

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Education Service

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back! I hope you and your families have had a wonderful Summer break and are feeling refreshed and renewed after some much needed rest and relaxation.

Although we are still only in the first week of September there is already lots to share with you and I begin this letter with the exciting news that Pope Francis has appointed Mary Reynolds a Dame of the Pontifical Order of St Gregory the Great in recognition of her 40 years in Catholic Education. Former Director of the CES, Margaret Smart DSG presented Mary with her insignia over the Summer. A full account and accompanying photo will appear in the forthcoming Arundel and Brighton News. Many congratulations to Mary on being honoured in this way for her service to Catholic education!

An impressive number of primary and secondary schools across the diocese have been celebrating some wonderful results at SATs, and GCSE and A-level respectively. Sincere thanks to all staff and governors for everything you do for the children and young people in your care. Despite the unremitting pressures placed on schools we must still maintain our focus on the fact that as Catholic educators our role is broader, deeper and infinitely more profound than that which is reflected in league tables. As Catholic schools, our mission is to educate the *whole* child in order to enable him/her to grow in God's image. This remains a constant in an ever-changing education landscape.

As well as the chance to reflect on and celebrate Mary's service and on children and young people's efforts and achievements in public exams, this letter also enables us to celebrate new beginnings:

Firstly, I am delighted to be able to share with you the Diocesan Education Service's new Mission Statement which is as follows:

"Placing Christ at the centre and empowered by the Spirit, we serve and support our schools in the name of the Bishop by aspiring to be the very best we can, identifying, encouraging, nurturing and developing excellence in all aspects of Catholic education.

As the Diocesan Education Service, inspired by the Gospel, we are committed to serving in partnership with our family of schools to be the visible face of Christ and to promote the Common Good through the ministry of education."

We have worked on this with Bishop Richard and shared our Mission Statement with Trustees and the Diocesan Education Committee at the end of last term. We will be drawing explicitly on this Statement and the strands within it over the course of this academic year in our work with schools.

Secondly, it has been a long time coming but as most of you will be aware the first Catholic Multi Academy Trust in the diocese opened on 1st September 2016! *Xavier Catholic Education Trust* has been formed from seven primary and two secondary schools drawn from the Weybridge and Woking deaneries. The aim of the Trust is to provide the children and young people in their care with the best possible education within a caring and supportive Catholic ethos. The Trust has, at the

centre of its mission and purpose, the belief that every child has a right to educational excellence through the provision of high quality teaching. This is a very exciting development and is a first for the diocese which has come about through the hard work and efforts of a large number of people, including (amongst others!) the MAT Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer; the staff (in particular Headteachers and School Business Managers) governors and parents of all nine schools; Bishop Richard and the Diocesan Trustees; the Diocesan Strategic Board; the Diocesan Education Service; the Diocesan Financial Secretary; Surrey County Council; Haysmacintyre; and Winckworth Sherwood. Our congratulations and best wishes go to all in Xavier CET and we look forward with interest to further exciting developments over the next few months.

Thirdly, another new beginning is this year's inaugural pilgrimage for secondary schools to Arundel Cathedral on 19th October - the feast of St Philip Howard, patron saint of the diocese. We are looking forward to seeing every one of our secondary schools represented at the Cathedral where Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Richard. We are putting the final touches to our arrangements and confirmation of these, along with timings, will be sent to schools shortly. In the meantime, please ensure that this day is on the school calendar and preserved for the pilgrimage!

And coming up.....

- On Friday 9th September the Education Service will be on Retreat with Bishop Richard at the shrine to Our Lady of Consolation in West Grinstead. Please note therefore that our office will not be staffed on this day.
- Sunday 11th September is Education Sunday. Please don't forget that this is almost upon us! Education Sunday is an excellent occasion on which to celebrate everything that makes Catholic education so special and also affords us a wonderful opportunity to invite potential governors and/or potential new staff to come forward. You will find plenty of excellent resources, suggestions and ideas available to download from our website.
- Monday 12th September is the deadline for responding to the CES's consultation on the labour market for teachers in primary and secondary education. The recruitment of suitably qualified teachers is a pressing challenge for all schools and the Home Secretary has asked the Migration Advisory Committee to review the labour market for teachers in primary and secondary education. The purpose of this is to decide if there are specific teacher shortages and whether these should be filled through non-European Economic Area (EEA) migration. The CES will be providing evidence for the Migration Advisory Committee. In order to provide the Migration Advisory Committee with evidence of the recruitment challenges facing Catholic primary and secondary schools we would be grateful if you complete the relevant short survey using one of the links below:
Primary School Survey - <https://goo.gl/forms/IQ16xYvT3ssEyDLE3>
Secondary School Survey - <https://goo.gl/forms/KlfE4wB2BY5ncDK12>
- Friday 23rd September - Following last year's inaugural cross-phase Headteachers' Retreat with Bishop Richard, this year's Headteachers' Retreat and Mass with Bishop Richard will be held at Worth Abbey on Friday 23rd September from 10am-3pm. The intention is to provide a day of reflection and spiritual nourishment, and Bishop Richard will focus on our shared mission to place Christ at the Centre of our schools. We hope to see as many Headteachers there as possible! Please note there is no charge for the Retreat.

With very best wishes for the term ahead and with grateful thanks, as ever, for all that you do,

Marie Ryan