



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we continue to explore our vision, this week we pause to think about 'aspiration'.

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" Exodus 3 v 11

The extract from Exodus tells us, that at the time of his calling, Moses was actually less than aspirational, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh...?' he asks. He doubts his abilities. In fact, he spends much of the book of Exodus arguing that he is not the right person for the job!



But God was on Moses' side, supporting and showing him the way. He guides him; tells him what to say; gives him tools to help and sends him Aaron for support. When Moses doubts, he reminds him that he can do it and helps him to be tenacious in returning to Pharaoh time and time again.

Moses built up courage and strength to complete his challenging task. Life was still hard - overcoming injustice doesn't come easily - but Moses had grown as a leader. He realises that he **can** do it and he finds it easier to aspire to the goal which was set for him. God remains with him and

supports him.

Our schools are wonderful examples of aspiration. No matter what our role in education, we aspire to help all our pupils reach their potential; we are ambitious for our staff so they can bring their best to their work. We are aspirational about the support we provide to our families and especially the most vulnerable in our communities. We share a vision of all flourishing.

In reality the journey to realise that aspiration is rarely smooth. There will be times, like Moses, that you doubt you can do it. You will need tools and support along the way. It's certainly not something that is achieved alone.

So, what supports you to reach your aspirations? What helps you in moments when you aren't sure you are the person for the job? When it all feels too big?



It is more than likely that your friends, family and school community will be key. Staff, governors, community members, parents and the pupils themselves will keep you going; reassure you and encourage you – reminding you that you are the right person for the job no matter what the challenges. You may also have certain colleagues or friends who recognise when you are struggling and touch base with you or, as happens in some schools, drop a card or bar of chocolate on your desk!

You also have the support of the Diocesan Education Team. We are also aspirational for you, for your schools and your pupils. We are here to guide you, support you and help you reach your goals. We are here when times are tough but we also like to celebrate with you too!

So, this week, take time as a school team to reflect on your shared aspirations for your community, your pupils and yourselves. Talk with one another about how you help one another through the tough times and take time too to celebrate the successes you create together!

Have a great week.

from June Richardson, Schools Effectiveness Advisor

Upcoming LDBE Courses—

| Date | Time | Course | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <u>08/11/2023</u> | <u>10:00-15:30</u> | <u>Living up to Your Foundation</u> <u>SIAMS 2023 and beyond</u> | <u>In person</u> |
| <u>13/11/2023</u> | <u>16:00-18:00</u> | <u>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Opening</u> | <u>online</u> |
| <u>23/11/2023</u> | <u>16:00-18:00</u> | <u>The RE Curriculum</u> | <u>online</u> |
| <u>28/11/2023</u> | <u>10:00-15:30</u> | <u>Developing the Spiritual Life of Your School</u> | <u>In person</u> |
| <u>07/12/2023</u> | <u>10:00-12:00</u> | <u>IDSR</u> | <u>In person</u> |
| <u>07/12/2023</u> | <u>17:30-19:00</u> | <u>Clerk to Governors Briefing</u> | <u>online</u> |



Farmington Scholarships

The application process for Farmington Scholarships has opened again for 2024/25.

Further information is available at— [Scholarships - Farmington Institute](#)

If you do receive any questions about the Scholarships, please do feel free to direct them to institute@farmington.ac.uk