education Service that if schools are identifying gaps in the current approved schemes, the Diocese should be made aware of these, so that we can work with the authors to supplement the published scheme.

In addition, we have been made aware that an organisation, *Just Like Us*, has been approaching schools with a view to them using their published resources. Again, schools should not be using these materials as they are not part of the prescribed scheme.

Please also note, the non-statutory elements of PSHE should be delivered through a Catholic lens. This means that resources, including the use of external speakers, should be carefully vetted to ensure that they promote the teachings of the Catholic Church. I refer schools to the checklist

produced by the CES in relation to visiting speakers in schools, which should be completed at the planning stage.

[CES Checklist](#)

8. MANAGING THE MEDIA

A reminder to schools that the Diocese has a Press Officer, who is often contacted directly by the media if they are about to publish a story regarding a Diocesan school. If a school is approached by the press, they should refer them either to the Diocesan Press Officer or the LA Press Officer but **do not issue a direct statement**. If a school is approached by the press in these circumstances, they must contact the Diocese immediately so that we can co-ordinate a response on their behalf. Schools should also remember that there is no such thing as off the record!

Schools should also be careful in using their use of social media platforms, particularly Twitter. When liking posts schools should ensure that the organisation that they are 'liking' does not promote values that are contrary to Church teaching.

9. PROTOCOLS FOR ONLINE GOVERNORS' MEETINGS

It may be timely for governing bodies to revisit the protocols they established in relation to conducting online meetings in particular, governors need to be mindful of confidentiality and being in a room that is not accessed by other people for the duration of the meeting.

10. THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTORY (RED)

We are very pleased to announce that the long-awaited RED – '*To know You more clearly*' - is with us at last. You can download the pdf of the RED [here](#) however, if you wish to purchase a hard copy of the RED you can pre-order it for £19.95 by following this link <https://www.ypdbooks.com/coming-soon/2134-to-know-you-more-clearly.html>

CPDF will be available to accompany the release of the RED - more details to follow soon.

11. UPDATE ON ACADEMISATION

The Diocese continues to progress with its plan for full academisation by 2030 and as part of this term's schools visits headteachers will be asked about their governing bodies **current thinking** on a time line for academisation. This information will be used to look at an implementation plan from September 2023 onwards. Current developments can be summarised as follows:

Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust:

Currently two secondary schools and three primary schools, with a further two primary schools having been given stage 1 consent to join the Trust and discussion are ongoing with a number of other schools.

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Academy (formerly Holy Family of Nazareth Multi Academy Trust)

Currently one Secondary school and four primary schools with Ellesmere Port Catholic High school joining the Trust on the 1st April. As part of the Diocesan plan St Thomas More Crewe and The Catholic High School Chester will join the Trust in the near future with another primary school

having been given stage 1 consent. There are a number of other schools that are currently in discussion with the Trust.

Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Currently two secondary schools and three primary schools with St Augustine's Runcorn joining on 1st April 2023 and a further school having been given stage 1 consent. There are a number of other schools currently in discussions with the Trust.

More information in relation to academies is on the website but if any school would like more information on becoming an academy, then please contact myself or Richard Woods.

12. CPDF PROGRAMME

Many thanks to those schools and colleges who continue to support the CPDF programme offered by the department. The courses in the Spring term are bookable through the Diocesan website by following the link below:

<https://educationshrewsbury.org/formation-development/ed-cpdf-opportunities/book-a-cpdf-course/>

Please register by using your school email address

The following courses are being run this half term:

- 1/3 Governor Briefing on Catholic Schools Inspectorate
- 2/3 SHORE
- 7/3 New Headteacher Induction
- 8/3 Secondary DADAH Catholic Life and Mission
- 9/3 Primary ECTs Year 2, The Mass (virtual)
- 14/3 Christ at the Centre – A Course for Primary Practitioners
- 20/3 **COAST (new date to be confirmed)**
- 21/3 Primary Heads and RE Coordinators Briefing – RED and implementation.
- 22/3 Secondary DADAH - Quality of Education
- 23/3 Secondary RSE Leads
- 27/3 Secondary DADAH Personal Development and Behaviour
- 28/4 School support for inspection under the new Catholic Schools Inspectorate framework
- 04/5 Primary ECTs Year 1, Catholic Life and Mission (virtual)
- 14/6 Primary ECTs Year 2, Catholic Social Teaching (virtual)

13. UPDATES FROM CES

CES Census

Thank you to those schools who have already completed this year's CES census return. On behalf of the CES we would ask those that remain outstanding to arrange for this to be completed and submitted as soon as possible.

We are aware of the problems that schools are experiencing and understand that some may have difficulty in submitting their census file on time. If you have any issues, please let us know so that we can liaise with the CES on your behalf.

14. CES Workplace Policies

As outlined in Headteacher Briefings, it has been an expectation for a number of years that all schools will be using the following CES workplace policies – Disciplinary, Capability, Grievance, Sickness Absence and Appraisal.

School Support Officers will be discussing this matter during their termly visits, asking where schools are in their transition to adopting these policies and any anticipated resolution dates.

15. GOVERNORS

We will be writing to a number of Foundation Governors over the next few months regarding possible re-appointment following the end of their term of office in August. If you are aware of a change of address for any of your Governors, could you please let us know on governance@dioceseofshrewsbury.org for attention of Julie English.

We would be grateful if any schools who have not yet returned their Code of Conduct analysis form or up to date details of their governing body could forward these to governance@dioceseofshrewsbury.org as soon as possible.

We are grateful to all schools who have already provided school email addresses for their governors.

Please make sure that governors are booking courses by using their school email address, not the private one.

We would be also grateful for ongoing update in case of governor resignations so we could have up to date information in our database.

We are reminding that all new Foundation Governor applicants need to contact directly the Diocese, as they are appointed by the Bishop, not by the school. All other governors can be appointed directly by school without Diocese involvement. However, if there are new Other Governor appointments, please let us know so we can update our database. It is important to provide school email address for all new appointed Governors so we can send all the Diocesan information for the governing bodies, including training opportunities.

16. 'GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD' - LITURGICAL PRAYER FOR LENT

This year our liturgical prayer will focus on the journey Jesus made carrying his cross to Calvary, and the people who encountered him on the way. This journey to his crucifixion is a journey he makes in pain and suffering, but out of great love for all humanity. This time of prayer reminds us of God's great love for us, that he sent his only Son to die so that we might live. It is this love we are called to share with others not only during Lent through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, but at all times.

Instead of our usual livestream, it is hoped that a recording of the liturgical prayer will be shared with schools before the end of term, so you have the option of sharing it with staff and/or pupils.

We will of course be asking schools to contribute their gifts and talents in recordings of the various prayers, reflections and hymns planned. However, there is a tight turnaround for recordings in order to share the link with the liturgical prayer in good time for schools to use it.

17. CARITAS

Caritas Shrewsbury – Good Shepherd Appeal

Schools have been sent the following letter about the Good Shepherd Appeal in the post, along with the information available via the link below:

<http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/caritas-resources-for-schools>

Thanks for any ways you can support the appeal and do please let Trish (trish.spencer@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk) know how we can further support you with the appeal.

Dear Head Teachers, RE Coordinators and Chaplains,

As we approach the start of Lent, I would be very grateful if you could give some thought to the Good Shepherd Appeal.

Caritas Family Support Service works with children, families and those in communities who are experiencing difficulties or disadvantage. Through home, school and community visits, they work with clients to identify and address needs. This may result in working in targeted groups, on a one to one basis or in partnership with other agencies to ensure the client gets the best help possible at a time when their self-esteem is very low or non-existent.

To do this Caritas relies on funding, and schools have helped raise some of these funds from our early days and remain one of our most important sources of income especially in our annual Good Shepherd Appeal, enabling us to continue our work helping those in need.

Thank you so much for supporting us in the past, suggestions for fundraising and posters can be found on our website (<https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/get-involved/good-shepherd-collection/>). You may also like to read our Impact Report (<https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/about/impact-reports/>) to give you a better insight into our services.

*Quote from pupil support staff at a primary school, “**Can I just say, Caritas is the best charity I have ever come across, ever? Between you all, the work you have done with our families and the help given us through the crisis fund to support our families is phenomenal! I have never experienced anything like this from anywhere. I really can’t thank you enough!**”*

Thank you for your support.

*Trish Spencer
Deputy CEO*

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes for the coming term.

Damian