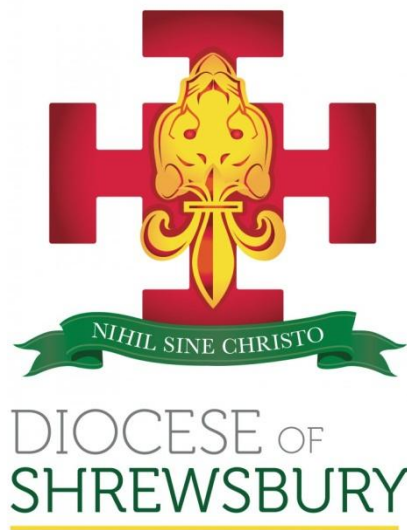
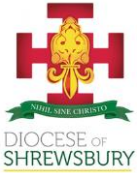


**Diocese of Shrewsbury**  
**Department of Education**



**NEWSLETTER**

**Summer Term 2025 No.2**



## DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2025 No 2

### Contents

1. Habemus Papam - Pope Leo XIV	4
2. Appointment and changes of Headteacher	6
3. Pilgrims of Hope - The Year of Jubilee	6
4. Annual Mass of Thanksgiving	6
5. To Love You More Dearly: Prayer and Liturgy Directory Update	7
6. Diocesan Education Department Feedback	7
7. Renewal of Governors' Terms of Office	8
8. Schools Joining Parish Live Streamed Masses	8
9. DfE – Updated Statutory Careers Guidance	9
10. Ofsted Summer Briefing	9
11. Masses for the Start of the 2025-26 Academic Year	10
12. CPDF Provision 2025-26	10
13. Chairs and Vice Chairs Forum	10
14. Governor Training Dates 2025-26	10
15. North West Dioceses Courses	11
16. Senior and Reserved Posts	12
17. St Ambrose & St Anselm's College Update	13
18. Key Dates for the term ahead	13



*Leo PP. XIV*

## 1. HABEMUS PAPEM – POPE LEO XIV

Dear Colleagues

Since the last newsletter shared with schools shortly after the Easter break, we have been blessed with the news that the 267<sup>th</sup> Pontiff to shepherd our Church is Pope Leo XIV- his official portrait picture can be downloaded [here](#).

Bishop Mark shared a pastoral letter that was read at all Masses over the weekend of Sunday 11 May, and reminded us of the spontaneous “outburst of joy” that greeted the announcement that a Pope had been chosen by the conclave of cardinals on Thursday 8 May.

In his letter, Bishop Mark explained that it was significant that such joy was felt even before the identity of Cardinal Robert Prevost, a Chicago-born Augustinian, was known and before he emerged on to a balcony of St Peter’s Basilica as Leo XIV and the first American Pope. Bishop Mark said:

“It was the announcement that we had a Pope that was the source of this joy. The man chosen was still unseen, and undoubtedly conscious as never before, of his human weakness and the immense weight of the mission suddenly entrusted to him as the 266<sup>th</sup> Successor of the Apostle Peter. The new Pope would first lead us in prayer by greeting the Holy Mother of God and asking her to pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. This struck me as a beautiful expression of our Catholic faith in the office of the Pope, whoever the man happens to be, and in the mission entrusted by Christ to Peter and his successors until the end of time. It is in this faith that we welcome Pope Leo XIV. For it was Christ who made Peter the rock of His Church, gave him the keys of the Kingdom, called him to strengthen His brethren and to feed the sheep and lambs of His flock, as a witness to His love.

It seemed significant that before we caught sight of our new Pope, we saw first the Cross of Christ carried onto the balcony of Saint Peter’s. For the Pope always stands before the world as a witness to Christ and to the victory of His Cross. In his first words and greeting ‘Peace be with you all’, Pope Leo consciously echoed the words of the Risen Jesus and reminded us ‘We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs His light’ for in His love we find the assurance that evil will not prevail.”

Catholics are bonded by love and loyalty to Pope because “the place of the Pope in the family of the Church is always seen in the light of faith, whoever the man happens to be, for he has taken the place of Peter for us. We pray for the Pope with a loyalty and affection which transcends all human ‘likes’ or ‘dislikes’. We might even pray, as one faithful soul did, that the Pope gets a good night’s rest, conscious of the burden he

bears. It is with such faith, loyalty and human affection that we welcome Pope Leo XIV, our 13th Holy Father since his predecessor Pope Pius IX founded the Shrewsbury Diocese in 1851.”

Bishop Mark encourages us all to continue to pray for Pope Leo and to also pray for new and generous vocations to the priesthood which, he said, “are a source of joy for the whole Church”.

The Education Department wishes you every blessing in these final weeks of the academic year and a restful summer break when it arrives.

Richard

## 2. APPOINTMENT & CHANGES OF HEADTEACHER

For information	✓
For action	

The following Headteachers will be leaving the service of the Diocese at the end of the summer term 2025:

Linda Davison – Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Sale  
Danny Pearson – Aquinas Catholic Sixth Form, Stockport  
Margaret Jackson – Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Moreton  
Lorraine Connolly – The Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, Runcorn  
Nikki O’Dwyer – Our Lady & St Oswald’s Catholic Primary School, Oswestry  
Teresa Cooke – St Alban’s Catholic Primary School, Macclesfield  
Nora Armstrong-Boyle – St Paul’s Catholic Primary School, Poynton  
Clare Higgins – Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, Bidston

We thank them for their service to Catholic education in the Diocese and wish them health and happiness in all their future endeavours. We continue to remember all our Diocesan Headteachers in our prayers and thank God for their continued service and commitment to our Diocese.

## 3. PILGRIMS OF HOPE - THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

For information	
For action	✓



Thank you to colleagues across the Diocese for the positive response and engagement with the visitation of the Jubilee Icons, the quilted Banner of Hope and the Creative Competition for schools. Full details for each of these Diocesan initiatives to support the Year of Jubilee can be accessed via the home page of [Education Department website](#).

## 4. ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING

For information	
For action	✓

A reminder that our **Annual Mass of Thanksgiving** for this academic year takes place at **St John Henry Newman Catholic Church Warrington** on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 4.30pm**. All colleagues are invited to join us as we thank God for all that this year has given us. Please complete the following form if you are able to join us:

[Annual Mass of Thanksgiving Booking Form](#)

## 5. 'TO LOVE YOU MORE DEARLY': PRAYER AND LITURGY DIRECTORY UPDATE

For information	✓
For action	✓

A reminder that our final CPDF session will take place before the end of the summer term as detailed below.

01/07/2025	1pm-4pm	<b>Prayer and Liturgy Directory 6 - Formation, progression and ministry</b>	An opportunity to explore engagement and participation in prayer and liturgy in school, including a focus on ministry. How can we form our school communities in their participation of prayer and liturgy? What does progression look like?	Loreto Education Centre, WA14 4GZ
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**NB:** For the in-person afternoons, lunch will be provided free of charge from 12.30pm. To book on to the sessions please follow this link [Book CPDF](#)

## 6. DIOCESAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FEEDBACK

For information	✓
For action	

Thank you to those colleagues who were able to complete the Diocesan Questionnaire last half term to inform our future planning. The responses highlighted some key areas where people felt well supported and also suggested some other areas for future consideration.

Many positive comments were received in support of the Diocesan CPDF offer for CSI, the Prayer & Liturgy Directory and Religious Education. Support for Governors, Chaplains, reserved post appointments and staff formation was also well appreciated.

Moving forward it is clear that updated PSHE guidance would be beneficial to schools, along with updated guidance on school building works and timescales, and also continued discussions with LAs and Ofsted regarding SENd support.

We will include areas for future consideration into our Department Development Plan and look to respond to individual school queries through the termly Diocesan Officer visits to schools.

## 7. RENEWAL OF GOVERNORS' TERM OF OFFICE

For information	✓
For action	✓

A reminder that the letter of appointment from Bishop Mark which confirms foundation governor status is now only issued once the Diocese is in receipt of relevant DBS numbers and dates of issue. Schools should ensure that all Governors have a current DBS, and we would recommend that the DBS is renewed **every 4 years**.

There are still a number of outstanding returns from schools and individual governors, and we would ask that these are progressed as a matter of urgency to allow the Education Team time to renew terms and issue certificates and letters, prior to the summer break. Thank you to all Heads, Chairs and governors that have responded so far.

Please send governance related emails to [governance@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:governance@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

## 8. SCHOOLS JOINING LIVE-STREAMED PARISH MASSES

For information	
For action	✓

We are aware that a number of schools are able to join their local parish Mass at times during the year and that the Parish provides live-streaming of these Masses. The Diocesan Data Protection Officer has provided the following information for schools who participate in Parish live-streamed Masses:

*Explicit, informed consent should be documented. We should ensure that for any children who are part of the service, their parents have signed consent forms beforehand. This could be collated by schools. If any parents do not consent, their children must not be placed within the camera curtilage. If any children for whom we do not have signed consent forms are accidentally filmed, we should blur their faces in any shared videos/images.*

The Diocese has provided a Parental Consent Form for schools to use and also a Live Stream Privacy Notice to be displayed in Church. Schools may wish to replicate the questions from the Consent Form within their own school-based forms. Copies of these documents are available on the [Education Department website](#).

## 9. DFE – UPDATED STATUTORY CAREERS GUIDANCE

For information	
For action	✓

On 8<sup>th</sup> May the DfE updated its statutory [careers guidance](#). It's important that schools and colleges adhere to the new guidance. It includes slight changes to the [Gatsby Benchmarks](#), which will come into force from September 2025. It also recommends that all schools and colleges work towards the [national Quality in Careers Standard](#) to support the development of their careers programme.

Whoever is responsible for careers information, advice and guidance in your school or college should read and act on both this updated guidance and the updated Gatsby Benchmarks. The key changes are:

- An overview of the changes to the Gatsby Benchmarks.
- Information on the amendments to the descriptive and measurable elements of the eight benchmarks.
- The DfE's expectations of what schools and colleges should do to meet the updated benchmarks.
- Preparing for the future introduction of a guarantee of two weeks' worth of work experience for every young person.

## 10. OFSTED SUMMER BRIEFING

For information	
For action	✓

Colleagues are also reminded that Rachel Goodwin HMI, will deliver a virtual briefing to Headteachers in the summer term which will enable her to provide further details on the new inspection framework going forward and respond to the questions and views you have shared.

The briefing will take place virtually on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 from 9.30am to 11am.** To book your place at this briefing please follow the [link here](#).

## 11. MASSES FOR THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

For information	
For action	✓

We are planning to hold 3 Masses to mark the start of the 2025-26 academic year on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September at differing locations across the Diocese.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September                      St Joseph's Catholic Church, Upton, Wirral

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September

St Hugh's Timperley Catholic Church, Timperley

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September

St Alban's Catholic Church, Macclesfield

All Masses will begin at 4.30pm and full details including car parking arrangements will be circulated to all schools at the start of the Autumn Term.

## 12. CPDF PROVISION 2025-2026

For information	
For action	✓

We have now finalised our CPDF calendar for next academic year and details of courses and dates can be accessed via the [Education Department website](#). Booking forms will be available before the end of the summer term and we will email schools to inform you when the booking forms are accessible.

## 13. CHAIRS & VICE CHAIRS FORUM

For information	✓
For action	

Details of our final meeting are given below and as always, booking is available via the [Diocesan Website](#).

Summer Term	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 6.30 – 8.00pm	St Peter's Catholic Primary School, St Peter's Way, Noctorum, Prenton, Wirral. CH43 9QR
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## 14. GOVERNOR TRAINING DATES 2024/2025

For information	
For action	✓

The programme of governor training for 2025-26 can be found below and will be delivered virtually unless specified. Following feedback this year we have introduced a new session for newly appointed Chairs of Governors which will take place prior to the Spring Term Chairs and Vice Chairs Forum meeting.

### **Governor Conference**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November at Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College (*face to face*)

### **New Governor Induction Training:**

#### Autumn Term 2025

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 11 am – 12.30pm / 6pm – 7.30 pm

#### Spring Term 2025

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2pm – 3.30 pm / 6 – 7.30 pm

#### Summer Term 2025

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 6pm – 7.30pm

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2pm – 3.30pm

### **Future Governor Briefings:**

#### Autumn Term 2025

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 6pm – 7pm

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 6 pm– 7pm

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2pm– 3pm

#### Spring Term 2026

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 6pm – 7pm

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2pm– 3pm / 6pm – 7pm

#### Summer Term 2026

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 6pm – 7pm

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2pm – 3pm

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 6pm – 7pm

### **Chairs and Vice Chair Forum:**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 6.30pm-8pm (*face to face*)

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm-8pm (*face to face*)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 6.30pm-8pm (*face to face*)

### **Newly Appointed Chairs of Governors**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 5pm – 6pm (*face to face*)

## **15. NORTH WEST DIOCESES COURSES**

For information	✓
For action	✓

The North West Catholic Training Partnership will continue to offer bespoke leadership programmes at three levels, middle leader, senior leader and new headteacher. These have proved to be very successful, especially the senior leadership programme that has

to date always been oversubscribed. I would ask you continue to give serious consideration to supporting all of these courses as we know how important succession planning is for the future of our Catholic schools. We are seeing the number and quality of applications for senior posts increase with many candidates having completed one of these leadership programmes or aspiring to do so. Details of the programmes for the are available at : [www.nwcdtp.org.uk](http://www.nwcdtp.org.uk) and the 2025-26 dates are provide below:

**Catholic Headteacher Programme**

Day 1: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Day 2: Residential - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (from 4pm) and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (all day)

Day 3: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

**Catholic Senior Leadership Programme**

Day 1: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Day 2: Residential - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (from 4pm) and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (all day)

Day 3: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Catholic Middle Leadership Programme**

Day 1: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Day 2: Residential - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (from 4pm) and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (all day)

Day 3: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Locations**

All training takes place at:

The Wrightington Hotel, Health Club & Spa

Moss Lane

Wrightington

Wigan

WN6 9PB

Tel: 01257 425803

**Cost: TBC (anticipated £800)**

## 16. SENIOR AND RESERVED POST APPOINTMENTS

For information	
For action	✓

A reminder once again that the Diocesan Department of Education **MUST** be involved in Headship, Deputy Headship, Heads of RE and Chaplain appointments. In addition, if schools and academies are seeking to appoint to posts that have a responsibility for Catholic ethos, then again, the Diocese must be involved.

The updated 2024 *Bishops' Memorandum on the Appointment of Teachers* also extends Diocesan involvement to all **temporary** positions, including Executive Headships and Heads of School. If schools are making **temporary leadership arrangements**, they must also have these approved by the relevant Diocesan officer and have gone through an approved recruitment process.

**If schools are wishing to extend any temporary arrangements beyond existing timescales agreed with the Diocese, then please contact us at the earliest opportunity.**

**Please ensure that the Diocese is contacted prior to any recruitment process commencing.**

**The following documents are available on our website:**

- [The Bishops' Memorandum on the appointment of staff In Catholic schools \(2024\)](#)
- [Appointing a new Headteacher – Guidance for Governors & Directors](#)
- [Appointing a new Deputy Headteacher - Guidance for Headteachers & Governors](#)
- [Appointing a new Head of Religious Education - Guidance for Headteachers & Governors](#)

## **17. ST AMBROSE & ST ANSELM'S COLLEGE UPDATE**

St Ambrose College, Altrincham, and St Anselm's College, Birkenhead have formally joined the Laetare Catholic Multi-Academy Trust as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025. The Laetare Catholic Multi Academy Trust serves schools founded by Religious Orders across England and has welcomed both schools into its growing family faithful to the unique charism of their founding Religious Order, the Christian Brothers.

## **18. KEY DATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM**

For information	✓
For action	

Our **Secondary Schools Mass** will take place at **St Columba's, Chester**, on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**. Detailed information will be sent to our secondary schools via DASH in due course.

10/06/2025	9.30am-12pm	<b>Secondary Deputy &amp; Assistant Headteacher Forum Catholic Life and Mission</b>	Harrytown Catholic High School, Harrytown Lane, Romiley, SK6 3BU
11/06/2025	1pm-3.30pm	<b>Secondary RSE Lead Meeting</b>	St Ambrose College, Wicker Lane, Hale Barns, WA15 0HE
12/06/2025	9.30am-3.30pm	<b>EYFS Day for EYFS Leads and Teachers</b>	St Columba's Parish Hall, Plas Newton Lane Chester, CH2 1PL
16/06/2025	9.30am-3.30pm	<b>Primary Curriculum Working Party</b>	St John Henry Newman Parish Centre, Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1JE
17/06/2026	9.30am-11am	<b>Ofsted Update Briefing for Headteachers</b>	Virtual
17/06/2025	1.30pm-3pm	<b>COAST HUB 1 (Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Manchester)</b>	Aquinas College, Stockport, Nangreave Road, SK2 6TH
18/06/2025	9.30am-3.30pm	<b>New Headteachers' Induction Programme</b>	The Park Royal Hotel, Stretton Road, Warrington, WA4 4NS
19/06/2025	1.30pm-3pm	<b>COAST HUB 3 (Warrington, Halton, Wirral)</b>	Cardinal Newman Catholic High School, Bridgewater Avenue Latchford, WA4 1RX
19/06/2025	9.30am-3.30pm	<b>SHORE Meeting</b>	The Catholic High School, Old Wrexham Road, Chester, CH4 7HS
20/06/2025	1.30pm-3pm	<b>COAST HUB 2 (Cheshire, Shropshire, Telford &amp; Wrekin)</b>	The Catholic High School, Old Wrexham Road, Chester, CH4 7HS
25/06/2025	9.30am-12pm	<b>Secondary Deputy &amp; Assistant Headteacher Forum Quality of Education</b>	All Hallows Catholic College, Brooklands Avenue, Macclesfield, SK11 8LB
26/06/2025	9.30am-12pm	<b>Secondary Deputy &amp; Assistant Headteacher Forum Personal Development, Behaviour &amp; Attitudes</b>	St Anselm's College, Manor Hill, Birkenhead, CH43 1UQ
26/06/2025	6.30pm-8pm	<b>Chairs and Vice Chairs Forum*</b>	St Peter's Catholic Primary School, St Peter's Way, Noctorum, Prenton, CH43 9QR
01/07/2025	1pm-4pm	<b>Prayer and Liturgy Directory 6 - Formation, progression and ministry*</b>	Loreto Education Centre, Dunham Rd, Altrincham, WA14 4GZ

02/07/2025	9.30am-3.30pm	<b>Y6 Preparing to teach Vine &amp; Branches</b>	St Columba's Parish Hall, Plas Newton Lane Chester, CH2 1PL
03/07/2025	9.30am-3.30pm	<b>Y5 Preparing to teach Vine &amp; Branches</b>	St Columba's Parish Hall, Plas Newton Lane Chester, CH2 1PL

\*These events are open to and appropriate for governors to attend.

To book please follow the link to [BOOK A CPDF COURSE](#)