



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

ST PHILIP HOWARD CENTRE, 6 SOUTHGATE DRIVE, CRAWLEY, RH10 6RP

October 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you well and that the new school year has started smoothly. It seems incredible that we are already four weeks into term and October is upon us! I am acutely aware of the additional pressures which the current situation continues to place upon you. As you will be aware, Bernadette will be off work for the foreseeable future and I would like to extend my thanks to all who have sent such lovely messages for her. We have passed everything on to Bernadette and she has asked me to let you know how grateful she is for your prayers, support and kindness. Please keep her in your prayers in the weeks ahead. Bernadette is due to go into hospital on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. It would be wonderful if as many as possible would say the Rosary for her intentions on that date.

Next Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> sees the beatification of Carlo Acutis, an Italian teenager who died in 2006 at the age of fifteen. Born in London to a half-English father and an Italian mother, Carlos died of leukaemia in 2006 in Milan, where his family moved soon after he was born. A wonderful example for young people, Carlo was noted for his cheerfulness and for his computer skills as well as his deep devotion to the Eucharist which became a core theme of his life.

**"I'm happy to die because I've lived my life without wasting even a minute of it doing things that wouldn't have pleased God"**. With these few words Carlo outlined the distinguishing feature of his short life: to live with, for, and in Jesus. Carlo's beatification rite will take place on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the Upper Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi. Please encourage your children to learn more about his life; there is a great website about Carlo to help with this: <https://carloacutis-en.org/>

Mental health and well-being are always of fundamental importance, and even more so after the ravages of the past few months. Many of you will remember that *Bee-lieve Foundation* was set up in July 2020 to support young people suffering from mental health illnesses. The foundation was established by Steve Tindall (Headteacher, Holy Family, Addlestone) to mark his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Catholic education. On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September, the Bee-lieve Foundation marathon team enjoyed an amazing day walking the entire 26.8 miles from Westminster Cathedral to Holy Family in Addlestone. The team began the day with Mass at the Cathedral before making their way along the Kings Road, over Putney Bridge, through Richmond, Twickenham, Hampton Court, Hersham, Weybridge and finally Addlestone. The route took the team to all the educational establishments that have shaped Steve's teaching career. They ended their marathon in Addlestone, with the High Street lined by parents, children and family members from Holy Family wearing Bee-lieve t-shirts, waving banners and cheering the team on! It was a memorable day and happily the team raised over £9,000 to begin their quest to help the most vulnerable and needy young people in our school communities.

EDUCATION SERVICE

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Bee-lieve Foundation is here for everyone! To make a donation, please visit their Just Giving page: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/beelieve-foundation](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/beelieve-foundation) or for more information, please visit their website: [www.beelievefoundation.co.uk](http://www.beelievefoundation.co.uk)

We have had a great response to our CPD programme this term and would like to thank all those who have participated thus far. In addition we are able to offer some face to face training and support where possible, with strict protocols in place as defined both by school and diocesan risk assessments. We would be delighted to explore this further with interested schools or individuals; please contact Claire Martin on [claire.martin@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:claire.martin@abdiocese.org.uk) or 01293 511130 in the first instance.

Today (October 1<sup>st</sup>) sees Ofsted's first visit of the academic year to a diocesan school; today's 'visit' will be quite a contrast to the usual 'inspection'. As you will be aware, Ofsted is currently planning to return to full inspection in January 2021 although this date will be kept under review. In keeping with Ofsted, no Catholic School Inspections will take place this term. With regard to curriculum, don't forget to take advantage of the free RSE training available through the CES and developed in conjunction with Ten Ten and DfE. Details can be found at: <https://rsetraining.catholiceducation.org.uk/courses/>

Next week a working party comprising representatives from Xavier and Bosco Trusts, DES, Diocesan Trustees and the Academies Partnership Committee will begin the process of reviewing diocesan academies documentation with a view to simplifying the paperwork and streamlining the process. We will keep you updated as to developments.

The Diocese will soon be launching a new website: <https://abdiocese.org.uk> It will be the access point for all departments (including Education, Lourdes and Formation) and all things diocesan, and has entailed a huge amount of work over the school holidays in developing and populating the site. We hope the transition from our current site and host to a new site and host will be as smooth as possible but if you do encounter any difficulties please do not hesitate to contact us. We are told by the developers that the new site should go live in the next two weeks: watch this space for more information!

Lastly, we are now in the month of the holy Rosary, a way of honouring Our Lady in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church. Each of us continues to be in need of her protection and help. May we give thanks for the many graces and blessings of Catholic education and pray for what we need in the coming months.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie".

Marie Ryan