

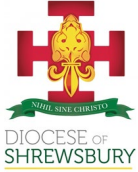
Diocese of Shrewsbury Department of Education



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2024 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

Mike Whiteside has been appointed with immediate effect at St Paul's Catholic High School, Wythenshawe.

Mark Woolley has been appointed at St James's Tameside with effect from September 2024.

We wish them both every success in their new posts.

3. ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Thank you to those schools who have provided a copy of their 2025-26 Admissions Policy to the Diocese. A reminder that 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.

4. 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.

5. PROTOCOLS FOR ONLINE GOVERNORS' MEETINGS

It maybe 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.

6. THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTORY (RED): SEND Guidance

The CES has published guidance for pupils who use the Engagement Model (2020) to access curriculum learning, to support them in accessing the content outlined in the RED model curriculum.

You can find the guidance [here](#)

NB the guidance is not intended for all SEND pupils, only those whose needs preclude them from accessing the national curriculum. This should be a relatively small number of pupils, though many schools may have no pupils whose needs require such adaptation.

7. 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:

[CPDF booking forms links/](#)

Please register by using your school email address

The following courses are being run this half term:

- 04/03 Primary Curriculum Working Party at St John Henry Newman Parish, Warrington
- 05/03 New Headteachers' Induction S4 (Virtual)
- 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 St Columba's Parish, Chester
- 14/03 COAST Hub Meeting (Cheshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin) at The Catholic High School
- 15/03 Understanding Scripture with Lat Blaylock UKS2 Teachers at St Hugh's Parish
- 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 St Paul's High School
- 22/03 Secondary Deputy & Assistant Headteacher Forum, St Nicholas High School
- 22/03 Secondary DADAH Quality of Education at St Nicholas High School

8. LAUNCH OF PRAYER AND LITURGY DIRECTORY

We have arranged for an event to take place at the Warrington Park Royal Hotel on Wednesday 1st May to launch the new Prayer and Liturgy directory which Headteachers, Chairs of Governors, Clergy, RE Leads and Chaplains invited to attend.

We welcome you all to join us on this day to begin our journey of unpacking and exploring the new directory together. We are delighted that we will be joined by Father Peter McGrail, co-author of the directory, to share his insight into its creation and significance for schools.

The day will mark the first opportunity for formation in prayer and liturgy in the Diocese since the publication of the directory, with further formation planned for subsequent CPDF sessions. The cost for the event will be £75 per delegate.

Please note there are now only 30 places remaining.

You can book a place by using the link below:

[Prayer & Liturgy Directory 1st May 2024](#)

9. 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.

10. SCHOOLS INSURANCE

The Trustees decided some time ago that in order to ensure that their assets were protected schools had the option of either insuring through the Risk Pool Arrangements (RPA) for church schools or through commercial insurance via the Catholic Insurance Service. Unfortunately, the option of commercial insurance is no longer available and therefore schools should insure through the RPA for church schools.

11. SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

I have been asked to clarify the Diocesan position in relation to Governors setting term dates, particularly around Easter. It still remains the Diocesan preference that **whenever possible** schools remain in session during Holy Week. However, we recognise that due to the transient nature of the feast, this is not always possible or practical. However, we would ask that Governors ensure there is a significant period of time allocated for families to celebrate the feast of Easter. The other consideration would be for as much local agreement as possible, so that families with children at different Diocesan schools in the same area get time together to celebrate the feast.

12. CARITAS

Good Shepherd Appeal

Schools have received a letter this week from the Bishop about the Good Shepherd Appeal. We would ask our schools to support this cause as much as they can.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes for the coming term.

Damian