



# WITNESS to the word



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6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Summer Term  
Issue 2

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](#)

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

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

Caritas Updates are [here](#)

Governance Updates are [here](#)

SPEC 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 May 2020

Date/Time	Course
5 <sup>th</sup> May 3.45pm to 5.00pm	<a href="#">Foundation Stones – Single Session: The Liturgy, Liturgical Year and the Seven Sacraments</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> May 5.00pm to 6.00pm	<a href="#">Strategic Leadership for Catholic Academy Trusts</a>
6 <sup>th</sup> May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	<a href="#">Poetry in RE</a>
11 <sup>th</sup> May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	<a href="#">Skills Analysis – Lower Key Stage 1</a>
13 <sup>th</sup> May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	<a href="#">The Liturgical Year</a>
14 <sup>th</sup> May 9.30am to 12.30pm	<a href="#">Chaplaincy Retreat</a>
17 <sup>th</sup> May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	<a href="#">A Whole School Approach to Mental Well-Being</a>
18 <sup>th</sup> May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	<a href="#">Skills Analysis Lower Key Stage 2</a>
19 <sup>th</sup> May 5.00pm to 6.00pm	<a href="#">Financial Accountability for Catholic Academy Trusts</a>
19 <sup>th</sup> May 3.45pm to 5.00pm	<a href="#">Foundation Stones – Single Session: The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick</a>
20 <sup>th</sup> May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	<a href="#">ART in RE</a>
24 <sup>th</sup> May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	<a href="#">Mental Well-Being for Children</a>
25 <sup>th</sup> May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	<a href="#">Skills Analysis Upper Key Stage 2</a>
26 <sup>th</sup> May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	<a href="#">Music in RE</a>
26 <sup>th</sup> May 5.00pm to 6.00pm	<a href="#">Educational Improvement for Catholic Academy Trusts</a>

*(Please click on the ticket link to book)*

# RE and Catholic Life Resources

## Pope Francis Prayer Intentions:

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

## Easter

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
MAY –dedicated to Mary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Joseph the Worker (1<sup>st</sup>)</li> <li><b>Ss Philip and James (3<sup>rd</sup>)</b></li> <li><b>Feast of English Martyrs (4<sup>th</sup>)</b></li> <li>St Damien de Veuster (10th)</li> <li><b>Ascension (13<sup>th</sup>)</b></li> <li>Our Lady of Fatima (13th)</li> <li><b>St Matthias (14th)</b></li> <li>St Bede (25th)</li> <li>St Augustine (27th)</li> <li>Visitation (31st)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Europe Day (9<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>World Migratory Birds Day (11th)</li> <li>International Day of Families (15th)</li> <li>International Day of Living Together in Peace (16th)</li> <li><b>Laudato Si week (16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May)</b></li> <li>World Telecommunication and Information Day (17th)</li> <li>World Bee Day (20th)</li> <li>World day for Cultural Diversity (21st)</li> <li>International Day of UN Peacekeepers (29th)</li> <li>World No-Tobacco Day (31st)</li> </ul>

## Liturgy Office

The liturgical calendar for the next academic year is now available to share with those who will find it useful, whether for schools and colleges or Children's Liturgy groups in parishes.

It can be found on the Liturgy Office website here [Liturgy Office | Spirit of the Season](#) along with other resources for liturgy in schools. The full Cycle of Prayer can be found here [Liturgical Calendar Cycle of Prayer \(liturgyoffice.org.uk\)](#). Model intentions can also be found on this site, some of which are included below for your convenience. These are based on the themes included above.

### Human Work

Especially on St Joseph the Worker —1 May

*God our Father,  
 creator and ruler of the universe,  
 in every age you call men and women  
 to develop and use their gifts for the good of others.  
 With St Joseph as our example and guide,  
 help us to do the work you have asked  
 and come to the rewards you have promised.*

Roman Missal (adapted)

### Prayer of the Faithful

- For all who work, may they earn a just wage and be treated with dignity.
- For the stewardship of the earth's resources, so that all may benefit for generations to come.

### Opportunities and Challenges

- Many areas have had an influx of migrant workers how might they made be welcome in the school/parish community? What support might the community be able to offer them?
- What jobs and skills can be found in the school/parish? How might they be of service to the community?
- Explore the Bishops' Conference document on 'The Spirituality of Work'

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 remainder of The Year of St Joseph. These can be amended to suit primary and secondary pupils. May's resource is based on Patron of Workers. For all prayer resources see: [HERE](#). For the Catholicism Unpacked support document see: [HERE](#).



Thank you to the schools who have kindly sent us artwork from pupils which we can use in our resources or share on Twitter. We welcome pupils' work. This month, as a 'mission' we invite all pupils to reflect on their own 'toolkit' for God's kingdom and to send us photos of these. All details are included in the PowerPoint. Please send directly to [elainearundell@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:elainearundell@rcdow.org.uk) (primary) [trishahedley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:trishahedley@rcdow.org.uk) (secondary).

### Europe Day – 9<sup>th</sup> May

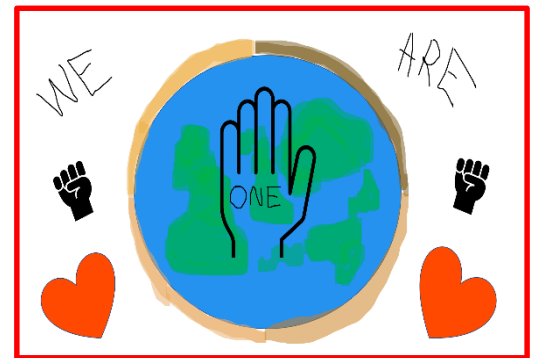
Background: Pope John Paul II dedicated 6 patron saints to Europe:

- St Cyril and St Methodius (14 February)
- St Catherine of Siena (29 April)
- St Benedict (11 July)
- St Bridget of Sweden
- St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

They reflect the rich spiritual history of the Continent from East to West and across the centuries. In the Cycle of Prayer Europe is remembered in the Summer when a number of the Feasts days occur. This day celebrates peace and unity in Europe and marks the anniversary of the Schuman declaration on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

#### Prayer

*O God, who gave one origin to all peoples  
 and willed to gather from them one family for yourself,  
 fill all hearts, we pray, with the fire of your love  
 and kindle in them a desire  
 for the just advancement of their neighbour,  
 that, through the good things  
 which you richly bestow upon all,  
 each human person  
 may be brought to perfection,  
 every division may be removed,  
 and equity and justice may be established in human society.*  
 Roman Missal



We pray:

- For a deepening of knowledge and understanding of our common heritage of faith.
- For an openness to the stranger and a care for their needs.

*Many thanks to a pupil in St Joseph's, Kensington and Chelsea, for their artwork on unity above.*

### St Damian – Feast day 10<sup>th</sup> May

A PowerPoint has been created for use with schools on the gentle St Damian whose feast day is celebrated this month. This is particularly poignant at this time as he looked after others who were suffering from a serious illness and devoted his life to service. It can be found [here](#) and then click the week 7 powerpoint.

#### LISTEN

Father Damian or  
 Saint Damian of Molokai  
 was born in Belgium on  
 3rd January 1840.






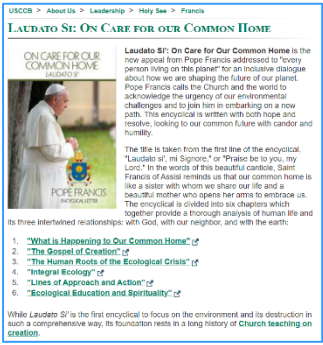


His real name was  
Jozef de Veuster.



## Laudato Si Week

This is celebrated on 16-24<sup>th</sup> May. Please see below for some useful links.

<p>For the official text and downloadable version as well as shareable graphics see <a href="#">HERE</a></p>	
<p>For an animation on Laudato Si, Care for our Common Home by CAFOD see <a href="#">HERE</a></p>	
<p>This video from the Jesuits includes the top 10 messages of Laudato Si. See <a href="#">HERE</a></p>	
<p>Global Catholic Climate Movement provide information, videos and courses on Laudato Si. See <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p>	
<p>CAFOD has lots of materials to support schools. There are videos, prayers and activities for primary and secondary pupils and can be found <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p>	
<p>USCCB supports with understanding the Church teaching on Care for Our Common Home. See <a href="#">HERE</a></p>	



## Primary Moderation

Schools are reminded of the expectation to attend diocesan moderation sessions annually. There are 3 dates scheduled for Primary Moderation in June: 8, 14, and 17. In addition, following requests from schools we are providing support for teachers in the 3 phases. A series of sessions to assist in identifying skills within pieces of work are scheduled. Key Stage 1 is 11 May; Lower Key Stage 2 is 18 May and Upper Key Stage 2 is 25 May. All courses can be accessed via the CPD booklet but if you have any specific questions, please contact your adviser.

## ACTRE

ACTRE is running free monthly Zoom CPD. Recent talks can be downloaded via the website and include sessions on charitable ideas beyond fundraising and contextualizing RE as well as one of the 18th of May led by Jo Boyce entitled "Teach us to Pray." The full list can be found [here](#).

## Brave Bear – Anti-trafficking awareness

The vision of **Brave Bear Trust** is to help keep children everywhere safe from exploitation. They achieve this by raising awareness among children aged 8 to 10 and their supporting adults through the story of a bear called Brave and a range of accompanying resources. They seek to engage, educate, empower, and equip children to know how to keep themselves and others safe from exploitation.



Brave is easy to read and full of the most attractive illustrations that immediately capture the imagination and attention of all who read it. Brave is very sensitively written, and will prove an invaluable resource for parents, carers, education staff and community leaders wanting to help children explore this pressing issue in an enlightening and extremely enjoyable way.

### Where it all began

The 'Brave' storyline is fictional, however, it reflects some of the realities of those who are currently suffering as victims of exploitation. The story was inspired by the true story of a little girl who was rescued with her teddy bear and also the coffee roasting machine used at a coffee roasting business that exists to empower survivors of exploitation.



The resource can be found [HERE](#). If you are interested in lesson plans, including one which is more focused on faith and justice, please contact [elainearundell@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:elainearundell@rcdow.org.uk)

## Chaplain's Retreat Day

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* John 14:6

Date: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Time: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Retreat Leader: Ruth Warner

Please book [here](#)

## Year of the Word

### *May Focus*

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost [here](#)

### *Women in the Bible*

As part of The Year of the Word, the God Who Speaks, the second powerpoint in our series Women in the Bible, was shared at the beginning of the week to Chaplains and RECO. It focuses on the only female judge in the Bible - Deborah. It can be used in tutor time, collective worship or in an assembly and aims to highlight the important role women have had in the Bible. These women can inspire us all by their faith and fearless dedication to God. All the powerpoint in this series can be found [here](#)

### *Schools Proverbs Challenge:*

The Proverbs School Challenge celebrates the faith and wisdom of young people by inviting them to be inspired by the Book of Proverbs and to write their own modern-day proverbs. Teachers can submit the top 10 entries from their school to us and we will choose the best proverbs to share on this website and on the Bishops' Conference social media accounts.

The Proverbs Challenge Entry Form can be accessed [here](#), along with promotional poster posters for both primary and secondary schools.

### *The Dove*

Fleur Dorrell takes us on a flight path of the dove through the Old and New Testament, exploring the significance of the dove in our Theology and Faith [here](#)

## CCRS News

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

Joanne Walsh, Joanne Webster, Edgar Ter Danielyan and Caroline Keating. Apologies for leaving you off the previous list. Also, to those participants from the group based at Tower Hamlets: Mark Davoren, Abena Adjei, Coshia Belvet, Caroline Kerrigan, Joanne Butler and Vernet Gachette.

Watch out for those from the group based at Vaughan House who will be congratulated in the next bulletin.

Anyone wishing to join this course, or to resume it, please contact Margaret Hanley, [ccrs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ccrs@rcdow.org.uk)



# Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity Updates

**Professor Paul Miller 15th June at 3:30-5pm - [Book here](#)**

*Let's Talk Race: Developing a shared language and practice*

Paul Miller, PhD, is Professor of Educational Leadership & Social Justice, and the first (and only) Black professor of educational leadership in the UK. He has written extensively on the progression of BAME teachers in England. His work has been used by the DfE in policy development and he is a member of the DfE's Workforce Diversity Steering Group.

This workshop is designed to support leaders, staff and governors in their journey to Anti-racism.

(i) It provides a space for difficult conversations about race/ racism and its effects on individuals and groups

(ii) reflects on racism in education and other sections of society, and it

(iii) provides opportunities to explore what developing a 'race conscious' and race inclusive language and practice could look like.

## Mental Health Updates

**Mental Health Awareness Week** takes place from **10th – 16th May**, and provides a great opportunity for primary schools, secondary schools and further education settings to normalise the discussion and promotion of mental health and wellbeing amongst pupils and staff. This year's theme is **nature**.

Please see links below for resources to support Mental Health Awareness Week

[Primary School Toolkit](#) – from **Mentally Healthy Schools**

[Secondary School Toolkit](#) – from **Mentally Healthy Schools**

[Click here for teaching resources](#) - from the BBC

[Click here for resources from](#) **Mental Health Foundation**

[Click here for resources from](#) - **Mental Health UK** focussing on the Five Ways of Well-being

[Click here for resources from](#) **Mind**

### The Big Ask

A new survey for children in England, from the Office of the Children's Commissioner

The Big Ask is the largest ever survey of children, aimed at those aged 4 to 17 in England. It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future, and the results will be shared with the government. [Click here for The Big Ask Link](#)

## Caritas Updates

### NQT

Special invite for NQTs to join our May Young Caritas Sessions on the **Role of Women in the Church and Society** and **Men's Mental Health**. Both events are fully inclusive and open to all genders.

Some excellent speakers will share their personal experiences and there will be time for reflection, questions and discussion within a safe space.

Please register using the links below:

- 11th of May - **Role of Women in the Church and Society**. Link [HERE](#).
- 25th of May - **Men's Mental Health** Link [HERE](#).

### Year of St Joseph Resource

On Saturday we celebrated the Feast of **St Joseph the Worker**, we have prepared a quick reference to [Caritas Westminster](#) and J&P and the [Year of St Joseph](#) (Word document download) Who knew that St Joseph, and the **Dignity of Work** ran so deeply through all of the Caritas Westminster services and areas of focus. We hope it is helpful for anyone preparing resources for the rest of the Year of St Joseph.

### Covid 19 Vaccine Confidence Webinar with Professor Kevin Fenton, London Regional director for Public Health England.

As the Covid vaccine programme rollout continues, public health bodies and local authorities recognise that the Church and its schools have a key role to play in sharing information about vaccination. Accordingly, with the encouragement of these public health experts, another vaccine confidence webinar has been organized to answer questions which some parents of your school communities might have. The next webinar will take place on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May from 10am to 11.30am** and will feature a panel of eminent medical experts, including Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The full list of experts is on the attached poster [here](#).

Please display the poster and publicise the webinar across your networks. If you are aware of anybody who may particularly benefit from attending this webinar, please reassure them that participation is completely anonymous and registration is not required. The recording of the previous webinar, held prior to Easter, is available to view [here](#)

Below is a notice for internal circulation, for your newsletters and website:

*A Covid-19 vaccine confidence webinar has been organised for teachers, students, families and friends of Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, with the cooperation of Hertfordshire County Council, Hammersmith & Fulham Council, and other local authorities. It will take place on Saturday 15th May 2021 from 10am to 11.30am and will feature a panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The panel will share the latest information on COVID-19 vaccination. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions anonymously. To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> Passcode: 546617*

## Upcoming Caritas Events

Please find out more and register for upcoming Caritas Events [here](#)

Thursday **6th May 2021**, 11:00am-12:30pm, **Diocese of Westminster Quarterly Meeting of Food Projects** - 1 in 5 schools are running food banks!! This is an opportunity for schools, parishes and other community groups in the diocese, who run any kind of food provision project, to meet together and share ideas.

Tuesday **11th May 2021** 1:00-2:00pm **Self-Care for Volunteers** - You can't pour from an empty cup; take care of yourself first. Hear how other volunteers are faring and learn some strategies for self-care. In partnership with the Irish Chaplaincy

Thursday **13th May 2021**, 11:00am-1:00pm - **The Why: Prayer, Reflection & Discernment on Our Response to Covid19 - Session 3 - Dignity of Work** - An opportunity for schools, parishes and projects to pause, reflect on their work during covid19, and discern the next steps together using **Catholic Social Teaching**

## Governance Updates

### Governor Hub Training – Recorded Session Link

Please find a link [here](#) to the recorded training session for Clerks. Please do ensure your clerk has added all members of your governing board to Governor Hub – it is the only way that DOWES is able to communicate with governors.

### 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](mailto:mikep@rcdow.org.uk)) Other, more general, governors queries should continue to be addressed to Carol Campbell ([governors@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:governors@rcdow.org.uk))

## Upcoming online courses targeted at Governors and Academy Trusts

*STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP FOR CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUSTS: 5th May - 5pm to 6.30pm*

[Book your ticket – here](#)

**AIM:** The AIM of this course is to focus on the expectations for governance, and the leadership skills required to lead a Catholic Academy Trust.

**CONTENT:**

- Exploring the role of a Foundation Director.
- The role and responsibilities of a Foundation Director of a Trust Board.
- Setting the strategic Direction.
- Ensuring impact for children.

*FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUSTS: 19th May 5pm to 6.30pm*

[Book your ticket here](#)

**AIM:** The AIM of this course is to focus on the financial management and oversight required to lead a Catholic Academy Trust.

**CONTENT:**

- Participants will gain confidence and knowledgeable in their role as a Foundation Director by being able to set and articulate a clear strategic direction for their Trust by focusing on:
  - i) Roles and responsibilities of the Trust Board.
  - ii) Financial management of the Trust.
  - iii) Statutory Compliance and Risk Management.

*EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FOR CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUSTS: 26th May - 5pm to 6.30pm*

[Book your ticket here](#)

**AIM:** The AIM of this course is to focus on educational improvement, holding leaders to account and driving school improvement across a Catholic Academy Trust.

**CONTENT:**

- Holding individual academies to account through effective challenge.
- School improvement at scale and harnessing school data.
- External accountability.

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GOVERNORS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: 23rd June - 5pm to 6.30pm**

[Book your ticket here](#)

**AIM:** The AIM of this course is to focus on the financial management and oversight required to be a governor of a Catholic school.

**CONTENT:**

- Participants will gain confidence and knowledgeable in their role as a governor of a Catholic school by being able to set and articulate a clear strategic direction for their school by focusing on:
  - i) Roles and responsibilities of the governing board.
  - ii) Financial management of the school.
  - iii) Statutory Compliance and Risk Management.

**GOVERNORS INDUCTION: 9th, 14th and 16th June 2021 – this is a three-part course and all three sessions must be attended.**

[Book your ticket here](#)

**AIM:** The AIM of this course is to address the main issues that will be faced by a new (or nearly new) governor. The course takes place over three sessions:

- Session 1 – Wednesday 9th June
- Session 2 – Monday 14th June
- Session 3 – Wednesday 16th June

**CONTENT:**

- Governance in a Catholic context.
- Understanding the language of governance.
- Committees and school visits.
- Legal duties and responsibilities.
- Strategic v Operational issues.

**Testimonials - Governors Induction Course:**

*“What an Inspiration! And a joy to follow from start to finish. Thank you so very much for this brilliant foundation - Your enthusiasm is infectious!”*

*“Thanks for running the course. It is helpful and feel like I have a great supporter on my side.”*

*“An excellent introduction to being a Governor. The content was covered so eloquently and efficiently, with great enthusiasm - a really solid foundation on which to build. I shall be forever grateful for the inspiration and drive, that exudes from those teaching.”*

# SPEC Update



## SPEC RETREAT CENTRE

A SPIRITUAL AND PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST



## RESIDENTIAL BOOKINGS NOW OPEN FOR 2021-22

### Who are we?

SPEC is the retreat centre for young Catholics in the Diocese of Westminster. It stands for 'Spiritual and Personal Encounter with Christ' and that is what we aim to deliver. We offer a unique opportunity for children and young people to reflect and experience the presence of God in their lives. In great demand since COVID-19, our tranquil setting allows retreatants to escape the stress of lockdown life and find peace.

### Why choose SPEC?

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption in the lives of children and young people and the impact on their mental health has been enormous. We provide a safe and nurturing environment in which students can reflect, away from the hustle and bustle of school life. Our young retreat leaders are relatable to the retreatants and can offer inspiring testimonies of their faith journeys that can be of real benefit to young people investigating their faith.

### What do we offer?

- All-new retreat programmes, differentiated by year group (Years 5-13) for residential and day retreats.
- Full-board accommodation in our residential complex with ensuite rooms and dormitories. Our commercial kitchen has full capacity for dietary requirements.
- Seven acres of grounds and woodlands, including a football pitch and a campfire.
- On-site chapel, containing a relic of St. Thomas Beckett.
- Fully COVID-compliant and risk-assessed.

### Where are we?

We are well-connected with excellent transport links via the Metropolitan Line (Pinner) and the Overground (Hatch End). We also have two car parks with ample space for coaches.

### How to book?

To book or for more information, please contact us by telephone, email or online.

**POST COVID DEMAND IS HIGH. To avoid disappointment, please book your space now at:**  
0203 757 2500 | [spec@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:spec@rcdow.org.uk) | [specretreatcentre.org/bookings](https://specretreatcentre.org/bookings)