TRUST UPATE

YOUR MONTHLY DIGEST

October 2026

Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust

CEO Update

Care for Creation Mass

The mass was held on 5th October at English Martyrs and saw staff and pupils from every Trust school participating to celebrate 800 years and a day since the death of St Francis of Assisi in this Jubilee year. It was lovely to see pupils, staff, governors, directors, English Martyrs parish and the clergy filling the Church with music and prayer. See photos on the final page.

Erasmus+ for schools

The UK is rejoing the Erasmus+ programme which supports international exchanges and projects for students with partner schools across Europe - all opportunities are usually fully funded and can be for pupils from Primary schools through to 6th form. There are also some opportunities for involvement at staff and whole school level. See Erasmus+ Programme: **https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/** for more information. The funding round will be in November 2026.

Union update

The NEU has called off its plans to formally ballot their members for strike action over the affordability of 2026 pay awards.

DfE: Amended guidance on Prevent

The DfE has amended its guidance on Prevent. It has added guidance on weaponry or explosives fixation, and on antisemitism, to the 'Concerning behaviours' section of 'The Prevent duty: practical guidance for designated safeguarding leads'.

Monday 2 to Friday 6 November 2026: Talk Money Week 2026

This is a chance for schools and colleges to talk about money with your pupils and students. The Money and Pensions Service toolkit has ideas, templates and links to help young people develop financial knowledge and skills. See HR Update section.

Tuesday 10 November: Register for the monitor your school attendance webinar

The webinar runs from 11am to 11.45am and will show attendance leads and headteachers how to use reports, tools and features to identify and support pupil groups. Sign up now.

Flu Vaccination Reimbursement Scheme

A reminder that the Trust will reimburse up to £15 towards the cost of a private flu vaccination. Please visit BEBCMAT Connect for details of how to submit your receipt for reimbursement. Please remember that the maximum reimbursement is £15 per staff member.

CEO Update

Diocese Dates for Governors

- Chair of Governor termly briefing (online): Monday 11th January 2027, Monday 19th April 2027
- New Foundation Governor induction (online): Thursday 08 October 2026, 5.30 - 7.00pm
- Annual Governors' Conference, The Chaplaincy Centre, Lancaster University: Saturday 28 November 2026, 9.30am - 3.00pm.
- New Chair of Governor training (online): Wednesday 20 January 2027, 5.00pm - 7.00pm.
- Education Mass, St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster.Thursday 24 June 2027, 6.30pm - More details to follow.

Trust Dates for Governors

Monday 16th November, Chairs' Forum - English Martyrs - 5pm - 6:30pm

Finance

The external audit is now nearing completion. The draft financial statements will be presented to both the Finance, Staffing and Premises Committee and the Full Board over the coming weeks. The CFO would like to extend their sincere thanks to everyone who has assisted with the audit process this year - your hard work and support are greatly appreciated.

Estates

The CFO and Trust Estates Manager will begin touring the 20 Trust schools during the week commencing Monday, 9th November, to review sites and advise on potential School Condition Allowance (SCA) bids. These visits will take place between Monday and Wednesday each week, spread over a two-week period.

To successfully visit all 20 schools within this tight six-day timeframe, the tour will follow a strict geographic route. Consequently, we are unable to book specific appointment times. Given everyone's packed schedules, accommodating last-minute changes would push the tour beyond the allocated two weeks, which we must avoid.

This term's Health and Safety visits focused on reviewing the compliance paperwork held at each school. The results of these visits will be collected and reviewed centrally in due course.

Governance and Compiance Update

A reminder about a few current and up and coming deadlines/actions:

DPIAs
Please submit these to the DPO by the deadline of Thursday 12 November.

Benedict's Law declaration on iAMcompliant.
Please can Headteachers sign off the declaration on IAM Compliant to confirm that the information has been read and the expectations of the guidance have been implemented. Please note that this does not need to be signed off by other staff in school.

Website Checks
A reminder that website checks are starting later this month. Please can school websites be checked in advance of this. There are still a few schools missing the link to the Trust website and Trust policies (link below);

https://bebcmat.co.uk/our-trust/policies

It is vital that this is in place otherwise families are not able to access the most up to date policies, including complaints.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need any guidance around any of this.

School Improvement

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. Just a quick reminder that all of the agenda's, minutes and any resources can be found on the Trust portal "BEBCMAT CONNECT". If you don't have a log in please let your headteacher know.

Network meetings this half term:
5 Nov - Humanities, St Joseph's
9 Nov - Learning Landmarks, English Martyrs
10 Nov - RE, English Martyrs
12 Nov - Art, St Kentigern's
19 Nov - Computing, Holy Family Warton
26 Nov - EYFS, Sacred Heart
2 Dec - DSL, English Martyrs, 2.30-4.30
3 Dec - ECT, St Teresa's
10 Dec - PE, English Martyrs

Please note that all meetings are 4:00-5:00 unless otherwise stated.

We look forward to seeing you and being able to work together.

HR Update

Teacher Pay Award and Pay Progression

A reminder that the nationally agreed 3.5% teacher pay award, effective from 1 September 2026, will be reflected in the November payroll for all eligible teachers.

For those eligible for progression, post-threshold teachers and colleagues on the Leadership pay range will also receive their incremental pay progression in November.

Schools should therefore be aware that November salaries may look different for affected colleagues as the national pay award and, where applicable, incremental progression are applied.

November Wellbeing: Kindness, Respect and Speaking Up

November gives us a useful opportunity to pause and think about wellbeing, kindness and the culture we create for both pupils and colleagues.

World Kindness Day

This takes place on Friday 13 November, followed by Anti-Bullying Week from 16 to 20 November 2026. This year's Anti-Bullying Week theme is "Break the Silence", encouraging children and adults to speak up, seek support and challenge bullying rather than allowing it to go unnoticed. The Anti-Bullying Alliance has produced resources specifically for schools and other youth settings.

These themes fit particularly well with our Trust values. A simple act of kindness, checking in with a colleague, recognising when someone may need support, or creating the confidence to speak up can make a real difference to someone's experience at work. **Anti-Bullying Week 2026 resources**

School Business Leader Network: Revised Dates

Following feedback and a review of the wider Trust meeting calendar, we have made some changes to the School Business Leader Network meetings for the remainder of this academic year.

Where possible, Business Leader Network meetings will now follow the Headteacher Leadership Group. This will help us ensure that relevant information and updates discussed with Headteachers can then be shared consistently with Business Leaders. We have also introduced a mixture of Tuesday and Thursday meetings to make the network more accessible to colleagues with different working patterns. Meetings remain at 1.30pm.

Please note that the November Business Leader meeting has been cancelled.
The aim is to make the network genuinely useful: providing Trust updates alongside time for Business Leaders to share practice, network and raise operational issues. The Central Team will also make time available around the meetings for colleagues who would benefit from confidential support, advice, guidance or training.

Original Business Leader Meeting	Revised Business Leader Meeting	Headteacher Leadership Group
Thursday 12 November 2026	CANCELLED	Monday 16 November 2026
Thursday 10 December 2026	Thursday 10 December 2026, no change	No December meeting
Thursday 21 January 2027	Tuesday 26 January 2027	Monday 25 January 2027
Thursday 25 February 2027	Tuesday 23 February 2027	No February meeting
Thursday 18 March 2027	Thursday 18 March 2027, no change	Monday 15 March 2027
Tuesday 27 April 2027	Tuesday 27 April 2027, no change	Monday 26 April 2027
Thursday 17 June 2027	Tuesday 22 June 2027	Monday 21 June 2027

Financial Wellbeing: Don't Leave Retirement Planning Until Retirement

Financial wellbeing is an important part of overall wellbeing, and pensions are something that can easily be put off until much later in our careers.

Whatever stage colleagues are at, it is worth taking some time to understand their pension, consider their likely retirement income and check whether they are on track for the retirement they would like.

MoneyHelper provides free and impartial information covering pensions, retirement planning, the State Pension, pension tax, finding lost pensions and ways to understand and build retirement savings.

For colleagues aged 50 or over with a defined contribution pension, Pension Wise also provides free, impartial, government-backed appointments to help people understand their options. It is worth noting that Pension Wise does not directly cover final salary or career-average pensions, so colleagues in schemes such as TPS or LGPS should also make use of information and tools provided by their own pension scheme.

HR Update

Useful starting points:

- MoneyHelper: Pensions and retirement
- Pension Wise
- GOV.UK: Help with pensions

A useful message to cascade to staff: pensions are not only something to think about when approaching retirement. Checking your annual benefit statement, understanding your pension scheme and thinking about your longer-term financial plans can be worthwhile at every stage of your career.

November is Men's Health Awareness Month
With International Men's Day on 19 November. National Self Care Week runs from 16 to 22 November, providing another good opportunity to remind colleagues that looking after their own wellbeing is important too. https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/category/november-awareness-days-and-weeks/

You've been invited to our Men's Health Matters Webinar! Tues 24th November at 11:00am Men often put their own health at the bottom of the priority list. This educational webinar is designed to raise awareness of common men's health concerns and encourage positive health choices. Led by Dr James Biggins, the session will explore cardiovascular risk factors, stress and mental wellbeing, prostate health, testicular cancer awareness, and the importance of early intervention.

Whether you're looking to support colleagues, friends, or family members, or simply want to learn more about protecting and improving your own health, this webinar offers valuable and practical insights for everyone.

Can't make it? Register anyway & receive a recording of the session to listen to in your own time. Book your space here.

Policies

The following policies have been shared via the portal, and if appropriate the Trust website:

- Financial Regulations
- Scheme of Delegation
- Committee Terms of Reference
- Code of Conduct for Directors and Governors
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy - for schools to personalise and adopt.
- Educational and Offsite Visits Policy - for schools to personalise and adopt.

The Trust Network Dates document has also been updated to reflect the changes to the School Business Leader Network - as reported in the HR Update.

Catholic Life Update

Trust Charity Day Supports Mary's Meals
Schools across the Trust came together in October for our first Trust Charity Day in support of Mary's Meals. I'm thrilled to share the news that collectively the Trust has raised £6,757.69 to feed a school in Zambia for a whole year!

Pupils and staff embraced the day with enthusiasm, taking part in a range of fundraising activities. At Christ the King, children collected 10p coins to build a tower, highlighting the powerful message that just 10p can provide a child with a meal for a day.

Several schools organised own-clothes days, with pupils making donations in exchange for coming to school in non-uniform. Holy Family, Warton, Our Lady of the Assumption, and St Mary's in Great Eccleston all enjoyed taking part, while St Mary's Catholic Academy raised over £1,000 through its own-clothes fundraising event alone.

At St Mary's Fleetwood, the day was linked closely to the school's Catholic mission. Every class participated in a liturgy focused on world hunger, reflecting on Matthew 25:35-40 and considering how small acts of generosity can make a significant difference to others. Pupils also enjoyed supporting the charity by taking part in the own-clothes day.

The success of this first Trust-wide charity day demonstrates the generosity and commitment of our school communities. A huge thank you goes to all pupils, families, staff and volunteers who supported the fundraising efforts. Together, we are helping to make a lasting difference in the lives of children around the world.

Dates for the Diary
Religious Education Subject Leaders Diocese Network
Taking place on 6 November at St Cuthbert's Catholic Academy, 1-3pm followed by the Trust cluster 3-4pm.

Red Wednesday
On 19 November, many of our schools will mark Red Wednesday, the annual campaign organised by Aid to the Church in Need. Pupils and staff will be invited to wear red and learn more about the experiences of Christians and others who face religious persecution around the world. Schools are also encouraged to collect used postage stamps, helping to support the charity's important work. ACN gets most return from modern stamps - the ones with the security tabs. Please try to minimise the amount the paper attached to the stamp. Further details are available here: https://acnuk.org/redwednesday

Please bring all stamps to the next Leadership Meeting on 16 November.

Catholic Life Update

Feast of Christ the King and National Youth - Sunday 22nd November.

Annual Diocesan Governors' conference 10am-3pm at Lancaster University Chaplaincy - please book by emailing Jackie Broadley: Jackie.broadley@lrcd.org.uk

1st Sunday of Advent - Sunday 29th November.

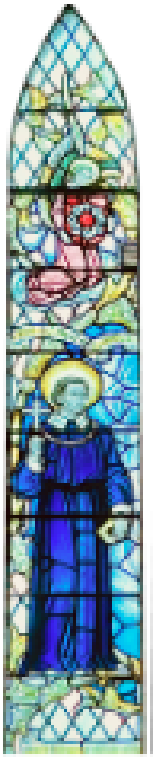
Free Collective Workship Resources
https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/primary-collective-worship-resources/

Reflection

Every year in November, we pause to reflect on the courage, sacrifice, and faith of those who have served their countries in times of conflict. It is a time that binds us together in gratitude and prayer – a day that reminds us that peace is not merely the absence of war, but the presence of justice, compassion, and hope. As we mark this solemn day, may we carry with us the peace that Christ promised and the gratitude that remembrance demands. Whether through the sound of church bells or the lighting of a candle, may our hearts remember – not in sorrow, but in faith, love, and hope.

"Those whom we love and lose are no longer where they were; they are now wherever we are."
– St. Augustine

A Prayer for Remembrance Day
Lord of peace and mercy,
on this Remembrance Day,
we bring before You all who have given their lives
in the service of others.
May their courage inspire us,
their sacrifice remind us of love's true cost,
and their memory strengthen our faith.
Bless the families who mourn,
the veterans who carry the memories of war,
and the peacemakers who labor still for reconciliation.
May the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
shine upon all who rest in Your care,
and may the promise of resurrection
comfort and sustain us until we meet again.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace."
Prayer for the Faithful Departed

Blessed Edward Bamber, Pray for Us

Care for Creation Mass













Mary's Meals Charity Day















