



The news and information bulletin from the A & B Diocesan Education Service



March 2018



Director's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everybody has managed to stay safe and warm over the recent exceptionally cold snap! It is all too easy for us to take our heated homes, schools and offices for granted and forget to give thanks for all that we have been given. Part-way into Lent, seeing the suffering of the homeless in freezing conditions is a salutary reminder of how blessed we are. In his Lenten message, Pope Francis reminds us that “the Church, our Mother and Teacher, along with the often bitter medicine of the truth, offers us in the Lenten season the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting.”

Prayer, almsgiving and fasting are absolutely pivotal to school life at this time of the year and I know how hard schools across the diocese are working throughout Lent to raise funds for charity. I am hugely grateful to all concerned for the enormous efforts made to support those less fortunate than ourselves. We may never know what results come of our actions, but we do know that if we do nothing there will be no result! Thank you for your generosity - both financial and temporal.

With reference to the results of our actions, huge congratulations to Primary Schools across the diocese for their 2017 KS2 results. The mission of Catholic schools is to educate the whole child, enabling every child to fulfil their God-given potential. For this reason, progress measures are especially important within the context of Catholic education. Special congratulations to the following schools who are in the top ten for progress in their respective local authorities:

- In Brighton and Hove: St Bernadette's and St Mary Magdalen's;
- In Surrey: Holy Family, Addlestone; St Cuthbert's Englefield Green; and St Joseph's Guildford;
- And in West Sussex: St Joseph's Haywards Heath; St Peter's Shoreham; and St Wilfrid's Angmering.
- In addition to those named above, many congratulations to Cottesmore, St Alban's, St Polycarp's, Cardinal Newman and St Charles Borromeo, all of whom are in their local authority top ten for overall performance.

Results in these and other schools across the diocese are achieved through the hard work and co-operation of children, teachers, leaders and parents alike and are testament to

strong partnerships based on faith. But as we are all acutely aware data tells us *part* of a story, because what Catholic schools seek to develop is wider, deeper and far more profound than anything that can be reflected in league tables. Whilst celebrating schools' successes, we must never lose sight of this bigger picture!

Thank you to the many governors who recently attended our three Academies events at Chatsmore, St Thomas a Becket, Eastbourne and St Joseph's, Guildford. We hope you found the events helpful. If you have any further questions or would like any support, please do not hesitate to ask.

We are sorry that this term's *Alpha Beta* is going out to schools later than originally planned. Like many schools, the DES has been hard hit by illness this term and as a result we have been operating with a significantly reduced staff since January. As a result, some things are just taking us longer than usual! We will continue to operate with a reduced staff for the rest of this term and I am delighted that Geoff Taylor will be joining us for two days per week in the interim until we are back to a full complement. Many of you will remember Geoff as a member of the Schools Service some time ago and we are delighted to welcome him back. In the meantime, I am grateful to you for your continued patience.

I started this letter by quoting Pope Francis, and as we approach the half-way point in Lent it seems fitting to close this letter in the same way: "Above all, I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew."

What an uplifting thought as we take stock of our Lenten journey thus far! As ever, may I extend my thanks, and those of all members of the DES, for all that you are doing to protect, preserve and enhance Catholic education in Arundel and Brighton.

Best Wishes,



Marie Ryan

Admissions

We are delighted to welcome Geoff Taylor this term who will be joining us for two days per week and will be able to support schools with any Admissions queries. Queries or concerns about Admissions should continue to be directed to the Education Service using Simon Parr's email address: Simon.parr@dabnet.org

Primary Headteachers' Conference

Thank you to all Primary Headteachers who joined us for the conference held at Ashdown Park Hotel on Thursday, 1st February. Feedback from the course has been very positive; delegates very much enjoyed the focus on 'Working and Well Being' and were particularly delighted with the excellent keynote speakers and the choice of venue; the magnificent chapel setting at Ashdown Park most certainly enhanced the day!

Good Shepherd Celebration

Preparations for our annual Good Shepherd Celebration are going well and we are very much looking forward to seeing you at Worth Abbey on Wednesday 20th June 2018 at 11:30 am. The theme for the celebration will be 'Lord we are your hands' linking to the Gospel for the day, where we are encouraged to do good works with our hands without being boastful. School Information Packs will be arriving in schools shortly. Schools are asked to return the attendance form to the Education Service office by Monday 30th April 2018 at the latest. All places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. A speedy response would be appreciated as early identification of non-attendance will enable other schools to benefit from your number allocation.

Secondary School Pilgrimage Friday 18th May 2018

Following the success of the St Philip Howard Pilgrimage and Mass in 2016, Bishop Richard has decided to hold an annual Pilgrimage to support the newly launched Arundel & Brighton Crisis Fund initiative, to be known as the Good Samaritan Pilgrimage. This year, with the theme 'Follow me, feed my sheep', the Pilgrimage will take place on Friday 18th May 2018. The day will begin with a Pilgrimage walk through Arundel Castle grounds and culminate with Mass at the Cathedral.

Bishop Richard has requested all secondary schools support the Crisis Fund from 2019 through Lenten collections. The Good Samaritan Pilgrimage will therefore be an annual opportunity to celebrate the generosity of schools and enable them to present their collections personally to Bishop Richard.

This year we would like all secondary schools to participate on 18 May 2018 and to invite those that are already kindly supporting the Crisis Fund to present their contribution to Bishop Richard as part of the Pilgrimage.

Crisis Fund

As we mentioned in November's Alpha Beta, we are currently establishing a 'Crisis Fund', which will be administered through the Catholic Children's Society (CCS). Parish priests and Headteachers will be able to apply for a one-off payment for individuals in extreme hardship where no other avenues of funding are available. Bishop Richard recently wrote to parishes requesting that this year's Crib Offerings go to help establish the fund. The application, which will have to be signed by the Head Teacher, will be assessed on a case by case basis by members of CCS's management team. This often involves phoning the Headteacher/Parish Priest just to get additional information to ensure they have a good understanding of the family's circumstances. At this point CCS staff can advise schools to signpost families to other support services that may be appropriate, to ensure there is no duplication and that the Crisis Fund is only used when no other help is available. Payment is made through the Head Teacher or Parish Priest and a decision is usually given the same day as the request.

Westminster Diocese recently used their own Crisis Fund to support the victims of the Grenfell Tower tragedy. On the morning of the Grenfell fire and for a few days afterwards, Crisis Fund was used to give money to four Headteachers in Catholic schools whose parents were coming in to school with no money and no means to get any. They were families who had either escaped the tower or had been evacuated from the area and were unable to go to their homes to get cheque books, ID etc. School registers were used to confirm the addresses of parents. It was several days before the local authority started to give money to families who were absolutely desperate and traumatised.

Standards in Religious Education – Pilot 2017/18

In the summer term of 2016, the Catholic Education Service (CES) and National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (NBRIA) sent out a questionnaire to all schools, seeking their views on the document Levels of Attainment in Religious Education and on the future of assessment of Religious Education in Catholic schools. The NBRIA Curriculum and Development Working Group have developed an 'End of Phase Expectations Grid' as a first draft response to the views expressed in the questionnaire.

The CES are asking a selection of Catholic schools across the country to pilot the use of this grid, in the Autumn and Spring term of 2017-18 and the feedback from this pilot will inform the final shape of this standards grid and the larger document of which it will become a part.

In the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, we have secured a representative from each of our deaneries to take part in this pilot. Schools taking part in the pilot will be attending meetings to look at: planning sequences of lessons, giving feedback to pupils on how well they have achieved

and what they need to do next and consider how they would populate school data systems to track and record progress. They will also be looking at ways to report to governors, parents/carers and the diocese.

It is an exciting time for us to be fully involved with the development of a new assessment tool for RE in our Catholic schools.

The draft 'End of Phase Expectations Grid' is an evolution of the Levels of Attainment in Religious Education. The survey made it clear that schools wanted an assessment tool that allowed for greater parity with other subjects in the curriculum. However, they also did not want to lose the driver words and attainment targets they had been using thus far. It was also important to secondary schools that the new standards document was a clear progression towards GCSE and A Level. The 'End of Phase Expectations Grid' is not yet a Bishops' Conference document. It is a draft document that contains one piece of a larger piece of work. Its use in a pilot has been approved by the Bishops' Department for Education and Formation. For all schools not participating in the pilot, the documents that currently determine standards and curriculum in Religious Education in Catholic schools (Levels and the RECD 2012) remain in force.

The pilot began just after October half term 2017 and should be completed by Easter 2018. An electronic survey will be undertaken at this point to inform the next steps in the reform of both the standards and the curriculum documents of the Bishops' Conference. This will be sent to you by the Diocesan Education Service and must be completed by the end of April 2018. We will keep you informed throughout the term of the pilot and update you through the Education Service website and courses/training.

Note to Clerks

We are still receiving Foundation Governor Applications on Purple forms. From 1st September 2017 only yellow Foundation Governor Application forms should be used. All applications should now be on Yellow forms. Please destroy any old purple forms that you hold as they are no longer valid.

Please note, we cannot complete the appointment process or re-appointment process without confirmation that the candidate holds a valid enhanced criminal records certificate that has been presented to the school and acceptable to them. Please confirm to gill.sajnog@dabnet.org quoting the number of the certificate, as soon as possible, so the appointment process is not delayed.

Clerks' Forum

The next Clerks Forum will take place on:

**Tuesday 22 May, 2018,
4.00pm – 6.00pm (light refreshments will be provided)
at DABCEC, Crawley.**

Details of the agenda will be communicated nearer the time. Please put the date in your diaries. These forums have proved to be very useful, offering an opportunity to share information, update on changes/developments and to network with other clerks in Catholic Schools/ Academies.

Please make every effort to book onto these forums.

Please remember to update the Education Service with any changes to the Governing body e.g. Staff governors, Parent governors, LA governors etc. Also please notify us of any changes to the position of Chair or Vice Chair with full contact details.

N.B. Foundation Governors are appointed by the Diocese. Any resignations should be addressed to Marie Ryan, Director, and sent by the clerk to the Education Service at the following address: Marie Ryan, Director, Education Service, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 6RP

Comic Relief / Sports Relief

We often receive enquiries about Comic / Sport Relief. The charity articulates a vision that every child should have a safe, happy and secure childhood and the chance to reach their potential. They aim to realise this vision by supporting, promoting and publicising work that addresses the challenges that children and young people face and builds their skills and resilience. Their focus is on children and young people who are disadvantaged, and they value work that empowers them and extends their choices in life.

The Catholic Education Service (CES) has received queries from schools wanting advice on whether they can allow pupils to take part in fundraising activities for these charities. These activities are often popular but concerns have been expressed that some of the money raised may be spent on either providing or promoting services contradictory to Catholic church teaching.

The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton is aware that many schools would like to allow their pupils to take part in fundraising activities and having considered lists of projects supported is not aware of any that would cause concern. We have been assured that if schools wish they can state explicitly which project(s) their money can support, we are told Comic Relief will honour this request.

Building Matters

LCVAP 17-18

Many thanks to those schools which have claimed their retentions from projects done last year – as we go to press, the deadline for claims looms large but from the information that we have, all claims have been made. That is hugely helpful – thank you all for the hard work done on this.

LCVAP 18-19

We still await confirmation of the actual grant sums for next year and are also negotiating with the Diocese of Chichester (where applicable) under the careful mediation of the relevant Local Authority to finalise allocations; this process should be completed by the meeting of the Diocesan Finance Committee on 20 March and we will notify schools the following day. As ever, it would be great if the process could be brought forward but we are dependent on the ESFA information, which is not as timely as we would like.

Healthy pupils capital funding (HPCF).

There has been no further indication of the allocation and eligibility criteria for this grant – as soon as we have more information, we will let you know!

Condition Data Collection

As this report is prepared, the ESFA have just started to populate their database website. Initial indications are not entirely promising – so far, details for one school at least have been entered – but against the wrong school. We look forward with some interest to seeing how the project unfurls.

GDPR

There have been several suggestions from Local Authorities that schools need to pay them large sums of money in order to be compliant with the new regulations, which come in to force on May 25 this year. We do not believe that the offers we have seen provide best value for money, and we covered this topic at the SBM Forum on 20 February. The final bill has not yet been published; it seems possible that small VA schools will not in fact need to appoint a DPO, and in any case the Information Commissioner has made it clear that she does not expect all schools to have done all the work by the May date. Schools should, however, be doing a data audit (Business Managers have access to a sample, courtesy of Winkworth Sherwood who have given us permission to share this). This, and other resources, available at the Education Service website – search for “GDPR” under resources.

Procurement

The EU thresholds for procurement change from time to time – mostly due to exchange rate variations. Any procurement above the threshold is subject to EU procurement processes (basically, it has to be publicised across the EU, using OJEC – not actually difficult, and costs nothing but your time, but does imply a certain minimum timetable.

New thresholds came into force on 1 January 2018. The most likely area where this affects schools is for catering contracts for secondary schools, or centralised contracts for Academy Trusts.

The contract threshold is for the total value of the contract over its duration, not including VAT.

The relevant thresholds are below:

The Public Contracts Regulations

Supplies & Services £181,302

Works £4,551,413

The Utilities Contracts Regulations

Supplies and Services £363,424

Works £4,551,413

Adoremus - National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress 2018

As you will know, the National Eucharistic Congress takes place this year in Liverpool from the 7th to 9th September. This will be a wonderful opportunity for all the Dioceses of England and Wales to come together to reflect on the gift of the Eucharist and the central place it holds in the life and the mission of the Church. Resources to support schools in preparing for the Congress can be found on the Education Service website at www.abeducationsservice.org.uk

World Meeting of Families (WMOF2018) – Dublin, 21-26 August 2018



Dublin has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018, guided by the theme “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World”.

Held every three years, this major international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage/ the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church.

The event has at its heart the following key moments:

- 21 August 2018, a National Opening of WMOF2018.
- 22 - 24 August 2018: A three-day Congress. Each day will reflect on the theme “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World” chosen by the Holy Father and will include an enriching programme for adults of keynote speakers, workshops, talks, testimonies and discussions; an engaging and exciting programme for young people as well as fun activities for children. The Congress will also include daily celebration of the Eucharist, prayerful activities, exhibitions, cultural events and musical performances.
- Saturday 25 August 2018: A Festival of Families, comprising a reflective concert style event within a prayerful and joyful atmosphere, in which personal stories of faith will be shared by families from all continents.
- Sunday 26 August 2018: WMOF2018 will close with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration.

The Diocese is organising a pilgrimage to the event, with a limited number of places. For information about joining Bishop Richard on this pilgrimage, please contact the Diocesan Pastoral Team at wmof2018@dabcec.org Alternatively, you can speak to your Parish Priest who will provide you with an application form.

If you wish to attend independently, visit the ticket section of the WMOF2018 website at www.worldmeeting2018.ie/tickets for information on how to register online for the Congress and other events. Additional information and support is also available to assist with registration, accommodation, tours and transport in Ireland for individuals and groups.

Wintershall



We would urge you to experience Wintershall's annual production of *The Life of Christ* if you have not already done so.

The beautiful grounds of Wintershall form the backdrop for the most wonderful story ever to be told. Enthusiastic actors and real-life animals form the cast, engaging with the audience with thought-provoking messages that captivate the heart.

The day is filled with laughter, bleating sheep and the large crowd is fed by the disciples with the most wonderful bread! Emotions are high, particularly at the end when Jesus speaks to the audience with a message that is as relevant today as it was 2000 years ago.

To understand the depth/impact of this mesmerising performance, students need to experience it personally. It is a great way of evangelising through drama in language that is accessible to all ages.

The next performances of *The Life of Christ* take place from 19-23 June 2018. More details are available at: <https://www.wintershall-estate.com/events/wintershall-nativity-play/>

Recent Appointments

NEWLY APPOINTED CATHOLIC SENIOR LEADERS

Name	School	With Effect From:
Claire Jarman Head of School	Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Hove	January 2018
Paul Miller Head of College	Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Hove	January 2018
Gemma Irvine	St Mary Catholic Primary School, Worthing	January 2018

NEWLY APPOINTED DEPUTY HEADTEACHERS

Name	School	With Effect From:
Jacqueline Cannon	St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, Burgess Hill	September 2018

Current Vacancies

VACANCIES

Post	School	With Effect From:
Headteacher	St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Thames Ditton	Easter 2018
Headteacher	St Mary Star of the Sea, St Leonard's-on-Sea	September 2018
Headteacher	St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School, Bexhill-on-Sea	September 2018
Deputy Head	St Alban's Catholic Primary School, East Molesey	September 2018

Courses taking place in the Spring and Summer Terms 2018

A summary of the courses for the months of March until July include:

	Course Title	Time	Venue
8 Mar 18	Secondary Heads of RE CPD Day	09.30 – 15.15	DABCEC
9 Mar 18	Primary RE Coordinators' CPD Day (Day 2 of 3)	09.30 – 15.15	DABCEC
21 Mar 18	Support and training for NQTs (Newly Qualified Teachers) in Secondary Schools who teach RE (Day 2 of 2)	09.30 – 15.15	DABCEC
22 Mar 18	Support and training for Primary NQTs (Day 2 of 3)	09.30 – 15.15	DABCEC
16 Apr 18	School Leaders' Briefing for Chairs of Governors, Vice Chair of Governors, Headteachers	19.00 – 20.30	DABCEC
19 Apr 18	Come and See Planning Workshop EYFS/Key Stage 1 Class teachers	10.00 – 12.00	DABCEC
25 Apr 18	Come and See Planning Workshop Key Stage 2 Class teachers	10.00 – 12.00	DABCEC
26 Apr 18	Preparation for Section 48 – School Self Evaluation	14.00 - 16.30	DABCEC
27 Apr 18	Induction for newly appointed Headteachers	14.00 - 16.30	DABCEC
14 May 18	Outstanding Governance – Support and Challenge in a Catholic School	19.00 – 20.30	DABCEC
15 May 18	Support for School Chaplains (Day 3 of 3)	09.30 – 15.15	Worth Abbey
18 May 18	Secondary School Pilgrimage	TBC	Arundel Cathedral
21 May 18	Induction training for new Foundation Governors	19.00 – 20.30	DABCEC
22 May 18	Clerks' Forum	16.00 – 18.00	DABCEC
23 May 18	School Business Managers' Forum	10.00 – 12.30	DABCEC
24 May 18	Cross-Phase RE Conference on Spirituality	09.30 – 15.15	DABCEC
6 June 18	Support and training for Primary NQTs (Day 3 of 3)	09.30 – 15.15	DABCEC
14 June 18	Primary RE Coordinators CPD Day (Day 3 of 3)	09.30 – 15.15	DABCEC
20 June 18	Good Shepherd Celebration	11.30	Worth Abbey
27 June 18	Cross-Phase Catholic Leaders' Conference for Headteachers, Deputy/Assistant Headteachers, Heads of RE, Chaplains and Chairs of Governors	09.30 – 15.15	TBC
5 July 18	Secondary Heads of RE CPD Day (Day 3 of 3)	09.30 – 15.15	DABCEC
6 July 18	Rainbows Conference	09.30 – 15.15	DABCEC
12 July 18	Section 48 Inspectors' CPD Day	09.30 – 15.15	DABCEC

Full details of all courses are listed in the Education Service CPD Handbook and on the Diocesan Education Service website at www.abeducationservice.org.uk/Courses/