Dear Headteachers, Executive 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.

**Rural Teaching Partnership Introductory Webinars - a collaboration between Teach First, the Chartered College of Teaching and Peterborough Diocese**

If you’re interested in adding to your staff team some of the highest quality trainee teachers and potentially saving tens of thousands of pounds for your school(s), the Rural Teaching Partnership supported by Teach First (an Ofsted - Outstanding ITT Provider and Early Career Framework Lead Provider), in partnership with Peterborough Diocese, is for you!  The introductory webinars are happening today and on Thursday; MAT CEOs and CEO representatives with Rhian Harris [rharris@teachfirst.org.uk](mailto:rharris@teachfirst.org.uk) at 4.00pm today, and Headteachers with Louise Hinton [lhinton@teachfirst.org.uk](mailto:lhinton@teachfirst.org.uk) at 4.00pm on Thursday.  If you would like to receive the Teams link for one of these webinars this week, simply email Rhian or Louise at Teach First.

**School Energy Audits and Net Zero Carbon Action Plans Webinar**

**At 4.00pm today there’s a free Church of England webinar on this important theme.  You can** [BOOK HERE](https://churchofengland.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=50eac70851c7245ce1ce00c45&id=23f2425c4d&e=37b7fc1f80)**.**  This webinar is the third in a series created for Church of England schools.  It is aimed at school business managers, school leaders, school governors and directors of MATs, diocesan buildings officers, diocesan directors of education, diocesan environment officers, and anyone interested in how our schools can work towards Net Zero.  
  
This session includes:

* findings from over 200 school energy audits about the change needed, the savings and the costs,
* six real world examples of schools with detailed Net Zero Carbon Action Plans, created as part of the national Wayfinders Project,
* a demonstration of the energy footprint tool for schools,
* the part schools play in the national ‘Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030’.

**Panellists include:**Matt Fulford, a consultant at Inspired Efficiency, Tom Wood, statistician at the Church of England, and Denise Rowley, Net Zero Carbon Planning Officer at the Church of England.

**SLA Training Courses Coming Up Soon**

***Understanding Christianity:  Focus on Salvation Tuesday 10 May 9.00am – 12.00pm led by Adam Robertson, via Zoom***

This session will focus in greater depth on the theme of Salvation using Understanding Christianity. Adam helped to write the Diocese of Peterborough RE Syllabus.

***Roles & Responsibilities of Church School Governors Wednesday 12 May 6.30pm - 8.30pm led by Peter French, at Bouverie Court***

What are the special features of church school governance?  A session for new governors and those who have previously been governors looking at experiences and how you can develop your role.

***RE: Assessment / Ofsted Research Monday 16 May 1.00pm – 4.00pm led by Lat Blaylock, via Zoom***

How can school RE use the directions set by HIM’s RE report?

***Implementing the Understanding Christianity Resource Tuesday 17 May 9.30am – 3.30pm led by Lesley Pollard, via Zoom***

Specifically for primary teachers who are new to using the Understanding Christianity resource, but whose school is already trained in this programme.

***Termly Headteachers’ SIAMS Briefing Thursday 26 May 1.30pm – 3.00pm led by Jane Lewis, via Zoom***

Updates and feedback on inspections so far; a workshop to look at different self-evaluation approaches and to ensure your school is well prepared.

***Governor Briefing Session:  Tips on Recruiting Governors Thursday 19 May 6.30pm – 7.15pm led by Peter French, via Zoom***

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).

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

Sometimes less is more, and at our Headteachers’ Conference there’s going to be a 15-minute presentation from two amazing people - Emma Connor and Suzanne Ryan, Directors of Your Space Therapies, who will outline the very best examples of specialist, high quality therapy that is available for children, young people and whole school communities.  This will be a trailblazing presentation, leading to a more in-depth course in 2022-2023, and with opportunities following on, from both their conference presentation and their course next year, to deploy Emma and Suzanne in working with some of the most troubled children and young people in your schools.  We are all so conscious of how the pandemic has hit the most disadvantaged and damaged children and young people very hard indeed, and what Emma and Suzanne have to offer is absolutely exceptional.  May I encourage you to read the biographies of all our conference speakers, as attached; Emma and Suzanne are highly qualified and extremely experienced, with a national reputation.  They could be the answer to your prayers!

**Platinum SLA**

We would like to float the idea of a possible Platinum SLA for groups of schools which are already committed to our Gold SLA, but would like some significant additional input on RE, particularly with a focus on in school support.  Naturally, this would be open to MATs and Federations, but also VA and VC schools and SATs which may wish to band together in regions to access this, next year.  Essentially, the offer would be bespoke to each group and would be likely to include:

* Termly subject leader meetings
* Subject knowledge training
* In school support on for example curriculum progression
* Training for ITE, ECT and governors
* Coaching , mentoring and in school lesson observations
* Training, mentoring and development of a group of leading RE teachers.

The programme would be led by our Assistant Director of Education, Jane Lewis, with Fiona Moss, a National RE Adviser from RE Today, who helped devise our Diocesan RE Syllabus and led the initial training on the new Syllabus.

I’ll write to Headteachers and CEOs with further details later today, and would value your initial reactions, not least because we would need to move very quickly to book Fiona Moss’s time if this would be of interest, as her diary for 2022-2023 is filling up very fast.

**SIAMS Excellence Criteria**

We very much hope that every school in Peterborough Diocese has set out a pathway towards becoming excellent and sustaining that excellence in innovative ways, and we are here to support, guide and encourage you every step of the way.  That’s a huge challenge for us all, but then why would we aspire to anything less, with such precious children and young people in our care!  It’s an exhilarating journey to be travelling together!

You may have noticed that, since the full national integration of SIAMS, when Dr Margaret James took up her post as National Director at the beginning of this academic year, the proportion of Church of England schools receiving an excellent grade has fallen from 45.1% to 22.8!

I have attached a copy of the criteria relating to excellence in the revised SIAMS schedule for you, and for discussion with your consultants, governing bodies and trust boards; this being the essence of what all or our schools and trusts should aspire to be.  I should also emphasise, from recent inspections, that being outward facing and sharing excellence from one school to another is at the heart of excellence in the new SIAMS inspection framework and, of course, also is at the heart of the sacrificial, loving service spoken of in 1 Corinthians 13.

**Everyone Has a Story and a Life Worth Remembering**

There was a fascinating report on Radio 4 last Thursday -[BBC Radio 4 - Best of Today, The Hospice Biographers: A life report of the dying](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0c50lbx) about the work of the charity The Hospice Biographers - [UK Charity Recording Patient's Life Stories for Free - The Hospice Biographers](https://www.thehospicebiographers.com/).  I’ve often thought what a fantastic opportunity there is for children and young people in our schools also to record the life stories of elderly family members and church members.  Intergenerational educational opportunities can often become such rich sources of learning for the young and such a helpful affirmation of the wisdom and experience that elderly members of our society have to offer us all.  May I encourage you to listen to the Radio 4 report and take a look at this charity’s website, and to consider all of the interviewing, talking, writing and reading opportunities that such biographical projects could offer, in the context of a broad and deep church school education.

**Teaching Booklet for Admission to Holy Communion**

Revd Pippa Madgwick, who is preparing pupils at St Mary & St John CE Primary School to take their first Holy Communion with Bishop Donald later this term, has put together a booklet which can be used to support preparing children for this.  Pippa has described the booklet as ‘a work in progress’, but is happy for it to be shared more widely.  So, may I suggest that you might like to share it with clergy who support your school, as the basis for an optional course they could offer to pupils who would like to take Holy Communion.

**A Prayer**

Finally, may I share with you a prayer from this Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Easter…

*Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.*

Wishing you every blessing!

Peter

**Peter Cantley**

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