



From Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education

Last week The Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) had their last meeting of the year.

It started, as they always do, with a prayer. The prayer reminded us that this is the time of waiting and for miracles and it gave thanks that every single day headteachers and teachers perform their own miracles in schools and never more so than now. You have done miracles; you have kept going in the most difficult of times, amid continual and rapid change in guidance and in circumstances. You have stayed open for the children of key workers, you have supported staff to shield, you have changed how you work to keep everyone safe, you have embraced technology, you have wrangled with pack ups and vouchers and kept children fed, you have kept safeguarding and SEND central to your work spending hours calling parents, you have watched emails and phones throughout every weekend ready to jump into action to reorganise the bubbles and the staffing for the following week. You have had to make the heaviest of decisions and still you have remained positive in front of staff and parents and children and community.

The DBE directors wanted to express their gratitude and their awe for all that you have done and I know that that is echoed by all of us on the team.

Thank you!

Now is fast approaching the time to rest and our prayer for you is that you are able to do so.

A Time for Everything

- 3 There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- 6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,

- 8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

This passage from Ecclesiastes 3 has always been a favourite – and much of what it says rings so true in our context today. I pray that over the Christmas period you and your teams find a time to heal, to laugh and to dance as well as the peace of the Christ child.

If between now and the end of term you find yourself in need of a minute or two may I recommend this week's prayer read by the [Rt Revd David Court, Acting Bishop of Lincoln](#), the [Bishop's letter](#), this time videoed and the [DBE Carol Service](#) to share with your staff, pupils and communities. I know I found each one a very real, uplifting blessing.

God Bless,
Jackie

Endings

I know that some of you will already know that our fabulous Senior Schools Effectiveness Advisor will be leaving us at Easter. Sam Stewart has supported so many of you on your school Improvement journey; she has led training, done head teacher performance management, been a SIP, a supportive, challenging friend and helped shape our offer of support to you. We shall miss her greatly and I know that you will too.

There will be time for goodbyes in the Spring.

An advert for an SEA will be out on the 4th of January – do share it with colleagues who may be interested.

Resources and Information

Reflection

Our EDO Lynsey Norris continues her series of reflections – these can be found [here](#), and attached to this email.

Important Announcement from the Church of England Education Office - SIAMS:

Following the announcement by the government on 3rd December that Ofsted graded inspections will remain suspended until the summer term we can confirm that SIAMS Inspections will not resume until summer term of 2021 at the earliest. We will be working with the Department for Education and the other section 48 providers to consider the most effective and supportive way of resuming SIAMS inspection.

Diocesan support for schools preparing for SIAMs inspections will continue throughout the year. Please see the training menu on the diocesan website for more details. As soon as we have more information about the resumption of SIAMS inspections, we will let all schools know.



Hymn Flashmob

In March, St Paul's Cathedral had the pleasure of working with Diocesan Boards for schools and individual head teachers in creating a 'hymn flashmob', designed to share videos of children singing their favourite hymns and songs as gifts for those who were anxious lonely or unwell. Over 70 schools and Cathedrals across the UK took part, and this initiative reached over 200,000 people across the world.



Christmas Carol #hymnflashmob

We are inviting schools once again to take part in our **St Paul's Cathedral Christmas Hymnflashmob**, to share comfort and joy with people in their communities. The full details can be found here: <https://www.stpaulsresources.co.uk/resourcehub/hymnflashmob>



This is part of the Church of England's '**Comfort & Joy**' campaign, and we would like to flood the digital sphere with videos of children singing Christmas carols in the final full week of term, beginning Monday 14th December.

Very best,
Tom Daggett – St Paul's Cathedral

Advent Resources

We have added lots of helpful advent resources on our website for you to use –

<https://www.lincolndioceseeducation.com/page/?title=Advent+and+Christmas&pid=90>

<https://www.lincolndioceseeducation.com/page/?title=Advent+and+Christmas&pid=89>

Diocesan Advent Calendar



The Curates, IME coordinator and Bishop Nicholas have put together a virtual advent calendar. Starting tomorrow you will be able to open each day for a message:

<https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/News/the-diocesan-advent-calendar-the-link-to-the-actual-calendar>