

They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

Luke 24:42-43



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

If any of you have spent any time with me recently, you will have heard me say how much I enjoy my job. The fact I can bring my faith and my experience in education together is amazing. My job brings great variety, which suits me as I get easily bored doing the same thing over and over again. It does mean I have to be organised, though – luckily, I love to write a list! I have lists that started back in September that are messy and half-completed; I have lists for one part of my job and lists for another; I have lists to keep track off my lists – I’m sure I’m not the only one who works like this! However, what I realised is that for me at the end of the day, if I’ve ticked lots of things off my list of things to do and someone asks me how my days has been I’ll say ‘it was great’ as I feel I have accomplished something. That’s how I judge my day – by how many different things I can tick off my list, I don’t think there’s anything wrong with that, but there are days where things don’t get ticked off my list for various reasons and these days can feel less successful. Less productivity = less successful.



Last week, one of the things on my list was a visit to see a headteacher. Whilst we were speaking, it occurred to me that sometimes it is just important to be present, to be there with someone, and not simply to tick off tasks from a never-ending list. The value of the visit, I realised, wasn’t that it enabled me to reduce the list, but that I was there with someone who needed me there. There was power in my presence.

I have the joy in my job of being able to celebrate schools’ successes. I’ve been to different events, spoken with staff and leaders and been able to celebrate amazing things that happen in school. I’ve also had the privilege of walking through things with schools that are not so good. I call it a privilege because while the situations may be challenging, it is a privilege that people allow me into their lives and their schools at that point. These things are very rarely on the list because they’re not always predictable. In fact, being alongside people at these times doesn’t always feel productive – these situations don’t just get ‘ticked off’. They take time and effort, and it often feels like I can’t do much to help. I can’t take away people’s pain, I can’t take away the situation that people are going through, I can often feel quite impotent. You may recognise that feeling perhaps with some of the families that you work with, with all the difficult things people walk through.



This why the power of presence resonates so much with me as I try to work my way through my lists. The idea of just showing up; the idea of just sitting and listening (something I'm not always very good because anyone who knows me knows I'm a talker). Just showing that you are there and people are not alone I've come to realise is far more important than ticking something off my list, far more important than feeling I've accomplished something.

We see that in the Bible with Jesus. He didn't always take away people's problems. Often, he just sat and ate a meal with his friends and disciples. After he rose from the dead, there is a passage that talks about Jesus appearing to the disciples and eating in front of them. There were no miracles, no teaching – just being together (Luke 24: 36-49). There was power in his presence; amongst all he was on earth to do, his focus was people: their joys and their sorrows. In amongst all the busyness of school life and of life outside of school, we should not underestimate the power of our presence in challenging situations: the power of sitting with a parent who is struggling, the power of sitting with a child who can't regulate themselves, the power of being alongside a colleague who is in tears. We also shouldn't underestimate the power of presence in joyful situations to share in someone's hopes, to celebrate in someone's achievement. So, when perhaps we haven't felt as productive in the day as we thought we would be, just take a moment to see where your presence has been felt and the difference your presence in that situation has made. In the end it comes down to something very simple: love, our love for one another, our love of God, our love for our surroundings.

This week the Called, Connected, Committed email that came out from Andy Wolfe included the following:

If I tirelessly teach five outstanding lessons a day, and see my students make excellent progress against their targets, but have not love, I am only a broken window or a wall covered in graffiti.

If I create a perfect climate for learning, have excellent meetings with parents, and resolve all the problems of the day through focused toil, but have no love, I am only an uneaten school lunch or a messy office.

If I give all I have to my school and work a seventy-hour week, grading, planning, preparing, and evaluating, and have the most perfect colour-coded action plan to guide my path, but have not love, I gain nothing. 'Flourish Together- A Christian Vision for Students, Educators & Schools'- By Lynn E. Swaner and Andy Wolfe

So, let's never underestimate how we show love and how the power of presence makes a difference.

from Lynsey Norris, Assistant Diocesan Director of Education



Upcoming LDBE Courses—

For more information—click the links below!

31-01-23	13.30-15.00	RE Cluster Meeting	Online—click here for info
01-02-23	10.00-11.00	Diocesan Headteacher Briefing	Online—click here for info
01-02-23	16.00-17.00	Collective Worship Cluster	Online—click here for info
01-02-23	17.30-19.00	Governor Briefing	Online—click here for info
02-02-23	10.00-12.30	Diversity: Opening the Conversation	Online—click here for info



The Showroom,
Tritton Rd, Lincoln,
LN6 7QY

Headteacher, Senior Leader, Chair of
Governor & Clergy Conference

**ALL ONE -
RADICALLY INCLUSIVE**

**29
March,
2023
10am**

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**THE RT REV
STEPHEN
CONWAY**
ACTING BISHOP
OF LINCOLN



**ALAN
WATKINSON**
PARTNERSHIP
DIRECTOR OF SPORT
IMPACT - TEACHER OF
MO FARRAH



**LORRAINE
PRINCE**
HEAD OF
NETWORKS
CEFEL



**PROF. TREVOR
COOLING**
PROFFESOR
CANTERBURY CHRIST
CHURCH UNIVERSITY

*'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are
all one in Christ Jesus.'* Galatians 3:28

All One: Radically Inclusive

We are delighted to invite you to our Annual Headteacher, Senior Leaders, Chair of Governors and Clergy Conference – All One: Radically Inclusive.

We can announce our keynote speakers, that will each look at the theme from their own specialism on the day. The **Rt Rev Stephen Conway**, Acting Bishop of Lincoln, having first trained as a teacher as well as previously chairing the Council of the National Society Council which supports the church's work in schools and further and higher education, brings a wealth of experience to our conference. He will be inspiring and challenging us at the start of our day.

Lorraine Prince is the Head of Networks for The Church of England Education Office. She facilitates CPD and networks focusing on EDI, SEND, Trauma and Teaching and Learning. She previously was a teacher for twenty-five years in UK and US; having studied in London and New York. She co-leads the BAMEed Eastern region network, a grassroots network that ensures our diverse communities are represented as a substantive part of the education workforce for teachers and educational leaders

Alan Watkinson former teacher of **Mo Farrah** will also be joining us. Alan taught PE and History for 17 years in secondary schools. During this time, he was also a Head of Year and a Gifted and Talented Coordinator. He became Partnership Development Manager of Isleworth and Syon's School Sport Partnership (I and S SSP) in 2007. I and S SSP evolved into Sport Impact in 2011 and he has led the organisation throughout. You may know Alan as the teacher from the Mo Farrah documentary as he was the teacher that mentored Mo Farah through some very difficult times. If you have not seen the documentary we would highly recommend it. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001977f>

Prof. Trevor Cooling will be joining us for our afternoon session. Trevor is an Emeritus Professor of Canterbury Christ Church University. His role is to lead on research and knowledge exchange in Christian Education. His background is in secondary teaching, where he started his career as a biology teacher and then moved into RE teaching having taken two years out to study for a theology qualification. On the day Trevor will spend time exploring what it means in practice to develop a theologically grounded vision which is both deeply Christian and serves the common good.

Details

Date: Wednesday 29th March 2023

Time: 10:00am – 3:30pm (refreshments from 9:30am)

Venue: The Showroom, Tritton Rd, Lincoln, LN6 7PQ

Cost: Staff £180 (non SLA £285)

Governors £140 (non SLA £220)

Clergy £75

To book please use the following link <https://www.lincolndioceseeducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10&pid=9&viewid=1&event=301>



RELIGIONS AND WORLDVIEWS THROUGH SIGNIFICANT TEXTS

9 FEB 4.15-5.15PM

JOIN US FOR THE FOURTH IN A SERIES
OF CPD SESSIONS TAILORED FOR
TEACHERS INTERESTED IN
INVESTIGATING RELIGIONS AND
WORLDVIEWS THROUGH SIGNIFICANT
TEXTS

EXPLORE TEXTS ON JUSTICE FROM
JEWISH, CHRISTIAN AND HINDU
TRADITIONS

REGISTER:
[WWW.RELIGIONWORLDVIEWTEXTS4.
EVENTBRITE.COM](http://WWW.RELIGIONWORLDVIEWTEXTS4.EVENTBRITE.COM)



WWW.STORYTENT.ONLINE
FACEBOOK @STORYTENTUK



There is much going on in the world right now that is not fair. We have a chance on the Thursday 9th February at 4.15pm to explore what sacred texts have to teach us through the eyes of three guests who will be sharing from their personal experiences and religious traditions. We will be looking at what justice looks like through stories from the Hindu, Jewish and Christian traditions. Why not come and find out more, the event is free, and you can sign up at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/religions-and-worldviews-through-significant-texts-fair-and-just-tickets-404621372417>



iSingPOP

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT For a short time only, you can get a 10% EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT on two incredible iSingPOP Workshop Days!

Check out their website for more info: <https://isingpop.org/schools>

Lent Workshop Day

Running from
1st – 31st March 2023

Only
£450

Children will **sing**, **dance**, and **perform** their way through Lent's many mysteries to discover the significance of these **40 sacred days!**

Visit
isingpop.org/schools

Coronation Celebration Workshop

Running from
2nd May – 5th May 2023

Only
£450

A whole School **singing** workshop day to **celebrate**
The Coronation of King Charles III

Visit
isingpop.org/schools