



Newsletter showcases work

Pillar	Area of Development
High-Quality and Inclusive Education/ School Improvement	1. The Board is clearly ambitious for all its schools. The Strong and Flourishing MAC framework calls for Boards to be meticulous in fulfilling a key aim of Canon Law – namely, to ensure that their schools offer an education at least as academically distinguished as that provided by other schools in the area (Can. 806). To achieve this, the Board should develop a clearer understanding of common MAC-wide priorities and strategies that drive school improvement. From this foundation, key performance indicators (KPIs) can be established to measure progress in individual schools and to evaluate the impact of the MAC Executive in driving improvement. Executive Leaders are encouraged to visit comparable diocesan schools to benchmark performance and identify best practices – an approach that is especially valuable at the secondary level notably Key Stage 3.
	Strategic Engagement and Planning - The Board will continue its outward engagement, beginning with Coventry (Holy Cross and the six VA schools), and expanding into Region 3. - The MAC Operational Plan outlines priorities and KPIs aligned with the BDES framework pillars. This is a live document, RAG-rated mid-term by the Executive Team and Principal Committee, and reported to the Board. <i>Operational Plan 2024–2025</i> (Document 1a) and <i>Operational Plan 2025–2026</i> (Document 1b) are attached. - KPIs are detailed for each pillar and tracked by Core Committees. Directors monitor progress at each meeting. Draft KPIs for 2025–2026 were reviewed by the Board in July 2025 and will be incorporated into the final plan. <i>Flash Report 2025–2026</i> is attached (Document 1c), subject to finalisation at the first Board meeting of the academic year. Implementation and School-Level Integration - The MAC Operational Plan is cascaded to all schools, ensuring a unified approach to improvement across the MAC. It is tailored to each school by SLT. School Improvement Team use a SharePoint/Teams portal which supports weekly meetings, on-site support, system leadership, and both internal and external reviews. All year groups at primary and subject leaders access the Romero Curriculum Teams set up for each group of teachers to work collaboratively. These, in turn, are led by the School Improvement Team to raise standards by tapping into the expertise across schools. - The MAC's school improvement model is based on horizontal leadership, with the team working alongside teaching staff through lesson study, coaching, and modelling. This daily classroom presence supports both early career and experienced staff. - The team uses the CST conceptual model of school improvement, with active engagement from the School Improvement Team and most of the Executive Team. Collaboration and Best Practice - Assessment systems are being linked with Holy Cross, enabling benchmarking across both primary and secondary phases. - In July 2025, Laura Burtonwood visited Our Lady and Saint Chad to gather best practice, which is informing the 2025–2026 plan. - There is a sustained commitment to collaborate with secondary schools in the deanery and extend partnerships to all nine secondary schools in Region 3. - Laura, in collaboration with SLT and the School Improvement Team, is prioritising the development of KS3 practice across departments. This includes visits to other diocesan secondary schools and The Futures Trust, where two secondary schools were rated Outstanding with KS3 as a particular strength. Integration of External Recommendations - Recommendations from the Action Letter have been integrated into both the MAC Plan and the Academy Plan for Cardinal Wiseman.

High-Quality and Inclusive Education/School Improvement	2. There needs to be a continued focus on transition (particularly primary to Catholic secondary) to ensure all children progress through each phase of Catholic education within the MAC so that pupils leave the MAC's schools well prepared for the next stage of Catholic education, employment or training and prepared to become confident citizens serving God and serving others. Strengthening Transition Across the MAC Ensuring smooth and effective transitions—particularly from primary to Catholic secondary—is a continued priority for the MAC and a regular conversation with stakeholders. Strategic Focus and Monitoring • The Board unanimously recognises transition as a strategic priority, with regular reference to the MAC Strategy Transition Document (<i>Document 2a</i>). • Key activities and a broader set of KPIs related to transition are outlined in the MAC Operational Plan. • The termly Board report tracks: • The percentage of each Year 6 cohort (tracked since 2017) progressing to Cardinal Wiseman. • A second metric capturing progression to Catholic secondary schools more broadly. • <i>Document 2b</i> (First Choice Rising Five and Secondary Allocation) was requested by Mark. Embedded Transition Practice • Transition is a standing item at every Principal meeting (first Thursday of each half term), covering: • Entry points from home to Early Years are a focus of our Early Year Lead for the MAC who meet regularly. • Transition from Reception to Year 1, with a current project focused on evidence-informed practice for Continuous Provision into KS1. • Broader transition points across all phases, tracked by Directors and overseen by Core Committee 3: Quality Provision and Performance. • Events and activities for primary are held at Cardinal Wiseman, such as sporting events, MAC conference/ events, joint liturgical dance in advent, Lent reflections with Year 3/ 4 to parents and Year 6 end of year plays so that parents physically come to site to challenge perceptions of school. Staff training days held at Cardinal Wiseman so staff are on board with the significant improvements made year on year. These pupil experiences are showcased in our Romero newsletter which is shared on social media and emailed to every parent across the MAC to communicate the strong partnership that exists across our schools. Alumni Engagement • Through the Alumni Project, in consultation with Michael Mogan OBE, (past pupil of Saint John Fisher/ Cardinal Wiseman) the MAC is relaunching: • A reconnection of alumni with peers through LinkedIn and events planned in 2025/6. • Celebrate the diverse achievements of former students. • Inspire current students through real-life stories and mentorship, opportunities for Work Experience. • Create opportunities for networking, collaboration, and giving back. • Raised profile to reposition Cardinal Wiseman as a school of choice in the Romero primary schools and raise a positive profile in the community. Expansion and Transition Infrastructure • In the final month of the 2024/25 academic year, the MAC expressed interest in a permanent expansion of Cardinal Wiseman to 270 places from 2027, as an alternative to the LA's initial plan to build a new five-form entry secondary school nearby. • The proposed capital investment includes building a 'Bridge' block—a standalone Year 7 facility designed to support transition through specialist lessons and a dedicated environment. We feel this would be a key component of our Transition from Romero primary to Secondary especially with two new builds for Bishop Ullathorne and Cardinal Wiseman. This concept draws inspiration from The Futures Trust's 'The Bridge' at President Kennedy School, which has demonstrated success in easing Year 7 transition. Update: September 25, 2025 • The MAC has received confirmation that Cardinal Wiseman will be included in Coventry's Secondary Sufficiency Programme. • From 2027, the school will permanently expand to 270 places, with the Bridge model remaining the preferred capital solution to support transition.
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Catholic Workforce	3. There is an expectation that diocesan MACs build an innovative and vibrant Catholic community of professionals, working collaboratively across schools and with other Catholic MACs to develop and share expertise and evidence-informed practice. With agreement in principle to recruit a Secondary School Improvement Lead (exact title to be confirmed) across three MACs, there is now a timely opportunity to accelerate the establishment of a collaborative partnership in 2025/26. Strategic Collaboration and Regional Engagement • The Board is fully supportive of this initiative and will be engaged in the recruitment process for the new role - Secondary School Improvement Lead across three MACs. • In light of the anticipated merger of Holy Spirit with Magnificat CMAC by September 2026, the MAC will continue to collaborate through planned events and leadership programmes with Holy Cross and Holy Spirit, while extending engagement across Region 3. • A particular focus will be placed on strengthening partnerships with Holy Cross and the six VA schools, to ensure Coventry schools are well-prepared for transition into the future CMAT. We understand that the VA schools coming into a MAC first is a priority and this is best served by the two Coventry MACs working closely together. There will be a need for strong direction through a Coventry partnership, especially at primary, so that VA schools are academised. Boards and executive teams of both MACs will have to work closely to achieve this goal, which is a commitment we are ready to make. • The Board also supports expanding collaboration to include all five MACs in Region 3, and continuing benchmarking with other secondary schools in Coventry through Collaborative B (which includes one-third of Coventry secondary schools, including the other two Catholic secondary schools). • The long established Coventry Catholic Schools' Partnership, expanded to include Holy Spirit MAC in a 'Coventry and Nuneaton Catholic Schools' Partnership' which has now been in place for year. The new partnership has had limited impact to date, due to the Terms of Reference not being effective in both collaboration and engagement of schools. A pause in the partnership has been suggested so that we can adjust the priorities needed for academising the VAs in Coventry alongside the direction of travel for Holy Spirit to merge with Magnificat. The four secondary schools would continue to work collaboratively through the appointment of the Secondary School Improvement Lead. Leadership Development and Recruitment Progress Update: September 25, 2025 • Following an initial meeting between the three CEOs, Marina is leading the development of the new role JD and PS with contributions discussed with Sinead and Helen; further meetings to take place shortly. The Board supports the proposed direction and has suggested that line management should sit with Holy Cross, given its two secondary schools. The aim is to advertise the post in Autumn Term 2. • Suggested meetings for CEOs of Region 3 to follow on from the BDES CEO network meetings are planned. • The Moving On Programme (for middle leaders) and Moving Forward Programme (for senior leaders) are being led by Paul and Helen. These two-day programmes are designed for nominated leaders across Coventry and the Nuneaton deanery. This is building a network of professionals across the deanery for the first time. • The programmes include cohorts of 18 and 24 delegates, respectively, drawn from all three MACs, the group of VA schools, and both primary and secondary phases. The first day of training took place on Thursday, 25 September with feedback from delegates overwhelmingly positive.
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For additional information:

The School Improvement Team



				
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Mon, Weds, Fri - MAC Tues & Thurs CW	Mon – Fri - MAC	Weds – Fri - MAC	2.5 days MAC 2.5 days Sacred Heart	Mon-Fri MAC/ SCITT