



Diocese of Shrewsbury

Department of Education



NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2024 No.1

Dear Colleague

1. INTRODUCTION

I hope you had a happy and blessed Easter and that as families you have had time to find shared rest and relaxation. I hope that the new term will bring rich rewards.

2. CHANGES TO DEPARTMENTAL STAFFING

Colleagues should have received a letter from Fr David, that following a review of the Education Department I am stepping down from my position as Director of Schools at the end of this half term. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the hundreds of people, departmental colleagues, headteachers, school staff and governors that I have had the privilege to work with over the last 10 years. I have always been struck by your commitment, professionalism, and dedication to promoting and supporting Catholic education in our Diocese and the support that many of you have offered me, both professional and personal. I hope to rejoin the departmental team in September in the role of consultant.

The Diocese is now recruiting for my replacement and details of the vacancy can be found at:

[Director of Schools - Application](#)

3. CHANGES TO HEADTEACHER

Mrs S Cubbin has been appointed Headteacher at St Anselm's College Birkenhead from September 2024 and we wish her every success in her new post.

Mrs N Holland has been appointed as Headteacher at St Phillips' Catholic Primary School, Offerton, with immediate effect.

We wish our new headteacher colleagues every success in their new posts.

4. SENIOR APPOINTMENTS IN SCHOOL

A reminder that for all Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher (and Assistant Headteacher if appointing a practising Catholic) posts the Diocese must be involved in the appointment. Schools should also discuss **any temporary or internal appointments at senior level, as well as RE Subject Leaders and Chaplains, with their Diocesan officer**. Schools should also remember when looking at any re-structuring process that there should be a clearly defined 2nd in command post, in the vast majority of cases the Deputy Headteacher, and the person appointed to this post **must** be a practising Catholic to comply with the Bishops' Memorandum.

5. FAITH REFERENCES

Having made a significant number of senior appointments last term it is timely to remind all colleagues of the Diocesan definition of a practising Catholic. When requesting a faith reference the priest is asked to confirm that the candidate attends weekly Sunday Mass and lives their life in

accordance with the teachings of the Church. The priest will be asked to confirm practice for at least twelve months, and this will also apply to those who have recently been received into the Church. Guidance on obtaining a faith reference can be found using the link below:

[Faith References Request Form](#)

[Guidance on obtaining a Faith Reference](#)

6. RSHE: USE OF SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES IN RSHE AND PSHCE

A reminder of the directive from Bishop Mark that RSHE should be taught through the approved schemes, namely Ten Ten's *Life to the Full*, or *Journey in Love*. Any supplementary resources used for RSHE and indeed the wider PSHCE curriculum must be supportive of the teachings and traditions of the Catholic and not, for example, promote a lifestyle that is contrary to Church teachings. The CES proforma '*Checklist for External Speakers*' (you can access the proforma [here](#)) has several bullets for checking an external speaker's content, which can be applied to supplementary resources that are outside of the approved schemes, particularly the expectation that material should:

- Be respectful towards Catholic teachings
- Not be prejudicial or detrimental to the Catholic character of the school

Schools should therefore not be using story books signposted by the No Outsiders scheme that do not support Catholic teaching.

7. RSHE: THE CASS REPORT

Dr Hilary Cass has submitted her final report and recommendations to NHS England in her role as Chair of the Independent Review of gender identity services for children and young people. It is hoped that the DfE's *final* guidance on gender questioning children for schools will be published soon as perhaps the DfE were awaiting the publication of this report before publishing updates to the draft guidance previously shared. You can read the full report here: [Final Report – Cass Review](#)

8. THE RED (Religious Education Directory) ROADMAP FOR PRIMARY

To help clarify the position for primary schools in implementing the new RE scheme, The Vine and the Branches, please see the roadmap, which outlines Bishop Mark's expectation for transition to the model curriculum as presented in the RED. You can find the roadmap [here](#)

9. OFSTED

There have been some minor revisions to the Ofsted handbook details of which can be accessed by following the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-eif/summary-of-changes>

10. CPDF PROGRAMME

It is planned that courses this term will be a blend of virtual and face to face sessions and these are bookable through the Diocesan website by following the link below:

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

25 th April	Exploring RED Twilight session for Headteachers, Governors and Clergy- virtual
26 th April	School Support for CSI
30 th April	Induction for New Foundation Governors- virtual
1 st May	The Prayer and Liturgy Directory- Day for Headteachers, COG, RE Leads & Clergy
1 st May	Year 1 ECTs, Primary Phase: Catholic Life & Mission- virtual
3 rd May	COAST Summer Retreat
7 th May	Headteacher Briefing - virtual
8 th May	Headteacher Briefing - virtual
14 th May	Governors' Briefing - virtual
15 th May	Governors Briefing - virtual
16 th May	New Headteachers' Induction - virtual
16 th May	Governors Briefing - virtual
20 th May	Primary, Deputy and Assistant Headteacher Forum - virtual
22 nd May	EYFS and the New Model Curriculum in the RED Session 2
23 rd May	RE Co-ordinator Twilight Briefing - virtual
10 th June	Support for Implementing and Teaching The Vine and The Branches Y3 Teachers
11 th June	Primary Curriculum Working Party
12 th June	Secondary DADAH Catholic Life and Mission Day of Retreat
13 th June	Support for Implementing and Teaching The Vine and The Branches Y2 Teachers
17 th June	COAST Hub meeting- Stockport, Tameside and Manchester
17 th June	Secondary RSE Lead Meeting
19 th June	Secondary DADAH Quality of Education
19 th June	COAST Hub meeting- Cheshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
19 th June	SHORE Conference
20 th June	New Headteachers Induction at Park Royal Hotel
20 th June	Year 2 ECTs, Primary Phase: Catholic Social Teaching- virtual
21 st June	Support for Implementing and Teaching The Vine and The Branches Y1 Teachers
21 st June	COAST Hub meeting- Warrington, Halton, Wirral
26 th June	Secondary DADAH Personal Development & Behaviour
26 th June	Support for Implementing and Teaching The Vine and The Branches Y4 Teachers
26 th June	Shrewsbury Diocese Chairs & Vice Chairs Forum
28 th June	Understanding Scripture with Margaret Carswell

11. GOVERNOR TRAINING

INDUCTION TRAINING FOR NEW FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

I would like to remind those of you who have recently been appointed to the role of Foundation Governor that it is a requirement of the role to attend a Foundation Governor induction training session. The Summer term induction training session is being held virtually as follows:

30th April Induction for New Foundation Governors- virtual 6pm - 7.30pm

If you are able to attend this session and haven't yet booked a place, could I ask you to click on the link below which will take you to the list of courses on our website. If you then click on the relevant Induction for New Governors link, this will take you to a booking form to complete and submit. Please scroll down the page to see all dates.

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

Although the induction training is targeted at Foundation Governors, other Governors may find it useful and are welcome to attend. We would also encourage those Foundation Governors who have recently been reappointed to the role to attend the training, both as a refresher and to find out about any new developments. If you can attend any of the training sessions, please book a place using the link above. We will then send you a virtual meeting link in advance of the session. Please make sure you are using school email address to book the governor training.

TERMLY GOVERNOR BRIEFINGS

The termly Governor briefings will be held virtually as follows:

14 th May	Governors' Briefing – virtual	6pm – 7.30pm
15 th May	Governors Briefing – virtual	2pm - 3.30pm
16 th May	Governors Briefing – virtual	6pm – 7.30pm

We ask that each governing body sends at least one representative to the briefing and that there is a standing item on each governing body's termly full board meeting, where feedback is given from the previous briefing and a representative nominated to attend the next briefing.

CES GOVERNOR TRAINING – FORMATION

This free online training resource for all governors of your Catholic school, designed by the Catholic Education Service, is now available. The governance training is for all those involved in governance in schools and academies of all abilities and experience. This includes governors, local governors, and directors of Catholic Multi Academy Trust Companies. You can access the training at:

<https://www.formatio.org.uk/e-learning>

The training consists of five modules to support you in your role as governor of a Catholic school:

- An introduction to Catholic Education
- The environment of a Catholic school
- Strategic Leadership
- Accountability
- Financial Performance

12. CHAIRS & VICE CHAIRS FORUM

Many thanks to those Chairs and Vice Chairs of Governors who were able to join our second meeting at St Wilfrid's before the Easter break for another engaging and beneficial time of face-to-discussion, collaboration, and support between colleagues. Our next meeting is scheduled for 26th June at St Mary of the Angels Primary School in Little Sutton 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.

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
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13. FOUNDATION GOVERNOR RE-APPOINTMENTS

Foundation Governors whose terms of office expire this August will be receiving communication via email, within the next fortnight asking them if they wish to continue. The process this year has been streamlined because of discussions at Chairs and Vice Chairs forum level. Governors will now only be asked to complete one form when applying to renew their term. Further details on this year's renewal process will be sent in a separate communication.

14. CPDF 2024-25

As we start to prepare the CPDF programme for the new academic year, we would like to offer an invitation to Headteachers to attend a short review meeting of this year's offer as well as looking to support needs schools may have moving forwards. This will be an online meeting on Thursday the 24th of April 2024 at 10.30am.

Please email Julie English at julie.english@dioceseofshrewsbury.org if you would like to attend and a link for the meeting will be sent to you.

15. DATES FOR THE DIARY

A reminder that our **Mass of Thanksgiving** for this academic year takes place at **All Saints', Sale**, on **Wednesday 17th July at 4.30pm**. All colleagues are invited to join us as we thank God for all that this year has given us.

Our **Mass of Thanksgiving for Secondary Schools** takes place at **St Columba's, Chester**, on **Friday 5th July**. Detailed information will be sent to our secondary schools in due course.

16. SCHOOLS' NEWS

We would very much like to promote the positive work that schools do and do have a page on our website dedicated to this. If schools have news stories and pictures, if they forward the details to Maggie Kowalska on Malgorzata.Kowalska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org we can put them on our website.

Best wishes for the coming term.

Damian