

From *Paul Thompson*, Diocesan

Director of Education –

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30



Dear Friends and Colleagues

I would like to begin this week’s bulletin by expressing deepest sympathy to the family, friends and colleagues of Sir David Amess MP who was tragically killed during his constituency surgery on Friday. I heard the Archbishop of York pay tribute to Sir David, saying he knew him well as a MP and as a friend. The Archbishop recalled he was a man of Christian faith and was deeply committed to serving his community as a MP for nearly forty years. He worked across political divides to support vulnerable people and was particularly active in supporting homeless charities. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and community.

It was lovely to see lots of governors at the network meeting last Wednesday evening and it was great that many heads came together for our very first head teacher briefing last week. Thank you for the wonderful feedback we received for these events. I was conscious however, that my team and I were providing you with lots of updates and you may have thought, ‘I need to act upon that,’ and ‘I need to follow that up’. Please remember, as members of a supportive church school family, we can help each other – it doesn’t hurt to ask!

‘You can’t do it all’ – how many times have we heard that?

In schools, there is always another job, always something else to do. Everyone is working hard and it is physically and mentally exhausting. With one week left before we reach the end of the half term, we may be thinking, ‘what else needs to be done by Friday?’

I talked with a number of school leaders at a conference on Friday and asked, ‘How are you?’ One leader responded with *‘tired’*. Another leader said, *‘It’s been a long hard term and I’m ready for a rest.’*

Relaxation and rest are key in supporting our own wellbeing and mental health. Mark Black, an inspirational speaker states, *‘Sometimes the most productive thing you can do is relax’*.

It’s so easy within hectic lifestyles, work pressure and deadlines to forget to relax. In education, we tend to wait for a half term break before we relax. We need however, to try and build times of rest in our busy work schedules.

At the conference on Friday, which was hosted by LAAT (and was great, by the way!), I sat with school leaders and enjoyed a wonderful lunch. A head teacher told me it was the first time he had sat down to eat lunch on a school day for a very long time. I know the pressures in all schools but that can’t be healthy. We need time to step away, even if it is just for a few minutes. Giving our mind and body a break gives us greater energy levels to tackle whatever life throws at us.

It’s worth remembering that, according to the story of creation in Genesis 1, even God knows when to take a rest (*‘Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done’*) – if God sees the importance of rest, then so, too, must we. Jesus knew the importance of rest as well. In the Bible verse at the beginning of this bulletin, the first three words are *‘Come to me’*. In life we so often try to do things in our own strength but this is an open invite for us to come to him.

From the verse, we imagine two oxen yoked together to pull a cart or plow a field. A yoke is how to shoulder a load. Jesus invites us to take up his easy yolk, to navigate life’s burdens and difficulties with him by your side – to shoulder the weight.

I hope that you have a restful half term when it arrives. I pray that you have time to unwind and lighten the load – time to enjoy hobbies, time for family and friends and time to relax!

Questions to reflect on:

- How do you build rest and relaxation into your day?
- Do you find relaxation productive?
- How do you feel about Jesus’ invitation to ‘Come to me’?

Prayer

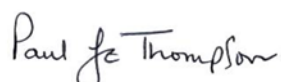
Heavenly Father,

Thank you, your Son has called us to be with him, thank you he wants to walk with us and share the burdens of life side by side. Help us to remember he is always there for us and wants to keep company with us so that we may rest and live freely and lightly. Amen

Thank you for all that you do.

Kind regards

Paul



Important Updates and Messages

Courses and Services for 2021-22

Please information below for forthcoming courses:

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; 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>

Following the recent Governor Network Meeting and the briefing for Head teachers, we would like to confirm details of a new SIAMS course on 10th November 2021: Revised SIAMS and Excellence.

Revised SIAMS
and Excellence

Join Gillian Georgiou for a look at the revised SIAMS evaluation schedule in detail and how it relates to you and your school, as well as looking at what it means to be excellent.

Wednesday 10th November 2021
10am-12pm
Online
SLA Cost £60 per person
Non SLA £139 per person

Please click on the link below to book your place.

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&pid=9&viewid=1&event=241>



MHFA England

Mental Health First Aid to support young people
Tuesday 2nd November 2021 & Thursday 11th November 2021

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an internationally recognised training course, designed to teach people how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental ill health and provide help on a first aid basis. At MHFA England we offer a range of courses tailored for people who teach, work, live with and care for young people aged 8 to 18.

Led by Lynsey Norris, Assistant Director of Education. Lynsey is a fully accredited Mental Health First Aid Instructor from Mental Health First Aid England

For more information email:
lynsey.norris@lincoln.anglican.org

Venue: 103 Newport, Lincoln, LN1 3EE
Cost: £200

The Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) courses are for anyone who works with, lives with or supports young people aged 8-18. We train the adults in a young person's life to have the skills and confidence to step in, offer first aid and guide them towards the support they need. In doing so, they can speed up a young person's recovery, stop issues from developing into a crisis, and ultimately save lives.

But more than that, by giving these adults the information and skills to look after their own mental health, we want them to set an example for young people. We want adults to be able to show young people that mental ill health is a part of life in just the same way as physical ill health, that it's OK to talk about and it's OK to ask for help.

We hope that by giving people the tools to open up these conversations; we can empower them to create mentally healthy, supportive environments in their families, schools, youth groups and communities.

Let's create a future where we all know how to look after our own mental wellbeing, so preventable issues don't arise in the first place. A future where every young person has access to support, if they need it.

Venue: Diocesan Education Centre, 103 Newport, Lincoln, LN1 3EE

Cost: £200.00

Please click on the link to book your place.

<https://data.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/civcrm/event/info?id=5525&reset=1>

Developing Senior Leaders in Church Schools and Academies

This one day event (split into two half days) will aim to inspire and give confidence to teachers who have ambitions to become a senior leader and/or headteacher in a Church of England School.

Wednesday 3rd November 2021

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Tuesday 25th January 2022

Venue: Online
SLA Price: £120

These sessions will aim to inspire and give confidence to teachers who have ambitions to develop their leadership responsibilities in a Church of England School.

This training is suitable for aspiring deputy heads, heads of schools and aspiring head teachers. This event will enable aspiring leaders to explore...

- What does effective leadership look like in a church school or academy?
- How do I prepare for senior leadership in church school?
- How do I know if I am ready for a senior leadership position in a church school?
- How do I secure a new leadership position in the church school family?
- How do I ensure that Vision, Provision and Impact is 'deeply Christian and serving the 'Common Good'?
- How do I prepare for my first SIAMs inspection?

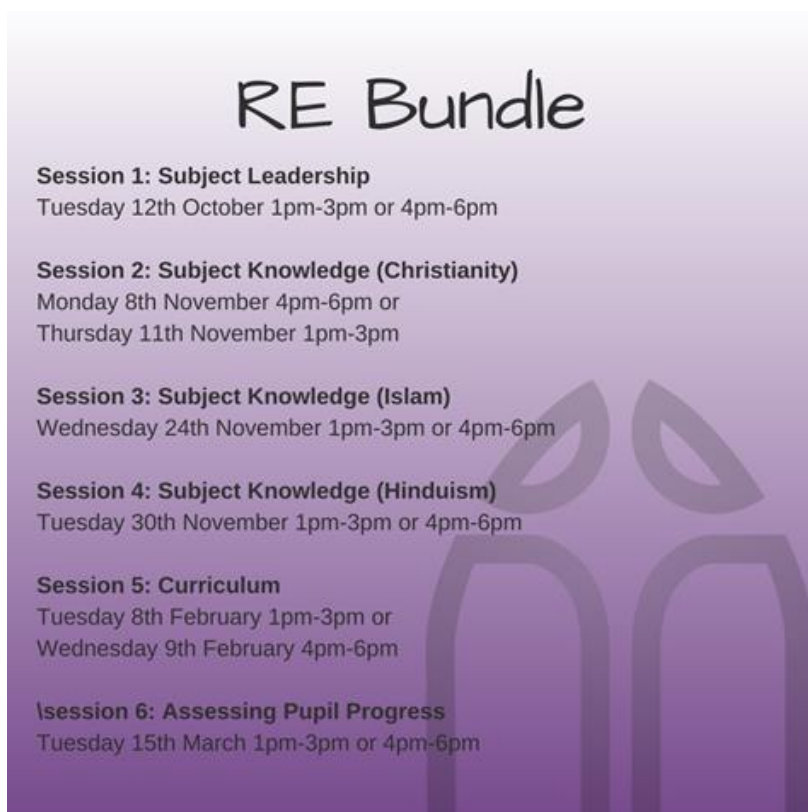
The day will involve a rich blend of input, practical activity and discussion with like-minded people. Diocesan Advisers and successful church school leaders will give guidance and support to aid preparation. Through presentations and practical workshops, we will explore what makes a successful church school leader and how to secure your next leadership position in the Diocesan family.

SLA Price: £120.00 per person for sessions 1 and 2 together

(£280.00 per person if not in SLA)

Book your place by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7&pid=9&viewid=1&event=175>



This course will provide your RE leads with ongoing support and training throughout the year, each session will build upon the next to help provide maximum impact for your school.

Session 2- RE Subject Knowledge

This session explores the significance of confident Subject knowledge when delivering effective RE. It will focus in particular on subject knowledge of Christianity.

£300.00 per person for all 6 session (buy 5 get one free)

£60.00 per person per individual session (outside SLA £139 per session)

(£700.00 per person if not in SLA)

Use the link below to make your booking:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7&pid=9&viewid=1&event=176>

Ofsted: RE, Locally Agreed Syllabus and Curriculum

Last week we mentioned that there was some confusion about the role of the locally agreed syllabus for RE in constructing an effective RE curriculum. The Diocesan RE Adviser clarified that a syllabus is not a curriculum: the syllabus sets down the ‘what’ and the curriculum should articulate the ‘how’ and the ‘why’ in relation to the school’s particular context. We also mentioned that we would seek further clarification from the Ofsted RE lead, Dr Richard Kueh.

Dr Kueh has concurred with the explanation provided in last week’s bulletin, referring to the excerpt below from the recently published Ofsted RE Research Review (2021):

The EIF considers the extent to which leaders of the curriculum adopt or construct a curriculum that is ambitious and designed to give learners the knowledge they need to succeed in life. As outlined previously, the extent to which school subject leaders are freely able to choose the content of their RE curriculums depends on the type of school and, where appropriate, its funding agreement.

Many academies have greater degrees of freedom about what to include within their RE curriculums. Schools that follow a locally agreed syllabus will use this as a basis for what pupils are taught.^[footnote 32] Typically, the content of this syllabus prescribes high-level outcomes that subject leaders go on to use as they design their school-specific RE curriculum. This contextualisation process is similar to the ways that schools may take high-level outcomes from the national curriculum in other subjects and use them to construct their school-specific subject curriculum. Non-statutory guidance might accompany an agreed syllabus to assist subject leaders in constructing their school RE curriculum.

However, to be clear: it is the enacted RE curriculum, in the context of the school, which is taught to and experienced by pupils, that is considered within the quality of education judgement. The contextualised school RE curriculum is also the focus of this research review.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education#RE-quality-education>

If you have any further questions regarding the locally agreed syllabus for RE and constructing an effective RE curriculum for your school, please contact Gillian Georgiou at gillian.georgiou@lincoln.anglican.org.

Aspirational Governor Conference 29th June 2022

We are pleased to announce that we have partnered with the Local Authority and are holding a joint Governor Conference on 29th June 2022 at Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln.

The conference will include inspirational speakers, including Emma Knights from the NGA, and practical workshops to equip governors in their role. (see attached flyer).

Take advantage of the early bird rate (£65) by clicking on the booking link to secure a place

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&pid=9&viewid=1&event=185>

Culture of Kindness

At the beginning of term we launched our Culture of Kindness to aid staff wellbeing and morale in schools, you can find the document and evaluation tool here

<https://www.lincolndioceseeducation.com/page/?title=Culture+of+Kindness&pid=108>

We'd love to hear from you if you are intending to work towards this and to receive your gifts and free place at the Wellbeing day. Please contact lynsey.norris@lincoln.anglican.org

Picture News



Picture new is a weekly news resource, each week they choose a current news story, provide an image, a thought-provoking question and a variety of teaching resources.

NEW for 2021 As a Church of England School when you purchase this resource you automatically get extra resources for your Collective Worship that link the weekly picture news. The supporting series of Collective worship resources work alongside the focus news article in their weekly Picture News. The core aim is to take the principle of the news story, align it to a Biblical text or theme and then offer an application. Linking with the 8 themes of Understanding Christianity as well as opportunities for courageous advocacy, this is a great resource to support your collective worship.

Cost: Online weekly resource £150 per year

Postal weekly resources £380 per year

Postal alternate weekly resources £260 per year

For a free sample head to their website <https://www.picture-news.co.uk/>



iSingPOP are back in schools with the The iSingPOP experience. iSingPOP is a singing, performing, and resourcing project that helps children and families engage in Collective Worship in school, church, and at home. Through their classroom worship, the resource you can use weekly in your school, to having a project in school with a leader teaching inclusive songs and developing a concert, this is a great resource to support your collective worship. For more details head to <https://www.isingpop.org/>

Diocesan Service Level Agreement 2021-22

We were delighted many of our schools have chosen to join the Diocesan SLA for the new academic year. We have adapted our provision to suit the situation we find ourselves in. Due to this many more schools have benefitted from the breadth and diversity of our support and quality services, which remains a source of pride and absolute commitment for the whole team.

As well as discounted rates at all Diocesan courses conferences and events, and priority places at the annual Church Schools' Festival, all schools subscribing to the SLA will benefit from an annual adviser visit by a member of the Diocesan team to celebrate successes and provide guidance and support. The visit is followed up with a written report.

This annual SLA visit is free to schools in the SLA, however if chargeable the cost equates to more than £500.

If you would like to subscribe or require more information regarding the Diocesan Service Level Agreement, please contact tracy.smith@lincoln.anglican.org or see our website - <https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/sla>

National Church of England School Governors Conference

Recently there was a National Church of England School Governors Conference, if you were there you will know how useful the conference was. For those that missed it or would like to watch it again click here <https://goministriesweb.wordpress.com/conference-resources/> Feel free to share this with all the governors in your school

