



10th January 2014

Dear Friends,

Each year, the Catholic Church in England & Wales celebrates Education Sunday, when we give thanks to Almighty God for the work of our Catholic schools and ask for His blessing on them for the coming year.

This year, our theme is 'Going above and beyond'. In our schools, teachers, students and pupils are called to go beyond themselves and to discover Christ and His calling for them to 'live life to the full' (*Jn 10:10*) by growing in wisdom and virtue. This means that our schools have a distinct vocation; rooted as they are in the Church's mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and serve the poor in all that we say and do, our schools help those who teach, learn and work in them to discover God, each other and themselves.

One group of people whom I would particularly wish to thank and encourage are our governors; parishioners who give of their time, effort and skills to become members of academy trusts and governing bodies. They support the work of our schools and provide a further active link between our schools and the parishes which they serve, and we are all grateful for all that they do. I hope that those whom parish priests invite to become new governors of schools will accept that invitation, since supporting the education of our young people is both a privilege and a responsibility.

I hope and pray that, as we celebrate the work of our Catholic schools, our schools and the parishes which they serve will draw even closer together, since both are one family, called to give glory to God and work for the common good of the wider community.

+ Malcolm Mc Mahon OP

Right Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP
Bishop of Nottingham
Chairman of the Catholic Education Service