

Catholic Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Education Service

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Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you have enjoyed a very happy half-term and a well-deserved break after what has been an extremely busy six weeks in school.

As I write, the evenings are starting to get lighter and there is a sense that the end of Winter is in sight, with the hint of Spring, sunshine and warmer weather not too far away. Spring brings with it a promise of hope, renewal and new life; a sentiment which is mirrored in the forthcoming diocesan Jubilee celebrations on 5th July. This promises to be a great celebration of the Diocese's first fifty years, and there will be something for everyone. Bernadette and I will be in touch with schools regularly about this in the coming weeks and months, as schools and the Education Service prepare together. I know many schools are already preparing for the day, and we are looking forward to seeing as many schools represented - and to hearing as many school choirs - as possible!

Between now and Easter we have an Academies Assembly (11th March); Admissions Appeals 'Presenting Officer' Training (13th March); NQTs Day (19th March); and Cross-phase Headteacher Conference (23rd March), full details of which can be found in this Bulletin. Please do not forget to sign up!

An announcement was made just before half-term regarding the provision of LCVAP funding for the year 2015-2016. We will therefore be meeting in early March with each of the four local authorities –and, in the cases of East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove with the Diocese of Chichester - to negotiate our share of said funding. The outcome of these negotiations will then go to the Diocesan Finance Committee for approval and ratification. Inevitably requests far exceed the amount of funding available, so not all schools will be successful, but I will ensure that decisions are communicated to schools as soon as we are able.

As you are probably aware, we were hoping to recruit to the post of Deputy Director just before half-term. Unfortunately it was not possible on this occasion and we will therefore be re-advertising the post at a later date. In addition, we are currently recruiting for a part-time Buildings Officer. We continue therefore to be extremely stretched as a small team, and are currently covering both

vacancies in addition to our own roles. We are all very grateful for your understanding of the situation.

Lastly, sincere thanks for all that you do. Catholic schools are dependent on the people who govern, lead, teach in, and support them – we are very blessed in Arundel and Brighton.

Best Wishes,

Marie