

Headteachers' and Governors' Newsletter

www.southwell.anglican.org

Summer Term 2017

From the Diocesan Director of Education

As you are aware, at the beginning of the current academic year, the Central Church of England Education Office published a new vision for Church of England Education. Increasingly, we are finding the content and material in this document really helpful to use as a lens to hold up to the work we are doing in our own diocese amongst schools to see how the four strands of, **wisdom, hope, community and dignity** are permeating our work. I would encourage you to do the same.

Last term in our newsletter, I reflected a little on the place of wisdom in education. This term I thought I would share a few thoughts on hope. For many of the children and young people in our schools, equipping them with hope and fostering in them a sense of aspiration, is one of the most important things we can do, as they may have nowhere else where they can develop these vital attributes that will help them ultimately thrive. We all know that in the drama of ongoing life, how we learn to approach the future is crucial. Good schools open up horizons of hope and guide pupils into ways of fulfilling them. They also cope wisely with things and people going wrong and often offer the chance to try again. In our church schools, we can also bring in an extra dimension to that sense of hope by sharing with children the foundations of hope that come from our Christian faith. This hope is about something far deeper than wishing the best for people or being optimistic and hoping that things turn out well. It is a hope that is founded in God. The bible says:

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

It is a hope that is rooted in a God that is faithful and does not change. Therefore, it is not influenced by our circumstances.

In this post Easter season, we also remember that Jesus offers us living hope through his resurrection. This offers us both a future hope of something beyond this world but also reminds us that bad experiences, wrongdoing and evil do not have the last word. There is another way. As people, we can draw on faith to give us the resources to bring healing, repair and renewal. We can aim to nurture values in our schools and model practices which promote forgiveness, truth and reconciliation. In so doing, we can show all involved in our school communities that building trust, exercising generosity and showing compassion is part of instilling hope that will eventually enable young people to hold onto a course and weather the ups and downs of life.

Please do take time at some point, to consider how in your own school community, you can seek to build hope amongst all who are part of it.

Thanks once again for all you are doing to lead our church schools, particularly in these times of continual change. Please be assured of our prayers for your work.

Claire Meese

Staffing Update

At the end of this term a number of our headteachers retire and we say goodbye to:

JOHN DODD as Headteacher of Cauntton Dean Hole C of E Primary School

DAVID MADDISON Executive Headteacher of St Peter's C of E Academy, East Bridgford and Archbishop Cranmer C of E Primary Academy

HEATHER RATTENBERRY Headteacher of Lowdham C of E Primary School

GILL MAGUIRE Headteacher of Christ Church C of E Infant School, Newark

BARRY FOUND Principal of Samworth Church Academy

We are very grateful for all they have done. They have all contributed an enormous amount to their school communities and the diocesan family of schools.

New Appointment

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Chrissie Goodridge-Ormston has started as the new assistant to the Diocesan Director of education. As well as assisting Claire with various aspects of her role she will often take a lead in communications to schools. A reminder that if you wish to contact Claire or make an appointment to meet with her, this is best done through Chrissie. She can be reached on 01636 817235 or by email Chrissie.Goodridge-Ormston@southwell.anglican.org

Alison Jacobson has now become the Diocesan Admissions and Governance Officer and enquiries in these areas should be made to her.

Church of England Vision Statement

Members of the diocesan education team and school leaders from across the diocese attended a national conference at Church House Westminster last term to hear a number of eminent speakers give talks inspired by the new vision. Those attending were privileged to hear keynote speeches from the Archbishop of York and Dame Alison Peacock. There were also four TED talks from various leaders within the field of church school education. These included Prof. David Ford on Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills, Ndidi Okezie on Educating for Hope and Aspiration, Bill Lucas on Community and Living Well Together and Rt Revd Libby Lane on Educating for Dignity and Respect. These talks were videoed and we will be using them at our head teacher network meetings and at various training events. The links have also been distributed to schools so you can use them in your own context. Please do contact us if you are having problems accessing them. **Next year's national conference will be held on Thursday 1st February in London.**

Thy Kingdom Come

This national wave of prayer, from Ascension Day to Pentecost, is being promoted across the diocese with a wide variety of events taking place in our churches, schools and communities.



We are hoping **all** our schools will take part in this initiative. It is a fantastic opportunity for our church schools to become involved in the wider work and ministry of the diocese, but more importantly it can provide a focussed opportunity to introduce children and young people to the power of prayer or deepen their existing experience of prayer.

Ascension Day – May 25th is the day when we would like schools to arrange some intentional prayer activities or gatherings.

We are compiling a central list of what each school is doing here in the diocesan office in order that we can enter the information on a diocesan wide map, so please let Ally Horne

ahorne@southwell.anglican.org know what you are planning.

Our hope is that one of the education team or maybe a senior clergy person from the diocese will be able to visit some schools and be part of events going on.

The following links may help with your planning:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/downloads/TKC%20School%20Assemblies%20V4.pdf>

<http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/>

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/books-and-resources/>

If you would like further help with arranging prayer activities, then this could be a great opportunity to partner with your local church or you could talk with one of our schools' advisers.

@diocswellnott #S&NTHKC #ThyKingdomCome #Pledge2Pray



Believe Academy



A reminder, from our Autumn Primary Network Meeting and the Church School Leaders Market Place, about Believe Academy and their TRIP (Totally Ready for the Inbetween Phase) programme. This prepares pupils for and helps them through adolescence.

Believe work with all year groups to raise self-esteem, build self-confidence and develop strategies for coping with stress and making choices for the future. They will also create bespoke packages to work on issues specific to your school. Further information can be found at

www.believeacademy.co.uk or contact Simone Witherden at simone@believeacademy.co.uk

Diocesan Prayer Diary

Our schools are regularly prayed for as part of the Diocesan Prayer Diary. To see when your school is being prayed for please visit our website at <https://goo.gl/hwLUtt>. Details can also be found on our Facebook page @Southwelland Nottingham and on Twitter [@diocswellnott](https://twitter.com/diocswellnott)

Special Minster Evensong

A special evensong is being held on **Thursday 13th July** at the Minster to mark the retirement of several headteachers. We would like to invite any other headteachers who would like to attend along to this service. Evensong will commence at 5.45. More information to follow

Academy Conversion

DBE Strategy Update

As you are aware, since the publication of the Memorandum of Understanding between the DfE and The National Society last year regarding the conversion of Church of England Schools to academy status, the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) has published its own academisation strategy. This arose directly out of this document and it took into account the context of the diocese at that time including the location of schools that had already converted and the Trusts they belonged to. Underpinning the strategy are the principles that the DBE wish church schools to be in MATs that safeguard their church status on into the future through appropriate governance structures and to be in MATs which will support them to intentionally promote and develop their Christian ethos. Currently, within the diocese there is a Diocesan MAT and three church school led MATs - Aspire, Bluecoat and Transform

The DBE wants the Diocesan MAT and all church school-led MATs to thrive. It therefore has a responsibility to work towards achieving balanced MATs in terms of the size (pupil numbers), context and Ofsted performance of schools. This is key to providing strong school to school support and viability. It does not wish the diocesan family of schools to become fragmented across a large number of trusts

For a while the Minster School in Southwell has been considering setting up a MAT with its family of schools and this proposal came to the DBE for approval. The Board have given conditional consent to the proposal subject to the required legal agreements being drawn up. They believe it is in the best interests of the children in this grouping of schools. The schools in question already work together in a very established partnership and almost all the children transfer from the group of primaries to The Minster Secondary School. The DBE have been in direct communication with the governing bodies of the schools concerned and discussed the due diligence required from them if they wish to join this Trust, The Board do not intend to give consent to any further high performing church schools to join this MAT at the current time.

Given the acknowledgement of the DfE that a large number of pupils is required to form a strong viable MAT (we believe around 3000) and because all the church secondary schools in the diocese will soon have converted, it seems unlikely that any more MATs will be necessary for church schools within this diocese. Therefore the strategy currently is :-

Diocesan MAT with hubs in the
 North - Worksop/ Retford area
 East – Newark area
 West - Mansfield/ Hucknall area

Minster MAT – central part of diocese

South of Diocese – choice --
 ASPIRE
 Transform
 Bluecoat
 Hub of the Diocesan MAT

Purdah

Following the announcement of a snap general election we have now entered a period of purdah. The latest information we have had from the DfE states that work on existing voluntary conversions will continue where an academy order is in place up to and including the signing of the funding agreement. No new academy orders will be issued until after the election. For sponsored academies directed academy orders will continue to be issued and the DfE anticipate that work on existing conversions will continue.

New National Leaders of Governance Recruitment

The application round is open, and will close on Friday 12th May at 11.59pm.

We are asking Chairs of Governing Bodies to carefully consider if this is something they are interested in. It is a great opportunity to lead in a wider context, sharing experience and skills. Further details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-leaders-of-governance-a-guide-for-potential-applicants>.

Primary Assessment Consultation

The DfE are currently consulting on primary assessment, details are available here <http://bit.ly/2oCB3LT>. The Church of England would like to submit a co-ordinated response, if you have any comments please forward to Sam Dennis (samantha.dennis@southwell.anglican.org) by 26th May 2017. They will then be sent to the central education office in order for a response to be prepared

Dates for the Diary

At Jubilee House unless indicated otherwise

MAY

18 Understanding Christianity (Modules 6-7) 1st Cohort
9.30-3.30

JUNE

5 Governor Training
7.00-9.00

8 Leading Church Schools into the Future
4.15-7.00

20 Secondary Heads Network Meeting
Magnus C of E Academy
10.30-12.30

21 Primary Headteachers Network Meeting
1.30-3.30

22 RE and Early Years
9.30-3.30
£120

26 Middle Leadership in Church Schools (Session 4)
4.30-6.30

28 Headteacher Induction (Part 3)
Venue tbc
9.00-12.00

29 A Conference for Aspiring Executive Headteachers
Wyndham Garden Hotel, Grantham
£155

30 Money, Worship and Values - Collective Worship Training for schools involved in Lifesavers
9.00-12.00

JULY

12 Understanding Christianity (Modules 6-7) 2nd Cohort
9.30-3.30

13 What if Learning Network Meeting
4.15-6.00

Refresh and Reflect

In the busyness of leading schools and ensuring that pupils and staff are cared for, headteachers and school leaders frequently put others first. There is a time for this but also there is a time for taking care of yourself, personally, professionally and spiritually.

When did you last nurture yourself?

When did you last take some intentional time to quietly reflect on your own peace of mind and spiritual journey and seek spiritual refreshment?

It is vital if you are to lead well.

Join us to do just this on Tuesday 23rd May 2017 at Sacrista Prebend Retreat House, Southwell, NG25 0JH. The session will be led by Erika Kirk, an experienced retreat leader. Refreshments will be available from 8.30am for a 9.30 start. The session will run through until 12 noon followed by a light lunch.

There is a small cost of £20 to cover overheads.

Please contact Ally Horne to book a place

a.horne@southwell.anglican.org

Aspiring Executive Headteachers Conference

Thursday 29th June 2017, 09.30 for 10.00 start – 15.30

Wyndham Garden Hotel, Marston, Grantham, NG32 2HT

£155.00 per delegate includes refreshments and lunch

This conference is a valuable opportunity for senior leaders of primary and secondary schools to explore the possibilities of becoming a headteacher of more than one school. Leading figures from education and the leadership sphere will explore what it takes to be a successful leader within a multi-complex organisation such as a federation or academy trust. Through a rich blend of input, discussion and workshops, we will explore the benefits and implications of leading multiple church and non-church schools and academies. While Executive Headship may not be something you are considering at the moment, it will be a reality for many schools in order to address financial difficulties and staffing shortages and to make best use of the best headteachers. This is an opportunity for you to discover more about the role and how it differs from leadership of one school.

Please note as this conference is being run in partnership with the Diocese of Lincoln, the bookings are being managed by them. Please contact: patricia.dixon@lincoln.anglican.org

Date for your Diary

Church School Leaders Conference 2017

Hopeful Church Schools: Aspiring to Nurture Life in All its Fullness

Keynote speaker: Mary Myatt

22nd November 2017

The Derbyshire Hotel