

Dear Friends and Colleagues -

The start of an autumn term in Church schools is always a time of anticipation, hope and renewed purpose and one particular moment from my summer break has caused me to reflect.

I was very fortunate to visit the Minack theatre and spend a glorious afternoon watching a performance of Cole Porter's Anything Goes. The setting itself was breathtaking. Behind the stage stretched the magnificent sweep of Porthcurno beach, its white sands busy with holidaymakers making the most of the sunshine. Paddleboarders glided across the water, swimmers bobbed in the sea, and at one point two divers surfaced near the cliffs, their voices drifting gently into the performance as they called to one another above the sound of the waves.



As I watched, I was aware not only of the talents displayed on the stage, but also of the many skills and hobbies being explored around me. The performers sang, danced and acted. Out at sea, paddleboarders demonstrated balance and determination. Divers explored beneath the waves. Families built sandcastles, organised games and created memories together. Each person was engaged in something they enjoyed, something that drew upon their own interests, experiences, skills and abilities.

It struck me that the scene before me was a beautiful picture of God's creation and God's people. The world would be a much poorer place if everyone possessed the same gifts, enjoyed the same activities or saw the world in exactly the same way. Diversity of talent is a gift to be celebrated!

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he describes the Church as the Body of Christ. Each member has a different role, yet all are equally valuable:

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (1 Corinthians 12:4,27)



Paul reminds us that no single gift is sufficient on its own. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you." Nor can the hand claim superiority over the foot. God deliberately creates diversity within unity, weaving together different strengths, personalities and callings so that together we reflect something of his fullness.

As school leaders, we see this every day. Some members of our communities are gifted communicators; others quietly organise, support and encourage. Some are creative thinkers, others practical problem-solvers. Some nurture relationships, whilst others inspire vision and direction. The same is true of our pupils. Each child arrives with unique potential, entrusted to us by God. Our task is not to mould everyone into the same pattern, but to help each person discover and develop the gifts they have been given.

At the beginning of this new academic year, you might like to take a moment to notice and celebrate the rich variety of talents in your school. You may also reflect on how God calls us to value gifts that are different from our own. The flourishing of a school community depends not upon everyone being the same, but upon everyone being encouraged to contribute what only they can bring.

As I sat in that extraordinary Cornish setting, with music from the stage, laughter from the beach and voices drifting across the sea, I was reminded that God's world is at its most beautiful when different gifts come together. And when those different gifts are offered generously and joyfully, they create something far richer than any one person could achieve alone.

So, as we begin this autumn term, I give thanks for the wonderful variety of talents within our school communities, and hope that we continue to help one another discover, nurture and use those gifts in the service of God and others. It is diversity, united by a common purpose, that most clearly reflect the creativity and generosity of God.

June Richardson
Schools Effectiveness Advisor

LDBE Courses & Events

Date	Time	Course		Book Here
24/09/2026	16:00-17:30	Aspiring Leaders	online	MORE INFO & BOOKING
30/09/2026	13:30-15:00	RE Cluster	online	MORE INFO & BOOKING
29/09/2026	10:00-11:00	Headteacher Briefing	online	MORE INFO & BOOKING
29/09/2026	17:30-19:00	Governor and Clerks to Governor Briefing	online	MORE INFO & BOOKING

Picture News Live Assembly: How Can We Make Our School Allergy-Aware?

Monday 28th September, 2.15-2.45pm

Join Clare Bristow, from the Sadie Bristow Foundation, for a special 30-minute live assembly exploring allergies and how we can help everyone feel safe and included at school. Clare will explain what an allergy is, introduce the new allergy-safety requirements known as Benedict's Law and share simple actions children can take, including listening to others and telling an adult if someone feels unwell.

This sensitive, age-appropriate assembly will help pupils understand why allergy awareness matters and how the whole school community can work together to care for and include children with allergies. Suitable for: KS1, KS2 and all school staff.

All schools will receive a certificate for all attendees.

Join here: <https://picture-news.co.uk/training-register/picture-news-live-assembly-how-can-we-make-our-school-allergy-aware>

Potential funding for school communities in the City of Lincoln

We have been made aware of a share of funding that may be of interest to schools in the City of Lincoln. The funding is not directly for schools but if your school has links with any charities or community groups, there may be a local project which qualifies. Please forward these details to any groups who you think may be eligible.

City of Lincoln Council and CVS Lincolnshire are pleased to announce that applications are now being invited for a share of the final Lincoln Lottery Community Fund.

A total of £17,811 is available within the fund to support local projects and activities benefiting the residents of Lincoln.

Good causes operating in one or both of the priority areas (Reducing the impacts of poverty and Reducing social isolation and loneliness) are now invited to apply for a share of the funding to deliver a specific project or activity that benefits the residents of the City of Lincoln.

You can find out more about the fund and how to apply on the CVS Lincolnshire website [here](#).



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