

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Education Service

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Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you in brilliant sunshine and the hopes of summer holidays and lie-ins are now almost within touching distance! I hope that each and every one of you has a wonderful, well-deserved Summer break after what feels like a long and tiring year!

As ever, there is much to celebrate in Catholic education and may I firstly extend my congratulations to all those schools which have undergone a Section 48 inspection this term. All published reports indicate that every school inspected over the course of this term has been judged to be either good or outstanding by highly qualified Section 48 Inspectors. Currently every diocesan school is deemed to be good or outstanding by Section 48. This is not the case in every diocese and is a great credit to Governors, Headteachers and staff alike. Sincere thanks go to all involved in the inspection activities and the subsequent continued hard work when the inspection teams have left school premises.

Secondly, may I pass on my congratulations to all those children and staff involved in KSI and KS2 SATs this term. The data indicate once again how hard staff work to ensure that children are given every opportunity to reach their God-given potential. Equally, these successes also demonstrate how hard the children work. This year's Ofsted and Section 48 reports repeatedly point to the fact that children are enthused by the challenging and motivating activities prepared for them. However, whilst data highlights many of the strengths of Catholic education, figures on a page are one-dimensional and it is the children and young people educated in schools and academies across the diocese who are the finest examples of the strengths of Catholic education.

We all know the importance of inspirational teachers and Headteachers and indeed it is probable that each of us remembers the teacher or teachers who inspired us to join the profession. As a diocese we are hugely blessed to have wonderful Headteachers who lead and serve their school communities with humility and conviction. At this time of the year it falls upon us to say goodbye to those who are moving on to pastures new after years of wonderful service to the Diocese:

Angela O'Hara is retiring after many outstanding years in the diocese, having spent the past eight years as Head of St Wilfrid's, Burgess Hill. Many of you will have had personal experience of Angela's passion for, and support of, the teaching and learning of RE in schools across the diocese in her previous role as Primary RE Adviser. Angela is passionate about RE and we are delighted that she will continue to support/challenge schools through her work as a Section 48 Inspector.

Ann Gunn joined the diocese ten years ago and is retiring this Summer after spending the past decade as St Polycarp's Headteacher and more recently Executive Headteacher. Under Ann's leadership, St Polycarp's, Farnham was the first diocesan primary school to retain its outstanding grade under the new Ofsted Framework and went on to form the first primary-led Teaching School Alliance in the diocese.

Christina Buckley is also retiring from St Clement's, Ewell at the end of this term. Christina joined the school ten years ago and spent much of that time as Headteacher there. Christina has had a very successful tenure, raising standards and expectations and improving outcomes as evidenced both by successive Ofsted and Section 48 inspections. A key part of

the role of a Catholic Headteacher is to identify and develop future Catholic leaders, and Christina's success can be measured by the fact that her Deputy is going on to her first Headship in September!

Jill Keany was a very successful Headteacher at Cardinal Newman, Hersham, leaving that post in 2017. For the past two years Jill has done a wonderful job as Executive Headteacher at St Joseph's, Guildford supporting and guiding the interim leadership and developing future Catholic leaders for the diocese. Jill's success can be measured by the fact that the school flourished under her guidance, the interim leadership team went from strength to strength, and the new Headteacher from September has learnt his craft with Jill!

Michael Calnan has done a great job as Head of School at St Joseph's Guildford for the past two years where he has been responsible for the day to day running of the school. Michael joined St Joseph's in 2002 and has always served the school community with humility, love and dedication.

Rachel Turner is also retiring this Summer after 37 years in diocesan education! Rachel joined the diocese as a supply teacher in 1982 and has spent the past 25 years as Head of St Thomas a Becket, Eastbourne. In that time there have been many developments and thousands of children have passed through Rachel's care! Rachel recently oversaw the successful amalgamation of the Infant and Junior Schools to make St Thomas a Becket Primary School. The communities have come together and thrived under Rachel's guidance. As a result of this amalgamation, every maintained primary school in the diocese now offers all-through 4-11 Catholic education.

Lastly, many thanks to Catrin Jones and Caroline Rapley who have done fantastic work at St Mary Star of the Sea for the past two years as interim Executive Head and Head of School respectively. We are incredibly grateful to them and to East Sussex Local Authority for their support of the school during some very challenging times. Under Catrin and Caroline's leadership and their professional development of staff the school has been judged by Ofsted to be securely good in all areas. Thanks to them, the school is in excellent shape and we look forward to welcoming Claire O'Rourke as the new Catholic Headteacher of St Mary Star of the Sea from September.

On behalf of all at the Diocesan Education Service, may I wish those named above, along with all staff and governors who are retiring or moving on every blessing, happiness and success. We are all very grateful to you for everything you have done to support and enhance Catholic education in Arundel and Brighton and hope you will be very fulfilled in this next chapter!

Unfortunately it is also true that for some of us the holiday period is going to be difficult. I ask you to remember in your prayers all those in our school communities who are unwell and those who look after them. May they always feel supported and cared for. Likewise, some of our schools have suffered unexpected and traumatic bereavements over this past year and our thoughts and prayers go to all those experiencing loss. We pray that the break brings some comfort.

Lastly, it seems wrong to look past the well-earned holidays before they have even arrived, and already be talking about next year, but may I just remind you that 8 September 2019 is Education Sunday and that this year's theme is 'Form and Flourish'. More information and resources can be found at <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/education-sunday>

On behalf of each of us at the DES, may I thank you for everything that you have done in support of Catholic education over this past academic year.

We wish you a very happy, relaxing and fulfilling break and look forward to seeing you in 2019/20!

Marie

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