



## From *Paul Thompson*, Diocesan Director of Education –



### Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Last year was a challenging year for many. The pandemic continued to impact upon our family and working life to varying degrees.

Entering a New Year is a time for reflection. Moses asked of the Lord, “[Teach us to number our days, so](#)

[we may get a heart of wisdom](#)” ([Psalm 90:12](#)).

As you take a moment to reflect on last year, I suspect you may recall highs and lows – joys and sorrows, goals met and goals missed, challenges faced and overcome. There will no doubt be days you will want to forget but there will be days you want to remember. We can all say that we will have learnt new things about ourselves and the world around us.

The New Year also reminds us of new birth. It is a time for setting new goals and to embrace the brand new opportunities and experiences ahead of us in school, church and at home. Before we sit down and start writing grand new plans, I would suggest we begin by renewing the core commitments we already have.

In schools, you will have carefully crafted a vision statement which is biblically rooted, inclusive, aspirational, forward looking and drives you to educate for hope, wisdom, community and dignity. This vision will be grounded in the [Church of England Vision for Education](#), which outlines an aspiration to enable pupils and adults to ‘live life all its fullness’ (John 10.10).

I would suggest, as we start this New Year, that you return to the vision statement you already have for your school. Look at it together as a school community. What plans and activities do you need to do this year to realise your vision? For many, this will be developing and embedding the many good practices, systems and projects you implemented last year. And yes, there will be exciting new projects this year, but not everything needs to be brand new. If something is worth pursuing - such as dignity for all, - then the provision already in place is worthy of reflection and renewal.

When we draw up new plans for the year, there is a danger that we over-plan and we do not allow time to rest, reflect and think. Yes, time is precious and it is a gift from God that we feel we need to use to its fullest. As a consequence, some may think we haven't got time to pause. The Bible itself, however, emphasises that rest isn't a sign of laziness or weakness; it's a sign of spiritual strength and confidence, and is an essential part of living in the way in which God wishes us to live. God himself models the importance of rest by resting on the seventh day of creation in Genesis 1, and Jesus takes the time to socialise with his friends and family, rather than simply working all the time. Rest is restorative and reviving, but it also opens up a space for creativity and reflection that might have a positive impact on the work we carry out.

Creating spaces and times for reflection becomes even more important and powerful when circumstances suddenly change and the best-laid plans are blown off course – as is the case for many of us right now. There will inevitably be some challenges along the way. It is at these times we turn to each other, take time to pause and reflect, and pray to God for comfort, resilience and strength. Together, we can achieve great things. Please remember the Diocesan Education Team are always here to support you reflect on and realise the vision for your school community. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

On behalf of the Diocesan Board of Education, I wish you a very happy, peaceful and successful new year.

### A Prayer for the New Year

Grant us, O Lord:

The hope to envision new dreams;

The strength to rise above our limitations,

our fears and whatever holds us down;

The courage to stand on our own,

to stretch our imagination

and to experience being fully human, fully alive;

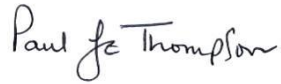
The faith to live our lives in your image and likeness.

Guide us, O Lord, this new year,

every way, every day.

Amen.

Best wishes



Paul Thompson

## Important Updates and Messages

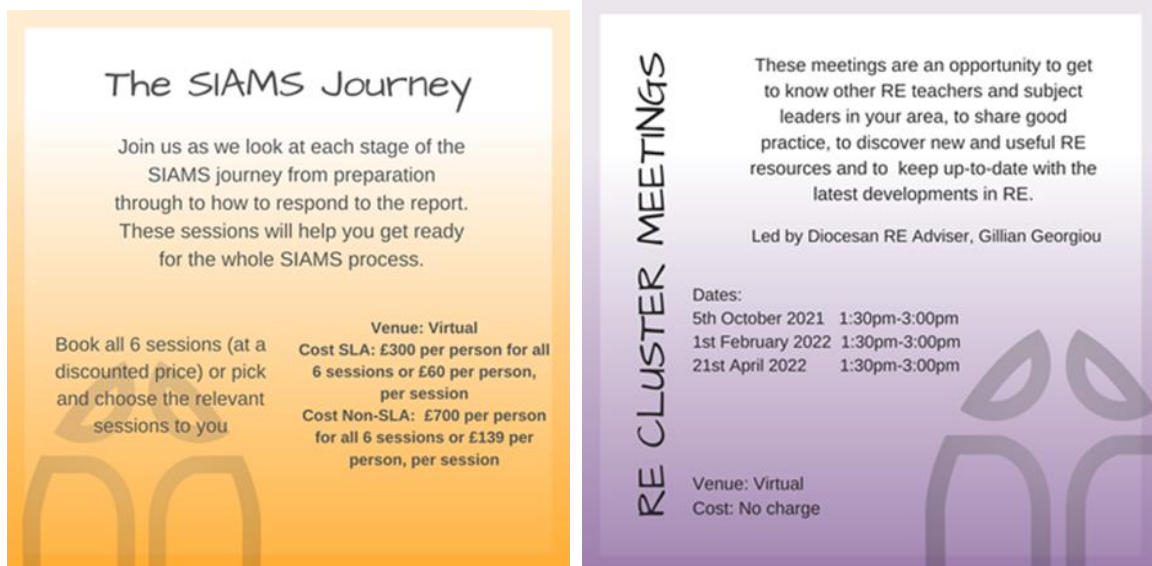
### Courses and Conferences

Please take a look at our training and development programme, listing all the central events for the **Spring Term**.

Our website is a 'one stop shop' for more details and to book on these courses, please click on the link below:

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

Any questions, please do get in touch – [patricia.dixon@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:patricia.dixon@lincoln.anglican.org)



The image contains two promotional posters. The left poster is titled 'The SIAMS Journey' and has an orange background. It describes a series of sessions for the SIAMS process, including booking options and costs. The right poster is titled 'RE CLUSTER MEETINGS' and has a purple background. It describes an opportunity for RE teachers to share practice and resources, led by Gillian Georgiou, and lists specific dates and times for the meetings.

**The SIAMS Journey**

Join us as we look at each stage of the SIAMS journey from preparation through to how to respond to the report. These sessions will help you get ready for the whole SIAMS process.

Book all 6 sessions (at a discounted price) or pick and choose the relevant sessions to you

Venue: Virtual  
Cost SLA: £300 per person for all 6 sessions or £60 per person, per session  
Cost Non-SLA: £700 per person for all 6 sessions or £139 per person, per session

**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

## Governor Network Meetings

WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2021  
WEDNESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2022  
WEDNESDAY 22ND JUNE 2022  
5:30PM-7:00PM

These hour and a half sessions will provide an opportunity to share good practice, develop professional networks and receive Diocesan and national updates.

The sessions will be facilitated by members of the Diocesan Education team who will be on hand to answer any questions.

**FREE for schools in SLA**

## Collective Worship Cluster Meetings

These FREE meetings are an opportunity to get to know other Collective Worship leads across the Diocese, to share good practice, to discover new and useful Collective Worship resources and to keep up-to-date with the latest developments.

Dates:

13th October 2021	4pm-5pm
3rd February 2022	4pm-5pm
9th June 2022	4pm-5pm

Venue: Virtual  
Cost: No charge

**\*Session 3 NOW Evaluation and Monitoring\***

## RE Bundle

**Session 1: Subject Leadership**  
Tuesday 12th October 1pm-3pm or 4pm-6pm

**Session 2: Subject Knowledge (Christianity)**  
Monday 8th November 4pm-6pm or  
Thursday 11th November 1pm-3pm

**Session 3: Subject Knowledge (Islam)**  
Wednesday 24th November 1pm-3pm or 4pm-6pm

**Session 4: Subject Knowledge (Hinduism)**  
Tuesday 30th November 1pm-3pm or 4pm-6pm

**Session 5: Curriculum**  
Tuesday 8th February 1pm-3pm or  
Wednesday 9th February 4pm-6pm

**Session 6: Assessing Pupil Progress**  
Tuesday 15th March 1pm-3pm or 4pm-6pm

## Diocesan Headteacher Briefing

Wednesday 9th February 10am-11am  
Wednesday 25th May 10am-11am

Join us for an hour of Diocesan Headteacher updates, Led by the Education Team this hour will be a chance to find out recent and relevant updates, a time to asked questions and network with other Headteachers from across the Diocese.

**FREE for all schools**



**MHFA England**

### Mental Health First Aid to support young people


Friday 25th February 2022 & Thursday 3rd March 2022

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



## Understanding Christianity Refresher

Has been a while since your Understanding Christianity Training?  
Have you got questions about the resource now you've been using it a while?

Join Gillian Georgiou as she leads refresher training to help you get the most out of the resource

Tuesday 8th March 2022  
4pm-6pm  
Online  
SLA Cost £60 per person  
Non SLA £139 per person

## Head Teacher Development Day – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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)

**To book, please follow this link -**

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&pid=9&viewid=1&event=193>

## Springs' Parable and Easter Project

Attached to this email, some flyers from the Springs Dance Company.

## 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.

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>

## SIAMS – Contact Email Address

Due to staffing changes at the CofE Education Office – the national SIAMS team is now contactable on –

SIAMS queries to: [SIAMS@churchofengland.org](mailto:SIAMS@churchofengland.org)

## FAO VA Schools & Academies

The Church of England Education Office provides template model employment documents to support Foundation, VA schools and academies to fulfil their responsibilities as an employer. Work was undertaken last year to revise the suite of model employment documentation and I am writing to let you know that the updated documents have been published recently on the website for use – subject to local consultation requirements. Here is the link to the documents for your information: [Staff Contracts for Schools and Academies | The Church of England](#). Note that a link to the TUC Academies Model Agreement has also been added for information.

The CEEO's work to produce model policies as part of a handbook will start this month and we hope to update you soon regarding this.

**Save the Date!**

30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Conference for head teachers, chairs of governors, senior leaders, clergy.  
In person event at Bishop Grosseteste University.

More details to follow.

**Schools!** – If you have any articles you would like included in the weekly DBE bulletin, to share good practice in our schools then please email [ellen.cross@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:ellen.cross@lincoln.anglican.org)