



# DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

**Rt Rev Robert Byrne CO**  
**Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle**

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To all school staff, directors and governors

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in providing Catholic Education here in Hexham and Newcastle. I am very aware of the pressures that have been experienced by our schools over the past year or so and how staff and governors have continued to serve the children and their families under very difficult circumstances.

These challenges have been particularly trying in the past few months in coping not only with the unpredictability of staff and classroom bubbles having to isolate with little or no warning, but also the extra workload and assessment in securing fair and merited exam results.

In just a few more days the summer term and academic year will draw to a close and the summer holidays will finally be here. I hope you all find an opportunity to rest and relax during this well-deserved break. Aware that our chances of enjoying a foreign holiday this year are severely limited, I pray that we at least enjoy some good weather and hopefully some opportunities to be reunited with family and friends.

Looking towards the next academic year, I would like to invite all our Diocesan CEOs, Deputy CEOs and Headteachers to a Mass of Commitment at Ushaw College on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 11.30 am followed by lunch together in the College. It will be a wonderful opportunity for us to gather together in prayer and support as we begin our new academic year.

Until then, have a restful summer and please keep safe and well.

With every good wish and blessing

✠ Rt Rev Robert Byrne CO  
Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle

