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Welcome to the second main newsletter of this summer term!

I hope you have had a good half-term break. We are undoubtedly over the worst of the pandemic and we can perhaps dare to believe that the best years lie ahead of us, if all work together for the common good.

LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY!

On the last Friday of the May half-term, I was delighted to join in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations at Little Houghton CE Primary School. The children sang, danced, paraded, prayed and performed in a joyful outdoor celebration, with staff, parents and governors all present, on a gloriously sunny and breezy afternoon. As the children sang Elgar’s ‘Land of Hope and Glory’, I was struck once again by the momentous lyrics… ‘*God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet’*. Over the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the reign of His Majesty King George VI, Great Britain has been a tremendous force for good in the world, defeating the rise of fascism and the ascendancy of dictatorships and terrorist organisations, whilst championing charity at home and abroad. We live in the most charitable nation on earth, providing free health care and education to all, irrespective of income, whilst sponsoring an unprecedented number or charities and offering a home to numerous refugees and asylum seekers. Grace, mercy and compassion have been part of our national DNA over the lifetime of our Queen and the reign of her father, King George VI. May God, who made Great Britain mighty, make Britain mightier yet, so that we might be a blessing to one another, to the whole of society and to the wider world.

Our rich Christian heritage brings an immense challenge to our leadership of Church of England schools. Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, who spoke at St Paul’s Cathedral last Friday, articulated this very well when he said: ‘*For me, the best leaders - like Paul, like Jesus – are those who know how to be led. People who lead for others, not themselves. People whose heart’s desire is to serve the common good and build up the common life; who don’t try to do it all themselves, or act in their own strength alone; people who take a longer view; and who seek out places of replenishing, even places where they might learn the mind of Christ… Faith in Jesus Christ is a fountain, and it is a well. It is the well from which we draw deeply and replenish ourselves through all the challenges, joys, and vicissitudes of life.  And it is a fountain, overflowing with immense joy. Joy, that we can live in the assurance that we are loved; joy, that God has a purpose for our lives; and, joy, that through Christ’s dying and rising we have the promise of life eternal.*’ May that joy, and the knowledge that we are loved by God, strengthen and sustain us, so that we might be beacons of hope and reflect God’s glory.

HeADTEACHERS’ CONFERENCE - Happiness, Wellbeing, Resilience, Growing and Flourishing

We always aim to ensure that you benefit from the very best of what’s on offer nationally, so there has been one last minute addition to our conference programme. I am delighted to announce that one of the headline speakers from the national MAT Partnership Network Conference, CEO and Co-founder of Lyfta, Serdar Ferit, will speak about nurturing empathy, global citizenship and cultural capital through powerful immersive stories, in advance of two special webinars, for CEOs and Headteachers, later this month. Biographies of all the conference speakers are attached and the finalized programme is now as below:

*9.15am Opening worship – Reflections On ‘Happiness, Wellbeing, Resilience, Growing and Flourishing’*

I will lead us in worship with Archdeacon Richard Ormston, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education, Peter French, Deputy Director of Education, and Jane Lewis, Assistant Director of Education.

*9.45am – Wellbeing and Resilience*

Dr Bill Mitchell, a highly experienced clinical psychologist, whose clinical work is about rebuilding resilience in people who have been temporarily ‘de-railed’ by complex life events, and whose recent keynote address to a Church of England headteachers’ conference in the Diocese of London was very well received, will address the theme of ‘Wellbeing and resilience’, encompassing:

* identifying personal pressures
* recognising early signs of not coping
* the physiology of mental fitness
* having helpful conversations.

*10.30am MORNING BREAK*

*10.45am – Wellbeing and Resilience*

Dr Bill Mitchell will continue and conclude his presentation.

*11.30am – Good Childhood*

Richard Crellin will speak about the Children’s Society ‘Good Childhood’ report; a vital tool for measuring the happiness and well-being of children and young people. It is the only report of its kind that actually asks the questions directly to children and young people, rather than to their parents and carers, and has informed government policy.

*12.15pm – Specialist Psycho-Therapeutic Services for Children and Young People*

Emma Connor and Suzanne Ryan, Directors of Your Space Therapies, will outline some of the best examples of specialist, high quality therapy that is available for children, young people and whole school communities.

*12.30pm – Nurturing Empathy, Global Citizenship and Cultural Capital through Powerful Immersive Stories*

CEO and Co-founder of Lyfta, Serdar Ferit, will speak about nurturing empathy, global citizenship and cultural capital through powerful immersive stories, which contribute greatly to pupils’ wellbeing, resilience and growth.

*12.40pm LUNCH BREAK*

*1.10pm – Supporting Vulnerable Children and Families*

Ian Soars will share with us the support that Fegans (a leading UK charity supporting vulnerable children and families) is able to offer and why it is important.

*1.55pm AFTERNOON BREAK*

*2.00pm – Experiencing a Greater Personal Sense of Peace, Wellbeing and Community*

Chris Whittington will lead an experiential workshop; you will be introduced to meditation in the Christian tradition as a simple but radically effective path to greater peace, wellbeing and community. Through a series of short talks and periods of practice, we’ll explore:

* forming a new relationship with life with all that offers us and throws at us
* establishing peace in ourselves so we can be places of peace for those around us
* taking what we have encountered out into our daily life and places of work.

*3.00pm FINISH*

If you have not booked in yet, please contact Alex via [education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk) and also consider whether SLT members, aspiring SLT members and governing body members might benefit from attending some or all of the sessions, if you are not able to do so.

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

I am delighted to be able to announce that the Rt Revd Donald Allister, Bishop of Peterborough, will be the speaker at our Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication for all Diocesan Schools on 29th September at Peterborough Cathedral.  The Venerable Richard Ormston, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education, will lead the service. We will also be joined by choirs from the Malcolm Arnold Academy, Uppingham School and Oakham School, along with primary school choirs from Polebrook, Glapthorn and the All Saints schools in Northampton, Wellingborough and Peterborough. We hope that as many pupils, staff, governors and clergy will join us as are able, for this special service. Primary schools are welcome to bring a whole KS2 year group or two year groups if you have two year groups in one class.  Secondary schools are welcome to bring the equivalent of about one class, whether that be all the student leaders in the school, a cohort of Pupil Premium students or another group of your choosing.  We would encourage small schools to explore whether you might be able to share coach travel.  Seats can booked via [education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk) and educational activities in Peterborough Cathedral, on the day before or after the service, can be arranged via [education@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:education@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk).

SLA TRAINING COURSES COMING UP SOON

*Non-religion world views for KS1 and KS2 Tuesday 7 June 2022 9.00am – 12.00pm led by Lat Blaylock, via Zoom*

This course will explore ideas for great learning and progress, looking at non-religion world views including Humanism, with national RE Adviser and Editor of RE Today, Lat Blaylock.

*Managing Challenging Conversations Thursday 9 June 2022 10.30am – 3.00pm led by Definitely HR, at Bouverie Court, including lunch*

Definitely HR will focus on when, how and why to have a difficult conversation.  The session will provide the skills you need and improve your communication and listening skills.

*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](mailto: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.

CHURCH SCHOOL – PARISH CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

Key parts of the SIAMS framework include consideration of how well church school leaders ensure that the school’s formal partnerships are supported, sustained and informed by the school’s Christian vision and associated values. This includes how well school leaders work with the diocese and churches, and how they encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship. We are undoubtedly stronger together as church schools and churches, when we share a complementary sense of mission. So, if you have not yet done so this year, may I encourage you to embark upon a discussion with your parish church about how your church school and church could work together more effectively from the beginning of next year onwards. For example, it would be good to provide clergy with an opportunity to introduce their parish church to new parents, as part of the induction process for new parents, and it would be good to routinely share a parish church newsletter with parents each half-term etc. There are many simple ways that we can strengthen our church school – parish church partnerships. There are also many creative and imaginative things we could do together, not least in addressing the theme of courageous advocacy and pursuing charitable projects together. Attached is a template document, as a discussion starter for your SLT, for adapting to your local context in discussion with your parish church PCC.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS!

There are five pupils and one former pupil from St Mary & St John Church of England Primary School receiving their first Holy Communion this Wednesday. Bishop Donald will be presiding. We send our congratulations. Indeed, may I encourage all our schools to consider offering such opportunities. Local clergy, as well as our Bishops and Archdeacons, would be delighted to support schools in doing this.

RE NEWSLETTER

Please find attached a very informative and helpful RE Newsletter from Lesley Pollard.

STAFFING CHANGES – RE & COLLECTIVE WORSHIP ADVISER AND SCHOOLS’ SAFEGUARDING ADVISER

Lesley Pollard will be retiring from her RE & Collective Worship Adviser role at the end of this academic year, but will continue with us on an occasional part-time basis as our Schools Safeguarding Adviser. Lesley has had an illustrious career, and I would encourage you to read Lesley’ career biography in the latest RE Newsletter. Suffice to say, we are indebted to Lesley for many years of faithful service, providing excellent training, advice and guidance, supporting the provision of high quality RE and collective worship in our schools. Lesley will be handing over to Jane Lewis, who will incorporate the RE & Collective Worship Adviser role in her expanded Assistant Director role. Jane is an RE specialist, having worked as a Head of RE at secondary school level and also having a Masters’ degree in primary religious education. Jane has taught religious education in secondary schools and primary schools for almost 40 years, as well as having served as a Schools Adviser in the Diocese of Southwell & Notts and now serving with us as Assistant Director.

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN – BISHOP STOPFORD SCHOOL

Bishop Stopford School is advertising for a new School Chaplain, either lay or ordained. After seventeen years of faithful service, Sally Toward is retiring as Chaplain. Further details for this significant School Chaplain role are attached.

NATIONAL ACADEMY & SCHOOL NEWS AND SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

Please find attached the latest academy and school news from educational consultant Tony Stephens and today’s safeguarding bulletin from safeguarding specialist Andrew Hall.

A PRAYER FOR THE HALF-TERM AHEAD – FOR WISDOM, HOPE, COMMUNITY AND DIGNITY

May I share with you the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership’s prayer for wisdom, hope, community and dignity, as we seek to lead forward our schools forward with the Spirit’s help…

*God of Wisdom  
You have shaped us to 'pursue wisdom' in every endeavour, for the sake of our world  
Through our work, our relationships, our interests and our lives.  
May we invest in seeking out truth, good practice and integrity,  
With your Spirit's help.  
  
God of Hope  
Your wisdom enables 'possibilities of reconciliation and transformation',  
When things go wrong, in times of lament, loss, grief and pain.  
May we commit to listening and truly understanding to bring about healing,  
With your Spirit's help.  
  
God of Community  
Your wisdom is found in relationship - within the Godhead and with those you have made,  
To bring about 'love, compassion and peace' for all made in your image.  
May we learn to engage with different people, ideas and ways of living.  
With your Spirit's help.  
  
God of Dignity  
In your wisdom, you have 'created each person in your image' - having infinite and 'ultimate worth'  
Giving every individual immense potential, and the chance to make a unique contribution.  
May we ensure that we love one another, just as you have loved us,  
With your Spirit's help.*

*Amen.*

AND FINALLY

May I wish you every blessing for the final two months of this school year. ‘The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.’ (Numbers 6:v24-26)



Peter Cantley

Diocesan Director of Education