

CEO Update

Education Mass

It was a pleasure to see colleagues from across our Trust and the wider Diocese gather at St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster, for the annual Education Mass on 25 June 2026. The celebration provided a valuable opportunity to come together in faith, give thanks for the vocation of Catholic education, and celebrate the contribution of those who serve our family of schools.

Thank you to everyone who attended and represented our schools so positively. We offer our warmest congratulations to all those who were commissioned by Bishop Paul, including staff taking on new leadership roles, governors, chaplains, teachers and those new to Catholic education.

KS2 Test Results Update

The Department for Education has confirmed that Key Stage 2 test results will now be released to schools on 16 July 2026, nine days later than originally scheduled. The deadline for schools to request reviews of marking or clerical errors has also been extended to 24 July 2026.

The DfE has reassured schools that test papers have been marked using the usual processes and that the standards maintenance exercise has been completed, ensuring results remain comparable with previous years. The Standards and Testing Agency has stated that it is confident in the quality and accuracy of the results schools will receive.

Pearson has also confirmed that the systems used to process KS2 results are separate from those used for GCSE and A Level examinations, and therefore there should be no impact on the delivery of summer exam results.

DfE: Inclusive Mainstream Fund 2026 to 2027

DfE has "simplified and republished" the [Inclusive Mainstream Fund](#) (IMF) allocations. It has also removed the inclusive mainstream fund calculator, as actual allocations have now been confirmed.

Ofsted: Glossary – Education Inspection Terminology

Ofsted has updated its glossary of education inspection terminology, covering early years, schools, independent schools, further education and initial teacher education. The July update reflects changes to inspection documents due to come into force in September 2026.

Teacher Pay Rise

The DfE has confirmed a 3.5 per cent teacher pay rise in 2026/27, but schools must find 1 per cent of the increase from their own budgets. The DfE is also set to offer a 3 per cent pay rise for 2027/28, bringing the total increase to 6.5% over the next 2 years.

HR Update

Summer Wellbeing for Teachers and Support Staff

As schools break up for the summer, it's a valuable opportunity to pause, reflect, and focus on wellbeing. For teachers and support staff, the school year can be incredibly demanding – balancing workloads, supporting pupils, and managing day-to-day pressures. The summer break offers a well earned chance to rest, recharge, and spend quality time with family and friends. Taking time to step away from routines, prioritise self-care, and reconnect with personal interests can make a positive impact on both physical and mental wellbeing.

This time of year is also a chance to look out for one another. While many will welcome the break, some may still be managing ongoing pressures at home or thinking ahead to the next academic year. Checking in with colleagues, sharing supportive resources, and encouraging open conversations can help create a culture of care beyond the workplace. Whether it's enjoying time with loved ones, getting outdoors, or simply slowing down, small actions can make a big difference in helping everyone return refreshed, supported, and ready for the year ahead.

Wishing you all a well-deserved break and lovely Summer. HR and Payroll will remain open should you need any help or advice:

email: HR@bebcmat.co.uk

Telephone: 01253 203260 extension 2200.

SAS Wellbeing support: 01773 814404

Education Support: 08000 562 561

Financial Wellbeing

Raising awareness of financial wellbeing is an important step in supporting colleagues, friends, and families through the challenges of managing money.

Financial pressures can affect anyone at any time, and when left unaddressed they can impact not only day-to-day life but also mental health and overall wellbeing. Creating an environment where people feel comfortable talking about money concerns helps to break down stigma and ensures that those who need support know they are not alone. It's equally important to signpost trusted sources of help. Organisations such as PayPlan provide free, confidential advice and practical support for anyone struggling with debt or worried about their finances. They offer guidance tailored to individual circumstances, helping people explore their options and take steps toward regaining control. Sharing resources like this can make a real difference, whether for yourself or someone else, by encouraging early action and ensuring support is accessible when it's needed most. They also run the Unison advice line for members.

Payplan website: <https://www.payplan.com/>

Telephone: 0800 316 1833

Autism Unlimited

<https://www.autism-unlimited.org/who-we-are>

Autism Unlimited exists to support and empower people living with autism. They are offering a range of opportunities to learn, explore and build capability in ways that may work for your team.

HR Update

July's Offers

Neuroinclusive Learning and Development. This webinar will explore how neuro inclusive learning and development can create more accessible, engaging, and effective learning experiences for everyone.

Free webinar Wednesday 1st July 10:30am - 11:15am

[Click here to book](#)

Neuroinclusion in Action: Practical Strategies for Leaders

Join us for a webinar exploring how neuroinclusion can drive meaningful, practical change across teams, systems, and organisational culture.

Free webinar Wednesday 1st July 12:30am - 13:15pm

[Click here to book](#)

Please visit their website for additional events and resources.

LGPS

Effective 1 April 2026, there are three key LGPS changes for employers.

1. Unpaid absence under 15 days

- Pension contributions are now mandatory (both employer and employee) based on the pay the employee would have earned ("lost pay").

2. Unpaid absence over 14 days

- New system (QAPA) allows employees to buy back lost pension after returning to work.
- Both employee and employer contribute; employees have up to 12 months to opt in.

3. Child-related leave changes

- Expanded to include unpaid additional maternity, adoption, and shared parental leave.
- Assumed Pensionable Pay (APP), what an employee would receive as normal pay, must now be applied during these unpaid periods.

APP is a calculated 'normal pay' figure used to make sure pension contributions continue at the right level even when someone's actual pay drops during leave

Adjustments applied in June payroll for those who have had unpaid leave in April and May and payroll will make manual adjustments moving forward.

Estates

SCA

Tenders and orders are currently being processed for 24 of the 31 projects to be completed through SCA in this funding round.

Works to be completed include fencing, CCTV systems, toilet replacements and central heating systems.

Finance

Having set the budget for the next 3 years the Government has announced a raft of changes connected to Teachers pay, Support Staff pay, TPS Employers Pension rates and associated additional grants. The expectation is that schools will benefit financially from these changes but the impact will be reviewed as information becomes more clear and school allocations are published.

I want to reassure all teaching staff that the upcoming reduction in the TPS Employer contribution rate is a technical funding change for the school. This change has no impact whatsoever on your personal pension benefits, your retirement lump sum, or the value of your pension when you retire.

School Improvement

It was a fabulous event held at St John Vianney yesterday as we celebrated our next seven schools becoming Schools of Sanctuary.

- St Joseph's
- St Bernadette's
- St John's Vianney
- The Willows
- St Mary's, Fleetwood
- Holy Family, Warton
- St William's

Reflection

Based on the gospel for Sunday 5 July, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Matthew 11:25-30

"Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Lord God, who sent your Son Jesus Christ to give rest to the heavy laden,
grant respite to those who labour,
food to those who hunger, and drink to those who thirst.
Give us the grace to serve our neighbours as ourselves.
We pray this in Jesus Christ's name,
Amen.

Blessed Edward Bamber, Pray for Us

