



From Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education

There is a lot of media and political talk at the moment about the massive 'catch up' programme that will be needed for our children and young people and I must confess to feeling my heart sink.

There is talk of lengthening the school day – manned by an army of dedicated, qualified volunteers (I'm sure that we all have cupboards full of those!), of summer schools, of (very generous) funding for nationwide tutors.

But what will they be ensuring our children catch up on?

If it's about enabling children to regain self confidence in learning, to translate their individual lockdown experiences in to building greater resilience, to developing age appropriate emotional maturity, to make sure that reading and numeracy and learning skills enable each one of them to move on successfully then I'm all for 'catch up'

If, however, it's about trying to cram into what's left of the school year and on into next year everything that they would have learnt were it not for lockdown; every scrap of knowledge, about the Romans and the Tudors, every genre in reading and writing, every last grammar rule, every science worksheet then I cannot sign up to it.

Our curriculum, even the national curriculum, is a manmade, modern construct. It is not the last word in intelligence or wisdom. Until a few years ago a child could go through the whole of their education without knowing about a frontal adverbial, might not have studied a foreign language until secondary school, might have studied Judaism but not Islam (or the other way around) might have done rivers but not urban populations. Even today different schools choose to study different history, different geography, music, literature and on and on and on.

Knowledge is not what is important it is the skill of learning that will enable the covid generation of pupils to flourish and to succeed and to do that just as well as those that went before them.

Not what we learn but how we use what we learn. Is what we learn an end in itself or merely a vehicle to enable us to learn to learn? And to learn to apply what we learn?

It is wisdom that our children and young people need and that we should foster –

My prayer is that we will stand strong and find a curriculum that will allow recovery and growth and flourishing. That will have wisdom at its heart.

Ecclesiastes 2:13

I saw that wisdom is better than folly, just as light is better than darkness.

Proverbs 8:11

11 for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

God bless,

Jackie

Rt Revd Christopher Lawson, Bishop of Lincoln

This week Bishop Christopher returns to ministry in the diocese of Lincoln. In the national press release Bishop Christopher thanked Bishop David and Bishop Nicholas for their work in his absence and committed himself to the people of the diocese.

On Monday, Bishop David Court said: “Both Bishop Nicholas and I would like to express our thanks and gratitude for the support and encouragement we have been given by so many in the diocese over the last 20 months. We continue to be absolutely committed to good safeguarding in the diocese, and we now look forward to welcoming Bishop Christopher back and working again closely with him as we seek together to serve the people and church here in Greater Lincolnshire.”

Bishop Christopher Lawson resumes his duties immediately, but Archbishop Welby said: “Given the length of his absence from the diocese, Bishop Christopher will now need to take time to renew his relationships with colleagues in Lincoln and this is where his focus will be over the coming weeks.”

Bishop Christopher Lawson said on Monday: “The churches, clergy, and people of Lincolnshire have remained in my thoughts and prayers over the last 20 months, and I look forward to returning to serve the diocese as soon as practicable.”

Smile Spot

Handmade Crosses for every classroom at St. Peter's to make worship time special!

With the absence of Collective Worship together in the hall, at St. Peter's we decided to equip each class with a Collective Worship pack to make this time feel special and create a different sort of atmosphere. The pack included a candle, some words of liturgy and a



beautiful wooden cross. The 10 wooden crosses have been made by my dad in his workshop over lockdown. He used an old pew that was taken from St. Swithin's church, a city centre church that has been supporting our school community so actively in every way during the pandemic. Over the past year, St. Swithin's have given out weekly food parcels, they film acts of worship for the children, support staff with cards and timely presents, and constantly keep us engaged and inspired by their acts of

kindness through the #love your neighbour project.

This simple act of making special crosses for classrooms out of wood that has been used for worship in a church for hundreds of years feels very special. It has helped to set the scene and create a more meaningful Class Collective Worship, as well as giving my 78 year old Dad a project to do in his wood workshop which is his happy place to be! No matter what age - volunteers and parishioners can have a huge positive impact on the children in schools in so many different ways!

Thank you so much to all the people supporting schools in so many different ways , both by prayer and in practical ways too.

Charlotte and The St. Peter at Gowts School Community

Hearts and Joy!

Lincoln St Faith's have chosen the symbol of the heart to spread joy around our local community and have heart messages around the West End of Lincoln:



'We have had great feedback, in the form of tweets (@StFaithsTweets), letters of thanks to school and phone calls – from local residents and families! Many have said they are changing their routes to work or when on a walk, to try to spot more!'

Amanda Konrath, Headteacher, Lincoln St Faith's CofE Infant and Nursery School

Resources and Information

Conference for Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Chairs of Governors and Clergy



We are delighted to announce this year we are running our Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Clergy conference virtually on the theme of 'Positive Leadership'. We are excited to deliver a conference with excellent key note speakers and workshops to support

you in all you do in your schools and for the children.

Click [here](#) for more information and to book!

Wellbeing

We have introduced a dedicated Wellbeing section of our website – this can be found at:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/wellbeing>

Conversations about Religious Literacy: Creativity and the Classroom

This event is part of the bigger REConnecting Lincolnshire project and is due to take place on the 23rd February (the first Tuesday after half term); it is open to all and free to attend. You can find the invitation [here](#) and the agenda [here](#). Anyone who would like to book a place just needs to email David Lambert at david@culturalsolutions.co.uk or dml246@btinternet.com

Clerk to Governors Network Meeting

This FREE meeting will be an opportunity to hear Diocesan updates relevant to your role, meet members of the diocesan team and other clerks, and also come with questions you may have. We'd love to support you in the role you do and this will give us an opportunity to find out how we can do this.

Click [here](#) to book.