



Thought for the Week

I always love this time of year, summer is my favourite season. It's not because when I was teaching there was a 6-week block of time I didn't have to get up quite so early or be in school, but more to do with it being warmer; there are lighter evenings and we see more of the sun. I'm writing this on the hottest day we have had so far and I'm twitchy as I'm sat at the computer and not sat out in the sun!

I also feel that this time in education feels more like the end of the year than the end of December. It's a very busy time as you look to say goodbye to those in their last year at your school and preparations are made for classes leaving their current teacher. However, not only is it a time for saying goodbye, it is also an opportunity to look to the future and what is to come. This makes for a very busy time of year as things are wound up and new things are put in place for a new academic year. I know we are not at the end of the year and maybe this reflection is a little premature, but I always found at the end of term I just felt relief that we had got there and my opportunities for reflecting on the year that had been tended to come throughout the weeks leading up to that ever-important date in July.

The changes of this season are not always easy to navigate. Emotions can be running high as change looms. Change can make people feel unsettled and walking through that can be a challenge. At times like this I turn to the book of Ecclesiastes and chapter 3;

A Time for Everything

- 3 There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
 - 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
 - 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
 - 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

- a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

Some of these verses are quite challenging. However, for some, simply knowing that there is a time for everything, that the hard times pass away to the good times, that tiredness can pass away for energy can help them deal with change. For others, though, the notion of change can feel overwhelming, as though everything them around is moving. When I feel like this, I like to remind myself of Malachi 3:6^a, which says:

I the Lord do not change.

Whatever is going on around us, whatever change is around the corner, the Bible promises God does not change; he is constant and I find this a great comfort as I walk through life. The God we see in the Bible is the God of today, the promises in the Bible are the promises God gives us today. As the hymn states:

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

Lynsey Norris – Assistant Director of Education

Important Updates and Messages

APPG on School Food - Impact of the cost of living crisis on school meals survey

Dear Colleagues,

The All Party Parliamentary Group for School Food is undertaking a short survey to gain a snapshot of the impact of the cost of living crisis on school food.

In order to gain a broad insight into the impact, please share the link with other organisations, stakeholders and colleagues.

The survey should take a no more than 10 minutes to complete.

All responses to the survey will be anonymised in the report. We would be grateful if you could complete the survey **by 22 July 2022**

[Click here to complete our survey](#)

Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to this survey.

Very best wishes,

Sharon Hodgson MP

Member of Parliament for Washington and Sunderland West

PPS to Keir Starmer MP

Chair, APPG on School Food

World Refugee Day and OutoftheBox Resources

This World Refugee Day (20th June 2022) OutoftheBox is pleased to make available resources to support schools and community groups wishing to develop discussion about migration and the experience of refugees.

The UNHCR's Core Message for 2022 is:

“Every person has the right to seek safety – whoever they are, wherever they come from, and whenever they are forced to flee.”

OutoftheBox is a movement promoting personal and community wellbeing through the power of story and play, designed for use in different settings, with both children and adults.

We are offering three carefully scripted Story videos and accompanying scripts. They can either be shared using one of our pre-recorded video presentations or you can access the scripts to tell the story yourself.

The Children's Train recounts the story of Lord Dubs' flight from Prague as a child during WW2, and his subsequent work to support refugees.

Beautiful Things imagines the experience of someone making the difficult choice of what to take and what to leave behind when forced to flee.

Psalm 23 takes a different approach to the topic from the perspective of Christian spirituality.

To view all the resources please go to:

<https://www.outoftheboxtraining.org/blog/world-refugee-day>

Looking to advertise your vacancies? Register with Bishop Grosseteste University's FREE online jobs board.



BG Futures Online appeals directly to BGU's students and alumni, providing you with the opportunity to advertise your vacancies free of charge to students and alumni of our Initial Teacher Training programmes.

To register for your free account, follow this link: <https://bgfuturesonline.bishopg.ac.uk/> and select 'Organisation sign in', complete the short registration form, and the team will approve your account and opportunities.

Should you need any support, please contact the BG Futures team on:

E: bgfutures@bishopg.ac.uk

T: 01522 583900

DRET Teaching School Hub - NPQ

NPQ applications for Autumn are now open, with a final deadline of the **13th September**. DRET would advise that **school leaders secure places for their staff ahead of the summer break** as part of strategic professional development plans for next year. You can find application forms for each NPQ on our [website](#).



DRET are holding two NPQ showcase events to provide teachers and leaders with the key information around these fully-funded suite of nationally recognised qualifications with current participants delivering to share their experiences on the programmes thus far.

These online showcase events will run on **Wednesday 29th June and Wednesday 6th July, 3.30pm-4.30pm**, delivered by Kat Howard, Director of the Teaching School Hub and on the

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6th, Kat will be joined by Emma Lamb, NPQ Delivery Partner Lead at Ambition Institute. To book, click [here](#)

The DfE has confirmed that funding will continue for the next two academic years as part of the national recruitment and retention initiative.

The full suite of qualifications includes:

- NPQ Leading Teaching
- NPQ Leading Literacy
- NPQ Leading Teacher Development
- NPQ Leading Behaviour and Culture
- NPQ Senior Leadership
- NPQ Early Years Leadership
- NPQ Headship

The funding offer will also now expand to include:

- state-funded schools
- state-funded 16 to 19 organisations
- independent special schools
- virtual schools
- hospital schools
- young offender institutions
- LA supply teachers will also be able to access scholarships

State-funded schools and state-funded 16 to 19 educational settings with 1 to 600 pupils will be paid £200 for each teacher or leader they employ who takes an NPQ, making it easier for teachers and leaders in smaller settings to engage with high-quality professional development.

Please do share this email with colleagues and we look forward to see you at the upcoming events. Alternatively, if you would like support from the Teaching School Hub in strategically planning staff professional development for next year, book a meeting with our Director [here](#).

DRET Teaching School Hub

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<https://www.dretteachingschoolhub.co.uk/>