



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

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Dear All

Well it's Monday and the first full week for our pupils.

In many ways a time for a big sigh of relief as we start on our path to 'normal'. It is great isn't it that all that risk assessing and form filling and signage making has resulted in full classes (so few parents refusing to send children in). How great to be able to do what we were all called to do.

However, I know that there are a number of you who have already had staff, parents and pupils who have, in the last few days tested positive for Covid. Looking at the national picture this is likely to grow. In these circumstances we are bound to question what we have put in place and to ask if it is enough. Please know that, if you have followed guidance, if you are encouraging and enabling hand washing and distancing, if you are staggering starts and playtimes and doing all those other things that are in the guidance, then you have done all that you can do. No more can be expected of you. You have made your plans and carried them out and that is the very best thing that you can do.

God talks of plans a lot – the 5 foolish bridesmaids who did not plan, who did not look after the details, did not prosper – (Matthew chapter 25 - see below) lets us know that we should take responsibility ourselves not rely solely on prayer and luck and the goodwill of others.

[Psalm 20:4](#) - May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed - suggests strongly that we should be planning.

And then, of course, there are God's plans for us. One of my favourite verses is Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

So, as you plan (and pray!), know that you have our support as well as our prayers and if we can help in any way please let us know.

One of the ways in which we will continue to support you over the coming months is the production of a weekly wellbeing reflection. These will be produced by our Development

Officer Lynsey Norris. Please feel free to use them for your own wellbeing as well as with your staff.

The first is attached to this bulletin, and will also be found on the website - [here](#).

Stay hopeful, stay organised and stay safe!

God bless,

*Jackie*

Matthew 25 (Living Bible)

**25** “The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of ten bridesmaids[a] who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2-4</sup> But only five of them were wise enough to fill their lamps with oil, while the other five were foolish and forgot.

**5-6** “So, when the bridegroom was delayed, they lay down to rest until midnight, when they were roused by the shout, ‘The bridegroom is coming! Come out and welcome him!’

**7-8** “All the girls jumped up and trimmed their lamps. Then the five who hadn’t any oil begged the others to share with them, for their lamps were going out.

**9** “But the others replied, ‘We haven’t enough. Go instead to the shops and buy some for yourselves.’

**10** “But while they were gone, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked.

**11** “Later, when the other five returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Sir, open the door for us!’

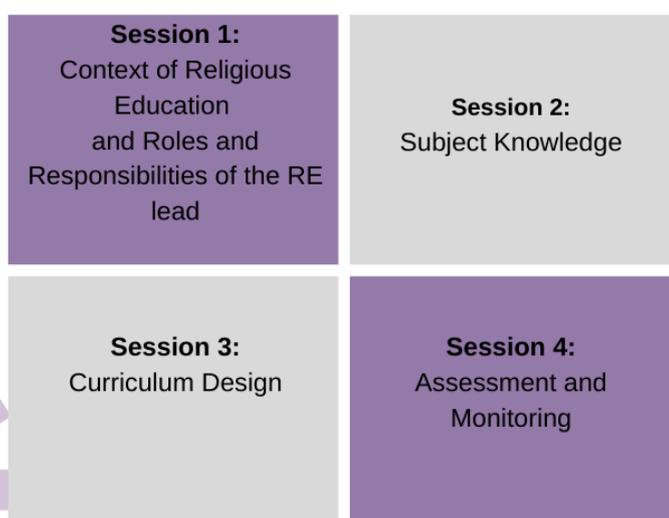
**12** “But he called back, ‘Go away! It is too late!’[b]

**13** “So stay awake and be prepared, for you do not know the date or moment of my return.[c]

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