

WISHING YOU A VERY FRUITFUL 2024!

The wonderful, 'abundant life' (John 10:v10) that Jesus spoke of flows through the writings of St Paul, where he writes about the transformative presence of the Holy Spirit, infusing all who believe with the life of Christ. The fruit of the Spirit he describes as 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control' (Galatians 5:v22,23). These are the most vital spiritual qualities, without which a Church school education would have very little value. Though not profiled within SATs, GCSE and A Level performance grades, they are foundational to the fulfilment of educational potential and to a life well lived. Moreover, a greater global affinity with these character values would render most wars and conflicts obsolete. Indeed, the book of Revelation holds out the hope that such refreshing and revitalising spiritual fruit, sourced from the life of Christ, will eventually lead to 'the healing of the nations' (Revelation 22:v2). A zest for this 'abundant life' and the enjoyment of this exhilarating life is exactly what Christ had intended for the human race at the dawn of creation.

In this same encouraging passage in John's Gospel, Jesus also declared himself to be 'the gate' to 'pasture' (John 10:v9) where we can be spiritually nourished, as well as describing himself as 'the good shepherd' (John 10:v11) committed to our protection, safekeeping and wellbeing. Over the last two thousand years billions of people have testified to having a personal encounter with Jesus, which has been the gateway to a transformed life where they have discovered God's amazing love and found rich spiritual nourishment. As a consequence, countries like our own, with a long and deep Christian heritage, have normalised kindness and compassion to an extraordinary extent that would have been completely alien to the culture of the Roman Empire where Christianity began. We are so incredibly fortunate to have free health care, social care and education, with emergency services available to us on speed dial, not to mention numerous 'good Samaritan' type charities addressing multitudinous needs free of charge. Furthermore, without such a fundamental Christian commitment to love for one's neighbour, it is hard to imagine how Great Britain could have become one of the most cohesive multi-cultural societies in the world, where people of all faiths and none are respected and valued.

The fruit of the Gospel in these shores over two millennia is something truly wonderful to rejoice in, but not something to be taken for granted. Enormous national, environmental and spiritual challenges lie ahead for us, collectively and individually, which could stifle our national identity and global contribution. The importance of our pivotal role as Church school educators in all this, not least in our potential to have a profound formative influence on children's and young people's character, cannot be understated. It is both a great privilege and a great responsibility. We are the ones to whom 'much has been given' and 'much will be required' (Luke 12:v48), charged to follow Jesus' command to 'abide in him' and 'bear much fruit' (John 15:v5). Therefore, as we educate our children, young people and families to embrace the life in all its fullness that Jesus offers, to worship the risen King joyfully and to serve the common good, may I wish you and all your colleagues, governors and pupils a very fruitful 2024.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS!

Last term was once again a very successful term. Our schools continue to perform above regional and national averages. Many congratulations to Freemans, Milton, Langham, Kilsby, Empingham, Trinity, Uppingham, Pytchley, St Andrew's, St Barnabas, Pattishall, Greens Norton, Gayton, Polebrook, Malcolm Arnold and St Mary & St John on their successful Ofsted reports, and to Milton, Polebrook, St Luke's, St Peter's, Tiffield, Hackleton and Stoke Bruerne on successful SIAMS reports.

HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE – TRANSFORMATIONAL TEACHING – WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH

Tom Sherrington will address the momentous theme of 'Transformational Teaching', exploring:

- The essentials of effective professional learning. What does the research say? The key elements of a strong CPD or coaching programme.
- Common challenges with learning. What are the common issues in learning, especially for those at the margins? Six common issues and how to address them.
- Responsive Teaching in practice. Some key elements of effective interactive, responsive teaching, with practical examples.
- Mode B Teaching. Elements of teaching that foster student agency and add important dimensions to a rich, transformational curriculum.

Bookings can be made via: [Course, Conference & Consultancy Programme 2023-2024 \(d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net) and via education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk. In view of the wider significance of this conference for Deputy Heads and Assistant Heads with a brief to lead on teaching and learning, and for governors charged with oversight of this area, all SLT members and governors with related responsibilities would be most welcome to attend this conference at Kettering Park Hotel.

WELLBEING BEST PRACTICE

The Ethos Committee and the Church Council at Stanion Church of England Primary School have worked together to plan a well-being project that has culminated in the publication of 'Stanion's Book of Well-being.' It's inspirational! I hope you enjoy reading it and find it helpful for promoting wellbeing in your school community. A copy is attached.

DBE COURSES THIS TERM

We are running the following courses this term:

Understanding Attachment Awareness led by Sally Perkins, Tuesday 16 January 2024 9.30am—3.30pm at Bouverie Court

Making Sense of Data for Governors led by Andrew Lakatos, Wednesday 17 January 2024 6.30pm—8.30pm via Zoom

Roles & Responsibilities of new Church School Governors led by Peter French, Wednesday 24 January 2024 6.30pm—8.30pm via Zoom

OFSTED and the improvement of RE led by RE Today, Tuesday 30 January 2024 1.00pm—3.15pm via Zoom

Youth Mental Health First Aid (includes a copy of MHFA manual) led by Kate Houghton, Thursday 1 February 2024 9.00am—4.00pm at Bouverie Court

Refresher Training for Northamptonshire Designated Safeguarding Leads led by Lesley Pollard, Tuesday 6 February 2024 9.00am – 1.00pm via Zoom

Governor Briefing Session: Asking Challenging Questions led by Peter French, Wednesday 7 February 2024 6.30pm—7.15pm via Zoom

Holy Week and Easter in the Classroom led by RE Today, Tuesday 27 February 2024 9.00am—11.15am via Zoom

RE Network led by Jane Lewis, Thursday 29 February 2024 4.15pm—5.30pm via Zoom

New to RE Leadership Day led by Jane Lewis, Thursday 7 March 2024 9.30am—3.00pm at Hayfield Cross CE Primary School, Hayfield Crescent, Hanwood Park, Kettering NN15 5FJ

New to the Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead in Northamptonshire Schools led by Lesley Pollard Tuesday 12 March 2024 9.30am-3.30pm at Hayfield Cross CofE Primary School, Hayfield Crescent, Hanwood Park, Kettering NN15 5FJ

SIAMS Updates for Headteachers led by Jane Lewis, Tuesday 12 March 2024 1.30pm—3.00pm via Zoom

Contextual Safeguarding led by Richard Ward, Thursday 21 March 2024 9.30am – 12.30pm via Zoom

Roles & Responsibilities of Church School Governors for experienced Governors led by Peter French, Tuesday 26 March 2024 6.30pm—8.30pm via Zoom

Safer Recruitment led by Jill Sneddon, Wednesday 27 March 2024 9.30am—3.30pm at Bouverie Court

IMPROVING CHURCH SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Liverpool Hope University's six-month online course on Improving Church School Governance begins this January. Further details are attached.

EDUCATING OUR STUDENTS ABOUT THE ISRAELI – PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

May I recommend the following educational resources which colleagues in many Church of England schools have found helpful:

<http://www.solutionsnotsides.co.uk>

<https://blog.eis.org.uk/piuc/level-3-4-teachers-guide/>

https://neu.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/NEU3179%20Israel%20%20Palestine%20%20Issues%20for%20Schools_0_1.pdf

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/free-resources/teaching-resources-2#heading-1>

[Israel and Hamas: What's happening? | Newsround - YouTube](#)

[What is life like for children in Israel and Gaza? | Newsround - YouTube.](#)

In addition, Jane Lewis has recommended some AREIAC resources for secondary colleagues, RE teachers and those leading PHSE type sessions or perhaps work with 6th forms, following an email from Alastair Ross, Chair of AREIAC. Alistair has written to say: 'The South London Inter Faith Group recently held an online meeting about the Israel/Palestine crisis with two speakers: Dr Chris Hewer, who spoke on the historical background and differing narratives and Julie Siddiqi, who shared how the crisis in Israel/Palestine is affecting us here in our own communities in the UK. The Group has kindly agreed to share the link to the You Tube recording which you may find useful for your own understanding as well as helping to inform any teaching or educational work you are doing. The edited version of the recording can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/100079737889190/videos/1738257716668704> and lasts around 45 minutes.

You may also like to look at www.togetherforhumanity.co.uk which aims to build a movement united against hate, with a focus on fostering a sense of collective unity amongst groups with a shared commitment for peace and coexistence between Israel and Palestine. Of course, other groups and individuals are committed to this work but this is a new initiative you may not have come across.'

Jane has suggested that the video itself might be suitable for 6th form students, but otherwise it would be for staff to watch, to support their teaching and engagement with students on the on-going issues in Israel and Palestine. Jane has come across both the speakers involved in this conversation and they speak with sound sense and realism.

This is a time for galvanising everyone in our school communities, in partnership with parish church communities, to provide help for all those people suffering terribly in Israel and Gaza, through absolutely no fault of their own in the overwhelming majority of cases. In pursuing courageous advocacy projects, you may wish to provide support for:

Christian Aid - [Middle East Crisis Appeal | Christian Aid](#)

Tearfund - [Middle East Emergency Appeal - Tearfund](#)

World Vision - [Middle East Emergency Appeal | World Vision UK](#)

Save The Children - [Donate to the Gaza Emergency Appeal | Save the Children UK.](#)

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Educational resources to support teaching about this issue can be found here: [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust | Schools \(hmd.org.uk\)](#). At the heart of HMD, which takes place on 27 January, is the remembrance of the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of people murdered under Nazi persecution of other groups and remembrance of the millions murdered in recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. In commenting further on wider international conflicts at this time, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust have stated: 'We are aware that some activities will also add references to more recent examples of identity-based persecution, such as the suffering that has been or is being experienced by the Rohingyas in Myanmar, the Uyghurs in China, the Yazidis in Iraq or the Ukrainians at the hands of Russia. These should be an addition to and not a replacement for, remembrance of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and more recent genocides. Likewise, any

Education for life, deeply Christian, serving the common good

reference to the situation in Israel and Gaza should be in addition to, and not instead of, remembrance of the Holocaust, Nazi persecutions of other groups and more recent genocides, and should recognise the complexity of the situation. HMD is not a day for division or divisiveness, it's a day for people and communities to come together in remembrance of both those who were murdered and to remember our shared humanity. HMD activities therefore should be inclusive and respectful of all communities.'

EXPERTED

One of the most encouraging educational developments in Peterborough Diocese in recent years has been the growing contribution of independent schools with a diocesan heritage to the quality of education provided in our maintained schools and academies. Gordon Montgomery and Kirsty Burns at Oundle School are once again offering a fantastic programme of curriculum enrichment activities this term: family maths and family science evenings online, as well as an impressive programme of live interactive webinars during the school day. Further details are attached.

NATIONAL EDUCATION NEWS AND SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING

Attached are all the latest national academy and school news bulletins, from consultant Tony Stephens, along with the first safeguarding briefing of the year from safeguarding specialist consultant Andrew Hall.

NPQs

Richard Jackson (Church of England Programme Lead for NPQSmall and NPQEY/LL), who was with us at our summer term Headteachers' Conference last year, has been in touch to say: 'Thank you for your support during the summer and earlier part of this term to help colleagues in small schools apply for the NPQSmall... As you'd expect, we are turning our attention to our spring cohort and again we'd appreciate your support in getting the message to small schools in your diocese and in encouraging participants to apply. I have included an updated link for the video introduction to NPQSmall <https://vimeo.com/877421389/aa1220c8ec?share=copy> – and I've also attached an updated flier for this cohort. Our applications are currently open for the next cohort of NPQSmall which starts in March. The closing date for applications is February 2nd 2024. One of the key messages for colleagues and schools is that the DfE have only committed to funding the NPQs up until this February's cohort - so teachers and leaders would be wise to apply for this cohort if they are thinking of doing an NPQ rather than delaying. We also know that the additional funding for schools (£800 per member of staff participating in an NPQ for schools between 1 -150 pupils) is only guaranteed for this year too!'

SIAMS INSPECTOR TRAINING

The next cohort of training will start in September 2024. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 22 March 2024 and the key documents for applicants are as below:

[SIAMS Inspector 2024 - Job Description](#)

[SIAMS New Inspector Training Application and Course Guidance 2024](#)

[Link to the SIAMS Inspector Training Application Form 2024](#)

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY LATER THIS YEAR

SCHOOL CHAPLAINS' DAY AT UPPINGHAM SCHOOL – A DAY OF FELLOWSHIP, TRAINING AND WORSHIP FOR ALL SCHOOL CHAPLAINS – 12 JUNE with Bishop James Newcome

SUMMER HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE AT KETTERING PARK HOTEL - INSPIRATIONAL, INCLUSIVE AND INVITATIONAL LEADERSHIP – 20 JUNE with Andy Buck

ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING FOR DIOCESAN SCHOOLS AT PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL – 3 OCTOBER with Bishop Debbie Sellin, Bishop John Holbrook and Archdeacon Richard Ormston

AUTUMN HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE AT KETTERING PARK HOTEL – INCLUSION, FUSION, FORMATION AND FULFILMENT – 13 NOVEMBER with Lucy Moore, Elizabeth Olulari, Natalie Jackson and Marc Rowland

NEW YEAR LETTER FOR ALL STAFF, GOVERNORS, PARENTS / CARERS, PUPILS AND ASSOCIATED CLERGY

Please find attached a New Year letter from Archdeacon Richard, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education, for emailing to all your staff, governors, parents / carers, pupils and clergy contacts.

ACADEMY CONVERSION

66 of our 103 schools are now academies, and a further 4 schools are already in the process of converting this year, with the approval of the Diocesan Board of Education. Whilst we actively uphold a mixed economy in Peterborough Diocese, we do believe that most schools are best served, and best placed to serve other schools, by being part of a strong multi-academy trust. If you would like to request a presentation for your governing body about the pros and cons of academy conversion, and your multi-academy trust options in Peterborough Diocese, along with a commentary on the shape of a thorough due diligence process to help you explore your trust options further, please contact education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

HERE FOR YOU

You are very welcome to get in touch with any member of the Diocesan Education Team at any time; our email addresses are below:

Director - peter.cantley@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Deputy Director - peter.french@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Assistant Director - jane.lewis@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Schools' Effectiveness Adviser - andrew.lakatos@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Schools' Safeguarding Adviser - lesley.pollard@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Executive Administrator - alex.benoy@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Administrator - louise.ross@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Finance Officer - mark.bedford@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

PRAYING FOR YOU

Thank you for praying for us, as we pray for you. We always begin our DBE and DBE Committee meetings with prayers for particular schools and colleagues. If you have a matter which you would like to draw to our attention for prayer, please don't hesitate to get in touch; it would be our privilege to pray for you and your school.

A PRAYER FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

*Holy God, at this Epiphany season
we celebrate the coming of the kings
with their precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
As we enjoy the surprises of those who give us presents,
may the child in the straw be the gift that really takes our breath away.
And may our giving to others
flow from hearts filled with thanks for your greatest gift,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

AND FINALLY

May I wish you every blessing for 2024!



Peter Cantley
Diocesan Director of Education