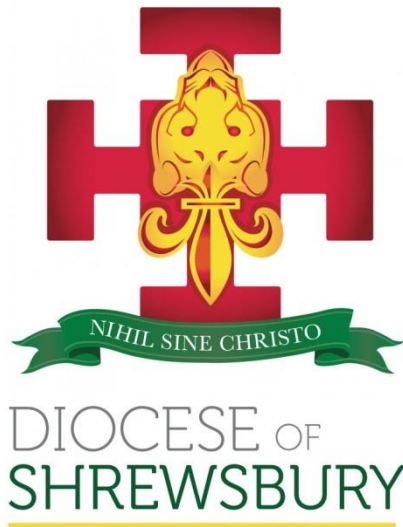


Diocese of Shrewsbury

Department of Education



NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2023 No.2

Dear Colleagues

1. INTRODUCTION

I hope all colleagues have had a restful half term and have managed to have some much-needed time with your families as we faced yet another busy half term. I hope, that as we approach the season of Advent and Christmas, we are able to mark these significant events in the Church's year with a spirit of joy and celebration.

2. CHANGES OF HEADTEACHER

Natalie Gaulton has been appointed the substantive Headteacher at Our Lady of Lourdes Partington.

Marie Grealis has been appointed Acting Headteacher at Sacred Heart Moreton as Margaret Jackson begins a secondment with Wirral LA.

We wish these colleagues success in their new positions.

3. DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY

Richard Crawford, our Diocesan Director of Property, will be retiring at the end of December this year. We offer thanks to Richard for the positive partnership workings with the Education Department alongside individual schools, academies, headteachers and governing boards over the many years of service he has given, and we wish him every success for the future.

4. OFSTED

The department had a recent meeting with Rachel Goodwin HMI, and she was able to provide some useful clarity on the inspection of protected characteristics and RSHE. During the course of the meeting the following was shared:

- Ofsted are there to assess compliance with the statutory guidance and also how children are learning to act appropriately.
- If a school is using a particular language for a particular protected characteristic, then they should share this with inspectors so that inspectors can frame their questions to children appropriately.
- Ofsted will query how schools are supporting everybody, they will not enquire as to how schools are promoting a particular lifestyle.
- Ofsted are not there to query which national events schools choose to promote or not. If schools have chosen not to participate in national events (such as Pride week), then what

can schools evidence to the show other ways that they are supporting this issue. For example, if schools choose not to establish specific LGBTQ+ groups following pupil requests, then what is the school doing instead to support LGBTQ+.

5. CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP FORMATION 2023/24

The Christian Heritage Centre are launching their Christian Leadership Formation programme for 2024, opening applications to students in Lower Sixth / Year 12 from now until the end of January. This is a unique programme in the UK, offering a Catholic and holistic preparation for any student hoping to take their faith into the public square through their future career.

Inspired by the Lord Alton of Liverpool and developed by the Christian Heritage Centre, the programme intends to provide future leaders with the tools to shape a society founded on Christian principles. Three successive residential modules over the course of nine months provide successful applicants with high-quality input, expert tuition, spiritual nourishment and team-building activities in a tightly-knit community experience.

For more information and applications visit www.christianleadershipformation.com

6. CPDF PROGRAMME

Thank you to all schools that have supported our training programmes during last half term, and it appears that a mix of face-to-face session and virtual sessions is working well.

Please find below a full list of training events this half term, booking is via the Diocesan website:

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

- 02/11 Secondary ECT Induction – Catholic Life and Mission (Virtual)
- 03/11 Secondary DADAH – Catholic Life & Mission – Session 1- St James' High School
- 04/11 Governors' Conference – Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College
- 7/11 Secondary RSE Leads – Loreto Grammar
- 9/11 Secondary DADAH-Quality of Education – Session 1- Blessed Thomas Holford
- 9/11 New Headteacher Induction (Virtual)
- 10/11 RE Coordinators' Meeting – St Columba's Parish Hall
- 15/11 ECT Induction Year 2 – The Ways of Knowing (Virtual)
- 16/11 Primary DADAH Launch – Park Royal Hotel
- 17/11 Secondary DADAH - Personal Development and Behaviour Session 1-St Anselm's
- 20/11 Primary Curriculum Working Party- St John Henry Newman Parish
- 20/11 Admission Drop In (Virtual)
- 22/11 Shrewsbury Diocese Chairs & Vice Chairs Forum – Blessed Thomas Holford

- 24/11 Christ at the Centre- Course for Primary Practitioners Module 2- Our Lady Star of the Sea
27/11 COAST Hub meeting: Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Manchester- Aquinas College
29/11 Day of Renewal for Senior Leaders – Park Royal Hotel
29/11 COAST Hub meeting: Cheshire, Shropshire, Telford, Wrekin – St Nicholas High School
1/12 COAST Hub meeting: Warrington, Halton, Wirral – St Mary’s College

7. CSI (Catholic Schools Inspectorate) INSPECTIONS

A reminder that the Inspection Handbook has been updated for this year with some minor changes to add clarification, plus a significant change to the aggregate grade descriptors for overall effectiveness.

To view the latest handbook and accompanying change log, visit our website or the CSI website [CSI Inspection Documents](#).

Compliance with Diocesan directives is a key feature of a school’s overall effectiveness. Please see the following to note compliance expectations for primary and secondary schools.

[Bishop-Directive-Compliance-Checklist-23-24-Secondary](#)

[Bishop-Directive-Compliance-Checklist-23-24-Primary](#).

We continue to offer a termly briefing with Q & A for schools to support them in their preparation for inspection. This should complement a school’s ongoing self-evaluation in the areas of Catholic life and mission, religious education and collective worship. The next support session is on **26th January 9.30-12.00 at Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Ellesmere Port.**

8. GOVERNORS

Governors’ Conference

A reminder to all governors that our Annual Governors’ Conference is taking place this coming Saturday November 4th at Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College. The day will begin with Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark and will be followed with an address from our keynote speaker Sister Gemma Simmonds, with the opportunity to attend a series of workshops in the afternoon following lunch. Any colleagues who have not yet booked their place are asked to do so by 3pm on Thursday 2nd November.

Chairs & Vice Chairs Forum

A reminder that our first Chairs & Vice Chairs forum is taking place this term on 22nd November. Colleagues are invited to attend a termly in person meeting for discussion, collaboration and support which will be hosted at different geographical locations across the Diocese. Booking is available via the Diocesan Website.

<https://educationshrewsbury.org/governance/>

To book, please scroll down to **Governor CPDF 23-24** and click on a date.

Autumn Term	22 nd November 2023 6.30 – 8.00pm	Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College, Urban Road, Altrincham, WA15 8HT
Spring Term	20 th March 2024 6.30 – 8.00pm	St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, Greenbank Lane, Hartford, CW8 1JW
Summer Term	26 th June 2024 6.30 – 8.00pm	St Mary of the Angels Primary School, Rossall Grove, Little Sutton, Ellesmere Port, CH66 1NN

Parents as Foundation Governors

We have had several recent requests for parents to be made foundation governors, and we are mindful that there have been occasions where because of the two statutory parents governor places plus additional foundation governors being parents, the parent body can make up to 50% of the governing body. This is not good practice and DfE guidance recommends that boards should not be made up of no more than one third of any representative group. Therefore, we would advise that in addition to the two elected parent governors there should not be more than two other additional governors that are parents.

9. NORTH WEST CATHOLIC DIOCESES TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

I am very pleased to be able to report that our schools are very well represented on the new leadership courses being organised by the North West Dioceses Training Partnership. Can I ask that Headteachers and Governors on making appointments give serious consideration to providing newly appointed colleagues with appropriate leadership training as when reviewing applications, we are increasingly finding that colleagues have not had access to appropriate leadership training.

10. PLD (Prayer and Liturgy Directory)

The CES are pleased to share with you the text of the Prayer and Liturgy Directory for schools, academies, and colleges 'To love You more dearly'. This has been emailed out to schools, however, if you haven't received a copy of the pdf you can access it here [Prayer and Liturgy Directory](#)

Please do not implement aspects of the directory at this stage as further guidance and CPDF will be offered in due course. Schools have until 2025-26 to be fully compliant with the directory.

11. ADMISSIONS

School Returns

Schools are reminded to complete and return the forms attached at [Primary Admissions](#) and [Secondary Admissions](#) (if you have not already done so) to Maggie on Malgorzata.Kowalska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org. Please note that this information should include **all** children admitted into reception/Year 7, broken down into numbers for each of your over-subscription criteria, not just those over your PAN.

Admissions Policies

Richard Woods wrote to all schools in September reminding them of the requirement to consult on their Admissions Policy every 7 years even if there have been no changes made. Additional advice was also given in response to newly published model policies from the CES.

Full details can be found on the website [here](#) and links to new documentation are included below:

- [Diocesan Guidance on Admissions to Catholic Schools – September 2023](#)
- [Model Diocesan Admissions Policy – Primary Voluntary Aided](#)
- [Model Diocesan Admissions Policy – Primary Academy](#)
- [Model Diocesan Admissions Policy – Secondary Voluntary Aided](#)
- [Model Diocesan Admissions Policy – Secondary Academy](#)

Richard will be holding a drop-in session on reviewing and revising admissions policies on **Monday 20th November from 3.30pm – 4.30pm** for headteachers or other relevant school staff. Please register your interest by following the link below:

[Admissions Drop In](#)

12. ACADEMY STRATEGY DAYS

Thanks to all those who attended the recent academy strategy days. As promised, we have produced general frequently asked questions that are pertinent to all Trusts. Questions relating to individual Trusts will be addressed in the appropriate forums moving forwards.

[Academy-Strategy-Days-FAQs](#)

13. USE OF SCHOOL E-MAILS

All members of school staff and governors are reminded that school e-mail addresses should not be used for personal e-mails.

Finally, I would like to thank all our colleagues working in schools for the tremendous job everyone is doing in these challenging times and reassure you of the Diocese's support and prayers in all that you do for the young people of our Diocese.

Damian