Staffing Update

New appointments
This term, we welcome:
Yvonne Reeson as Headteacher at St Peter’s C of E Primary School, Gringley-on-the-Hill.

The following people are also taking on Acting headteacher roles:
Elaine Millington, at Seely C of E Primary School, Arnold
Laura De Martino, at St Mary Magdalene C of E Primary School, Sutton in Ashfield
Paul Nolan at Halam C of E Primary School.

Academy News
The Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust welcomed another school into its family on 1st December 2015 when St John’s Church of England Primary School, Workop converted (changing its name to St John’s C of E Academy).

From the Diocesan Director of Education

The start of a new year always provides that moment when, even if only fleetingly, we look back and reflect on the memorable events that have affected us over the last year, and muse over what lies ahead. Sadly, there have been times of great tragedy around the world in the past twelve months that, at times, have seemed almost overwhelming. Paris was probably the one closest to home for most of us. Such events, and some of their underlying causes, remind us once again of the challenge and importance of playing our part through the education system in forming children and young people who are shaped by Christian values and who are equipped with the spiritual depth and moral strength to lead fulfilled and purposeful lives in a world marked by a rapid change, global competition and insecurity.

Those of you who attended our Church School Leaders’ Conference will have heard of the renewed emphasis that Church of England schools are putting on “character education.” Nigel Genders, the Chief Education Officer for church schools, reminded us that this needs to be about much more than character traits, and become something embedded in a deep vision about the place of human beings in the world. Human beings who have the ultimate purpose of expressing an unfolding relationship with God, knowing what it is to love and be loved.

Our ethos and values should not be “add-ons” if they are to be effective but should run through every aspect of school life, like writing in a stick of rock. Not all of this can always be measured by other people’s metrics or marked off in tick boxes. Our involvement in education should be about the formation of people for the transformation of the world. An education that bears the fruit of transformed lives with children and young people who know what a life well lived really means and who have the power to truly transform society in the way that is needed.

This is a bold vision, but as I look around the great work going on in our church schools across the diocese and see the work you are doing in offering this kind of distinctive education, I know that, as we trust in God and rely on his power to be at work amongst us, we can have the confidence and courage to continue leading schools and developing children and young people in a way that will make a lasting difference to our world. In an education system that is constantly changing and increasingly fragmented it is important that, as church schools, we remain rooted in those priorities that have always underpinned the Church of England education system and which are abiding even as other educational theories and initiatives come and go.

Please look out for the ways we are going to be promoting character education across our schools over the months ahead. May I once again assure you of the prayers and support of the diocesan education team.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”
2 Corinthians 5:7
Collaborations/Federations/MATs

With the current changes going on in the educational landscape, pressure on school budgets and continued growth in new models of school leadership, we are aware that more schools are considering forming collaborations/federations and multi academy trusts (MATs). We encourage schools to be developing these kind of arrangements.

If you are considering entering into one of these arrangements, it is important that the Diocesan Board of Education is kept informed of your plans through the Director of Education, so that support can be provided to the governing body from the outset of the process and the necessary DBE consents can be granted at the appropriate time.

When entering into any of these arrangements, please be aware that the guiding principle of the Diocesan Board of Education is likely to be that the same level of local church/diocesan representation must be maintained in any new governance arrangements in order to safeguard the church status of the school on into the future. We will try and arrange for someone from the diocesan education team to attend any relevant governing body meetings and can provide presentations on different leadership models, but please be aware that, due to the volume of enquiries at the moment, this may be some way ahead. We may encourage you to invite governors from neighbouring schools if this seems appropriate.

In terms of collaborations and federations, we are also liaising closely with the local authorities and you will find references to the relevant diocesan statutory guidelines in their toolkit.

The Board of Education has its own academisation policy which is available at http://southwell.anglican.org/education/schoolsacademies/policies-guidelines/

This will be kept under review in light of any government policy changes. The National Society (the umbrella organisation responsible for Church of England schools nationally) is currently negotiating a new memorandum of understanding with the DfE regarding church schools and academy status in light of the Education and Adoption Bill currently going through parliament. This will form the basis of any revised diocesan policy.

Important Information

Headteacher Resignations

A reminder that when a headteacher resigns, the diocese MUST be informed at the same time as the local authority is informed. The diocese has a statutory right to be present at all headteacher appointment processes in Voluntary Aided schools, and there is an expectation that the diocese will be invited to participate in the processes at Voluntary Controlled Schools. In the case of Academies, the Memorandum and Articles will state the procedure for diocesan involvement.

Education Sunday – Latest news

For well over a hundred years there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England and Wales. It is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education and is devised by an ecumenical steering group representing different Christian denominations and organisations.

Some of you may not yet be aware that it has been decided to change the date of Education Sunday this year from its traditional place (the ninth Sunday before Easter) to the start of the school year in September. If your school/church has already made provision to celebrate on 24th January, please access resources from previous years to assist your planning. http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/252108/Home/Resources/Education_Sunday/Education_Sunday_2015.aspx

However, if you wish and can wait until September, new resources will be available to help you and we will share the link to these when it is available.

British Values Guidance

Guidance for Promoting British Values in the Church of England School can now be found on our website using the following link http://southwell.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/British-Values-FINAL.pdf
The Christian Aid Big Sing 2015

The Christian Aid Big Sing was held at Samworth Church Academy, Mansfield on Thursday evening, December 10th. The event was a partnership between the diocese and Christian Aid to raise money for their Christmas fundraising campaign – this year for their work in Nigeria. The government is match funding everything Christian Aid raise for this campaign so it was fantastic to know that every ticket bought actually raised £10 for the campaign fund. We are yet to hear exactly how much was raised through the event but it is likely to be in excess of £2000 (including the match funding).

A strand of the diocesan mission statement is ‘Seeking Justice’ and this event enabled some of our schools to express this in a very particular way. Children from 5 of our primary schools (Hucknall National Primary, St Wilfrids Calverton, St Andrews Skegby, Farnsfield St Michaels & Ravenshead C of E) sang their hearts out.

Throughout the evening the audience were reminded of the work of Christian Aid through video clips and conversations with Christian Aid workers. Nick Thorley, Christian Aid Regional Co-ordinator for the East Midlands, said, ‘We were so excited to partner with the Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Education Team once again for our Big Christmas Sing.

If Christmas is about anything then it’s about hope. I think that in the choirs’ singing, the stories of Christian Aid’s partners around the world and the amazing generosity of all those who came along, the Big Christmas Sing was a wonderful expression of Christmas hope.’

Opening of Prayer Garden at Underwood School

Tuesday 7th November saw the Bishop of Sherwood, the Right Revd Tony Porter, and Claire Meese (Director of Education) being present for the opening of a prayer garden and shelter at Underwood Church of England Primary School.

This was a real celebratory occasion, with a service in school at which the choir sang as well as the opening ceremony. The prayer garden provides a special place where children and staff can go to pray and is a further sign of how the Christian distinctiveness in the school is really developing.

Please do send us your photographs of any special events that take place at school and share news of what has been going on.
#Washday 2016

Are you looking for a resource to support your school’s reflections over Lent 2016? Are you committed to your school understanding what it means to serve others? Are you enthusiastic about your school working with your local community? ‘Washday 2016’ might be for you.

The Church of England is encouraging its parishes to help change the world with one small act of loving service over Lent and Holy Week. Washday 2015 was an initiative from the Diocese of Bath and Wells and the initiative is being repeated in 2016. Two schools – one primary and one secondary – in our diocese took part last year and we are looking to widen the participation in this year. Materials are available for schools to use including one act of collective worship each week containing a Bible story, time of reflection, questions and the creation of a central display in the worship area which is added to each week. It is suggested that the school chooses a charity to support over Lent and that for the acts of service children carry out their parents and neighbours etc make a donation to the school’s chosen charity. ‘Washday 2016’ will culminate in #Washday2016 on Maundy Thursday (the day schools break for the Easter weekend this year) when schools are encouraged to engage in ‘washing or cleaning up everything!’ from cleaning windows for people, washing cars, litter picking, cleaning the road signs in the community – the list of possibilities is endless! Donations made by people at this event will go towards the charity chosen by the school.

This project could be a great way for your school to practice the Christian values of service, compassion, kindness and hope. Take a look at http://www.washday.org/resources/schools-resources-washday16.pdf for resources. There will be further dissemination of the resources coming out directly to you later in January.
Dates for the Diary
At Jubilee House unless indicated otherwise.

JANUARY
20 Effective Learning for Outstanding Progress
0930-1530

26 Headteacher Induction
0900-1230

FEBRUARY
3 Maintaining a High Performing School - How to avoid going down Led by Adrian Gray a former HMI and Ofsted Inspector. A shortened version of full day course held last term.
1800-2000

9 Primary Headteachers Network Meeting
1330-1530

9 Primary RE coordinators Network Meeting
1615-1800

10 Secondary Heads / Principals Network Meeting at The Minster School, Southwell
1030-1230

11 Guided Reading 1: A successful approach for KS2 Led by Heather Rattenberry (NLE) and Debbie Gray (literacy teacher, Lowdham Primary) Lots of practical ideas to try in your school
1300-1500
First of two afternoons. Please note new start and finish times

MARCH
8 Being a Foundation Governor
1900-2100

10 Prayer Spaces for Schools Led by Catherine Clayton (Prayer Spaces for Schools)
1000-1600

15 From Values to Virtues: Using the What if Learning? Approach to the curriculum
0930-1230

17 Guided Reading 2: A successful approach for KS2 Second session
1300-1500

MARCH
2 Assessment in RE: Life beyond levels Led by Dilwyn Hunt - National RE consultant
0930-1530

Effective Learning for Outstanding Progress
This is a practical one-day course facilitated by Brian Oppenheim, Director of School Improvement with Cambridge Education. The course will help teachers ensure they understand how to improve learning and thus ensure progress by focusing on the importance of learning rather than teaching thus aligning expectations within the latest Ofsted common inspection framework.

This training event is taking place at Jubilee House on Wednesday 20th January from 9.30-3.30.
£120 including lunch.

Maintaining a High Performing school: How to Avoid Going Down!

This course, led by Adrian Grey , a former HMI inspector who led in analysis and investigation for OFSTED and now works in school improvement, will use the latest research to look at WHY some primary schools have experienced sharp dips in their inspection grade. What can school leaders and governors do to prevent this happening to them and maintain high performance?

This a shortened version for those who missed the full day course in the Autumn term with an emphasis on how governors can ensure the long-term success of their school.
This training place is taking place on Wednesday 3rd February at Jubilee House from 6.00-8.00pm.

CARE- Confidently Addressing Radicalisation & Extremism

- What are the messages and methods of recruitment associated with forms of radicalisation and extremism?
- How can the Prevent duty be met effectively?
- What should front-line staff look out for?
- When is intervention appropriate?
- What form should intervention take?
- What happens after reporting?

The CARE programme will provide a safe environment where staff can ask these and other questions.
To book a place on the course go to the Prevent website:
http://www.sphilipscentre.co.uk/community/prevent/