Dear Headteachers, Executive Headteachers, CEOs, Consultants, Chaplains, Directors, Chairs of Governors, Vice Chairs of Governors and Foundation Governors

**Headteachers’ Conference – Happiness, Wellbeing, Resilience, Growing and Flourishing, 16th June, 9.15am – 3.00pm**

There is nothing much more important in life than personally experiencing happiness and wellbeing, and becoming more resilient, whilst growing and flourishing.  So, if you have not booked in yet, may I encourage you to take the day off on Thursday.  You owe it to yourself and to your school!

There has been just one late change to the programme – the Children’s Society are sending Dr Louise Moore, in place of Richard Crellin.  The revised programme and the updated speaker biographies are attached.  As ever, we have selected the very best contributors that we have seen from across all the diocesan headteachers’ conferences nationwide and we would encourage everyone to make the most of this marvelous opportunity.

**Meeting with Baroness Barran MBE**

On Friday, I was in London with Baroness Barran and Directors of Education from all the Dioceses, and I put forward some significant contextual and strategic questions on behalf of Peterborough Diocese and all our schools.  It was very encouraging to hear the balanced and thoughtful way in which the government is approaching academisation and I found myself agreeing with almost everything Baroness Barran said.  She said that in the immediate future she “would much prefer to see a small number of schools joining MATs and it being a blinding success, rather than herding everyone all at once”.  Furthermore, she fully appreciated that “academisation is not an end it itself” and that “what is most important is improving outcomes”.

Baroness Barran quite rightly emphasized that there is a significant gap between the performance of LA schools and the performance of schools in the strongest MATs.  We are certainly seeing this in Peterborough Diocese, where a significant gap is opening up between the performance of schools in MATs and LA schools, particularly in Northamptonshire.  It is, therefore, incumbent upon every governing body to appraise themselves of the current context and to take advantage of the opportunities before them, to secure the best education possible for the children in their care and to ensure the long-term viability of their school.

**DBE Presentations to Governing Bodies on Academisation and MAT Options**

I frequently give presentations to governing bodies about academisation and MAT options, as does Revd Peter French, my Deputy.  This is an essential first step for any school governing body wishing to consider academisation, without fear, favour or partisan pressure, and to help schools prepare to engage conscientiously with a thorough due diligence process with any of the 9 Church of England MATs in Peterborough Diocese.

Naturally, we will always insist that every primary school receives a presentation from PDET, our diocesan MAT, as the first next step.  PDET has been phenomenally successful in turning schools around and we are rightly very proud of our diocesan MAT.  However, as a DBE, we are not in the business of ‘match making’ or convening ‘arranged marriages’.  We want every governing body, which naturally knows their own school best, to take complete ownership of the decision making process and then to present their rationale for joining the MAT of their choice in Peterborough Diocese to the Board of Education Executive Committee.

The whole purpose of all this is to ensure that every school achieves the very best for all the children and young people in their care.  So, if you would like to book such a presentation for your governing body, which is cost free, please contact our DBE Executive Administrator, Alex Benoy, via education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

**Annual Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving for All Diocesan Schools at Peterborough Cathedral – 29th September, 2.00pm**

You won’t experience a cathedral service for church schools like this anywhere else in the UK, where the best choirs from the diocesan maintained and independent schools come together to perform and enjoy sacred music.  The school choirs performing will take your breath away.  The Bishop of Peterborough, the Rt Revd Donald Allister, will be our guest speaker, and the service will be led by The Venerable Richard Ormston, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education and Archdeacon of Northampton.  We still have some seats left for school pupils, school leaders and governors; and seats can booked up to the end of term in July via education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk, on a ‘first come first served’ basis.

**SLA Training This Week**

*Safeguarding for Governors Monday 13 June 6.30pm – 8.30pm led by Peter French, via Zoom*

Peter French will look at what is meant by safeguarding in school; this would be particularly helpful for new governors or for those who have not received training in recent years.

To book a place on any of the above SLA training courses, please email: education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

**Free Zoom Webinars Open to All Later This Month**

*20th June 4.00-4.40pm Lyfta – Enhancing your curriculum with rich and diverse human stories from around the world*

This first [Lyfta](https://www.lyfta.com/) webinar with Serdar Ferit is for all Headteachers.  Lyfta invites students to explore real homes, workplaces and environments, and to get to know people from around the world through powerful and inspiring short films.  It is an impactful and captivating way for students to experience human diversity, and for teachers to nurture the vital skills and values children will need to thrive in our changing world.  Zoom link details will be sent separately, following the Headteachers’ Conference.

*23rd June 4.00-5.00pm Raising Literacy Standards*

We would like to invite you to a free webinar that we’ll be hosting this term on raising literacy standards with [Clicker](http://www.cricksoft.com/clicker), a child-friendly word processor.  Hailed as ‘the gold standard of literacy software’, Clicker is used in thousands of schools around the globe to support children of all abilities, including children with special educational needs, reluctant writers and pupils learning English as an additional language.  To find out how Clicker will boost writing attainment and enjoyment across your school, please join Phil Hackett at our free webinar, exclusively for Peterborough Diocese Church Schools. [Sign up here](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xvJk9x14Sn2o4v--_VX1lw).

*27th June 4.00-4.40pm Lyfta – Enhancing your curriculum with rich and diverse human stories from around the world*

This second [Lyfta](https://www.lyfta.com/) webinar with Serdar Ferit is for MAT CEOs.  Lyfta invites students to explore real homes, workplaces and environments, and to get to know people from around the world through powerful and inspiring short films.  It is an impactful and captivating way for students to experience human diversity, and for teachers to nurture the vital skills and values children will need to thrive in our changing world.  Zoom link details will be sent separately to all CEOs.

*29th June 4.00-4.40pm Showbie*

From assignments to collaboration, Showbie helps you bring your classroom together in one simple, easy to use app. For further details, please see [Showbie – Your classroom, connected.](https://www.showbie.com/)  Zoom link details will be emailed to all Headteachers in due course.

**Academy & School News Update and Safeguarding Briefing**

Please find attached the most recent academy and school news summary from educational consultant Tony Stephens and a copy of the latest safeguarding briefing from Andrew Hall.

**A Prayer**

Finally, may I share with you a prayer from this Sunday, Trinity Sunday…

*Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.*

Wishing you every blessing!

Peter

**Peter Cantley**

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