

From *Paul Thompson*, Diocesan Director of Education –



‘And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.’ (Kings 4:29 NKJV)

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Whatever your role is in school, I’m sure there will be many times throughout the school week when you search for wisdom to help you solve problems, make difficult decisions or help you make the right

choices in life.

We know wisdom is different to having knowledge. For example, we all know that a tomato is a fruit but we hopefully have the wisdom not to put the tomato in a fruit salad!

We know that Google is a good source of knowledge but it is our life experiences, our context and the relationships we have with each other that will help us apply knowledge in a wise way.

There will be times, however, when we may have a lack of knowledge and wisdom to solve a problem or manage a tricky situation in school. I know I had times like this as a headteacher.

‘What do I do here?’ is often a question we ask when we are new to post. I’m sure new support staff, new teachers and new headteachers will be asking this question (just like me in my new role) as we encounter new situations. I am pretty sure that experienced leaders and

teachers will be thinking this question is not exclusive to new practitioners. There will always be new situations we encounter and new problems to solve.

Look at the all new problems you faced and resolved during lockdown. The provision of remote education for all pupils was and remains an amazing triumph.

It is always important to remember that we can't possibly know everything and have the answers for all the questions we face.

We are always building wisdom and our understanding.

The Wisdom Literature in the Bible (the books of Job, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, the Song of Solomon and much more) shows that wisdom-seeking and the importance of teaching and learning were really important in the Bible.

It is this Wisdom Literature that has influenced the Church of England's Vision for Education. In schools, we lead the development of wisdom, knowledge and skills, to meet the needs of our local, national and global communities.

In the revised SIAMs schedule (September 2021), we are asked to evaluate 'how the Christian vision underpins curriculum and assessment decisions and illustrate the positive impact that these decisions have on children and young people's learning and development' (p7, SIAMs evaluation schedule).

Wisdom affects all of life; if we possess wisdom we can make good decisions in our lives.

Unfortunately, wisdom in life doesn't always come easy. Building wisdom takes time, trying things the hard way, trying new things; it is not an instantaneous thing.

'If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.' (James 1:5-6 NIV)

In schools, it is important we create rich opportunities for teaching and learning and building wisdom. These opportunities need to be available across the curriculum, in Collective Worship and in a range of enrichment activities for our pupils, our staff, school communities

and ourselves. We do need time when we can learn as individuals but we also need time when we can learn from each other and from the wisdom of God.

Our collective wisdom and the capacity for building wisdom in the church school family is remarkable. Let's work together and be wise so that all pupils and adults are able to flourish. The diocesan education team continue to work with you in this endeavour.

A question to reflect upon:

Where do you look for wisdom in your life?

Prayer

Father, thank you that are wisdom and that you are not some distant being that does not want to share your wisdom with me. Help me when I feel overwhelmed or when I need wisdom to look to you and your Word. Amen

Kindest Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a stylized 'J' for 'Je'.

Paul Thompson

Important Updates and Messages

Courses and Services for 2021

Here is a look at the courses we are running for the forthcoming week:

Headteacher Development (Day 1)

This event will take place between 10:00am and 3:30pm on 06/10/2021

This series of development sessions for headteachers enables us to explore and develop effective leadership in church school education.

The programme is particularly valuable for headteachers new to church schools as well as experienced heads looking to refresh their knowledge on key aspects of church school leadership.

These three days provide valuable opportunities for headteachers to network with colleagues from other schools in the diocese. They will involve a rich blend of discussion, input and activity on a broad range of pertinent topics throughout the year. Throughout the programme, the key themes to be explored will include:

- What makes a Church School distinctive?
- What should Religious Education and collective worship look like in a good church school?
- How do I realise the Vision for my school?
- How do I promote and embed Christian values in the school community?
- How do I develop strong links between the school and church?
- How do I prepare my school for inspections? (SIAMs and OfSTED)

The Diocesan Education Team, guest speakers and school leaders from the church school family will facilitate the sessions and enable new and experienced headteachers to feel more confident in their ability to lead distinctively Christian church schools.

£175 for one day (£280 if no in SLA)

£330 for 2 days (£500 if not in SLA)

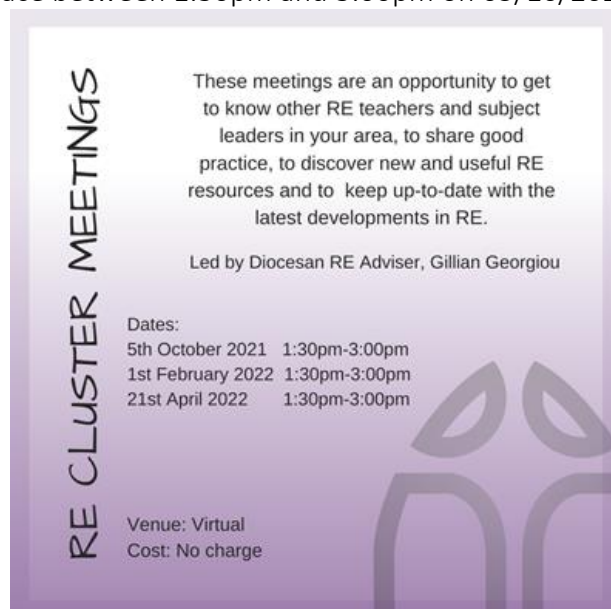
£475 for 3 days (£790 if not in SLA)

Please click on the link below to book your place:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7&pid=9&viewid=1&event=170>

RE Cluster Meeting

This event will take place between 1:30pm and 3:00pm on 05/10/2021



RE CLUSTER MEETINGS

These meetings are an opportunity to get to know other RE teachers and subject leaders in your area, to share good practice, to discover new and useful RE resources and to keep up-to-date with the latest developments in RE.

Led by Diocesan RE Adviser, Gillian Georgiou

Dates:
5th October 2021 1:30pm-3:00pm
1st February 2022 1:30pm-3:00pm
21st April 2022 1:30pm-3:00pm

Venue: Virtual
Cost: No charge

This meeting is open to all and free to attend; all RE cluster meetings are affiliated with the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE).

The recent Ofsted RE Research Review highlighted the three types of knowledge that we should aim to develop through the RE curriculum: substantive, disciplinary and personal. This

meeting will focus on disciplinary knowledge, with a particular emphasis on looking at knowledge through a philosophical lens. We are very pleased to welcome Philip West, author of *Just Think: Philosophy Puzzles for Children Aged 9 to 90*. Philip has a degree in Natural Sciences and a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Cambridge. He has taught pupils aged 8 – 18 for many years and is now an author of various books relating to teaching Philosophy in schools.

Use the link below to book:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7&pid=9&viewid=1&event=169>

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

To book your place on any of our courses, please click on the link below:

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

The Local Authority and The Diocese are pleased to be jointly hosting a Governance Conference at Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln, on 29th June 2022. This will be a full day event with speakers and practical workshops.

Tickets are priced at £65 on the early bird offer.

Please book via: [Aspirational School Governance](#)
