

From *Paul Thompson*, Diocesan Director of Education –

It's better to be honest
and poor
than to be dishonest
and rich. (Proverbs 16:8 CEV)

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In the context of the difficulties we are facing, I am really pleased that the Church of England Education Office were very decisive at the start of term and paused all SIAMS inspections until at least the end of January. I know school leaders have really appreciated this action and it at least one less thing to worry about at the moment. The DBE, although impacted by illness over recent weeks, continues to be there for you – providing pastoral support, training and guidance.



For this weekly bulletin, I thought I would focus on 'honesty'. In the news at the moment, there is a lot about the importance of honesty. In our church schools, we promote the value of honesty. We explore the theme of honesty in collective worship, in the curriculum and in our various meetings throughout the day. We build our successful schools on a clear-sighted recognition of truth, being honest with ourselves and with each other. We know that honesty builds trust and we need trust to build strong and respectful relationships with each other.

When we reflect on the theme of honesty, we can view it at various levels – from being honest with ourselves about what may be considered minor things to being honest with the school community about fundamental issues. Honesty at all levels is important.

Let's first think about being honest with ourselves at a simple level. Are you managing to keep your new year resolutions if you made one?

The further we get into January, the harder it is to keep the promise you made yourself – whether that be to go for a walk everyday or to reduce your consumption of chocolate or to stop working every evening.

The cold, dark evenings, the remaining chocolates in the Heroes tub and the mountain of paperwork provide us with great challenges to keep our promises to ourselves. If we've had a sneaky chocolate or worked one evening rather than going on a walk, we need to recognise this. We need to be honest with ourselves so that we can consider how we can do better next time.

The LORD detests dishonest scales,
but accurate weights find favour with him. (Proverbs 11:1 NIV)

If we lie to ourselves, then we can't really aspire for greater things. If we are not honest with ourselves, we may then fall into the trap of being dishonest with others. Whatever the situation is, it is in danger of becoming much more serious in the future if we are not honest with others. If we are not honest about working until late every evening, then we will deprive ourselves and others of finding solutions to improve work-life balance. In the end, we risk our long-term health and well-being.

¹⁷ For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open (Luke 8:17)

In our church schools, the high levels of trust and honesty enable all adults and pupils to flourish. Being honest with each other is not always easy. The words are sometimes difficult to find, but we pray to God for the courage and strength to be honest with the hope of bringing about long-term benefits for the community.

As school leaders, we know there is nothing to be gained but much to be lost by sharing mistruths or covering up mistakes.

In the Old Testament, God included in his 10 commandments, ¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour. (Exodus 20:16 NIV)

There are times when the truth is not as 'shiny' as we would like, but we know it is important to be honest about the facts and resolve to work with each other to improve future outcomes.

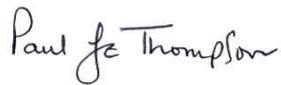
We need to be honest with ourselves and each other about the challenges we are facing at this time. That way we can work together and support each other. We are part of a church school family with a supportive network of schools, parishes and diocese. Let us help each other to face problems head on so that we have a strong community where all adults and children can thrive.

Prayer

Jesus, Prince of all Heavenly truths,
Your Words are carved for eternity!
You have commanded the virtue of honesty,
It is the power against all deceptions.
Direct Your Spirit of honesty upon me,
That by soul may always remain stainless.
Guide my daily thoughts, words and actions,
To join those living by the Spirit of truth.
For honesty yields harmony and loyalty,
Enriching all human relationships.
By the power of Your Spirit that flourishes,
Honesty will prevail in this world!

Amen

Best wishes

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 'John'.

Paul Thompson

Important Updates and Messages

Courses and Conferences

Headteacher Development – Day 1

26th January 2022 – 10.00 am to 3.00 pm – virtual

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.

Further dates for the programme:

Day 2: 10th February 2022 – 10.00 am to 3.30 pm

Day 3: 14th June 2022 – 10.00 am to 3.30 pm

£175 for one day (£280 if not in SLA)

£330 for 2 days (£500 if not in SLA)

£475 for 3 days (£790 if not in SLA)

To book your place, please click on the link below:

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

Join us for our SIAMS Bundle course. This will provide opportunity to hear trained SIAMS inspectors, schools who have gone through the inspection process as well as networking and sharing ideas with other schools. Book onto the sessions you need or book onto all 6 and get one free.

£60 per session or £300 for all six

Covering:

- The Evaluation Schedule 27/01/2022
- Vision – Strategic Leadership 02/03/22
- Evidence Gathering 10/05/22
- How to present evidence 06/07/22
- Inspection Day 27/10/22
- Moving Forward 9/11/22

Please use the link below to make your booking:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&pid=9&viewid=1&event=242>

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

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

Any questions, please do get in touch – patricia.dixon@lincoln.anglican.org

OfSTED

This Wednesday 19th January, Paul Thompson is meeting with the Regional Director for OfSTED, Katrina Gueli to discuss pertinent issues relating to the inspection of church schools and academies.

If you would like Paul to relay any key comments or questions to Katrina, please let Ellen Cross know at ellen.cross@lincoln.anglican.org no later than the end of Tuesday 18th January.

Sorry for the short notice.

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



Faith at Home Collective Worship Resources

We know school is very busy at the moment and sometimes you need some resources that just make life a little easier. The Faith at Home collective worship resources are written to take the hard work out of leading collective worship, plus they dovetail with the national church of England Vision for Education. With separate worships for primary and secondary schools, they look at topics such as hope, love, courage with a variety of links to resources such as videos, poems, art work and much more.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/i-am-school-leader>

Picture News have a new format and it looks great why not get a whole month free!



In celebration of our new format launch we're currently offering 4-weeks of Picture News as a free of charge trial. If you know any schools who may like to take part, feel free to send [this link](#) to join.

Our online CPD for the term is online now and can be found here: <https://www.picture-news.co.uk/blog/events/>

Trust and School Improvement Offer 2021/22- COVID-19 support

We have received the following, from the DfE -

Given the significant challenges schools are facing because of the current COVID-19 situation, I am writing to provide you with an update to the Department's **Trust and School Improvement (TSI) Offer 2021/22**.

From January 2022, we are increasing the focus of the TSI offer to provide system leader support to any school/trust who would benefit from it due to disruption caused by COVID-19. Support provided will reflect the specific challenges of the school and might include (but will not be limited to) supporting schools/trusts to overcome:

- Difficulties delivering remote education for those pupils who are out of school.
- Schools/trusts managing low pupil attendance rates.
- Schools with significant staff shortages including leadership.
- Any other factors which would put schools/trusts at risk of disruption caused by COVID-19.

The level of support will depend on the educational issues which have either been caused or exacerbated by COVID-19 and/or would benefit from additional leadership capacity of the MAT. However, consistent with the TSI offer, **up to 3 days for a standalone school, and up to 5 days for MATs can be provided**. If a school within a trust needs support, the support will be offered at trust level in line with the TSI offer.

Please do get in touch with us if you feel may benefit from support from a system leader via the TSI offer from this support. Schools/trusts will also be able to request support directly from the Department.

Best Wishes

Steve

Steve Pilkington

East Midlands and Humber Director's Office | Regional Delivery Directorate

Early Years and Schools Group

Quick Links: [School improvement support - GOV.UK](#) | [Trust and school improvement offer 21/22](#) | [Teaching school hubs - GOV.UK](#) | [Find out about English Hubs](#) | [Find out about Maths Hubs](#) | [Help With Tech - Digital Platforms](#) | [Help with remote education](#) | [Edtech demonstrators](#) |

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.lincolndioceseeducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&pid=9&viewid=1&event=185>

Save the Date!

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

More details to follow