



## From Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education

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Dear All

Welcome back! (Though I am aware that, to many, it will feel like you've never been away!)

**We start this new school year** with so many mixed feelings, fear and anxiety, relief and hope, the trauma of the past months not really behind us, the exhaustion of a continuing, changing, never ending halt to normality not far from our minds, the perplexity of starting with a group of children who we don't know half as well as we are used to.

So, my message today is **"be kind and be hopeful"**

Be kind to yourselves, to your pupils, to their families and to your families. Move forward slowly making sure that everyone has the chance to recover at their own pace from what lockdown has inflicted on them or for what they lose in returning to school. Let's not leave anyone behind. And stay hopeful; that we can carve a new way of doing things, that our pupils will continue to amaze us by their resilience and willingness to learn and that we can find ways of meeting their educational AND their emotional needs.

If we stick to our Christian values and message – remembering that each child (person) is made in the image of God and loved by him, remembering how generously God has provided for us – then it is easier to put each individual before the pressures imposed by others.

[Jeremiah 31:3](#)

[The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness](#)

[Psalm 62:5](#)

[Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.](#)

Some of you will have pupils in already, some not until tomorrow or next week. Whenever it is for you enjoy having your schools full again.

**The diocesan education team** are all back although not yet back in 103 Newport. We still work remotely but please don't think that that means that we cannot support you. You have already received messages about our training, our usual round of SLA visits and our HTPM

visits. If you need to know more please check out the [website](#) or phone the office – 01522 504010 – we are still answering phones!

Although we are back there is one of our team who has decided that the time is right for retirement.

**Yvonne Shaw**, over many years, has been a church school head, an LA advisor, a diocesan adviser, a SIAMs and OfSTED inspector and a DBE board member.

We are all so grateful to Yvonne for her wisdom, energy and unstinting work on behalf of Church of England Schools within the diocese. She will be so sorely missed by us all and I know that you will want to join me in thanking her and wishing her every blessing for her retirement.

Go well over the coming weeks – be kind to yourselves as well as to others and know that, as ever, we are here to support you and you remain in our prayers.

[Romans 15:13](#)

[May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.](#)

God bless

Jackie

## Our Services

Our training can be found here –

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/page/?title=Diary+of+Central+Events&pid=53>

And information about HTPM/SIP here –

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/page/?title=HTPM+and+School+Improvement+Partner+Service&pid=81>

If you have any queries about the above, please contact us!

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