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## The Diocesan Board of Education

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

When on your summer holidays, have you ever seen little towers of stones on the beach? I recall holidaying in St Ives one year, when there seemed to be a craze of building these. They were towers of different heights piled up on every beach we came to.

These little piles remind me of the tower of stones built by Jacob and Laban. In Genesis (Chapter 31), they build a pillar of stones which is a sign of an agreement between the two men. Laban declares, 'The Lord watch between me and thee whilst we are apart.'

In the Bible there are a number of references to these towers of stone in different locations. They are known as mizpah - the word in Hebrew meaning 'watchtower' or 'lookout'. They are a sign of God's presence and protection.

Over time, mizpah has come to mean the emotional bond between people who are separated both physically in life or through death. It is also possible to buy coin shaped mizpah jewellery, split with a zig-zag, a piece of which is worn by two people when they are apart.

As we near the end of the school year we are building up to a time when there will be transition and separation as the holidays begin. For pupils, this will mean time apart from their friends and the staff who support them. Older pupils are preparing for bigger changes - new schools, colleges, universities or employment – again moving apart from those they know well. For some staff they too will be building up to changes, perhaps looking forward to retirement or a change of school. These changes also bring separation from those they know



well. For others it will simply be the break that the summer holiday brings, but this too means time apart from classes and colleagues. Schools also prepare to say goodbye to families who may have been part of the school community for a number of years.



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These changes can bring with them a mixture of feelings. Saying goodbye is often hard. Then there are the inevitable changes to routine which come about because of school closure. Not everyone finds it easy to transition to the new 'holiday' time. For some pupils and staff, time away from the daily routine and supportive community can be tricky. For others, they can't wait to be first out of the gate and prefer the freedom, space and time that holidays can bring. We are all different.

In these last couple of weeks of term, many schools are building up to end of term events, performances, celebrations and leavers' services. Key messages of leavers' services usually reflect on celebrations and achievements. They are a rite of passage for pupils, their parents and for some staff too. They are a time to say goodbye but they are also a time to come together, to pray and reflect and, just like mizpah, they are a time when we ask God to watch over everyone in our school communities whilst we are apart.

Mizpah is a symbol of god's presence and protection when people are apart. Perhaps you will decide to mark this important time of transition in some way – perhaps even with a pile of stones!

*from* June Richardson, **School Effectiveness Adviser**

## Windrush Lincoln

98.5% of Lincolnshire's population is white. The Windrush Lincoln programme is the opportunity to engage with, and acknowledge the contribution of Windrush and its children, with the residents of greater Lincolnshire. The resources available include an interview with Benjamin Zephaniah about his mother's journey from Jamaica, and an interview with 100-year-old Ralph Ottey and his life in Boston, Lincolnshire.

<https://www.windrushlincoln.today/home>

<https://www.windrushlincoln.today/benjamin-zephaniah>

<https://www.windrushlincoln.today/here-to-stay>

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## **New anti-bullying guidance for Church of England schools published**

The Church of England has published new anti-bullying guidance for use in its 4,700 Church schools.

The document, entitled [‘Guidance for preventing and tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying’](#) is the first of a new suite of resources and will come into effect from September 2024 after a consultation period. This suite, named ‘Flourishing for All: Anti-bullying guidance for Church of England schools,’ will expand with additional sections in the coming months.

More information can be found at the link below—

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/new-anti-bullying-guidance-church-england-schools-published>

### **Webinars to introduce the guidance will be held on:**

Tuesday 9th July at 2pm [Register Here](#)

Thursday 11th July at 4pm [Register Here](#)

Thursday 11th July at 8pm [Register Here](#)

These sessions are primarily aimed at school leaders, staff and governors.

**Please note**—The Church of England Education Office has requested that the previous guidance, Valuing All God’s Children, be removed from school websites. This may feature in policies, and have implications when these are reviewed.

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## SIAMS SEF writing Workshop

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September

9.30-12.30 pm

Face to Face event at Edward King House, Lincoln, LN2 1PU

[Click here to book!](#)

This is a popular face to face session designed to provide dedicated time for school leaders to review or develop their SIAMS SEFs. The Diocesan education team will be available to answer questions and explore evidence in relation to the SIAMS inspection questions whilst sharing good practice and new ideas.

100% of previous delegates said they were **very** satisfied with the workshop. They appreciated the brief input and guidance provided at the start. They further welcomed: the time to focus on the document; work alongside colleagues and the personalised support available to explore the impact of their unique vision.

Feedback (July 2024)

*‘This will help me to be focussed on the articulation of my vision’*

*‘This helped with ideas for SEF writing’*

*‘I have a better understanding of what evidence is needed’*

*‘This helped to set new targets to support in writing the SDP’*

*‘This gave time to think and structure the SEF’*

*‘This has helped me to think ‘so what?’*

Please note, **places are limited for this workshop** to ensure all school leaders receive the personalised support they require in the session.

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## The Diocesan Board of Education

Our Autumn Term courses are listed below!

Date	Time	Course	
<a href="#"><u>17/09/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>9:30-12:30</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SEF Writing Workshop</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>face to face</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>23/09/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>16:00-18:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Using your Data: How do you know your vision is having an impact? Preparing for inspection</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>26/09/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>13:30-15:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>RE Cluster</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>02/10/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>10:00-11:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Diocesan Headteacher Briefing</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>02/10/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>17:30-19:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Governor and Clerk to Governors Briefing</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>03/10/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>16:00-17:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Collective Worship Cluster</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>08/10/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>13:30-15:30</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>RE Subject Leadership</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>10/10/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>10:00-16:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>New Church School Headteacher Induction</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>face to face</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>15/10/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>10:00-12:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Bishop Visitor Training Session</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>face to face</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>16/10/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>10:00-12:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Bishop Visitor Training Session</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>face to face</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>16/10/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>16:00-18:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Governor Church School Induction</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>17/10/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>10:00-15:30</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Leaders of the Future: Empowering all to walk with Humility, Justice and Kindness</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Face to Face</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>07/11/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>16:00-18:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Growing Faith: How do relationships enhance the school's ability to live out its Christian vision?</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>13/11/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>16:00-18:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Developing the Spiritual Life of the School</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>19/11/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>10:00-12:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Preparing for SIAMS inspection - Strategic Leadership and Theological Underpinning</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>21/11/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>16:00-18:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>The RE Curriculum</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>27/11/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>16:00-18:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Spiritual Flourishing: Developing the Prayer life of your school</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>03/12/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>16:00-18:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Wellbeing: How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision create a culture in which pupils and adults are treated well?</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>04/12/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>10:00-12:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>IDSR</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>face to face</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>05/12/2024</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>10:00-12:00</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Preparing for SIAMS - Monitoring and Evidence Gathering</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>online</u></a>