



From *Paul Thompson, Diocesan Director of Education* –

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I hope you have had a restful summer time. I hope you've found time for yourself – to enjoy time with family and friends – to spend time doing pastimes and hobbies – to recharge the batteries for another new school year ahead.

We cannot underestimate the scale of the challenges we've faced in education and in our



family lives since the world changed in March 2020 but neither can we underestimate the level of resilience, care and compassion we have shown for each other within the love of God as we've navigated our schools through the pandemic.

'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness' (Lamentations 3 22-23 ESV)

It is clear to see that the Church of England's Vision for Education is being lived out in school communities throughout the diocese. You will know how well the four key elements of Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity has enabled your school teams and families to achieve a sense of security and warmth in difficult times.

Although we will continue to see fluctuations in covid cases, we pray that we are now seeing the back of the pandemic and that life is returning to something that feels more like 'normal'. Returning to school often brings butterflies to the stomach, whether you're a child starting a

new school, an early careers teacher, a newly appointed headteacher or an experienced leader of 25 years.

Returning to school where bubbles no longer exist and personal interactions increase will probably arouse a range of emotions – excitement, nervousness, relief etc.

We just need to remember that we are here for each other and God is with us.

Loving God, let me be strong today

as I meet new people in new places.

Make me brave when I am worried,

show me how to learn from everyone around me,

and help me to do my very best. Amen.

New people in new places

As we start the new school year, we do have new people in new places. We have about 3400 new Reception children starting in church schools and academies within the diocese. We have five newly appointed new headteachers and executive headteachers. They are:

Rachael Eastham Headteacher at Gainsborough Parish Church of England Primary Academy

Julia Waites Headteacher at Rauceby Church of England Primary Academy

Courtenay Walls Executive Headteacher at the Spires Federation

Angela Comerford Interim Executive Headteacher at the National and Harrowby Academies

Sonya Ely Executive Headteacher of Tydd St Mary and Weston Hills CE Primary Schools

Tydd St Mary and Weston Hills are two church schools in newly formed federation with a brand new Governing Board. We wish the schools well in this new partnership.

We also have a newly formed church school multi-academy trust based in the north of the diocese – the St Lawrence Academies Trust. We wish the CEO, Mike Adnitt, and his team every success as he begins to establish this new venture.

We warmly welcome all new members of the church school family – pupils, school staff and governors.

Changes in the Diocesan Education Team

You will be aware that there have been changes in the Diocesan Education Team as well. We said a fond farewell to our Diocesan Director of Education, Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, as she focusses on leading the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust.

I have started in my new role as Diocesan Director of Education and Lynsey Norris is now in the position of Assistant Diocesan Director of Education. We have been moved by the supportive messages and good wishes from many of you. Thank you.

It is our intention that the diocesan education team is always there for you – to support with pastoral issues, providing training on a range of topics for staff and governors, recruiting leaders and governors, providing guidance on SIAMs and helping you to develop the Christian character of your schools. The list goes on. We will ensure that there are ongoing opportunities for sharing updates and listening to each other through networks, briefings, the weekly bulletin, the diocesan website, e-mail and phone. We are always at the end of a phone to help. Please don't hesitate to use us!

O God, the strength of my life,

make known your will for me in this place:

help me to discover friends among strangers,

to meet opportunities and challenges eagerly,

and to do my daily tasks in your name.

Give me strength to overcome my worries,

and preserve me in your safekeeping,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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From all of the diocesan education team, we wish you a very happy, settled and successful new school year.

Kindest regards

Paul Thompson

Important Updates and Messages

Courses and Services for 2021

We are delighted to offer a variety of courses this year, while we are running familiar courses to you to help you lead your church school, there are some new courses and meetings we'd like to introduce this year. For an overview of everything we are running click the link below

<https://mailchi.mp/234f3f3302c1/kxdyrdqifr>

Our website is a 'one stop shop' for more details and the place to book on these courses - our booking form may look a little different this year for you, however this should still be as easy to book as before. In addition to this, make sure you look out for emails sent each week highlighting upcoming courses. Any questions please do get in touch

- patricia.dixon@lincoln.anglican.org

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

SIAMs – RESUMPTION of SIAMs Inspections.

SIAMs inspections were suspended in March 2020 due to the pandemic. They are going to resume from October 2021. There will be no inspections this month.

As you can imagine, there is a large number of schools within the diocese and nationally that have not been inspected within the normal 5 year cycle. It is understood that those schools that missed out on its expected inspection in the academic year 2019-20 will be in the first tranche of inspections this academic year.

Until all schools have received their first SIAMS inspection in the 'post-Covid' suspension years, legislation requires that inspection will be carried out within eight years of the date of the previous inspection. Thereafter, scheduling will return to a five-year cycle.

In general, under the revised legislation, SIAMS inspections will take place between one and two years after the academic year in which they would have taken place before the Covid-related suspension.

There will, however, be some inspections that fall outside of this general principle.

This means that it will no longer be possible for schools to calculate with certainty the academic year of the next inspection.

A list of the schools that are expected to be inspected in an academic year will be published on an annual basis until all schools have been through their first cycle of inspection. The list for this academic year is expected to be published in the next couple of weeks. We hope to be able to share this with you when it is available.

The revised SIAMS Evaluation Schedule (September 2021) is now available on the Church of England SIAMS webpage here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-inspections>

You will also find an annotated version of the Evaluation Schedule, so you can clearly see what changes have been made.

In addition to the amended Schedule, the Church of England Education Office (CEEEO) have published revised and new policies that will help schools to prepare for the resumption of inspection. These are the COVID-19 Policy, the SIAMS Inspection Deferral Policy, and the SIAMS Appeals and Complaints Policy.

An Information for Schools document is also included. This is designed to provide schools with a digest of the most pertinent information about the SIAMS process.

As part of this launch, the CEEO have made some updates to the webpage, including contact details for the new National SIAMS Team.

If you have any questions or concerns about the revised Schedule, please don't hesitate to contact us. Further training and support will be available in due course.

Admissions Builder

FAO – VA schools, and academies

The Church of England Education Office has provided a handy tool for school admissions authorities - offering options for school admission arrangements that are compliant and tailored to each school's character and local context. The tool guides schools through a series of sections for inclusion in the policy and then produces a PDF of the admission arrangements which can be downloaded or requested to be sent by email. As well as the text the school has selected, the final PDF will contain additional standard provisions so that parents are informed about matters such as admissions outside the normal round, appeals and other waiting lists. Please be aware that you will need to separately generate the SIF, the catchment area map itself and the standard 'Clergy Reference Letter'.

Schools don't have to restrict using this tool to create brand-new admission arrangements; it's also a good way of reviewing their current arrangements (which Governors are required to do annually) or considering how those admission arrangements reflect the school's vision and mission as a Church of England school, serving the common good.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/admissions-arrangements>
