

EDUCATION SUNDAY 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP FOR EDUCATION SUNDAY 2024

On this Education Sunday we give thanks to almighty God for the work undertaken by all our Catholic Schools, Colleges and Universities across England and Wales. Our Catholic educational institutions are essential instruments in the mission of the Church and we can be proud of their achievements. I call on the diocesan family to pray for all who contribute to the great enterprise of Catholic education. We can rejoice that our children and young people are guided and supported by a great cohort of dedicated governors, leaders and staff.

Bishop Marcus Stock, who heads the Episcopal Conference Department for Catholic Education and Formation, writes: Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school. As “the way, the truth, and the life” Christ is both the object and subject of Catholic education. A Catholic educational institution seeks to root the gospel of Christ in the minds of students, providing a holistic formation that promotes human flourishing, inspiring a lifelong love of learning and fostering the virtues that will assist all people to discover in themselves and in others the truth, goodness and beauty of God.

The Diocese of East Anglia is blessed with a flourishing network of Catholic schools. Our schools are popular and highly regarded. I am happy to report that over the past year three more of our schools have joined, or are in the process of joining, one or other of our Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts (MAT) – the St. John the Baptist MAT or Our Lady of Walsingham MAT. The objective of the Diocese is that all our Catholic schools will join the MAT system by September 2025.

I wish to offer particular thanks to the volunteers who support the governance of our schools and trusts. There are over 200 volunteer foundation governors and foundation directors serving the needs of the Diocese. With great generosity and professional commitment, these governors and directors offer their time and expertise to ensure that our schools provide the best possible Catholic environment for teaching and learning.

On this Day of Prayer for Catholic Education I invite you to consider whether you might contribute to the work of governance. Our schools and trusts cannot function without the voluntary service provided by foundation governors and foundation directors. Could you provide the support, challenge and oversight that is needed? I ask you to consider stepping forward to assist in the mission of Catholic education. You can contact the Diocesan Schools' Service directly to seek information and to discuss possibilities.

As the new academic year commences, I urge you to join me in praying earnestly for all our school communities.

Yours in Christ,

+ Peter

The Right Reverend Peter G. Collins

Bishop of East Anglia