

# Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Education Service

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Marie Ryan BA (Hons), MA, MCIL

Director, Education Service

June 2018

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and sunny break over half-term! It is important (although not easy) to achieve a healthy work-life balance, so I hope you all really were able to switch off and recharge the batteries for at least, if not all, of last week.

As Year 6 pupils anxiously await the outcomes of their SATs tests, may I congratulate the children on their excellent behaviour and positive attitude throughout SATs week. On behalf of all at the Education Service, may I wish the best of luck to all students sitting public examinations, and may I also extend our thanks to all staff who have prepared them for this moment.

Here at the Education Service we are delighted to welcome Simon Parr back after an extended absence. Thank you to all those who sent messages of support for Simon and his family. They were all very much appreciated. We have all missed Simon greatly and it is wonderful to have him back! At the same time, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Geoff Taylor who very generously stepped in and covered Simon's work over the past three months. He has been a great support to the Education Service and to schools alike and we are very sorry to see Geoff go!

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our forthcoming Conference 'Celebrating Catholic Leadership' at Denbies Vineyard on Wednesday 27th June 2018. Our theme for the day is 'I am the true Vine' and the vineyard setting seems especially fitting therefore. The event is filling up quickly so if you have not yet secured your place, please do so by contacting our CPD Co-ordinator, Claire Martin, on [Claire.martin@dabnet.org](mailto:Claire.martin@dabnet.org) as soon as possible.

As you are aware, our Secondary RE Adviser Peter Ward is retiring at the end of this academic year. He has been a great advocate of Catholic education both at diocesan and national level and we have benefited greatly from his wealth of knowledge. Peter is intending to visit each secondary school between now and the end of the school year to make his goodbyes personally. We will shortly be re-advertising for Peter's replacement as we enter into a new phase.

Lastly, I hope you all have a happy and fulfilling few weeks in school as we head towards the long-awaited Summer holidays. There is much to be done between now and then and we all know how quickly time flies by! Thank you for everything you do to support, protect and enhance Catholic education across our Diocese.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'M'.

Marie Ryan

