

From *Lynsey Norris*, Assistant Diocesan Director of Education –



⁸ The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.

⁹ You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.^[d]

¹⁰ You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

Psalm 65:8-10

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I love verse 8 from Psalm 65, the idea of the created world just declaring the awesomeness of God’s creation from morning until night, every single day. Just reading it this morning brought a smile to my face; with the ever changing and often negative news around, it’s good to be reminded of the joy that nature can bring, through the creation God has given us. One thing I have noticed over the last few weeks is how it’s staying lighter for longer. I’m not sure I’ve ever intentionally noticed the lengthening of the days or the winter sunshine this early in the year. Even if I am inside there is nothing quite like the sun streaming through the window or that moment you can get out for 10 minutes for a good dose of vitamin D.

I am really looking forward to spring, with the days becoming longer and new buds on plants, it always feels like the world is waking up again after a period of hibernation! One thing that has become very evident over the last few years is the benefit nature has on our wellbeing. The idea of sunlight altering our mood is not a new idea, but just getting outside whatever the weather seems to have become so much more important for us all.

The charity Mind points out that doing things like growing food or flowers, exercising outdoors or being around animals can have lots of positive effects. They point out that it can

reduce stress and anger, improve your confidence and self-esteem, reduce loneliness and help you be more active. I think whatever our age, we can benefit from these effects.

Mind also goes on to explain how spending time in nature can help with diagnosable mental health issues:

‘Spending time in nature has been found to help with mental health problems such as anxiety and depression. For example, research into ecotherapy (a type of formal treatment which involves doing activities outside in nature) has shown it can help with mild to moderate depression. This might be due to combining regular physical activity and social contact with being outside in nature.’

It may only be January, but I think it’s good to try and make being outdoors a priority moving forward. None of this, of course, is new information; however, I recognise the need to intentionally remind myself about it from time to time.

Over the last few years our environment and creation has also been taking center stage for different reasons. From COP26 in Scotland last year, Greta Thunberg challenging people to think differently and the Church of England commitment to net zero by 2030, many of us have been challenged to alter our practices as much as we can.

It’s also been great to see so many children and young people passionate about wanting to see changes in the way we care for our environment. We know lots of schools have been carrying out amazing projects looking at the environment and we have loved seeing the results of these. Sometimes starting projects in schools can seem quite daunting, especially at the moment when schools seems busier than ever. So, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to a great new FREE programme (yes, that’s right, free!!) to help you empower pupils to make a positive difference.



*The Dirt Is Good Schools Programme enables young people to take action on the environmental and social causes **they** care about. It is built upon **four key principles** and a handbook has been designed using insights from the **latest research** into what motivates young people to take action.*

The project is fully funded, provides CPD that can be watched at a time convenient to yourselves and provides all the resources you need to run a successful programme – from lesson plans, resources sheets and a teacher’s manual. It fits really nicely with SIAMS and Ofsted priorities, and is definitely worth taking a look at to see if it fits with your school vision. We are hoping to arrange for a member of their team to run a session to explain the programme for everyone and we will keep you updated with that. For now, there is an overview sheet attached to this email plus you can head to their website <https://www.dirtisgoodproject.com/uk/home> for more details.

I hope this week, from when ‘the morning dawns’, to ‘the evening fades’ you will be able to spend a moment to enjoy the wonders of the wonderful creation we live in.

Best wishes

Lynsey Norris

Assistant Director of Education

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 no in SLA)

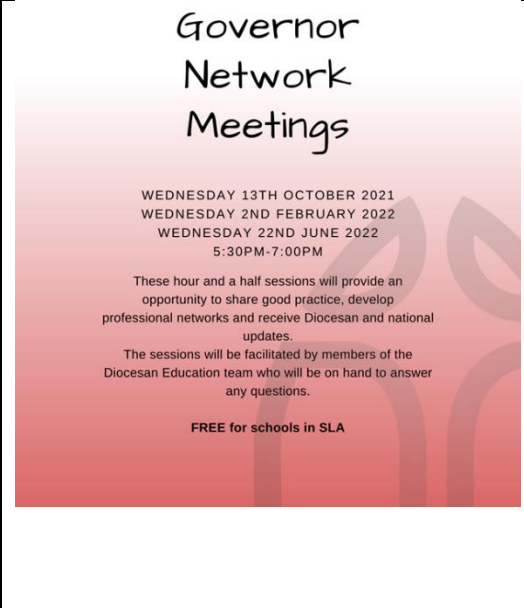
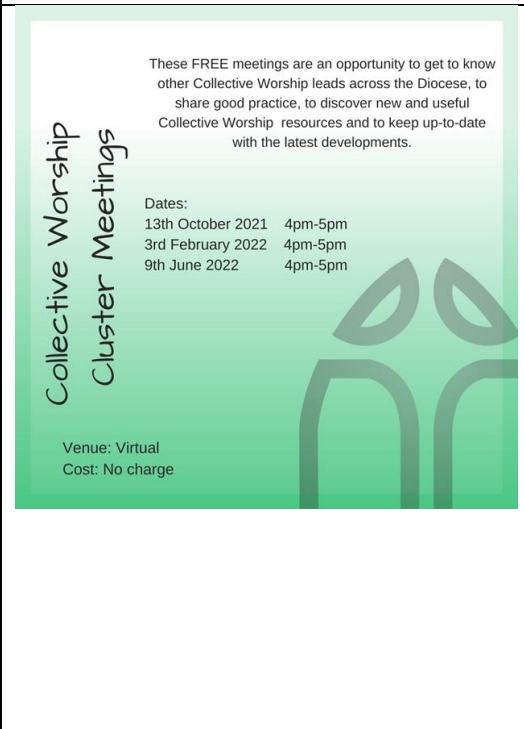
£330 for 2 days (£500 if not in SLA)

£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>

<p>RE CLUSTER MEETINGS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Led by Diocesan RE Adviser, Gillian Georgiou</p> <p>Dates: 5th October 2021 1:30pm-3:00pm 1st February 2022 1:30pm-3:00pm 21st April 2022 1:30pm-3:00pm</p> <p>Venue: Virtual Cost: No charge</p>	<p>This event will take place between 1:30pm and 3:00pm on 01/02/2022.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 <i>Just Think: Philosophy Puzzles for Children Aged 9 to 90</i>. 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.</p> <p>Venue: This will be conducted virtually</p> <p>Zoom details will be sent out prior to the meeting</p> <p>Cost: No charge https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&pid=9&viewid=1&event=195</p>
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 <p>Governor Network Meetings</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2021 WEDNESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2022 WEDNESDAY 22ND JUNE 2022 5:30PM-7:00PM</p> <p>These hour and a half sessions will provide an opportunity to share good practice, develop professional networks and receive Diocesan and national updates.</p> <p>The sessions will be facilitated by members of the Diocesan Education team who will be on hand to answer any questions.</p> <p>FREE for schools in SLA</p>	<p>This event will take place between 5:30pm and 7:00pm on 02/02/2022.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to gather with other governors from across the diocese to discuss the role, share similarities and be updated by the Diocesan Education Team.</p> <p>These sessions are free for governors of schools that have joined the SLA.</p> <p>Please use the link below to book your place:</p> <p>https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&pid=9&viewid=1&event=196</p>
 <p>Collective Worship Cluster Meetings</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Dates: 13th October 2021 4pm-5pm 3rd February 2022 4pm-5pm 9th June 2022 4pm-5pm</p> <p>Venue: Virtual Cost: No charge</p>	<p>This event will take place between 4:00pm and 5:00pm on 03/02/2022.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This will be conducted virtually.</p> <p>Zoom details will be sent out prior to the meeting</p> <p>Cost: No charge</p> <p>To book your place please click on the link below:</p> <p>https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&pid=9&viewid=1&event=231</p>

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

RE Cluster

Gillian Georgiou will be hosting the next RE cluster meeting on Tuesday 1st February (1.30pm to 3pm via Zoom). This is an opportunity for RE teachers and subject leaders to get together, find out more about the latest research and developments in RE, share examples of good practice and ask questions. During this cluster meeting, we will hear from Alex Blake, the Education Officer for the [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust](#). As you know, Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on the 27th January every year, and Alex will be sharing more about how she and her colleagues can support you to teach about this through your curriculum.

This meeting is **open to all**, and **free to attend**. All RE cluster meetings are affiliated with [NATRE](#), the subject association for RE teachers.

Follow this link to book –

<https://data.lincolndioceseeducation.com/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=13>

Strictly RE 2022 – book now to attend and ALSO get 12-month's access to EVERY session, even those you couldn't attend!

Strictly RE 2022 kicks off online this week with twilight sessions leading up to the main weekend event on 29 & 30 January.

As always the programme is packed full of high-quality, practical CPD. This year we have a strong focus on:

- Worldviews
- Dharmic traditions
- Ways of knowing

We have something for everyone, from head teachers to ITE's. There's lots to choose from, and we hope that you will pick and mix from across the month and weekend to create a programme that works for you.

Can't make that weekend? Book your place and get access to all recordings after the event for 12 months (until January 2023). Senior leaders & subject leaders can use these recordings in school all year as CPD for your whole department or staff.

At only £115* that works out at just £3.60 per session!

Please remember there is no pressure to attend all/any of the conference live, prioritise yourself and your time. The recordings will be available approx. 1 week after the conference finishes.

Book your place today at: <https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictlyRE-2022/>

(*£115 price only available on booking made on or before 29 January 2022. Any bookings/purchases after this date will be at a higher rate)

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>

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

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