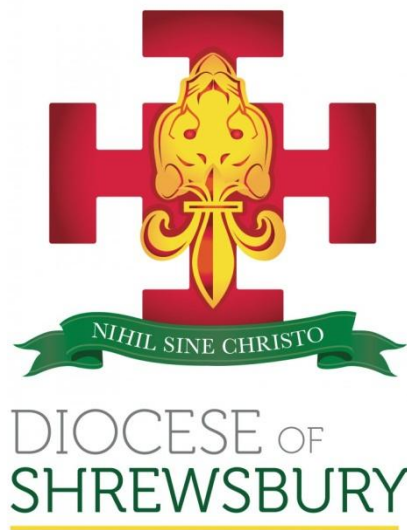
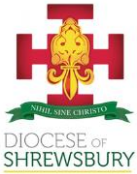


Diocese of Shrewsbury
Department of Education



NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2026 No.1



DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026 No 1

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1. INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues

We return to our school communities with the joy and blessings of the Easter season, and I very much hope you were able to enjoy your Easter break with family and friends.

In his Easter message, Archbishop of Westminster Richard Moth has asked that as we celebrate the greatest of Feasts, our first words to the world are the same words as the Risen Jesus: “Peace be with you.” The need for peace in our own hearts, our families, our parish and school communities is ever present - no more so than in those places of conflict across our world today. Archbishop Richard encourages us to *‘live out with fresh confidence and faith, as societies and as individuals, those first words of Jesus in the Upper Room, after His Rising from the Dead: “Peace be with you.”’*

Pope Leo in his [2026 Urbi et Orbi message](#) reminds us that *‘Easter is the victory of life over death, of light over darkness, of love over hatred’* – a clear reminder and affirmation of the mission we undertake in our schools with our children and colleagues every day: That as school leaders we *‘allow ourselves to be amazed by Christ’* and *‘our hearts to be transformed by his immense love for us’* - and in doing so, we in turn are able to witness to our school communities through our words, actions and service rooted in the love and peace of the risen Lord.

Pope Leo continues by saying that *‘the power with which Christ rose is entirely nonviolent. It is like that of a grain of wheat which, having rotted in the earth, grows, breaks through the clods, sprouts, and becomes a golden ear of wheat. It is even more like that of a human heart which, wounded by an offense, rejects the instinct for revenge and, filled with compassion, prays for the one who has committed the offense.’*

Brothers and sisters, this is the true strength that brings peace to humanity, because it fosters respectful relationships at every level: among individuals, families, social groups, and nations. It does not seek private interests, but the common good; it does not seek to impose its own plan, but to help design and carry out a plan together with others.

Yes, Christ’s resurrection is the beginning of a new humanity; it is the entrance into the true promised land, where justice, freedom, and peace reign, where all recognize one another as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father who is Love, Life, and Light.’

As we begin a new term together, we pray that the peace of Christ permeates and radiates anew within our schools and colleges so that they continue to be living witnesses to message of the Risen Lord.

Richard

2. APPOINTMENT AND CHANGES OF HEADTEACHER

For information	✓
For action	

The following colleagues took up post as Headteacher following the Easter break:

David Bentley Headteacher, St Augustine’s Catholic Primary School, Warrington
Michael Glynn Headteacher, St Peter’s Catholic Primary School Hazel Grove
Julie Littler-Shire Headteacher, St Paul’s Catholic Primary School, Wirral

We are grateful to the following colleagues who have taken on new responsibility as Interim Headteachers, Heads of School or Executive Headteachers this year:

Bernadette Knight Acting Headteacher, St Ambrose Catholic Primary School, Adswood
Tim Beelsey Interim Executive Headteacher, All Hallows Catholic College and Ellesmere Port Catholic High School
Michelle Garvey Acting Principal, All Hallows Catholic College
Lorraine Henderson Acting Headteacher, Ellesmere Port Catholic High School
Natalie Holland Interim Executive Headteacher, St Phillip’s Catholic Primary School, Offerton and St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School Stockport.
Jen Church Interim Head of School, St Phillip’s Catholic Primary School, Offerton

3. YOUTH MISSION OFFICE – NEW APPOINTMENT

For information	✓
For action	

The Diocesan office of Youth Mission is delighted to have appointed Angela Canning to the role of administration assistant. Angela is available in the office to answer any questions or take any bookings. She can be contacted on 0161 243 4868 or on the email angela.canning@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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

For information	✓
For action	✓

Ask the Expert Online Drop-In

Julia Cunningham hosted our inaugural 'Ask the Expert' session with Canon Chris Matthews before Easter. This was an excellent opportunity for colleagues to jump online and ask questions about prayer and liturgy that were specific to their context or for more general points of clarification.

Our next 'Ask the Expert' session will be held online on **10th June 3.30-4.30pm** and is open to all colleagues.

Please join via this [Zoom link](#) with your questions and queries.

CPDF

Our final formation session for schools for this academic year will be held on 24th June

24/06/2026	1pm-4pm	How to use music to enhance prayer and liturgy	Loreto Education Centre, Dunham Rd, Altrincham, WA14 4GZ
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NB: For this in-person afternoon, lunch will be provided free of charge from 12.30pm.

To book on to the sessions please follow this link [Book CPDF](#)

5. ACCE CHAPLAINCY SURVEY

For information	✓
For action	✓

The Bishops' Conference Department for Catholic Education & Formation has commissioned the Association of Catholic Chaplains in Education (ACCE) to conduct a review of the current landscape of Chaplaincy, to report back to them in Summer 2026.

To this end, they have devised a survey, accessible via the link below, which we would ask schools to complete, so that there is a full picture of the landscape of Chaplaincy across dioceses.

[Survey of Chaplaincy Provision in England and Wales – Fill in form](#)

Key Details:

- **Time to complete:** Approx. 15 minutes
- **Deadline:** 24th April 2026
- **Purpose:** To inform strategy and support for school chaplains across England and Wales

All responses will be handled confidentially.

6. DATES FOR THE DIARY

For information	✓
For action	

A reminder that our **Annual Mass of Thanksgiving** for this academic year takes place at **Holy Angels Parish Church Wicker Ln, Hale Barns, Altrincham WA15 0HG** on **Thursday 9th July at 4.30pm**. All colleagues are invited to join us as we give thanks to God for all that this year has gifted us. Please complete the following form if you are able to join us: [Annual Mass of Thanksgiving 9 July 2026](#)

Our **Secondary Schools Mass** will take place at **St Columba's, Chester**, on **Friday 3rd July**. Detailed information will be sent to our secondary schools via DASH in due course.

Our **Annual Governors Conference** for 2026-27 Academic Year is confirmed for Saturday 7th November 2026 at Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College.

Our **Annual Day of Renewal** for 2026-27 is confirmed for Friday 22nd January at the Park Royal Hotel, Warrington with David Wells confirmed as our speaker for the day.

7. RSHE - TEN TEN 'LIFE TO THE FULL' UPDATE

For information	✓
For action	✓

In July last year the DfE shared revised guidance on 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' which will come into force 1 September 2026. [RSHE from Sept 2026](#)

The revised guidance highlights new and enhanced/updated content that needs to be taught in schools at both the Primary and Secondary phase.

As a consequence of the new and updated content RSE policies will need to be reviewed and updated. The DfE guidance states:

12. All schools must have an up-to-date written policy for relationships education or, where they teach sex education, for RSE.

55....Schools must consult parents when developing and reviewing their RSE policies

56. Schools should show parents a representative sample of the resources that they plan to use, enabling parents to continue conversations started in class, and should ensure that parents are able to view all curriculum materials used to teach RSHE on request.

The CES have provided a new template RSE Policy for schools to use which can be accessed [here](#) via our Diocesan website.

Ten Ten recognise the need for schools to have oversight of *all* new materials for consultation purposes and for ratification of the updated R(S)E policy. They are committed to supporting schools with this transition and have offered the following timeline:

- By May half term: resources to support the consultation process and to support the training of staff will be shared
- After half term: new lesson plans and resources will be available. However, where video content is included the lesson plans will have a place holder. Video content will be uploaded to lesson plans as post-production is completed on each
- End of June: Ten Ten are working towards having all video content uploaded for this point, though with the complexities of post-production processes they cannot confirm that deadline

It is advised that schools prepare for the consultation process in the second half of the summer term, so they are ready to consult at the start of the autumn term in September. Revision and ratification of the new policy can then take place before the October autumn half term.

At our request, we have asked Ten Ten to produce for us an alternative condensed pathway to support schools in ensuring that all year groups cover the required statutory RHE and RSHE content beginning after the October half-term and by the end of the academic year. This should allow adequate time for a meaningful consultation to take place in the first half of the Autumn term, with teaching the scheme commencing from November.

For primary schools, flexibility with the timetabling of RHE/RSHE lessons may be required for full coverage of content by the end of the academic year.

For secondary schools, this may require careful consideration of provision between September and October half term to include wider PSHE curriculum content that does not fall under the RSHE statutory content guidance, to enable consultation and ratification to take place.

The pathway from Ten Ten will be shared in due course.

8. NEW CES APPRAISAL POLICY

For information	
For action	✓

A new draft policy for both teaching and support staff was shared via my Spring Term 1 Newsletter with the opportunity for colleagues to offer feedback to the CES. The final policy is now available and can be accessed via the links below.

[New CES Appraisal Policy - Academies](#)

[New CES Appraisal Policy – Voluntary Aided Schools](#)

These new policies should be used for the 2026-27 academic year following school / trust usual policy consultation and implementation processes.

Headteacher Appraisal

We have received a number of queries regarding Headteacher appraisal panel composition from both Heads and governors. In section 3 the Policy states that for a Headteacher / principal / head of school / executive headteacher or equivalent the following should apply:

In an Academy - A panel appointed by the relevant local or regional governance body or committee as determined by the board of directors in consultation with the CEO and supported by an external adviser if required. The number of panel members will usually be three and must include a majority of foundation governors/committee members

In a Voluntary Aided School - A panel appointed by the governing body and supported by an external adviser. The number of panel members will usually be *three and must include a majority of foundation governors*.

9. DRAFT CES INFORMAL SUPPORT AND CAPABILITY POLICY

For information	✓
For action	✓

The CES have drafted a new Informal Support and Capability Policy and are seeking views from schools on this document via their Diocese. A copy of the draft document can be found [here](#) and you can provide your feedback by Friday 24th April directly to richard.woods@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

10. FOUNDATION GOVERNOR RENEWALS

For information	✓
For action	✓

Foundation Governors whose terms of office expire this August should now have received communication from Julie English, as have relevant Chairs of Governors and Headteachers. Foundation governors have been asked to send the completed renewal application form back to the Diocese signed by their Parish Priest by the **1st June 2026**.

A reminder that no person is designated as a Foundation Governor, and therefore should not be attending governor meetings, until a letter of appointment from Bishop Mark has been received.

Should there be any queries with regards to foundation governor renewals then please contact Julie English via governance@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

11. CHAIRS & VICE CHAIRS FORUM

For information	✓
For action	

A reminder that our final Chairs and Vice Chairs Forum meeting of the year takes place this term with details given below. Booking is available via the [Diocesan Website](#).

Summer Term	18 th June 2026 6.30 – 8.00pm	St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School, Well Lane, Alsager. ST7 2PG
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12. 2026-27 PLANNING

For information	✓
For action	✓

As we know will also be the case in schools and colleges across the Diocese, planning for next academic year by the Education Department is well underway. For information and consideration please see the information below.

Start of Year Academic Year Masses

As is now customary, we will hold 3 Masses in September to celebrate the start of the academic year together at different churches across the Diocese. Further details will be provided in my final newsletter of the year.

Evaluation Meetings

Thank you to those Headteachers who have already taken up the invitation through DAPH and DASH to join us for a short review of this year's CPDF offer on Tuesday 5th May at 3pm virtually.

We are also looking to review our current Note of Visit Form that is used by Diocesan Officers and through DAPH and DASH, and a number of colleagues have already expressed an interest in joining us for that conversation on Wednesday 10th June at 10am.

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

13. OFSTED UPDATE – HEADTEACHER BRIEFING

For information	✓
For action	

Following my termly meeting with Ben Hill HMI, our Diocesan Ofsted link, Ben has agreed to attend our Headteacher Briefing on 7th May to provide an inspection update and to answer any queries that colleagues may have.

If you have any questions for Ben in advance of the meeting, please feel free to email me beforehand and I will share these with him beforehand.

A number of Heads have asked for clarification regarding complaints made to Ofsted and how these are managed. Ofsted have provided an update via their blog which you can [access here](#).

14. EVERY CHILD ACHIEVING AND THRIVING

For information	✓
For action	✓

Following the publication of the White Paper earlier this year, the CES have produced a useful overview that schools may wish DfE to share with governors and relevant staff. You can access the document [here](#).

15. DfE MEDICAL CONDITIONS GUIDANCE CONSULTATION

For information	✓
For action	✓

The DfE is [consulting](#) on proposed updates to the statutory guidance, ‘Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school.’ The consultation closes on Friday 1 May, ahead of the proposals coming into force in September.

As part of this guidance there are new measures to safeguard children with allergies, which includes requiring schools and colleges to stock allergy pens, provide training for all staff, and have a dedicated allergy policy. [More information can be found here](#)

16. SENIOR 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 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](#)
- [Appointing a new Lay Chaplain – Guidance for Headteachers and Governors](#)
- [Guidance for Applicants in securing a faith reference \(revised 2023\)](#)

17. KEY DATES THIS HALF TERM

For information	✓
For action	

Date	Time	Course Title	Venue
20/04/2026	3.30pm-4.45pm	Ten Ten "Life to the Full" update on resourcing the 2026 statutory RSHE Guidance	Virtual
20/04/2026	9.30am-3.30pm	Primary Deputy & Assistant Headteacher Forum HUB2 (Cheshire, Shropshire, Telford& Wrekin)	St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, Greenbank Lane, Hartford, CW8 1JW
23/04/2026-24/4/2026	4.30pm Thursday-2.30pm Friday	COAST Retreat	St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Avenue, Formby, Liverpool, L37 1PH
28/04/2026	6pm-7.30pm	Induction for New Foundation Governors*	Virtual
29/04/2026	2pm-3.30pm	Induction for New Foundation Governors*	Virtual
01/05/2026	9.30am-12pm	School support under the CSI Framework*	Loreto Education Centre, Dunham Rd, Altrincham, WA14 4GZ

06/05/2026	2pm-3pm	Termly Headteacher Briefings	Virtual
06/05/2026	12.30pm-3.30pm	Mixed-age classes Working Party	Newman Room at St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, CH2 1PL
07/05/2026	2pm-3pm	Termly Headteacher Briefings	Virtual
08/05/2026	9.30am-3.30pm	Primary Curriculum Working Party	St John Henry Newman Parish Centre, Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1JE
12/05/2026	6pm-7pm	Termly Briefing for Governing Bodies*	Virtual
13/05/2026	2pm-3pm	Termly Briefing for Governing Bodies*	Virtual
14/05/2026	6pm-7pm	Termly Briefing for Governing Bodies*	Virtual
19/05/2026	3.30pm-5pm	Vine and Branches Y5 preparation for Dialogue & Encounter	Virtual
20/05/2026	9.30pm-3.30pm	RE Lead Hub Meeting	Shrewsbury Cathedral Chapter House, 12 Belmont, Shrewsbury, SY1 1TE
20/05/2026	3.30pm-5pm	Vine and Branches Y6 preparation for Dialogue & Encounter	Virtual
21/05/2026	9.30am-12.30pm	New Headteachers' Induction Programme	Virtual
22/05/2026	9.30am-3.30pm	RE Lead Hub Meeting	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Floatshall Road, Baguley, M23 1HP

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

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