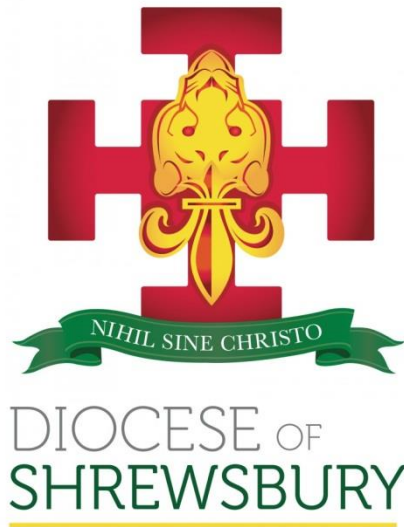


Diocese of Shrewsbury
Department of Education



NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2024 No.1



Dear Colleague

1. INTRODUCTION

On Behalf of Bishop Mark and the Department Team may I wish the staff, governors and families of our Diocesan schools every good wish for 2024.

2. APPOINTMENT AND CHANGES OF HEADTEACHER

Katherine Packham has been appointed as Headteacher of St Thomas More Catholic High School with immediate effect.

We will keep Katherine and all our Headteachers in our prayers as they continue in their vocation as Catholic Leaders.

3. Update on Multi Academy Trusts

The trustees at their meeting in December have asked that the department for education start to look at a timeline for all schools to become an academy. This timeline will go to Trustees in March and then be shared with schools.

Ahead of this timeline quite a number of schools have already taken the position to begin the process of becoming an academy and below is the most up to date picture.

Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust

St Mary's Dukinfield
St Paul's Hyde
Our Lady of Lourdes, Partington
St Aidan's, Wythenshawe
St Peter's Stalybridge

Our Lady Help Of Christians Catholic Academy Trust

St Joseph's Winsford (Converted 1st December 2023)
The Cathedral School, Shrewsbury
St Patrick's Wellington
Ss Peter and Paul Newport
St Luke's Trench
St Benedict's, Handforth

Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust

St Alban's Wallasey
Ss. Peter & Paul Wallasey
Our Lady's Warrington

In addition, The Catholic High School Chester and St Thomas More, Crewe will join Our Lady Help of Christians. Diocesan Officers will continue a dialogue with Headteachers during their termly visits.

4. CPDF FOR THE SPRING TERM

- 16/01 Induction for New Foundation Governors (Virtual)
- 17/01 Induction for New Foundation Governors (Virtual)
- 17/01 Early Career Teacher Primary – Year 1 Religious Education (Virtual)
- 18/01 New Headteachers' Induction at St John Henry Newman Parish, Warrington
- 23/01 Termly Headteacher Briefing (Virtual)
- 25/01 EYFS and the New Model Curriculum in the RED at Holy Angels Parish, Altrincham
- 25/01 COAST Meeting at St Anselm's College, Birkenhead
- 25/01 Termly Headteacher Briefing (Virtual)
- 26/01 Support for CSI at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Ellesmere Port
- 29/01 Christ at the Centre S3 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Ellesmere Port
- 30/01 Governor Briefing (Virtual)
- 31/01 Induction for New RE Coordinators at St John Henry Newman Parish, Warrington
- 31/01 Governor Briefing (Virtual)
- 01/02 Governor Briefing (Virtual)
- 07/03 RE Coordinator Twilight Briefing (Virtual)
- 09/02 Primary Deputy Headteachers & Assistant Headteachers Forum (Virtual) morning session
- 09/02 Primary Deputy Headteachers & Assistant Headteachers Forum (Virtual) afternoon session
- 26/02 Understanding Scripture with Lat Blaylock KS1 Teachers at Our Lady Star of the Sea

- 28/02 Early Career Teacher Primary – Year 2 The Mass (Virtual)
- 04/03 Primary Curriculum Working Party at St John Henry Newman Parish, Warrington
- 05/03 New Headteachers' Induction S4 (Virtual)
- 06/03 Secondary RSE Leads at Cardinal Newman High School
- 11/03 COAST Hub Meeting (Stockport, Tameside, Trafford & Manchester) at St Paul's
- 12/03 SHORE at St Paul's Catholic High School, Wythenshawe
- 12/03 COAST Hub Meeting (Warrington, Halton & Wirral) at St Anselm's College
- 14/03 Understanding Scripture with Lat Blaylock LKS2 Teachers at Our Lady Star of the Sea
- 14/03 COAST Hub Meeting (Cheshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin) at The Catholic High School
- 15/03 Understanding Scripture with Lat Blaylock UKS2 Teachers at Our Lady Star of the Sea
- 15/03 Secondary DADAH Quality of Education at St Nicholas High School
- 18/03 Secondary DADAH Catholic Life and Mission Session at Blessed Thomas Holford
- 20/03 Chairs and Vice Chairs Forum at St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary, Hartford
- 21/03 Christ at the Centre S4 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Ellesmere Port
- 21/03 Secondary DADAH Personal Development and Behaviour S2 at Harrytown High School

5. CHANGES TO CPDF FOR THE SUMMER TERM

Please note, as some of our primary schools are still on their half term holiday at the start of June, the third session for 2nd Year ECTs has been moved to **Thursday 20th June, 3.30-5.00pm**. This online session will explore Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and will be led by CAFOD.

Although the session is aimed at 2nd Year ECTs, any primary colleagues wishing to attend are welcome. Please sign up in the usual way.

6. CCRS

CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies) resumes this month with in person classes in Wythenshawe and an online study option, with two short seminars per module in either Birkenhead or Wythenshawe. Students are welcome to begin the course at the start of any module. Details are available here <https://educationshrewsbury.org/formation-development/ccrs/> or from ccrs@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

The timetable for this term is:

Wythenshawe Class – *Specialist* module: *RE in the Classroom* – Thursday mornings 11, 18 and 25 January

Online course – *Christology – the Person of Jesus Christ* – Thursday evenings, 11 January & 8 February, 5pm-6.15pm in Birkenhead; Saturday mornings, 13 January and 10 February in Wythenshawe.

CCRS comprises eight modules, which must be complete within five years. It has, for over a quarter of a century, enabled those responsible for passing on our Christian Catholic faith to gain a deeper knowledge and fuller understanding of that faith. CCRS is the only nationally recognised award of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. New students are always welcome.

7. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTORY (RED) – Primary compliance date

At the Bishops' Plenary meeting in November, it was agreed that for primary schools the date for compliance would be pushed back a year to 2026-27. This offers schools a further year to strengthen their provision of religious education using the new scheme The Vine and the Branches. Further information will be shared at the **Briefing for RE Coordinators on Wednesday 7th Feb 3.30-4.45pm.**

8. EXPLORING THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTORY (RED) – A DAY FOR GOVERNORS AND HEADTEACHERS

At the Governor Conference in November governors who attended the session on the RED (Religious Education Directory) noted the limited time available to explore such a significant curriculum document and requested the opportunity to revisit it in depth at a later stage. In response to this request, we have organised a day for governors, headteachers, and any members of the clergy who would like to know more about the RED and its impact on Catholic education, to explore it in more depth: **Friday 1st March: 9.30-3.30 at The Park Royal, Warrington.**

To book on this day click [here](#).

9. CSI (CATHOLIC SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE)

A reminder that support sessions on the new national framework for inspections are offered to all schools, particularly those in the inspection window. These are held at Our Lady, Star of the Sea Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port on Friday January 26th, and Friday 26th April at 9.30am. Please book onto these sessions via the website [here](#). Leaders, including RE leads, chaplains and governors are welcome to attend.

The Inspection Handbook and CSED (Catholic Self-evaluation Document) template can be found on the [website](#). Also available are the parental and staff questionnaires. Feedback from pupils on the three areas of inspection can be given using the school's own pupil voice processes and procedures.

Please note, use of the CSED template is not mandatory, however self-evaluation is. The framework expects leaders and governors to undertake regular (annual) monitoring and evaluation of Catholic life and mission, religious education, and prayer and liturgy.

Compliance is a limiting judgement in the new CSI framework. To check you are compliant with the expectations of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and with the directives of Bishop Mark, please click on this [link](#) .

10. DfE NON-STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON GENDER QUESTIONING CHILDREN

On 19th December the DfE published guidance for schools and colleges to support them when making decisions in relation to gender questioning children and young people. This is currently in draft format with schools and colleges being encouraged to share their views on the guidance as to '*whether it will help to support schools and colleges, teachers and leaders to make considered and lawful decisions in relation to children who are questioning their gender and the wider school and college community.*'

You can read the guidance and complete the survey [here](#).

The survey closes on 12th March 2024.

11. ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Thank you to those schools that have already sent through a copy of their 2025-26 Admissions Policy in response to the new model policies issued last term. If you are consulting on changes to your policy, then we will look to consider your amendments and respond before the 31st January 2024 deadline.

All schools are asked to submit a copy of their final Admissions Policy for 2025-26 to the Diocese for our records before **15th March 2024** - please email Admissions@dioceseofshrewsbury.org. A copy should also be on the school's website by this date.

Governors are reminded that the school's Admission Policy should align with Diocesan model policies for schools and academies which can be found on the Education Department website.

12. UPDATES FROM CES

The CES census 2024 will start on 18th January in England and schools are asked to complete and submit their returns during the support period which runs from the start date until Friday 9th February. Schools should have received a letter on the 11th of December 2023, but you can access a copy of both the letter and FAQ sheet by following the [link to the CES Census website](#).

There is a helpdesk telephone number if schools have a problem accessing the online helpdesk: 020 7901 1909. We strongly advise schools to use the online helpdesk as it is more efficient and is monitored outside normal hours during the busiest period.

13. GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

As we start the new term, can I remind schools and academies that although we welcome nominations for Foundation Governors from schools and Governing Bodies. Potential Governors should not assume they have been appointed as a Foundation Governor until they have received notification of their term of office in writing, as it is the Bishop that makes the final decision on this matter. Particular care needs to be taken if you are considering transferring a Governor from a previous status (e.g. Parent to a Foundation Governor). They must be formally appointed to the position of Foundation Governor.

Should any parents serve as a foundation, community or co-opted governor, then we would ask that care is taken to ensure that the total number of parents does not make up more than 1/3 of the total number of current governors serving at the school.

A reminder that all Governors should be using a school email address for all correspondence in relation to their role as a school governor and **not a personal email address**. As a Diocese we are not communicating any governor information to private email addresses and would ask that Heads and COGs ensure that all governors have access to a school email address, and it is only this email address that is used for Governor correspondence.

14. CHAIRS & VICE CHAIRS FORUM

Many thanks to those Chairs and Vice Chairs of Governors who were able to join our first Forum meeting in November at Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College. Feedback was very positive, following an evening of face-to-face discussion, collaboration, and support between colleagues. Our next meeting is scheduled for 20th March at St Wilfrid's Primary School in Hartford and details can be found below with booking available via the Diocesan website.

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

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

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

I wish you and all your staff every blessing for the New Year.

Damian