



## DBE Newsletter – January 2022 (Term 3)

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**I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness.**

John 10:10

### How was Christmas?

For some of you joyous, and for others I expect miserable, if COVID intervened. For most of us a mixture of sadness, exhaustion, laughter, rest, delight and so on. We human beings are capable of such complex and multiple layered emotions. Hopefully it was a time for 'Sabbath' to rest, recuperate, delight and contemplate all that is still good in our world. And did you notice those angels who pop up in random unexpected ways to bring joy and remind us of God's goodness and his creation?

However it was, you have no doubt donned your professional hat for your role as Head, staff member or governor. It is now Epiphany and we think about the travellers (astrologers) tenaciously seeking out and coming to worship Jesus. They didn't give up despite the obstacles.

What are you seeking? What thoughts did you have in those quieter reflective moments of Christmas? The changes you want to make in your personal and professional life to help you flourish?

I read recently, '*We breathe in before we breathe out, we receive before we give, to flourish we must be fed.*' So keep breathing. Be mindful of your wonderful humanity. We have been given the gift of Jesus, as we are so powerfully reminded at Christmas. And now we must remember to feed ourselves so that we can flourish.

**Friends:** Stay well-nourished this term; read books, contemplate with your spirit, discuss your ideas with friends, make yourself accountable to those you trust. Whatever you commit to, keep seeking what you know will be good for you, your family and your school community.

Liz

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Nahum 1.7



## A Prayer for Epiphany



*For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60:2-3)*

Almighty God

As wise men came travelling, we pray for travellers at this time of year, joining or leaving family and friends.

Help us to follow the wise men's example to make special efforts to reach out to things that are important, to go the extra mile to do the right thing.

Let us share the special times of Epiphany by honouring the presence of your Son in our lives, just as the wise men honoured the arrival of Jesus in their world so many years ago.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **CE Induction for all staff new to working in a CE school in the Bristol Diocese**

Monday 10 January 2022                      1.00-2.30 pm   or  
Wednesday 12 January 2022              4.00-5.30pm

This FREE training is an induction for every member of staff and volunteer in a CE school, regardless of role. For everyone who has started in the last 18 months.

For more information and to register – click [HERE](#)

### **Leadership in a Church of England School (online)**

This course is run over 3 consecutive weeks (3 x 1.5 hour sessions)

- 19 January 2022 @ 4.00-5.30pm
- 26 January 2022
- 2 February 2022

This course looks at the characteristics of a leader of a church school, whether leading across a whole school, a group of staff or volunteers.

For more information and to register – click [HERE](#)

### **Annual RE Conference 2022**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 9.30-3.00pm**  
Engineers' House (and online)

**“How interesting are you?!”**

*Developing curiosity about different people's beliefs and identities*

For more information or to register click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/annual-re-conference-2022-how-interesting-are-you-tickets-181808854177>

*We are aware that it is uncertain times to be planning a face to face gathering. The conference will definitely take place on this date, but we will be making a decision on whether to move the event online by 14<sup>th</sup> January. We will be in touch to confirm final arrangements, in the meantime booking is open as planned.*

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### **ESSENTIAL SIAMS Update (online)**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 16.30-17.15pm**

For Headteachers, members of SLT and Governors who have already attended the SIAMS training

This offers a briefing on recent changes and developments to the schedule, including further articulation on the expectation of excellence.

For more information and to register – click [HERE](#)

### **Foundation Governor Training (online)**

- The aims of the training are:
  - To understand the responsibilities of a Foundation Governor/Member
- To think about the areas for development in your school
- To suggest ideas for how you as a Foundation Governor/Member can make a difference in these areas

**Monday 7th February 2022 @ 6.30pm (online)**

Click [here](#) to book on

**Wednesday 6th July 2022 @ 6.30pm (online)**

Click [here](#) to book on



### **Church-School Networks (online)**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**9.15-10.45am**

This is for all school leaders, governors as well as parish partners. An opportunity to spend time with colleagues in CofE Schools and build the church school family. To stay connected, learn and support each other

Each session will:

- give an opportunity for quiet and theological reflection
- An exploration and celebration of an aspect of Christian Distinctiveness
- Provide any updates

For more information and to book on – click [HERE](#)

### **Collective Worship in CofE School (online)**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. 16.00-17.30pm**

A time to reflect and focus on Collective Worship within your own school

- Space to consider your school's priorities and key purposes for Collective Worship
- Some ideas as to how Collective Worship can ensure your school's vision, values and sense of community
- Examples of great strategies for planning and assessing the impact of worship on the life of your school

For more information and to register - click [HERE](#)

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## Understanding Christianity Refresher Training

**Monday 14 March 2022 1.00-3.00 pm**

**Hillside House**

Are you a new RE Subject Leader who has taken on responsibility for teaching the Understanding Christianity resource in your school?

The course will:

- Recap the key concepts underpinning Understanding Christianity
- Develop subject knowledge of teaching Christianity
- Recap the pedagogy of text, impact, connections and show real life examples of how it works in the classroom
- Clarify how it can be integrated into the curriculum
- Offer advice on planning from the units in a manageable way
- Show how it might be utilised to look at worldviews and diversity in Christianity.

For more information and to register – click [HERE](#)

## DBE Annual Conference 2022

**Being a Courageous Advocate – Learning to Dream BIG!**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

The Deanery CE Academy, Swindon

This is the one Annual Conference when we try to get our whole School/Church family together. So this includes Heads, Governors, and Parish Partners. Please get yourself booked on as soon as possible. We are hoping this can be face to face! But who knows?! Book to come whether we meet in person or online, more details nearer the time.

Exploring the theme of '*Educating for Hope and Aspiration*' we will be hearing from Jim Davis at the Children's Society, the Global Neighbours programme, Archbishop of York's award, Ugandan links, environmental projects and local schools and partner bodies about all sorts of ways to encourage you to stripe courageous advocacy through your curriculum.

The expected costs will be £100 for one delegate (and subsequent delegates from the same school will be £50 per delegate) If we must go on online due to COVID, then the costs will decrease.

For more information and to register - click [HERE](#)

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### **Spiritual Development at the Heart of your School (online)**

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 9.30-1.30pm**

A day to reflect and focus on Spiritual Development at the Heart of your School

By attending the course, you will gain:

- A chance to explore how your school can create a definition of Spiritual Development what will fit your context and vision
- Ideas of where this might fit within your curriculum, environment, and life of the school
- Practical ideas for ensuring age-appropriate questioning and activities that will deepen pupil's *spiritual development*

For more information and to register – click [HERE](#)

### **Collective Worship in a CofE School**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – SAVE THE DATE**

Join us to receive up to date guidance from the Church of England based on their current model for Collective Worship 'Inclusive, invitational and inspirational'. Offering you practical ideas and support for all types of collective worship in your school.

**More information to follow**

### **Overview for Governors on the Ofsted Process**

Please find attached a simple overview for Governors on the Ofsted Inspection process with some key points to be considered. Apologies to those colleagues for whom this has come after the event.

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## **Church School Governance Online Training Programme (CSGTP)** **Improving Church School Governance**

The Hope Church School Governance Online Training Programme (CSGTP) is aimed at Governors and Trustees (Directors) in both church schools and schools with a distinctively Christian ethos, providing support for Governors and Trustees (Directors) committed to improving provision and outcomes for children and young people. The programme has been developed by experts and professionals with a background in church school leadership, governance and inspection. Please click on the link below for more information.

[CSGTP Improving Church School Governance Leaflet 021121.pdf \(hope.ac.uk\)](#)

## **SIAMS Inspectors**

The National SIAMS Team have opened applications for new SIAMS Inspector Training. As part of the applications process, all prospective applicants should discuss their application with the Diocesan Director of Education, to gain their support in applying.

Further information and the application form are available on the [SIAMS Inspections webpage](#), on the Church of England website.

Applications close 13 January 2022.

## **Ofsted's Curriculum Roadshow**

We wrote to you in the summer regarding a series of curriculum roadshows that were being held in July and September. We were pleased to welcome almost 6,000 colleagues to these events nationally and know that many more would have liked to attend but had existing commitments.

Whether you joined live or couldn't make it on the day, we have now made recordings available for you to access at your own convenience. The clips can be found on Ofsted's YouTube channel - [Ofstednews - YouTube](#)

In this playlist, you will find an introductory session on curriculum planning and recovery which is a useful starting point for the suite of videos. Following this are shorter clips for history and physical education. Over the next few weeks, we will upload further clips covering art, computing, geography, languages, mathematics, music and science.

We hope you find the videos a helpful reference point when you are thinking about your curriculums. SIAMS Inspectors.

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## Linking with your Cathedral

We are very excited to making stronger links with the Cathedral. The new Dean, Mandy Ford and the Education team based there are very keen to make sure that all schools understand that **the cathedral is a church for the whole diocese**. An enormous and special physical space that can wow children and all of us, but also a spiritual, community and civic centre for everyone in the diocese, whether practising Christian or not. So absolutely NOT just for local Bristol schools although they can have a fabulous relationship with the cathedral and its people.

The cathedral has a lot of city and national projects that happen physically or through conferences, talks and services. There are also Arts and cultural events, such as enormous moons, sculptures, and photo exhibitions throughout the year, so if you're visiting Bristol city, do drop by the cathedral. There is excellent parking and train, boat, and bus links nearby.

The Cathedral team are currently looking at ways to take the 'cathedral on tour' to schools so do look out for events in your local area in the new year.

We have passed on your usual email that we use for your school to the cathedral team as they are part of the diocese Education partnership, but please let us know if you would rather, they used your contact email address from your website.

## Model Employment Documents

The CEEO provides template model employment documents to support Foundation, VA schools and academies to fulfil their responsibilities as an employer. Work was undertaken last year to revise the suite of model employment documentation and Nigel Genders, CEO, writes,

'I am writing to let you know that the updated documents have now been published on the website for use – subject to local consultation requirements. Here is the link to the documents for your information: [Staff Contracts for Schools and Academies | The Church of England](#). Note that a link to the TUC Academies Model Agreement has also been added for information.

The work to produce model policies as part of a handbook will start this month and we hope to update you soon regarding this'

Remember we are all here for you.

Liz and the Education Team

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