

Kent
Catholic
Schools'
Partnership

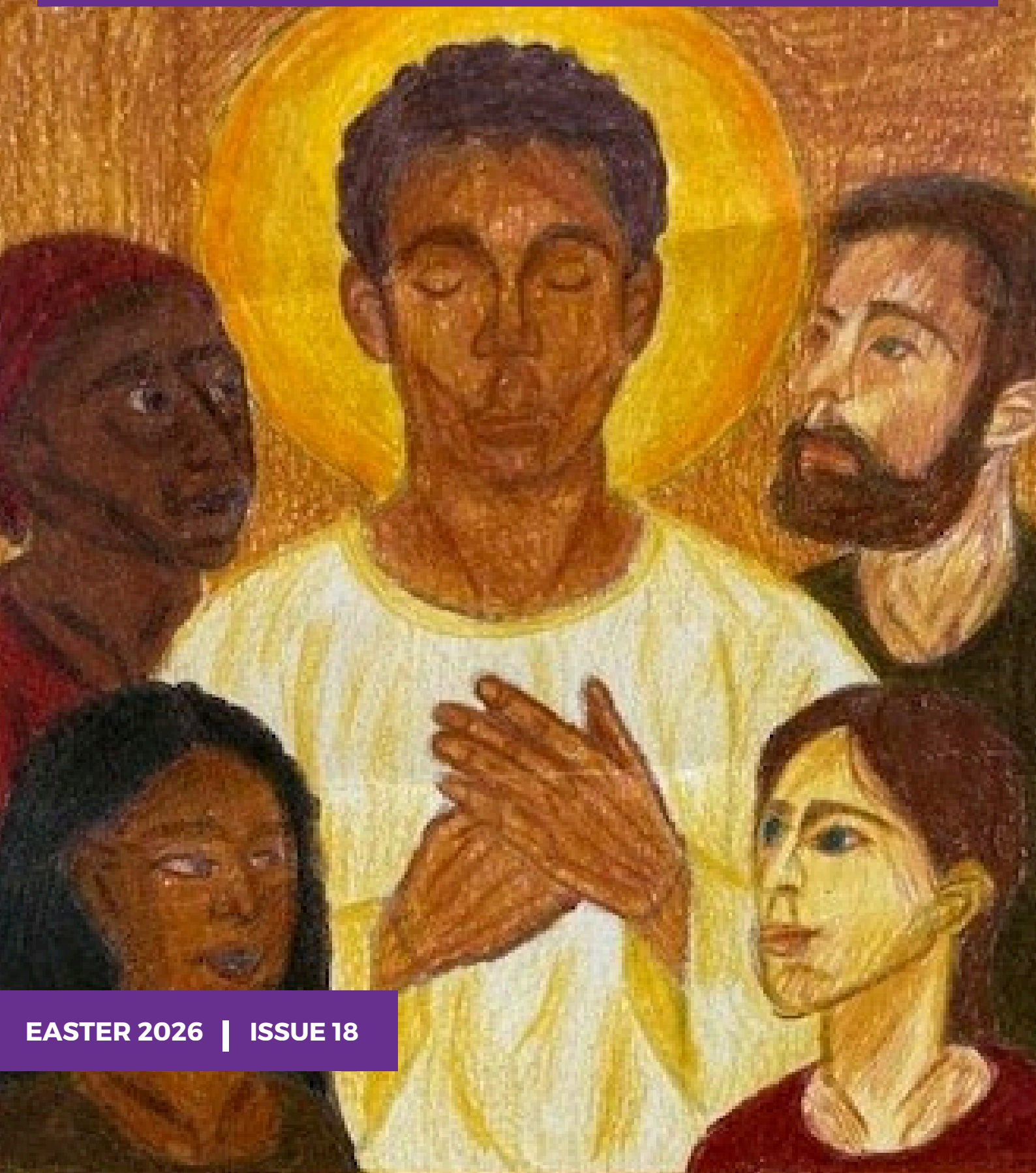


'Academies in Christ'
Part of the Archdiocese of Southwark

KENT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL 'CELEBRATION' ISSUE!



EASTER 2026 | ISSUE 18

Artwork by Megan, Year 7 student at St Anselm's Catholic School, Canterbury

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNEMARIE WHITTLE



As we enter this joyful season of Easter, I am delighted to share our 'celebration' newsletter, full of achievements that reflect the faith, talent and dedication alive across our Trust. To mention just a few:

On page 13, we celebrate St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Aylesham, who were crowned National Read-Aloud Challenge Winners – a wonderful recognition of their pupils' hard work and the staff who inspire a love of reading every day.

Our arts features on pages 17–19 showcase exceptional work from students at St Simon Stock Catholic School and St Anselm's Catholic School, Canterbury. Their creativity and depth of expression shine through every piece.

A particular highlight appears on page 20, where students from Ursuline College, Westgate-on-Sea, supported by peers from St Edmund's and St Anselm's, represented CAFOD's global debt campaign at Westminster. Their thoughtful presentation brought Catholic Social Teaching to life on a national platform.



Pupils at St Mary's Primary in Deal celebrating World Book Day 2026!

Our World Book Day gallery on pages 25–30 captures the joy and imagination that filled classrooms across KCSP. Alongside this, we are incredibly proud of two of our pupils – Anaiya from St Joseph's Northfleet and Chloe from St Edmund's Dover – who have been shortlisted for the South East Young Poet Laureate competition (pages 22–23). Their work is thoughtful, powerful, and beautifully written.

We also celebrate the compassion shown by pupils at Stella Maris Catholic Primary School, Folkestone, who raised an impressive £650 in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk (page 16), reminding us of the impact our communities can have on the lives of others.

As we prepare to celebrate Easter, we give thanks for the blessings within our schools and for the remarkable young people who continue to inspire us. We also hold in prayer those around the world who face hardship or uncertainty. May this sacred season strengthen our hope and our commitment to peace, compassion and service.

Wishing you and your families a blessed, joyful and peaceful Easter.

Annemarie Whittle
CEO

Annemarie

awhittle@kcsp.org.uk



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS **CAROLINE STOCKMANN**

This newsletter is packed full of achievements of the Trust, so I hope you'll find it a suitably uplifting read as we reach the Easter season!

I'd also like to thank all involved in our two governance conferences which we held recently. It was great to have so many of our Local Governance Committee members in the room at the same time, and to learn more about SEND, CSI and Ofsted (more info. on page 7).

I'm also really pleased to hear about two of our students - one from St Joseph's in Northfleet and one from St Edmund's in Dover - who have been shortlisted for this year's Young Poet Laureate competition, for the southeast region. The poems are very topical and on point, as well as beautifully written; you can read both in this issue, please see pages 21 and 22.

I had the opportunity very recently to join the team on a call with Dame Kate Dethridge, to discuss our Trust's attendance strategy. It was a good discussion, and also really helpful to experience first-hand the positive input from the Department for Education. Well done to all who continue the efforts to reduce absenteeism! It's a really challenging area.

As I write this, I am up in the Lake District, and enjoying some sun and seeing the new lambs gamboling across the fields behind me. Palm Sunday was, as ever, a sobering one, and I think this (Holy) week has that bitter-sweet mixture of sadness and hope, especially when the weather is glorious! The daffodils here are delightful, and seem to exude a sense of joy. So on that note, I'd like to wish you all a very happy Easter in advance, a good break, and a chance to re-charge the batteries.

Caroline Stockmann

Chair of the Trust Board of
Directors

cstockmann@kcsp.org.uk





A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS **CAROLINE STOCKMANN**



Dear Lord,

During this Holy Week we follow you on your sorrowful and glorious journey to the Cross and Resurrection. Give us grace to see the deep love you show us in your sacrifice. When we face suffering and disappointment, may we know your love. When we are feeling lost, may we know that you are with us. When we feel joy, may we know it comes from you, - that you are the source, and that we have you to thank for all of creation. May this Holy Week be for us a time of renewal in faith and love. Through Christ Our Lord.

Amen





AN EASTER MESSAGE

FROM CANON VICTOR DARLINGTON
EPISCOPAL VICAR FOR THE SOUTHEAST
AREA, ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

Beloved friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, Easter invites us once again to stand before the great mystery of hope at the heart of our Catholic faith. From the quiet darkness of the tomb comes the astonishing promise that God's love is stronger than fear, stronger than suffering, and stronger than death itself.

The Resurrection is not only an event in history; it is a living truth that continues to shape who we are and how we walk together as a family of Catholic schools.

Across KCSP schools, we see this Easter hope alive every day. It is present in the joy of our pupils, in the dedication of our staff, and in the countless small acts of kindness that build up our school communities. Catholic education is rooted in the belief that every child is created in the image and likeness of God and filled with potential. Easter strengthens this belief, reminding us that renewal is always possible and that God's grace is constantly at work, even in the most ordinary moments.

My dear friends, we are a people of Easter. This season encourages us to look again at the world with eyes of faith. Where there is challenge, Easter calls us to courage. Where there is uncertainty, it calls us to trust. Where there is division, it calls us to be a people of peace. As educators, Catholic leaders, and all who support our schools, we share in the mission of helping young people discover the hope that Christ offers – a hope that lifts them up, forms their character, and inspires them to bring light to others.

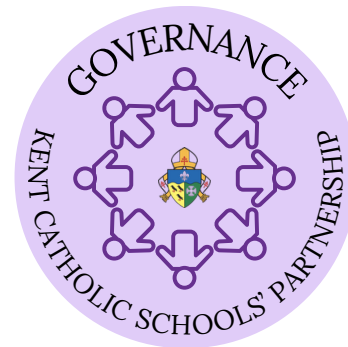
May the message of the empty tomb renew our commitment to nurturing our school communities where every child is valued, where faith is lived with integrity, and where love is the measure of all we do. As we celebrate the Resurrection, may we be strengthened in our shared purpose and encouraged to continue shaping a future filled with compassion, justice, and joy.

Wishing all our KCSP leadership team, our schools, families, and communities a blessed and hope-filled Easter. A big thank you to you for all you do in promoting Catholic education.

With assurances of my prayers always,
Canon Victor Darlington



GOVERNANCE



Our first governance conferences!

We were delighted to host a united LGC04, our first-ever Governance Conference, in March 2026. Across two vibrant, well-attended events, Directors, Local Governance Committee members and senior Leaders from across the Trust came together to learn, reflect, and strengthen our work as a partnership.

Welcomed by Caroline Stockmann, Chair of the Trust Board, delegates engaged in a tailored training programme shaped by priorities identified through the recent LGC skills audit.

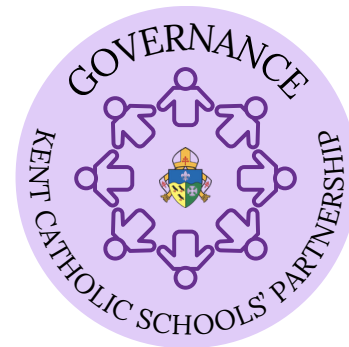
At St Simon Stock, attendees explored CSI Inspections and the RED, reviewed an exemplar monitoring report, and discussed how clear impact, strategic questioning, and well-structured evidence underpin effective governance. A panel conversation then unpacked expectations for CSI Inspections and the role of LGCs during interviews.

HR Connect provided an informative update on the legal expectations for HR panels, sparking valuable discussion on how collaboration between committees across the Trust strengthens transparency and reduces any perception of conflict of interest.

At St Anselm's, the focus turned to SEND developments in Kent, including the recent White Paper. We explored the significant changes underway in local provision and outlined how KCSP is already embedding an updated Trust-wide strategy highlighting how LGCs can strategically monitor and challenge progress.



GOVERNANCE



Our first governance conferences!

Delegates also heard about updates to the new Ofsted framework from an NGA adviser, followed by an engaging discussion in which our experts generously shared their first-hand experience of preparing for inspection under the revised framework.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many celebrating the value of coming together as one Trust family:

“Brilliant opportunity to meet my fellow committee members.”

“Varied and informative information.”

“Really helpful ideas for support and challenge, it made me look at how we frame questions as a committee.”

We encourage all attendees to share further reflections at LGC05, and to review the event using the QR code provided - your feedback will shape future sessions!

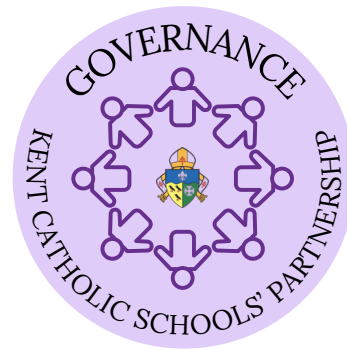
A huge thank you to St Simon Stock and St Anselm's for their warm hospitality.

It was inspiring to stand together in shared purpose. The commitment of our governance volunteers to championing the best possible outcomes for our pupils was evident at every moment.

Thank you to everyone who attended, contributed, and gave their time so generously. We look forward to coming together again at future partnership events.



GOVERNANCE



New Member for Our Trust: Welcoming Bishop Gerard Bradley

On 02 February, in a joyful celebration at St George's Cathedral, Archbishop John Wilson ordained Bishop Gerard Bradley as an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Southwark.

The ordination took place on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and followed Bishop Gerard's appointment by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV in December 2025. As part of this appointment, he was given the Titular See of Beverley. This title carries particular resonance for the Archdiocese, having been previously assigned to the late Bishop John Hine. Bishop Hine, who died in 2024, served the Archdiocese with profound commitment and is warmly remembered across diocesan schools and parishes.

We are delighted to welcome Bishop Gerard as a new Member of KCSP. The Members of a Catholic Academy Trust help safeguard its mission, ensuring that our Trust remains rooted in its Catholic identity and charitable purpose, as well as appointing the Foundation Directors who serve on the KCSP Board. His experience, faith, and commitment will be a wonderful blessing to our community.

Please keep Bishop Gerard in your prayers as he begins this new chapter of ministry with enthusiasm and dedication.



KCSP Staff Commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at St George's Cathedral

In February, representatives from our Trust community joined worshippers at St George's Cathedral for a special diocesan celebration, during which several were formally commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

We are delighted to share that a number of colleagues from across our family of schools were among those commissioned during this meaningful liturgy, including Andrea, Lindsay and Sile from St Simon Stock Catholic School in Maidstone (pictured below). This ministry is a valued and important service within the Church, supporting the distribution of the Eucharist during Mass and to those who are housebound or in hospital.

Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for Education, noted with appreciation the strong representation from our schools, recognising the commitment and witness shown by so many members of our school communities who serve in parish ministries.

We extend our congratulations and prayers to all who were commissioned. Their dedication reflects the deep connection between our schools and parishes, and the shared mission to nurture faith, service, and community across our Trust.



CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOLS!



On the following pages, we are delighted to share a selection of our pupils' remarkable recent achievements. Their creativity, hard work, and enthusiasm shine through in every story. We are sure you will agree that we are blessed with incredibly talented and inspiring young people across our Trust family!



St Bartholomew's Catholic Primary School, Swanley

Awarded Prestigious International School Award

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that St Bartholomew's Catholic Primary School in Swanley has been reaccredited for "Outstanding Development of the International Dimension of the Curriculum" and has once again been awarded the International School Award by the British Council for the period 2025–2028.

This highly respected award recognises schools that embed a rich, outward-looking international ethos throughout their curriculum, providing pupils with meaningful opportunities to understand the wider world and develop as global citizens.



The British Council commended the school's achievement, sharing:
"Congratulations on your school's reaccreditation with the International School Award 2025–2028. This accomplishment reflects your entire school's dedication to integrating a diverse and imaginative array of international initiatives. Your remarkable achievement in the International School Award deserves widespread recognition and celebration."

At the heart of this success is the school's commitment to high-quality international learning experiences, supported by creative curriculum design and strong cultural partnerships. A particular highlight of the celebration was seeing Madame Ives, the school's talented and passionate French teacher, attend the awards event in London to receive the certificate on behalf of the school (pictured above), an acknowledgement of her outstanding contribution to language learning and global education. This is a significant and well-deserved accomplishment for St Bartholomew's, and a testament to the school's continued drive to broaden horizons, celebrate cultural diversity, and prepare children for life in an interconnected world. Congratulations to the entire school community on this remarkable achievement!

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Aylesham, Celebrates National Victory in the 2025 Read-Aloud Challenge!



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Aylesham is celebrating a remarkable achievement after being named the South East Regional Winner in the 2025 National Read-Aloud Challenge – and further recognised as the overall National Winner at this year's awards ceremony.

The National Read-Aloud Challenge, run by Fonetti, encourages pupils across the UK to develop reading confidence and fluency by reading aloud using innovative speech-recognition technology. Schools compete regionally and nationally, with thousands of children taking part.

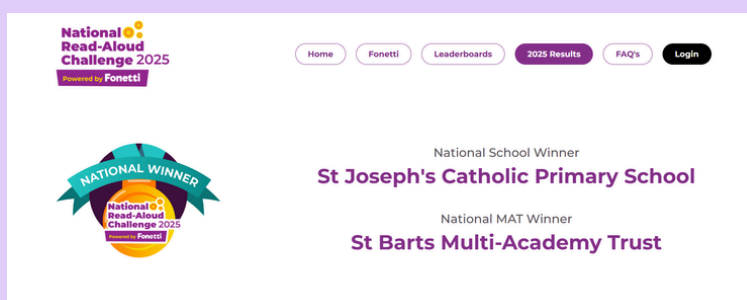
St Joseph's pupils impressed judges through their enthusiasm, commitment, and the sheer volume of reading completed throughout the challenge. Their hard work placed them at the top of the South East region and ultimately secured the National School Winner title – a significant milestone for the school and a proud moment for the entire community.

The awards ceremony, held in London and presented by Fonetti Ambassador Clare Balding CBE, celebrated the achievements of schools who went above and beyond to inspire a love of reading. St Joseph's success highlights the strong reading culture nurtured by staff, families, and pupils alike.

Staff at the school praised the dedication shown by pupils, many of whom read consistently throughout the summer and autumn terms to climb the national leaderboard. This achievement reflects St Joseph's commitment to fostering confident, capable readers who enjoy reading for pleasure.



The Trust extends its warmest congratulations to all pupils and staff at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Aylesham. Their outstanding success in the 2025 National Read-Aloud Challenge is a testament to their hard work, teamwork, and love of reading.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Northfleet: School Choir Shines at Commonwealth Day Ceremony

On Monday 10th March, the St Joseph's school choir had the honour of representing the school at Gravesham Council's Commonwealth Day flag-raising ceremony. The event, held at the Woodville Halls and hosted by the Mayor of Gravesham together with the Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, brought together local schools, community representatives and civic leaders for this special occasion.

The morning began with a warm welcome at the Woodville Halls, where attendees enjoyed vibrant steel-pan music and speeches reflecting on the meaning of Commonwealth Day. Two of our pupils were invited to assist with the official raising of the flags, an exciting and memorable moment for them and for everyone watching.

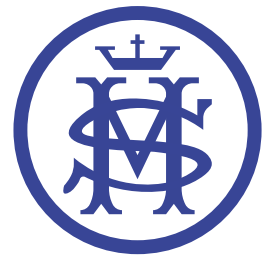
Following the outdoor ceremony, the choir was invited inside to perform for the assembled dignitaries and guests. They sang two uplifting pieces, The Power of Music and Power in Me, delivering both with confidence, harmony and joy. Their performance was met with enthusiastic applause, and we were delighted to hear that guests described the choir as "blown away" by their singing.

It was a proud and memorable occasion for St Joseph's, and a wonderful example of our children representing their school and community with talent and dignity.



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Deal

Pupils Shine at the Dover District Primary Schools Swimming Gala



Pupils from St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Deal, delivered an outstanding performance at the Dover District Primary Schools Swimming Gala on Monday 9th March, securing a fantastic 3rd place overall against strong competition from across the district.

The Key Stage 2 team impressed not only with their swimming talent but also with their exemplary team spirit. Staff praised the children for their unwavering encouragement of one another, cheering every race and giving their absolute best for the team!

The team proudly brought home an excellent set of medals:

- Years 5 & 6 Medley Relay – Silver
- Years 5 & 6 Freestyle Relay – Silver
- Years 5 & 6 Breaststroke – Silver
- Years 3 & 4 Backstroke – Gold
- Years 5 & 6 Backstroke – Bronze



These achievements highlight the dedication, hard work, and resilience of the pupils, supported every step of the way by staff and families.

A huge congratulations to the entire team for representing St Mary's with such pride and determination. What a brilliant accomplishment and well done, everyone!

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School, Folkestone: Pupils Step Out for CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and Raise £650

The school community at Stella Maris Primary in Folkestone has proudly completed this year's CAFOD Big Lent Walk, raising an impressive £650.00 so far to support communities around the world.

Children and staff came together for the whole-school walk, as pupils from every year group stepped out in solidarity. The event was a joyful celebration of community spirit and collective action.

The purpose of **CAFOD's Big Lent Walk** is to raise funds to help bring life-saving water to families in communities such as those in Ethiopia and Peru, where access to clean, safe water can transform daily life. Every pound raised contributes directly to improving water security for people facing the daily struggle of long journeys to collect safe water.

Stella Maris embraced this mission wholeheartedly, demonstrating understanding of Catholic Social Teaching in action, generosity, and a strong commitment to helping others. Their efforts will make a meaningful difference to families across the world.

A huge well done to everyone at Stella Maris, your steps are helping to change lives!

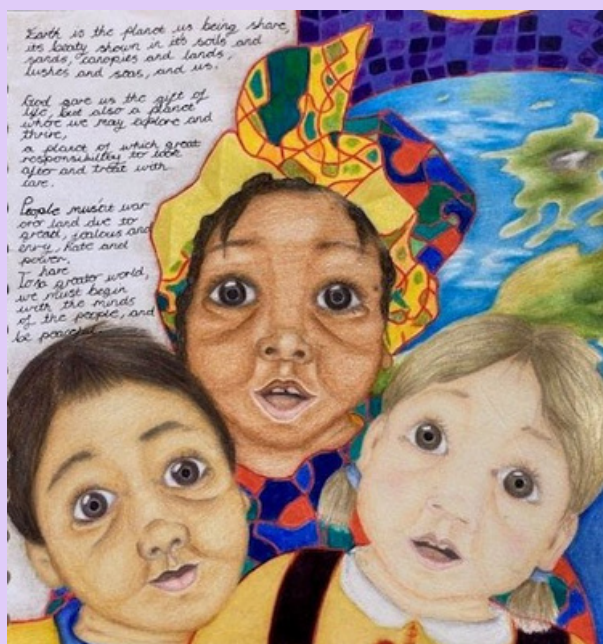


St Anselm's Catholic School, Canterbury: Art Inspired by Faith: Students Bring Catholic Social Teaching to Life



Veritas quærens unitatem

Students at St Anselm's Catholic School, Canterbury, have created a beautiful collection of artwork bringing Catholic Social Teaching to life. Each piece offers a thoughtful visual interpretation of principles such as dignity, solidarity, and care for creation. Our cover image was created by Megan, one of the school's talented Year 7 students. Their creativity and reflection shine through in every artwork.



Femi, Year 9 student



Harry, Year 7 student

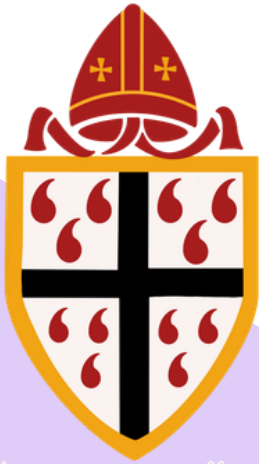


Mason, Year 8 student



Hugo, Year 7 student

Art Inspired by Faith



"fides quaerens intellectum"



Jude, Year 8 student



Megi, Year 9 student



William, Year 8 student



Melita, Year 9 student



Meagan, Year 8 student



Shanel, Year 9 student



William, Year 8 student

St Simon Stock Catholic School, Maidstone: Students Shine at the John Downton Awards



This year's John Downton Awards at County Hall, Maidstone, shone a spotlight on some of Kent's most talented young artists, with an incredible 486 entries submitted from across the county. Now in its 25th anniversary year, the awards continue to honour the legacy of Kent artist, poet, and philosopher John Downton, celebrating exceptional creativity in Drawing, Painting, Mixed Media and Photography.

We are delighted to share that five students from St Simon Stock School were shortlisted, an outstanding achievement in such a competitive field.

A special congratulations goes to India Coles, who won the Best Drawing Award for her powerful and deeply moving portrait exploring the experiences of refugees (pictured below left). Judges praised the emotional intensity of her work, particularly the expressive eyes. This marks the third consecutive year a St Simon Stock student has received this prestigious award.

We also congratulate Joe Brighton, who received the Highly Commended Silver Award for his thought-provoking digital painting reflecting on the tension between digital life and real-world connection (pictured below right).

With two major award winners and five shortlisted students overall, this is a phenomenal accomplishment for St Simon Stock and a testament to the imagination, skill, and artistic dedication of its pupils.



Ursuline College Students Champion Global Justice at Westminster



Students from Ursuline College, Westgate, travelled to Westminster on 17 March 2026 to represent CAFOD's global debt campaign at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. Their visit marked the culmination of months of student-led advocacy, including assemblies, presentations, and petition work carried out in partnership with St Edmund's, Dover and St Anselm's, Canterbury.

During the visit, the students met with senior civil servants and delivered a confident, thoughtful presentation on the impact of international debt on developing countries. They demonstrated an impressive grasp of justice, dignity, and the common good, showing Catholic Social Teaching lived out in action.

Alongside the policy discussions, students also learned more about careers within the Civil Service and the work involved in government international aid. Many expressed how proud they felt to represent their school and CAFOD on a national platform.

The group also contributed to CAFOD's wider campaign by producing video content reflecting on their experience and the importance of global debt relief.

Watch their video here.



St Anselm's Students Attend Historic Installation of the New Archbishop of Canterbury



Students and staff from StAnselm's Catholic Secondary School, Canterbury were honoured to represent the school at the historic installation of Dame Sarah Mullally, who has now been formally installed as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, the first woman in history to lead the Church of England.

The installation, held at Canterbury Cathedral on 25 March 2026, was attended by dignitaries from across the world, including members of the Royal Family. The Prince and Princess of Wales were among the guests gathered for this very special occasion. StAnselm's students enjoyed an extraordinary experience, seated just a few feet from the ceremonial procession and the Royal guests. They witnessed centuries-old traditions, including Archbishop Sarah's symbolic knocking at the West Door and her enthronement in the historic Chair of St Augustine, a ritual marking the beginning of her public ministry.

A special congratulations goes to one of our students who had the remarkable privilege of performing as part of the service choir, a wonderful achievement and a moment to be remembered for years to come.

The atmosphere in the Cathedral was one of celebration, hope, and historic significance, as Archbishop Sarah, formerly the UK's Chief Nursing Officer, reflected on her call to serve and the global mission of the Church.

We are incredibly proud of our students for representing the StAnselm's community on such an important day for the Church of England and for the city of Canterbury. It was truly a memorable and inspiring occasion.





Celebrating our Young Poets!

This year, many talented pupils from across our family of schools submitted original poems to the Young Poet Laureate competition, a national programme run by the National Literacy Trust that aims to champion young poetic voices and inspire creativity and confidence in children aged 7–14.

From hundreds of entries nationwide, only 120 young poets are shortlisted each year before progressing to regional masterclasses led by professional poets and judged by regional panels.

We are absolutely delighted to share that two of our pupils, Anaiya, from St Joseph's Primary in Northfleet, and Chloe, from St Eedmund's Secondary in Dover, have both been shortlisted for the South East region, a remarkable achievement and a testament to their talent, imagination and hard work.

Both pupils have demonstrated wonderful creativity and a strong personal voice in their poetry, embodying everything the competition seeks to encourage.

We are thrilled to see our pupils engaging so confidently and contributing to this national celebration of young creativity. A huge congratulations to Anaiya and Chloe, and to all the pupils across our schools who entered this year's competition. We are incredibly proud of each of you!

A Summer Evening

*The sun's golden ribbons of light
finish off their day of glitter,
The last rays of day sparkle on streets
paved with litter,
Tide comes in and waves plummet
against towering rocks
Sunlight streams off gliding wings
soaring across.*

*See the sky in shades of fire and
crimson,
Bobbing on the waves, plastic pieces
wrongfully glisten,*

*Up high, cotton-candy clouds are so
delicately dancing,
When a graceful breeze dives in,
entrancing.*

*Ripples of seawater inch up the damp
shore,
Entering a world of greenhouse gases
galore,
Sun-kissed sand grows dark and wet,
Watching the illuminating sunset.*

By Anaiya



Celebrating our Young Poets!

When the world goes quiet

When the world goes quiet, you can finally
hear it,
The thin trembling thread that ties your
heart,
To every moment you thought you'd
forgotten.
It hums softly beneath the noise of the
living.
A reminder,
That even the smallest parts of us are trying
their best
Not to disappear.
We grow up learning how to fix broken
things.
Plates, promises, the edges of ourselves.
But no one teaches us how to hold
something fragile without fearing the weight
of it.
Some days,
We are oceans rising.
Saltwater and certainty.
Other days,
We are barely a ripple.
Hoping the shore still remembers our name.
We hide our questions in the folds of our
sleeves,
We bury our doubts between breaths.
We carry our wounds like invisible Lanterns,
Glowing,
Even when we pretend we're fine.
And still,
Still.
We rise.
Not like heroes,

Not like saints.
But like people who learned to stay alive.
In a world that doesn't pause.
For anyone.
There is beauty in the bending.
There is power in the inhale before the sob.
The trembling hand that reaches out
anyway,
The voice that cracks.
But continues.
Listen,
You don't need to be whole to be worthy.
You don't need to be fearless to be strong,
You don't need applause to show that you
mattered.
Though you deserve it more than you know.
Because the truth is this:
Every one of us is a small act of courage
wrapped in skin.
Every heartbeat is a rebellion,
Every breath is proof that even in silence,
We continue.
And maybe that is the loudest thing of all.
The quiet, steady insistence that we are still
here,
Still trying,
Still rising.
From every moment that tried to break us.
So, when the world goes quiet,
Stand tall.
Let the air carry your name,
Let your presence ring like a bell.
You are not an echo,
You are the sound the world leans in to hear.

By Chloe

SECONDARY SCHOOLS' LITERACY FESTIVAL 2026

YEAR 8 STUDENTS' POETRY COMPETITION!

We are delighted to announce that the Trust will be hosting our first ever Secondary Schools' Literacy Festival for Year 8 students on 18 June 2026 at St John's Secondary School, Gravesend.
(A huge thank you to St John's for hosting!)

The festival will celebrate the power of words: supporting, inspiring, and building pupils' confidence in both written and performance poetry. We are thrilled to share that workshops on the day will be led by three incredible guest artists:

Michael Rosen – Writer, Poet, Broadcaster & Former Children's Laureate (2007–09)

Zohab Zee Khan – Educator, Spoken Word Poet, Motivational Speaker & Hip-Hop Artist

Christian Foley – Poet & Hip-Hop Educator

Year 8 Poetry Competition Theme: "This is My Voice"

All Year 8 students attending the festival are invited to take part!

Your poem might explore:

- Something important about who you are
- A moment when you spoke up (or wished you had)
- What people misunderstand about you
- A cause or belief you care about
- The difference between your inside voice and your outside voice
- How your voice might sound in the future

What the judges are looking for:

- Original and creative ideas
- Strong imagery and powerful language choices
- A clear, confident sense of voice
- An effective and engaging structure

Prizes

A winner and runner-up will be chosen from each of our secondary schools. Each will receive:

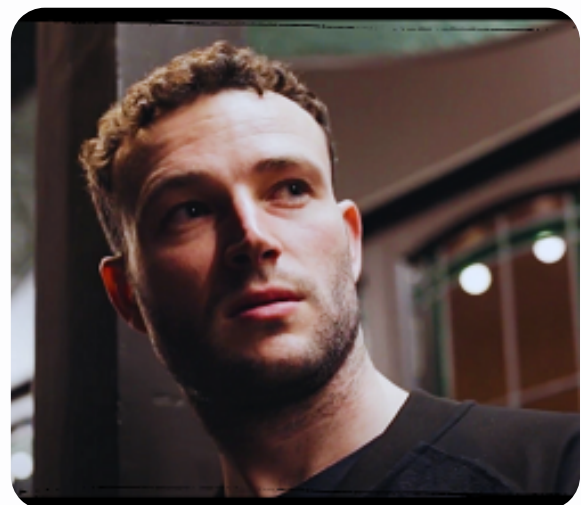
- A £15 book token
- A certificate
- A personally signed copy of a Michael Rosen book

Rules

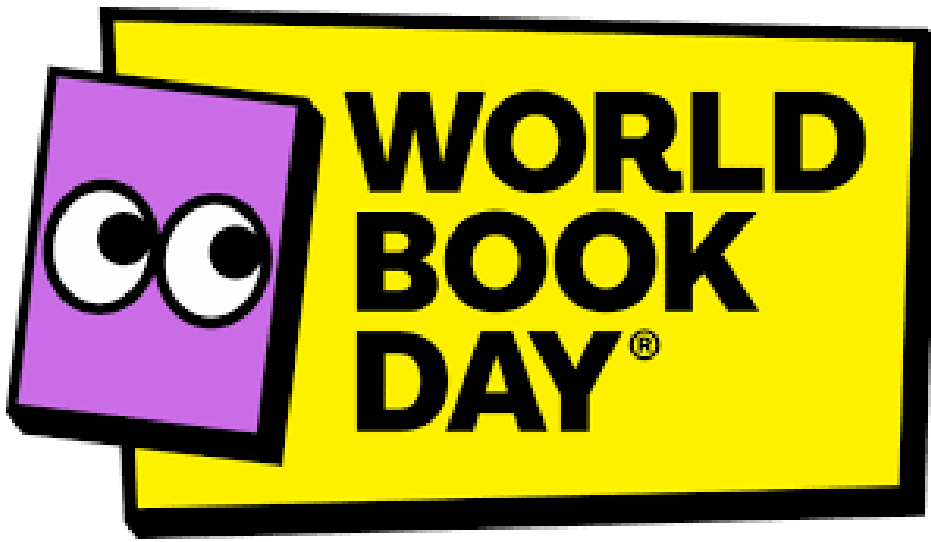
- Maximum 500 words
- All entries must be original work

How to Enter

Students should hand or send their poem directly to their Form Tutor or English Teacher before the deadline.



**Closing date for
entries:
Friday 08 May
2026**



**World Book Day
inspires every
child to enjoy the
life-changing
benefits of
reading for fun.**

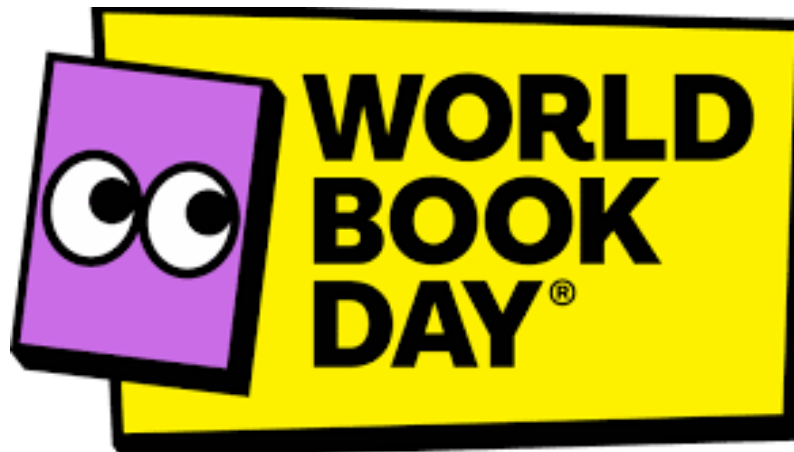
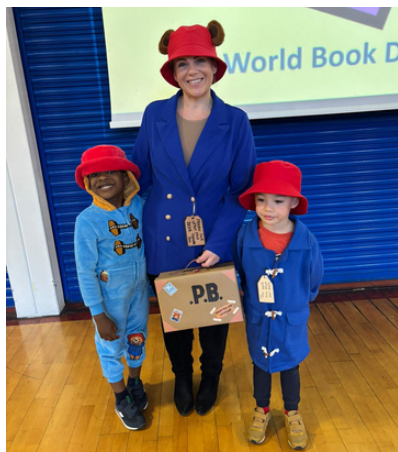
On Thursday 5th March, we joined schools across the country in celebrating World Book Day 2026 – a wonderful annual event dedicated to authors, illustrators, books, and the sheer joy of reading.

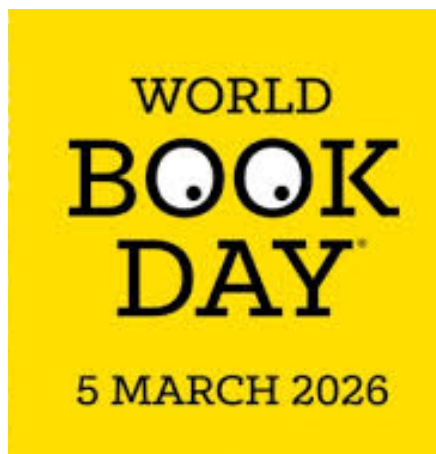
Once again, our schools embraced the day with creativity and enthusiasm, as you'll see on the pages ahead!



**WORLD
BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2026



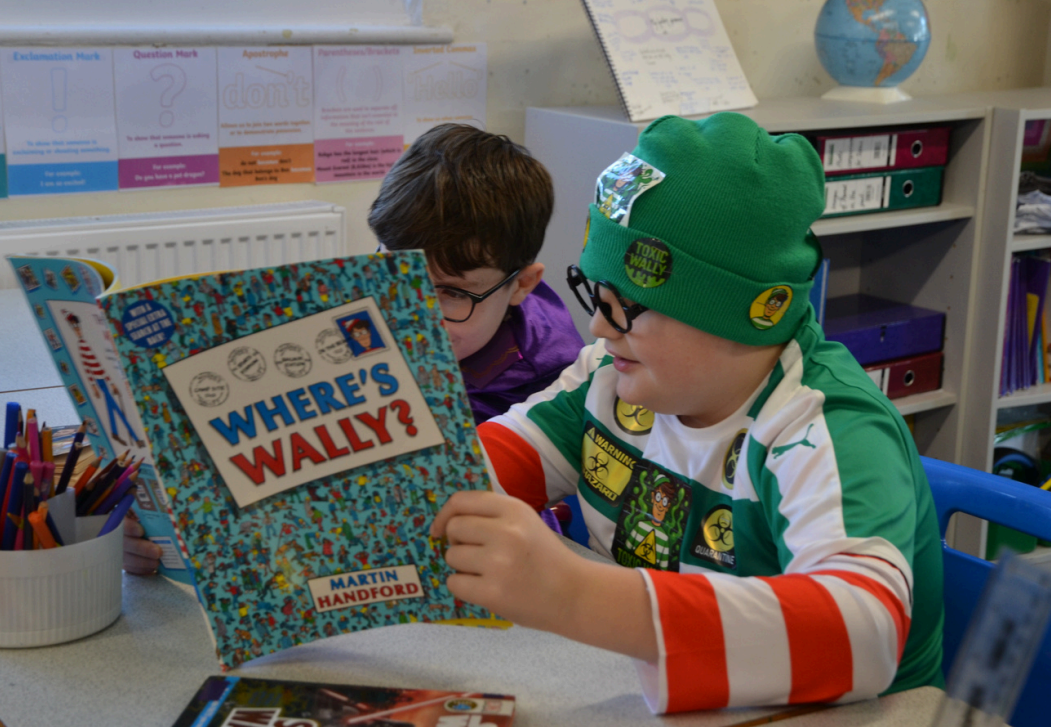




WORLD BOOK DAY

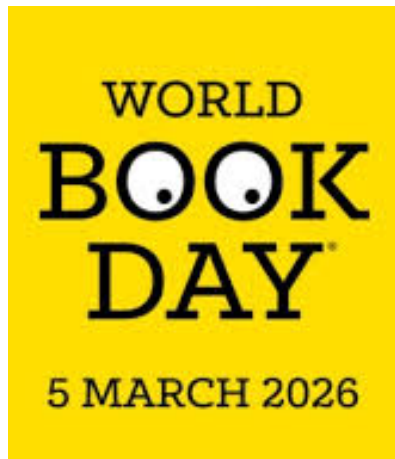
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WORLD
BOOK
DAY[™]
5 MARCH 2026





SCIENCE IN ACTION: SUPPORTED BY THE PRIMARY SCIENCE TEACHING TRUST

WRITTEN BY SARAH FLIGHT, CPD COORDINATOR

Building on the success of previous years, all primary schools from across the Trust came together online on the 10th March to celebrate British Science Week. The day consisted of specially planned activities and investigations, and was expertly led by Tom Holloway, Director of Regional Programmes, for the Primary Science Teaching Trust!

Pupils investigated:

- *Chromatography, by testing out felt-tip pens and what happens when water is added.*
- *Floating and sinking, by testing a range of materials for their absorbency and making predictions as to way some materials floated better than others.*
- *The structure of backbones, and explored why different sizes and shapes of a structure affect4ed its strength*
- *Air resistance, by making different shapes and sizes of card fly*



As always, the afternoon session was the highlight of the event as children from across all year groups and schools were invited to present their findings online! Pupils demonstrated incredibly well the wide range of scientific concepts they had learned about, and it is always hugely rewarding to see the amount of hard work and effort that children give to the day, and an enormous pleasure to see all our schools come together for the event.

It is a huge testament to the hard work and dedication of all the staff who supported the day, and this was evident in the level of engagement displayed by all children.

Thank you to all the staff from our schools, who put a great deal of effort into gathering resources and organising the day, and for the pupils for enthusiasm in joining in, and, of course Tom for leading us! Another memorable Science Day which has become a firm favourite fixture of the school year.

**Pictured on this page:
Trust pupils taking part in our Primary Science Day
Event on 10th March**

Safeguarding

Sources of support

For some children, young people and families, the school holidays can be isolating because the support they receive from school does not feel so accessible.

Contact details are provided below to reassure that services and support are available if you or a member of your family need to access it:



It can be difficult to support children and young people online as their digital world changes. [Internet Matters](#) provide parents and carers with guidance, advice and support to keep children safe online.



'It's ok not to be ok' and sometimes accessing support and information can be difficult. [MIND](#) provide a range of information; advice; support and services so that you don't feel so alone



Domestic abuse can happen against anyone and by anyone. It includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse in couple relationships or between family members. The [NHS](#) provide support and signposting to organisations who can help.



[Childline](#) can provide help and advice on lots of things that include: Dyslexia; Gender identity; Puberty; managing feelings and emotions. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and available on: **0800 1111**



[Kent Young carers](#) supports those aged 5 - 18 yrs who are providing care, support or supervision to any family member that may have: a long-term illness, physical or neurodevelopmental disability; suffering with poor mental health or substance misuse issue.



If you are worried about a child please call:
03000 41 11 11 Monday - Friday 9am-5pm
03000 41 91 91 outside office hours
email: social.services@kent.gov.uk





Have a wonderful Easter break, see you all next term!

**The KCSP Summer newsletter will be published on 16 July 2026,
you can subscribe directly [here](#).**

Please visit the [news](#) page on our website to keep up to date with
the very latest stories and updates from our schools throughout
term time.

Ken
Catholic
Schools'
Partnership



'Academies in Christ'
Part of the Archdiocese of Southwark



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