



WITNESS to the word



FOLLOW US!

21st April 2021

Summer Term

Dear Colleagues in Catholic Education

Every second Wednesday, the Education Service provides schools with a wide variety of materials, resources, advice and updates on all matters relating to our schools and colleges. The content of these bulletins are for Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Teaching Staff, Governors, Clergy and anyone who may benefit from them.

Please feel free to share.

SUBJECT CONTENT IN THIS ISSUE

Information about upcoming CPD and Training is [here](#)

Religious Education and Catholic Life resources are [here](#)

RSE Updates are [here](#)

Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity updates are [here](#)

Caritas Updates are [here](#)

Mental Health and Wellbeing Resources are [here](#)

Governance Updates are [here](#)

Capital and Pupil Placement Planning updates are [here](#)

*Thank you for all you are doing for your school community
and for Catholic education!*

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Upcoming CPD – Online Courses April/May 2020

Date/Time	Course	Booking Links
21 st April 3.45pm to 5.00pm	Foundation Stones Single Session: The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation	Book Ticket
28 th April 3.30am to 5.00pm	Reinvigorating Classroom RE	Book Ticket
29 th April 3.30pm to 5.00pm	Discerning Resources for RSE	Book Ticket
5 th May 3.45pm to 5.00pm	Foundation Stones Single Session: The Liturgy, Liturgical Year and the Seven Sacraments	Book Ticket
5 th May 5.00pm to 6.30pm	Strategic Leadership for Catholic Academy Trusts	Book Ticket
6 th May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	Poetry in RE	Book Ticket

(Please click on the ticket link to book)

RE and Catholic Life Resources

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions: March

Intention for evangelisation - **Fundamental Rights**

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

PRAYER INTENTIONS during Easter (Based on the Liturgical Year)	Liturgical Colour
New Members of the Church	WHITE/GOLD
Vocations Especially on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations (4 th Sunday of Easter)	
Human Work Especially on St Joseph the Worker (1 May)	
The Right Use of Media Especially on World Communications Day (Ascension)	
The Church Especially on Pentecost Sunday	RED

Easter

Easter Sunday is the greatest of all Christian celebrations. The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated joyfully, as one “great Sunday”. These above all others are the days for the singing of the Alleluia. During this time, we hear about the appearances of the risen Christ. The readings about the Good Shepherd are read on the Fourth Sunday. Other readings include the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. We also pray for the above intentions. The Ascension of Our Lord is takes place 40 days after Easter and Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter when we remember that Jesus sent his Holy Spirit.

LITURGICAL YEAR	NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS
APRIL – dedicated to the Holy Spirit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St George (23rd) • St Mark, Evangelist (25th) • 4th Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday (25th) • St Catherine of Siena (29th) MAY –dedicated to Mary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Joseph the Worker (1st) • Ss Philip and James (3rd) • Feast of English Martyrs (4th) 	APRIL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Creativity and Innovation Day (21st) • World Mother Earth Day (22nd) • Spanish Language Day (23rd) • World Malaria Day (25th) • International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day (26th) MAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Tuna Day (2nd)

The Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis has suggested that this prayer be said to St Joseph throughout this year:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in
the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from
every evil. Amen.*



Evangelisation and Caritas have worked together to create a Novena including this prayer which can be used by staff, parents or pupils and can be found [HERE](#).

Each month, a PowerPoint for prayer in schools based on this Novena will be shared each month for the reminder of The Year of St Joseph. These can be amended to suit primary and secondary pupils. For all resources see: [HERE](#).

The themes so far are as follows:

March: Father of Jesus
April: Man of Patience
May: Patron of Workers

As 1st May is the feast of St Joseph the Worker, there is a 'mission' for pupils of all ages to take a photograph of what they might include in their toolkit as a worker for God's kingdom. More details are included in the PowerPoint.

We welcome these photographs and any artwork or poetry on St Joseph. Many thanks to St Joseph's primary school in Chelsea for the artwork and poetry they have shared to inspire us. Here are some cinquains written by their pupils:



St Joseph	St Joseph	St Joseph
Hidden presence	Helping, loving	Humble, patient
Selfless, loving, kind	Protecting, humble, caring	Shield, rock, warmth
Protector of his family	Patron of the universal Church	You penetrate cold nights
Dedicated	Selfless	Patron

If you would like to share pupils' work with us please contact: elainearundell@rcdow.org.uk (primary)
trishahedley@rcdow.org.uk (secondary)

For the Catholicism Unpacked: St Joseph document with more support for teaching and learning about this great saint see [HERE](#).

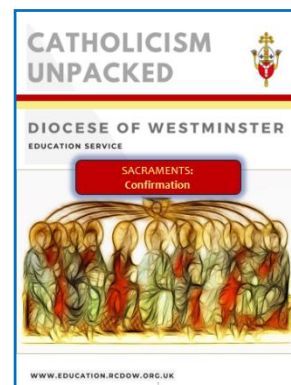
Catholicism Unpacked

This series of resources was written to develop subject knowledge and theology in RE. All documents are free to access on our website [HERE](#).

Confirmation

This includes:

- Resources for teaching about this Sacrament of Initiation, the Holy Spirit and Pentecost
- An A-Z of Confirmation
- Q & A to support staff members of different levels with theological knowledge
- Videos for further research and teaching



Mary

This includes:

- Q & A to support staff members of different levels with theological knowledge
- An accompanying PowerPoint with information, images, quizzes, videos and links to resources on Mary which can be used throughout the year, especially May, the month of Mary.
- This PowerPoint was designed to support staff training in schools but parts can also be amended and adapted for use with pupils



CAFOD National Assemblies - Thursday 22nd April

Join our national assembly on 22 April to connect with schools across the country and find out how we can help tackle the climate crisis. See [HERE](#) (Primary: 9:30am, Secondary: 10am).

Take the Eyes of the World action – Let the Government know that we are watching them to ensure the world's poorest people are at the heart of their decisions this year. Share a picture of your eyes and tell us how many of you are watching.

Primary campaign resources: See [HERE](#)

Secondary campaign resources: See [HERE](#)



CCRS News

Congratulations to the following participants, from the group based at Loreto College, St. Albans, who have successfully achieved the CCRS Certificate:

- Michelle Anderton,
- Dominic Bedford,
- Amy George,
- Chloe Gillam,
- Nicola Kingsley,
- Anna Walters,
- Lisa Andrews.



Anyone wishing to join this course, or to resume it, please contact Margaret Hanley, ccrs@rcdow.org.uk

Mark 10 Mission

The Mark 10 Mission Series 5 link for this Easter season can be found: [HERE](#)

Year of the Word

Our April FOCUS is on Easter Glory: godwhospeaks.uk/easter-glory

There are some excellent articles on:

Why the women were so silent in Mark's Gospel by Fr Michael Winstanley SDB – [here](#)

A dynamic picture about listening in silence by the priest painter Robert Wright – [here](#)

An intriguing article on the Book of Proverbs, homeschooling, and the art of living by Fr John Deehan – [here](#)

Education

There is an exciting **Proverbs Challenge for schools** [here](#) - To celebrate the faith and wisdom of young people we're inviting pupils to write their own modern-day proverbs. Use the resources and guides for Teachers to help create some brilliant proverbs.

Dioceses

Join in with some great Scripture events and activities from:

Portsmouth: godwhospeaks.uk/easter-triduum-retreat-according-to-the-scriptures

Northampton: godwhospeaks.uk/northampton-online

Cardiff: godwhospeaks.uk/saturday-scripture-talks

Bible in Transmission magazine – free and twice yearly – subscribe in hardcopy or online.

This edition looks at *What is the Bible?* and includes an article on the literary beauty and religious message of the Book of Tobit [here](#)

Women of the Bible

This term, as part of The Year of the Word - The God Who Speaks, the Education Service will be producing weekly reflections on Women of the Bible. This will start on Monday 26th April and will run through to the summer holidays. The powerpoints will be shared every Monday via email with RE Coordinators and Chaplains and will also be put on our website. They can then be downloaded and used as an assembly or in class or tutor time as a reflection. Please edit them to make them work for your school and use them in a way which best suits your community and helps your students learn from the lives of these extraordinary women.

Awarding of Exam Grades

The exam boards have now made available on their websites a range of support materials. Most of these went 'live' on the 19th April. The links below take you to the front page. From there you can get to the subject specific support materials. Each board organises the materials in different ways, but you should be able to follow the links fairly easily.

Assessment Materials and latest news:

- AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/2021-exam-changes/get-ready-for-grading#latest-materials>
 - Eduqas - <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/home/summer-2021-information-and-updates/>
 - Edexcel - <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/campaigns/summer-2021-support.html>
- OCR - <https://support.ocr.org.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/360020560139-Summer-2021-Additional-assessment-material>
- OCR - <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/2021-assessment-materials-finder/>

Training Events:

AQA

Available from 19th April until 23rd July – a **Free** 'on demand' online eLearning module on 'Centre Level standardisation & Moderation' looking at best practice in different scenarios to optimise accuracy, consistence and confidence https://www.aqa.org.uk/professional-development/course-details?meta_E=AQAXEO1

Eduqas

21st April – a FREE online 1hr session 4-5pm to give an overview of the way grading will happen this summer. NB – this is not subject specific so may be something others in your schools might be interested in. Further details and the booking form - **GQ (21/4)** - <https://wjec.ticketsolve.com/shows/873623742>

24th May – a TeachMeet event at 4pm for Eduqas Religious Studies (Route B as well as Route A). NB – this will not be about summer 2021 arrangements. Open for booking here: <http://bit.ly/2VyeKKm>

Edexcel

23rd April – a FREE online session 4-5pm 'How to arrive a grades' this summer course. NB – this is not subject specific so may be something others in your schools might be interested in. Further details and booking - <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/training-from-pearson-uk.html>

27th April – a FREE online session 4-5pm 'What assessment support is available' – NB – this is not subject specific so may be something others in your schools might be interested in. Further details and booking - <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/training-from-pearson-uk.html>

28th April – a Free online session 4-5pm 'Appeals overview'.

29th April – a Free online session 4-5pm 'GCSE & A Level Religious Studies 2021 summer update – this will be about teacher/centre assessed grades this summer.

Relationships and Sex Education Updates

As you know, the statutory requirement to teach RSE comes into place this term. In advance of teaching RSE you are required to have written and consulted on your school RSE policy. A model RSE policy and guidance on writing a policy are available from the CES and are on our website [here](#) along with other support material from the CES including the model curricular.

We have also produced cross mapping documents and a 'frequently asked questions' answer document to help our schools plan and implement RSE. These can be found on our website [here](#).

Through our training we have given lots of advice regarding the resources you use for RSE in your school. Most obviously the resources must not contain anything that contradicts Catholic teaching on relationships. However, they should also promote a Catholic approach to relationships, so, any resources produced by a non-Catholic organisation will need significant adaptation. We are providing a training opportunity on **'Discerning Resources for RSE'** to assist schools with this. It takes place between 3.30- 5pm on 29th April. Please use [this](#) link to book.

Please speak to your adviser if you need any support with RSE

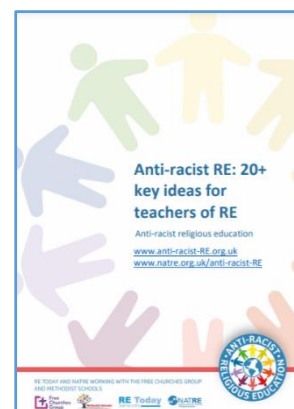
Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity Updates

Made in God's Image

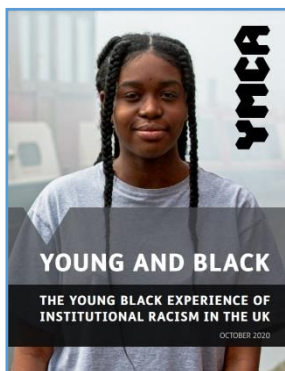
The second document in the CES Made in God's Image series: *'Supporting Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Pupils in Catholic Schools'* has been published. The research for this project included a consultation with educational professionals to find best-practice examples of ways in which Catholic schools can support the GRT community. This resource can be found on our website [here](#).

Anti-racist RE: 20+ ideas for teachers of RE

Language can be difficult when talking about racism, equality and diversity. Some of the national leaders in RE have created a document with a glossary of terms to support teachers and leaders. To download the document see [HERE](#).



YMCA: Young and Black



This report looks at the young black experience of institutional racism in the UK and offers suggestions about the way forward.

To download this document click [HERE](#)

Training

Training on racial justice equality and diversity will take place each half term beginning in June 2021. Due to popular demand, the first session will be led by Paul Miller, one of the speakers at the SLT conference this year. It will be made available to all members of staff and is due to take place on **15th June from 3:30-5pm**. More details to follow.

Caritas Updates

Caritas Ambassadors:

A programme based on Catholic Social Teaching and social action, created for Key Stages 2 and 3. To find out more about running this in your school from September 2021, please email caritasambassadors@rcdow.org.uk

Social Action Awards

Caritas Westminster are seeking to recognise those volunteers who have gone above and beyond to help their community over the pandemic. To that end, they are encouraging nominations for their first Caritas Social Action Awards. All nominees will receive an award and certificate. Both individual volunteers and volunteer teams can be nominated. Please fill in the nomination form at <https://bit.ly/3uThuAZ>. The **deadline for nominations is 30th April**, and the award ceremony will take place on **2nd June at 6.30pm** via Zoom. For more information email Elke Springett at cvs@rcdow.org.uk.

Mass for Migrants

This year's Mass celebrating the contribution of migrant communities in the Dioceses of Westminster, Southwark, and Brentwood, will be livestreamed from St William of York Church, Lewisham on **1st May from 11.30am**. Bishop Paul McAleenan will be celebrating; join using the link www.tinyurl.com/migrantsmass

Quarterly Meeting of Food Relief Projects

Caritas Westminster are inviting all schools who run any kind of food provision project, or would like to, to join on **6th May from 11am to 12.30pm** to meet each other via Zoom and share ideas. We will be hearing from Your Local Pantry and Cooperation Town about running a membership model of food relief. Sign up at [here](#)

Self Care for Staff and Volunteers

In partnership with the Irish Chaplaincy, Caritas Westminster is running an event for volunteers to meet each other and learn some strategies for self care. Join via Zoom on **11th May from 1pm to 2pm**. Sign up [here](#)

The Why: Prayers, Reflection and Discernment on our Response to Covid-19

The next session of The Why, run by Caritas Westminster, focuses on the dignity of work, providing an opportunity for parishes, schools and projects to pause, reflect on their work and discern the next steps. This event will run via Zoom on **13th May from 11am to 1pm**. Sign up [here](#)

Vaccine Confidence Webinar

A recording of the vaccine confidence webinar held at the end of May is available to be viewed at <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/vaccination-confidence-webinar/> Anyone interested in helping share information on vaccine confidence can become a Community Health Champion in their local borough by registering at www.tiny.cc/RCDOW-CommunityChampion.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Resources

Stress Awareness Month

Mentally Healthy Schools

[Click here](#) for the Primary School Toolkit

[Click here](#) for the Secondary School Toolkit

Resources supporting children and young people to cope with stress

Child Stress (*Parenting NI*)

- [Click Here](#) - Advice for parents on supporting their child cope with stress
- [Click here](#) – Tips for children to cope with stress

Understanding stress (*Beano for Schools/Young Minds*) [Click here](#)

Resources supporting adults to cope with stress

Address your stress (*MHFA England*) [Click here](#) - resources on how staff can address their stress

Tackling work related stress (*HSE*) [Click here](#) - resources on how staff can address their stress

Planning ahead for mental health and well-being in the Summer Term

Mental Health Awareness Week 10th to 16th May – Theme “Nature”

Mental Health Foundation [Click here](#)

- Natural Resources Wales (Activities to support well-being) [Click here](#)
- Anne Freud Centre Talking Mental Health [Click here](#) teacher toolkit

Summer Term Mental Health Timetable - [Click here](#) for a handy calendar of events to support mental health and well-being within your school

Governance Updates

Governor Hub Training – Recorded Session Link

It was wonderful to see so many clerks at the Governor Hub training last term. Please find a link [here](#) to the recorded training session for those who couldn't make it.

New process for appointing foundation governors / directors

1. We ask that your school appoints a Nominated Person (either the Clerk to Governors or perhaps, someone in the School Office) who will administer this process.
2. The Nominated Person should download the suite of forms [available at [Link to website](#)] and personalise them to the school, including the email address of the nominated person.
3. The Nominated Person will send the application to and receive the application from the applicant.
4. The Nominated Person will seek the references and the DBS certification. (Note: the parish priest may wish to return the reference directly to the diocese; if they wish to do this, they have been asked to let the nominated person know).
5. When all references and Clearances are available, the Nominated Person will upload all documents to the Diocese using this secure link at : [Link to website](#) A receipt will be sent to the Nominated Person and the Applicant on submission.
6. The Diocese will determine the complete application within 21 days, either with a letter and deed of appointment, or other communication.

If you have any questions about how the system will work or difficulty in downloading the materials, please contact Mike Pittendreigh (mikep@rcdow.org.uk) Other, more general, governors queries should continue to be addressed to Carol Campbell (governors@rcdow.org.uk)

Governance Update April 2021

The Governance Team at the Department for Education has published the Governance Update for April 2021. In this edition, the DfE have created one version to cover both maintained schools and academy trusts – the articles are listed below for information.

- 1) Governing and trust boards meetings and visits into schools
- 2) National Tutoring Programme: subsidised tutoring available
- 3) ECF Statutory Induction Guidance Change
- 4) Honours nominations for those who work or volunteer in school or trust governance
- 5) Governor and trustee recruitment: Inspiring Governance and Academy Ambassadors
- 6) (Academy trusts only) How to complete or update your governance contacts on Get Information about Schools (GIAS).

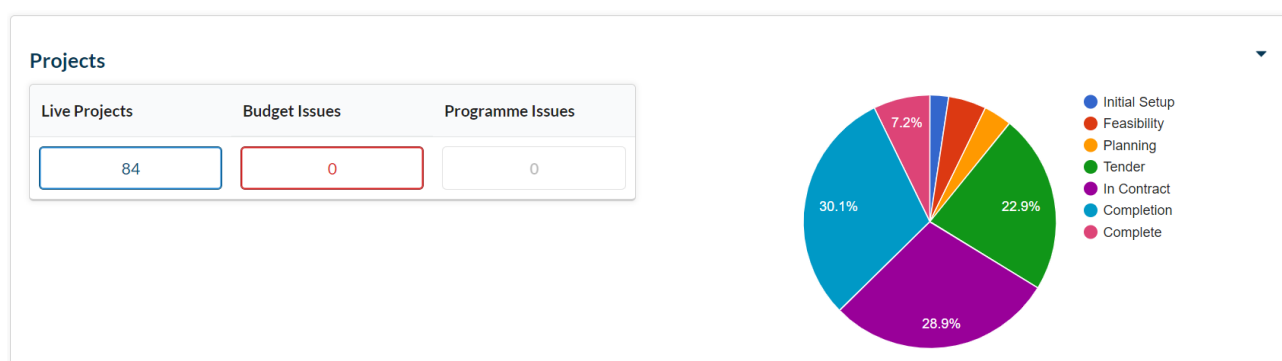
The full details can be accessed at this link: [School governance update: April 2021 - GOV.UK](#)

Capital & Pupil Placement Planning Updates

Capital

VASCA 2020/2021

There are currently 84 live projects. 33% of projects are in 4 pre-start phases with 66% on-site or in financial account closure.



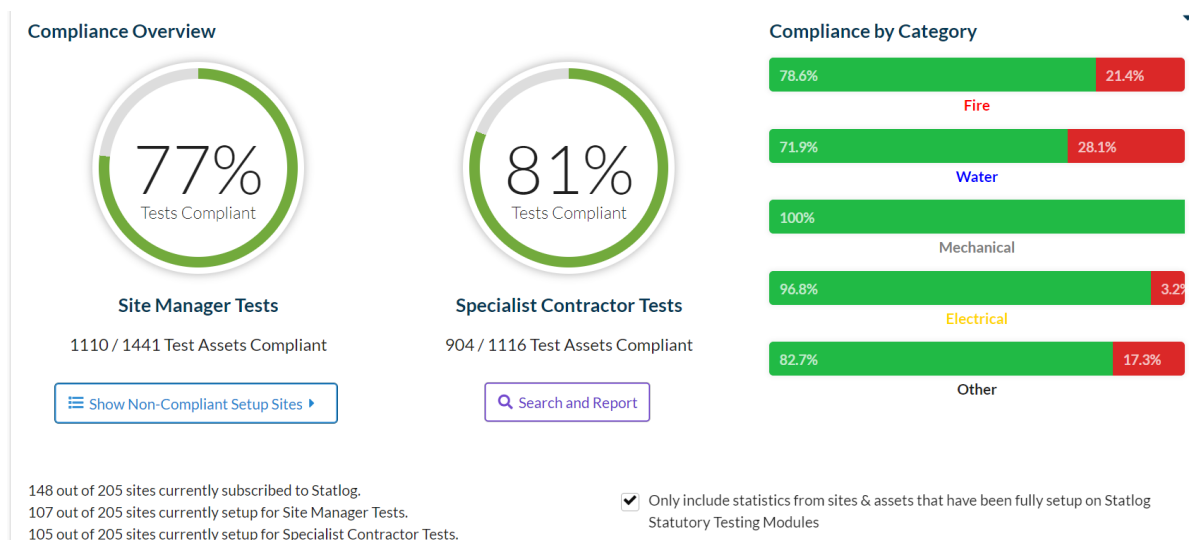
VASCA 2021/22

We are still waiting for the Government to announce the School Capital Allocations for 2021/22. The Capital Strategy Committee of the Education Commission will then release the first-round of 2021/22 projects for development.

Statlog

The number of schools with Statlog Licences has remained unchanged.

However, the number of sites setup for Statutory Compliance Management continues to rise.



Project Manager

The Statlog Project Manager Tool was released on Monday 1st March. A number of schools have requested access to the module, and this has been granted. To secure approval, each school needed to demonstrate the following:

- A current Statlog Licence,
- A recent Condition Survey, uploaded to Statlog, and
- An active Statlog Statutory Compliance regime

If your school can satisfy all of the above prerequisites, please email nigelspears@rcdow.org.uk with your access request.

The first 6 projects to be managed by Schools are progressing through the various stages of Project Manager. What has become evident is the significant level of risk assumed by schools with consequential implications for School Leaders and Governors.

Matched Funding – An indicative £10K has been assigned to each VA school from the 2020/21 VASCA Account. Schools authorised to use Project Manager will be able to assign this funding to any locally managed (minor works) project that commences before the 31st of December 2021. Statlog will automatically initiate the appropriate transfer process when a PM Project reaches the “In Contract” phase. The request will be issued to Nigel Spears (Central Funding Manager) who will review the project to ensure that the applicant school has adhered to the principles of Matched Funding. Transfer to the School Revenue Account will be processed by Marisa Borgerth (Central Funding Manager) from Diocesan Finance within 28 days of application.

‘De minimis’ level

There is a threshold below which any expenditure is not considered to be capital and should not be met from capital budgets. For all RCDOW Catholic Schools this is £2,000. The de minimis level also applies to the purchase of ICT equipment. This level has not changed for more than 20 years.

Priority School Building Programme

Project managers continue to monitor the progress of schools in this scheme.

Pupil Placement Planning

1st Planner Project

Next Monday, 26th April 2021, the Project Oversight and Scrutiny Committee as commissioned by +John Sherrington, will meet with the preferred potential delivery partners identified during the last few months. The main presentation will be from Faithful and Gould.

The 1st Planner Project Team is preparing to engage with Local Authorities to negotiate for (and secure) Capital Funding. The meetings will focus of the data shared with School leaders and the potential opportunities discussed. These meetings will be at Portfolio Holders, Council Leaders and CEOs as appropriate.

Pupil Placement Planning

Local Authorities throughout the Diocese are preparing for significant changes in the number of pupils seeking school places. If schools are approached directly, please contact Nigel or Peter to ensure the Diocese is in the loop.