



A Future Built on Faith

NEWSLETTER — AUTUMN 2026 • Developments and actions in the third quarter of 2026

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

Trustees congratulate Bishop Stephen Wang on his ordination as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton at Arundel Cathedral on October 19th. It was a moving and inspirational service, and we look forward to working with Bishop Stephen to help deliver Our Lord's mission.





EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

Trustees have agreed to proceed with setting up the charity's education endowment fund. Our Chairman has been very active with prospective donors, and we hope to be able to announce in our next newsletter both the details of the fund and how to contribute and the first significant donations.

UPDATE ON PROJECT GRANTS IN 2026

Building on the success of our Trust's first grant to St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School in 2025, Trustees in March were delighted to be able to offer grants in 2026 to three projects from the six submitted to the Board.

Project 1: Sensory Prayer Garden at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Crowborough

This project has been designed to provide a calm, inclusive space for all the children in the school. In the school's own words, "It will be a dedicated outdoor space that supports the spiritual and emotional development of the pupils. It will incorporate a range of sensory features intended to promote engagement with nature and foster a connection with God's world".

The sensory prayer garden is intended to provide a quiet, reflective environment where pupils can develop a personal relationship with God within a beautiful setting. The garden will be used for individual prayer, timetabled weekly class prayer times, liturgies and moments of stillness during the school day for pupils and staff alike.

The parish priest, Father Gus, will bless the sensory garden on November 3rd with the whole school represented. A number of the charity's trustees will be attending the blessing.



Project 2: Enhancing an outdoor space and the refurbishment of a courtyard area at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School in Brighton

"From a very boring and uninspiring courtyard to an oasis of colour, textures and fun. SJB would very much like to thank the Sussex Catholic Education Trust for their generous donation which enabled us to purchase and create such a wonderful area that our NEST children can play in. Not only an area for giggles and fun, but also for enrichment and learning." The photos show the children enjoying their new facilities and the Trust Secretary, Tim Feast, formally opening the revamped area with one of the children. Thank you to all who helped bring this project to fruition.



This photo above shows the courtyard before its refurbishment. The photos below show the refurbished courtyard being enjoyed by the children.





Project 3: Covering the travel costs of pupils and staff from St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Bognor Regis attending the Good Shepherd Mass at Worth

Some of the pupils who performed at the Good Shepherd Mass at Worth Abbey were still talking about it when the Trust Secretary visited St Mary's in Bognor at the start of the Autumn Term. Thank you to all who contributed to making this project possible.



It is hoped that the projects chosen for 2026 will continue to have a very positive impact. Details of how to apply for the next round of grants will be published to Sussex schools via headteachers and chairs of governors early in the new year once new funding has been generated. Trustees would have liked to support all the applications for grants that they received in the last round. All were worthy of support. We hope that information about this year's grants will encourage you to support our Trust so that we can help to meet the growing demand.

NEW TRUSTEES

Joe Fackler

Trustees are delighted to announce the appointment of Joe Fackler to the Board of our charity. Joe is married to Mary and has one daughter. He is a retired Chartered Accountant having been a Partner in an East Sussex Accountancy Practice for 40 years. He was a Governor at Annecy Catholic Primary School in Seaford for over 25 years and has been an active member of his Parish in Seaford for most of his life. For many years, he has been a member of the Seahaven Circle of the Catenian Association having held office on several occasions. We look forward to Joe bringing his expertise, experience and enthusiasm to the work of our Trust.

Jonathan Gravenor

Trustees are delighted to welcome Jonathan Gravenor to the board of our charity. "I have been a long-standing member of the Catholic faith (cradle catholic) and a member of the Catenian Association and sit on the Province 18 council as a newly elected Councillor. I am driven by a strong sense of community and service. Professionally, I spent my career in the electrical industry before dedicating 14 years to St Wilfrid's School in Crawley as a manager; there I gained first-hand experience in the school and education environment. I currently work part-time for the churches of



St Pancras Lewes, St Thomas More Seaford and the Church of the Immaculate Conception of our Lady in Peacehaven in managing the "Health and Safety" and maintenance of the churches, halls, presbyteries, and residential properties. I sit on the finance committees for St Pancras and the combined Finance committee of St Thomas More and the Church of the Immaculate Conception of our Lady." We look forward to Jonathan bringing his practical skills and steadfast commitment to the Board of Trustees.

The Trust continues to look for more trustees who can bring appropriate skills or expertise to our Trust. We look forward to welcoming responses from individuals who will help to make the Trust Board more representative of the communities that our schools and parishes serve including younger individuals. We also welcome applications from individuals who live in the middle or North of the Sussex part of the diocese or from Brighton and Hove.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026



Trustees were delighted to receive funding to offer two full bursaries for students to participate in the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in the summer of 2026. The diocesan Director of Chaplaincy provided Trustees with details of a number of students from Sussex schools who would benefit from participating in the pilgrimage but for whom finances were a significant barrier.

Two Year 11 students were awarded the bursaries: one male student from St Philip Howard Catholic Secondary and one female student from St Richard's Catholic College. Both students were surprised and delighted with the awards.

One of the students could not go this summer and will now go next year. Trustees look forward to sharing photos of the other student's pilgrimage and aspects of her report.

Trustees would like to offer further full bursaries in 2027. If you are interested in providing a bursary, please contact Tim Feast at secretary@sussexcatholiceducationtrust.org.uk to discuss it further.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

At year end 1st January 2026, we carried forward funds £11,553 comprising £10,753 for general use and £800 restricted to funding a student going to Lourdes.



From the beginning of this year to date, we have received £1,787 in general income and £1,600 in restricted donations to assist students going to Lourdes. Giving a total income of £3,387. The general income comprised £1,615 in donations and £172 from bank interest.

This year to date, we have given general grants of £5,425: to St Mary's primary school in Bognor Regis for coach transport to the Good Shepherd Mass (£425) and a play area project in St John the Baptist primary school in Brighton (£5,000). We funded two students from our secondary schools going to Lourdes (£1,600). We also incurred administration costs of £160 against general funds. Giving total expenditure of £7,185.

The present position is we now hold general funds of £6,955 and restricted funds of £800. Of the general funds, we have committed a further £4,000 to St Mary's primary school in Crowborough for a sensory garden. The restricted fund is to help a student go to Lourdes next year.

STRIDE & SON AUCTIONS LTD GIVE GENEROUSLY

Trustees are delighted with the continuing generosity of Stride and Son Auctions to auction a number of lots of collectables and stamp collections, free from the usual commission charges to sellers. Stride and Son, established in 1890, are an independent firm of auctioneers located in the heart of the cathedral city of Chichester. Stride and Son are delighted to support local charities in this way to enable the full amount to bid on lots to be passed on to the charity. We thank Peter Parker, and all his colleagues, for their continuing positive response to supporting our Trust.



If you have any unwanted collections of collectables or other items which would be suitable for auction which you would be prepared to offer to our Trust, please contact the Trust Secretary for further details at secretary@sussexcatholiceducationtrust.org.uk. Such support would be most welcome.

IMPACT FOOD GROUP



Trustees thank Impact Food Group and especially Ken Navin, Client Relationship Director, for sponsoring one of the Lourdes bursaries this year following on from providing the catering at the launch of our Trust. Impact provides the catering for a number of schools in Sussex as well as far beyond. They say they are "more than a school caterer. We're driven by creating a positive food culture and changing the eating habits of a generation".



SUPPORT FROM ALL QUARTERS

Trustees wish to thank the headteachers of St Paul's in Burgess Hill, St Philip Howard in Barnham and St Richard's in Bexhill for their continuing generous support to our Trust. In this Autumn Term Hannah Hooper, Headteacher at St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Worthing hosted superbly our board meeting which allowed trustees to meet in person at a convenient central location and to see one of the Sussex Catholic schools in action.

Bosco Catholic Education Trust

Trustees from the Sussex Catholic Education Trust were sorry to hear of the departure of Alice Mackay from Bosco to pursue her academic studies. We are extremely indebted to Alice for all the support and guidance she provided and a willing hand when any physical work was required. We wish her well with her studies. Trustees are extremely grateful to all at **Bosco** for their continuing support to the charity, providing advice and guidance to board meetings, aiding communications with Sussex schools and providing IT support when the charity's systems have their inevitable glitches.

The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton

We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude too, to Julie Oldroyd, Diocesan Director of Education Services. Julie has continued to support our Trust; providing guidance to the Board and providing an excellent bridge to the Diocesan Comms Team.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY: DONATIONS WELCOMED



When you give to the Sussex Catholic Education Fund, you are investing in a brighter future for students across Sussex. Your support provides transformational resources and opens doors to uplifting opportunities for our children in our Catholic schools.

Simply click [here](#) to make a donation online. If you wish to make a larger donation, or set up a regular payment by Standing Order, please contact us at secretary@sussexcatholiceducationtrust.org.uk so we can work together to continue making a meaningful impact on the education of Catholic students in Sussex.

Stripe levy a transaction charge of 1.5% + 20p on online donations.

Direct donations to the bank can be made using the following information:

Account Name	Sussex Catholic Education Trust
Bank	Co-operative Bank
Sort Code	08-92-99
Account Number	67398360

Thank you for your generosity.