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

**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.

**SIAMS Update**

SIAMS inspections have been paused this month, in view of the impact of Omicron. Also, Lisa Osborne, national SIAMS Management & Training Officer, will soon be moving on from her pivotal role as part of the SIAMS Team.  Her last day will be Friday 14th January. To ensure that your emails do not get lost in the transition between Lisa and her successor, please use the SIAMS@churchofengland.org email address for all general correspondence.  Lisa will still pick up emails this week and then others will from Monday 17th onwards.  On a part-time temporary basis, Natasha Skinner and Laurel Stewart will be joining the national SIAMS Team to carry out some of the routine admin tasks, and they will pick up any emails that come into the SIAMS inbox, and Anna Blacknell continues as the Systems and Data Officer.  In the meantime, the recruitment process for Lisa’s successor has begun and the advert for this is now live and can be found at [Management and Training Officer for Church School Inspection - Pathways | Pathways (churchofengland.org)](https://pathways.churchofengland.org/job/pathways/2899/management-and-training-officer-for-church-school-inspection); it has also been published on Charity Job - [The UK's largest specialist website for the charity sector, third sector and not-for-profit jobs | CharityJob, find a career with meaning](https://www.charityjob.co.uk/).  I am sure that you will want to join with me to wish Lisa well for her next steps and to thank her for all that she has done.

**Many congratulations!**

Blakesley’s Ofsted report (section 8) was published last week, confirming that Blakesley’s outstanding grading has been maintained.  Many congratulations to Laurie and all the staff and governors at Blakesley, as well as to all our PDET Executive colleagues and the PDET Directors.  Also, St Loys’ and Eye’s reports were published, with St Loys receiving a good (section 5) judgement, at its first Ofsted inspection since becoming an academy, and with Eye receiving confirmation of the school continuing to be good (section 8).  Many congratulations to Kathryn and all the staff and governors at St Loys, as well as to all our ECAT Executive colleagues and the ECAT Directors; also many congratulations to Jason and all the staff and governors at Eye.  We are delighted that all your hard work has been recognised and that so many wonderful aspects of your schools have been celebrated.

**EPM Webinar – 18th January, 2.00pm**

Details of the HR and payroll services provided by EPM are attached.  EPM will be leading a 30 minute webinar for Peterborough Diocese schools on 18th January at 2.00pm.If you would like to receive the Teams link for this webinar, please email: education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.  This webinar is likely to be particularly beneficial for School Business Managers in West Northants and North Northants, where HR and payroll services are being withdrawn by the LAs from April.

**SIAMS Excellence Webinar – 20th January, 1.15pm**

Following on from their presentation at our November Headteachers’ Conference, Jill Ramshaw and Marta Varilone, Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher of Weston Favell CE Primary School, will be sharing more details about their experience of the newly adapted SIAMS inspection schedule and achieving an ‘excellent’ SIAMS inspection outcome, at 1.15pm on 20th January.  If you would like to receive the Zoom link for this webinar, please email: education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

**Ofsted Annual Report Webinar – 24th January, 4.00pm**

The Ofsted East of England team has extended an invitation to a free webinar at 4.00pm on 24th January, entitled: ‘Ofsted annual report – how has this shaped our regional priorities?’  The senior team will share the regional priorities following the launch of Ofsted’s annual report. They will look at what this means within the region and how we can all contribute towards improving the lives of children, pupils and young people in the East of England. This will include discussion about early years/primary, secondary, special and FES, and how this will inform Ofsted’s work within the region.   You can register here: [Registration (gotowebinar.com)](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1075693327077717008)  After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**eEnergy Webinar re. Taking Steps Towards Achieving Net Zero and Saving Money – 31st January, 2.00pm**

Details of the services provided by eEnergy are attached.  Matt Savill from eEnergy will be leading a 30 minute webinar for Peterborough Diocese schools and academies on 31st January at 2.00pm.Please encourage your School Business Manager or MAT CFO to attend.  To receive the Zoom link for this webinar please email: education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk*.*

**Headteachers’ Conference 24th March – Every Dimension of Every Life Matters**

Please find attached the biographies of all the speakers for this term’s Headteachers’ Conference.  The conference will include a keynote address from Dr Ruth Valerio about ‘The Earth’s Life Matters’, addressing important themes about: the environment, climate change, courageous advocacy and ways to help children and young people look after God’s world and love their global neighbours.  Allana Gay will speak about ‘Black Lives Matter’, addressing important BAME, UKME and decolonising the curriculum themes.  Alex Carton from Peterborough Cathedral will speak out all that Peterborough Cathedral has to offer educationally and the place it holds in people’s lives.  Lat Blaylock from RE Today, will address the theme of ‘Religious Lives Matter’, illustrating the importance of religion in our world, with 80% of all people on our planet practising some form of religion today, and will consider RE teaching and curriculum design, referencing resources and training courses that would be helpful for teachers, especially for colleagues in the primary school sector.  Dr Anne Lumb will present on ‘Spiritual Lives Matter’, considering afresh the spiritual dimension of pupils’ lives and how Church of England school leaders can most effectively support children’s and young people’s spiritual development.  Bookings can be made via education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk and [Event booking - The Diocese of Peterborough (peterborough-diocese.org.uk)](https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/news-and-events/event-booking/3165).

**Suicide Prevention**

There is a sad reality about the high level of suicides around Christmas and New Year, and the impact this has on the children and young people in our care; heightened expectations of joy and happiness are sometimes dashed by dysfunctional and desperately disappointing family members, and by distant and disinterested former friends, leading to catastrophic outcomes.  It is a time to pause to think about the value of friendship.  Proverbs 18: v24 speaks of ‘a friend who sticks closer than a brother’; such is true friendship and God’s friendship.  For those of you who enjoy AA Milne, may I share the following extract:

*‘It occurred to Pooh and Piglet that they hadn't heard from Eeyore for several days, so they put on their hats and coats and trotted across the Hundred Acre Wood to Eeyore's stick house. Inside the house was Eeyore.*

*"Hello Eeyore," said Pooh.*

*"Hello Pooh. Hello Piglet," said Eeyore, in a glum sounding voice.*

*"We just thought we'd check in on you," said Piglet, "because we hadn't heard from you, and so we wanted to know if you were okay."*

*Eeyore was silent for a moment. "Am I okay?" he asked, eventually. "Well, I don't know, to be honest. Are any of us really okay? That's what I ask myself. All I can tell you, Pooh and Piglet, is that right now I feel really rather sad, and alone, and not much fun to be around at all, which is why I haven't bothered you, because you wouldn't want to waste your time hanging out with someone who is sad, and alone, and not much fun to be around at all, would you now."*

*Pooh looked at Piglet, and Piglet looked at Pooh, and they both sat down, one on either side of Eeyore in his stick house.*

*Eeyore looked at them in surprise. "What are you doing?"*

*"We're sitting here with you," said Pooh, "because we are your friends. And true friends don't care if someone is feeling sad, or alone, or not much fun to be around at all. True friends are there for you anyway. And so here we are."*

*"Oh," said Eeyore. "Oh." And the three of them sat there in silence, and while Pooh and Piglet said nothing at all; somehow, almost imperceptibly, Eeyore started to feel a very tiny little bit better, because Pooh and Piglet were there.  No more; no less.’*

*(AA Milne)*

I remember, somewhere between 1990-1992, when I taught Religious Studies, PSHE and Drama at Beaconsfield High School, my friend and colleague, the Head of Humanities, arriving in school one morning in a state of total shock.  The neighbour and successful businessman next door, with whom he always exchanged a ‘good morning’ greeting in Great Missenden, and whom he felt sure was leading a very fulfilling and happy life, was found dead inside his car in the garage, with a tube funnelling the fumes from the exhaust into the inside of the car.  It made me realise that some of our neighbours and colleagues are consummate actors, hurting very deeply, but feel unable to reach out and find solace.

Perhaps one of the greatest things we can teach our children and young people, and exemplify, is to be the best of friends and to see beyond the masks worn by so many people, who feel too afraid to tell people who they really are and how they really feel.  Chris Tomlin, in one of his wonderful worship songs about God’s relationship with us, wrote: ‘You see the depths of my heart and you love me the same’.  May we, and all the children and young people in our care, know that God knows all our faults and failings, and all the highs and lows of our journey through life, but loves us with an everlasting love; and may we receive anew and express that amazing love in our lives day by day.

**POPUK Free Song Bank for Primary Schools**

To welcome in 2022, POPUK are launching a free song bank for primary schools. As a Christian charity, they want to serve schools by providing songs and lesson resources that strengthen children’s understanding of the Christian faith, giving them an anchor to hold onto during these uncertain times.

Their song bank has over 350 resources. One example is their song ‘A better day will come’.  It is based on Luke 12: v 22-26, where Jesus instructs his disciples not to worry. The lyrics help children to understand that their faith in God will always lead to hope; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dx56YDXc-0M](https://55bcfff2-e9b0-44ef-9ec5-36be650b91b7.mailbutler.link/p2/d4064526-80d2-4e66-a846-91015dc49a21/a1982eb2-5a37-46d7-88b0-a1dfbe5457d4)

The song bank has been created to link with the PSHE curriculum schemes of work: Living in the Wider World - Relationships - Health and Well-being - Easter – Christmas.  ‘A better day will come’ can be found in the Health and Well-being section.  Use this link to sign up for free access: [https://www.popuk.org/membership-sign-up](https://55bcfff2-e9b0-44ef-9ec5-36be650b91b7.mailbutler.link/p2/d4064526-80d2-4e66-a846-91015dc49a21/10956122-7899-4397-beeb-7be7e0eed93f).

**A Prayer for the New Year**

Finally, may I share with you a prayer from St Augustine (354-430 AD), Bishop of Hippo in North Africa…

*Eternal God,
who are the light of the minds that know you,
the joy of the hearts that love you,
and the strength of the wills that serve you;
grant us so to know you
that we may truly love you,
and so to love you
that we may fully serve you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  Amen.*

Wishing you every blessing for 2022!

Peter

**Peter Cantley**

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