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.

**The Queen’s Accession Day Message**

Please find attached a copy of The Queen’s Accession Day message, which was released on Saturday.  The Queen is, of course, ‘Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England’, and we would very much hope that all the children and young people in our schools would appreciate that important fact, and how The Queen’s faith in Christ has guided her service to the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the whole world.  There are a number of articles and films on the BBC website worth exploring further and enjoying together in school: [When did young Elizabeth realise that one day she would become Queen? - BBC News](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-60201088), [Queen holds reception to mark Platinum Jubilee - BBC News](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-60272124),  [Queen cuts cake at Platinum Jubilee reception - BBC News](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-60270681) and [70 Years a Queen: Musical tribute composed for Platinum Jubilee - BBC News](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-middle-east-60219055).

**Every Dimension of Every Life Matters - Educating Our Children and Young People about the Religious Dimension of People’s Lives – Headteachers’ Conference, 24th March**

The Queen once commented, at an inter-faith reception at Lambeth Palace, that “Faith plays a key role in the identity of millions of people, providing not only a system of belief but also a sense of belonging.  It can act as a spur for social action.  Indeed, religious groups have a proud track record of helping those in greatest need, including the sick, the elderly, the lonely and the disadvantaged.  They remind us of the responsibilities we have beyond ourselves.”

More than 80% of the people alive today practise some form of religion.  Some would also argue that the central tenets of atheism, agnosticism and humanism are essentially built on statements of faith, as well.  Christianity remains the most widely practised religion in the world, but we live in a religiously diverse United Kingdom, Commonwealth and worldwide community.  Political, social and personal decision making are all influenced by faith, in obvious and complex ways.  Without a good understanding of faith and religion, it is impossible for children and young people to properly make sense of our modern world and their place in it.

At our Headteachers’ Conference on 24th March, Lat Blaylock, national RE Adviser and Editor of RE Today, will offer his own insights into the importance of the religious dimension of people’s lives, and how this should inform our curriculum design and pedagogy.  He has published a large number of RE resources, including making nine series of broadcasts with the BBC.  He has written 4 best-selling packages of visual learning materials, called ‘Picturing Jesus’, which use the global art of the contemporary Christian communities for RE.  He has written many RE syllabuses and schemes of work for clients all over England, and has a reputation for practical and inspiring professional development days.  He was the specialist writer of the RE Council’s new National Curriculum Framework for RE, a member of the writing team for ‘Understanding Christianity’ and the initiator of projects including ‘Primary RE 1000’ and ‘Spirited Arts – which has enabled over half a million young people to take part in competitions for art and poetry through RE over the last 15 years. Further details of Lat’s biography and those of all the conference speakers are attached.  Bookings for headteachers, SLT members and governors can be made via education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

**SIAMS Update**

The attached SIAMS documents have been updated over recent weeks and the revised versions are now available on the [SIAMS pages](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-inspections)of the Church of England website.  Some minor changes have been made.  You will see that the national team have clarified some aspects of procedure, especially in relation to the informal stage of raising an appeal and to their guidance on self-evaluation.

**SLA Training Courses Coming Up Soon**

***New Designated Safeguarding Leads (Northants only)*** *-* ***Tuesday 8th February 2022, 9.30pm - 3.30pm, via Zoom***

This training is the statutory single agency training required for a senior member of staff to become a Designated (or Deputy Designated) Safeguarding Lead in a school.  Participants will look at the legislation and guidance that informs their role and will become familiar with local procedures in order to help safeguard the pupils in their setting.  Only for DSLs working in Northamptonshire schools.

***Termly SIAMS Headteachers’ Briefing - Tuesday 8th February, 1.30pm - 3.00pm, via Zoom***

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

***Middle Leaders Training Programme Day 1*** *-* ***Thursday 24th February, 9.30am - 3.30pm, either via Zoom or at Bouverie Court (tbc)***

The first day of a two-day course to give middle leaders the right tools to fulfil their responsibilities.  This first day will concentrate on Ofsted expectations and set leaders up with tasks to ensure appropriate monitoring activities.

***New to RE Leadership Day 1 - Tuesday 1 March 9.30am - 3.30pm, at Hayfield Cross CE Primary School, Hayfield Crescent, Kettering, NN15 5FJ***

This is the first day of a 2-day training programme for those that are new to the role of Primary RE Subject Lead.  Over the two days we will look at the role of the RE Lead and ways to help you plan for high quality RE in your school.  It is essential that participants complete both days of training (second day on Tuesday 3 May).

***Sikhs and Sikhism for KS1 and KS2 - Thursday 3 March, 1.00pm - 4.00pm, via Zoom NEW DATE***

Ideas for great learning and progress in RE: Sikhs and Sikhism for KS1 and KS2.

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

**Webinars Open To All Coming Up Soon**

***An Introduction to Character Education - Tuesday, February 8th, 4.00 - 4.40pm***

The Archbishop of York’s Youth Trust is offering this free webinar about character education and bookings can be made via: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_B3acI7h2TEW9oHQmIaVgPA).

***An Introduction to the KS1 & KS2 Young Leaders Awards - Thursday, February 10th, 2022, 4.00 - 4.45pm***

The Archbishop of York’s Youth Trust is also offering this free webinar about their Young Leaders Award and bookings can be made via: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xvLvZFsaTt-w6Dgp12Cwpw).

***Ofsted Annual Report Webinar – 28th February, 4.00pm***

The Ofsted East of England team webinar is now due to take place at 4.00pm on 28th February, 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.  The reason given for the change of date by Ofsted is as follows: ‘We are moving the date of our East of England webinar to 28th February 2022. This is to ensure we have the most up-to-date and confirmed information and updates to share with the region following a very uncertain start to the new year.’

***Tackling Sexual Abuse and Harassment in Schools – 2nd, 9th & 16th March,***

***4.00 - 5.30pm***

Join the Department for Education and subject experts for a series of three 90-minute webinars on Wednesday 2, 9 and 16 March, all starting at 4pm, to support high quality delivery of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). The webinars will focus on three important topics: domestic abuse, pornography and sexual exploitation.

We want to make sure teachers feel supported to do their jobs and to tackle the serious issues raised by the Everyone’s Invited website and Ofsted’s review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges.

The RSHE curriculum provides an excellent vehicle to create a whole-school culture change and promote pupils’ safety and wellbeing.  The knowledge pupils will gain from RSHE will support their own, and others’ wellbeing, and help them build positive and safe relationships.

These events will provide an opportunity for teachers, teaching assistants, designated safeguarding leads, SENCOs and PSHE leads in schools and local authorities to hear from experts who will share their knowledge and experience of delivering these sensitive topics in the classroom.

Speakers include:

* Nicole Jacobs - the Domestic Abuse Commissioner
* Nanya Coles – SafeLives.  Nanya is the Safe Young Lives Programme Lead who works to understand, design and develop learning and interventions which are informed by the voice and experiences of young people.
* Dr Elly Hanson – a clinical psychologist and researcher with expertise on pornography and the psychological underpinning of RSHE pedagogy
* The Safer Young Lives Research Centre at University of Bedfordshire
* The PSHE Association – the national association for PSHE / RSHE professionals

These events are free to attend – please register via: [https://orcula.com/tackling-sexual-abuse-and-harassment-in-schools/register](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Forcula.com%2Ftackling-sexual-abuse-and-harassment-in-schools%2Fregister&data=04%7C01%7Cnigel.genders%40churchofengland.org%7Cce7fa382041243d4a5db08d9e1c5b9f8%7C95e2463b3ab047b49ac1587c77ee84f0%7C0%7C0%7C637789062232312845%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=C9EHFrPQLsNDYPC9w8YM7TYqE%2ByZDbsAHS5vz9m%2BJbE%3D&reserved=0).  If you have already registered, please use the secure link found in your confirmation email to make changes or cancel your existing registration.  If you require any technical support, please contact: support@orcula.com.

***Primary Essentials***

I must declare an interest here, as a member of ASCL, but may I highlight for you a series of innovative online CPD sessions, specially designed for colleagues leading in primary education, with complimentary access for all primary leaders regardless of ASCL membership:

***Raising writing standards***Pie Corbett, education trainer, writer and author, Talk for Writing***Primary Ofsted Inspection with a focus on reading and literacy***Phil Minns, HMI Specialist Adviser - Early Years and Primary, Ofsted***EYFS: A focus on the question of assessment***Dr Julian Grenier, Headteacher, Sheringham Nursery School and Children's Centre***Effective primary curriculum planning*** *​*Mary Myatt, education adviser and writer***A focus on governance in primary trusts***Emma Knights OBE, Chief Executive, National Governance Association***A focus on disadvantaged pupils in primary***Marc Rowland, adviser for improving outcomes for disadvantaged learners, Unity Schools Partnership***Effective strategic thinking for successful primary leadership***Rob Carpenter, CEO, Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust***Effective teaching of languages in primary***Suzanne O'Farrell, ASCL MFL Consultant and former headteacher***DfE/Standards Testing Agency: primary assessments update***Colin Watson, Deputy Director, Research and Assessment Development, Department for Education***Supporting you as a leader***Rachel Bertenshaw, ASCL Deputy Director of Member Support, and former headteacher***Six tricks for successful financial leadership***Julia Harnden, ASCL Funding Specialist, and former school leader***Governance in a single maintained school***Sam Henson, Director of Policy and Information, National Governance Association

All sessions will be hosted by ASCL Primary Leadership Specialist, Tiffnie Harris, who will be joined by an excellent line-up of speakers.

To take part in any or all of the above Primary Essentials online CPD sessions, simply register via <https://www.ascl.org.uk/primaryessentials>. You will then receive links to join the sessions and access the recordings.

**Finedon Mulso Church of England Junior School**

Last week I was delighted to visit Finedon Mulso Church of England Junior School, in the Learning for Life Education Trust where I am privileged to serve as a Member.  Joanne Lloyd-Williams, Headteacher of Finedon Mulso Church of England Junior School, has kindly written a few words to introduce her wonderful school, below.

*We work as ‘one school’ with Finedon Infant School under the same leadership team and as such aim to provide a seamless educational journey from 4 – 11 for our pupils, taking pride in the close working relationships we build with our families in order to best meet the needs of our children. In addition, we are part of the Learning for Life Education Trust and work in close partnership with Irthlingborough Infant and Junior Schools.*

*We primarily serve the community of Finedon, but also take children from the surrounding villages and Wellingborough, and over the past year have seen the school grow by over 20 pupils.*

*Our vision is:*

*We nurture the talents and aspirations of our children, preparing them to be confident, responsible and respectful individuals who positively contribute to the world, and reach their potential within a loving, caring Christian community.*

*Learning together, enabling children ‘to live life in all its fullness’. John Ch 10 v 10*

*In order to fulfil our vision, we aim to:*

*o Enable all pupils to achieve to the best of their ability and aptitude to become the best that they can be;*

*o Provide pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum which will engage, challenge, motivate and inspire in them a love of learning;*

*o Provide our pupils with a stimulating learning environment that has exciting and enjoyable lessons delivered by high quality, well-trained staff who will always encourage high aspirations;*

*o Create a caring, Christian community in which pupils are treated with respect and thereby feel happy, confident and valued;*

*o Encourage all pupils to acquire Christian moral and social values, behave well, show good manners and have respect for others regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religious or cultural background;*

*o Encourage all pupils to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives and make a positive contribution to their local community*

*Our 12 Christian values – thankfulness, compassion, courage, trust, service, truthfulness, generosity, justice, perseverance, forgiveness, friendship and respect, underpin all aspects of our school life and each one is supported by a Biblical quotation.*

*We have close links with St Mary the Virgin Church in Finedon and Reverend Richard Coles and are very sad that he will be leaving the parish after Easter.*

*For Collective worship we focus on one of our Christian values per term (the 12 values are mapped over a two-year cycle) and use the Roots and Fruits resources to support the value based worship. In addition, we have a weekly choral worship and a weekly worship using the Picture News resource, enabling us to focus on current affairs, linking the focus to Christian teaching. We also have a weekly celebration worship which includes acknowledging children who have shown the current school value, amongst other rewards. We have one class based worship per week and this year have introduced a new approach, whereby the children are asked to consider a key question and quotation from the Bible and to discuss how it relates to them in their lives. Children’s written responses are stuck into a class reflection book and the books are then placed in the class reflection area for children to refer to. Here is a recent example linked to our school vision:  Using the quotation ‘Live life in all its fullness’ from John 10:10, discuss the biblical reference and consider what makes your life full? What does living life in all its fullness mean?*

*We have been impressed by the response to this approach and many children have been inspired to continue to reflect on the theme, producing further responses at home, such as pieces of artwork. The reflection books are a wonderful collection of thoughtful contributions by members of each class community.*

*Throughout all of our worship, children are encouraged to participate and lead aspects of the worship.*

*Visitors are welcomed to school to lead worship including Reverend Coles, the Christian Assembly Team (CAT) and Christian School Assembly Link Team (CSALT) to add a rich variety to the delivery of worship.*

*We hold prayer spaces and are currently planning our next Easter themed Prayer Space, where each class will visit the space and undertake a series of nine prayer based stations, again allowing the children to personally respond to a range of thought provoking stimuli.*

*We are a nurturing and caring school community, committed to ensuring that all pupils are enabled to thrive and be the best version of themselves in order to live life in all its fullness and I am proud of the dedication of all who work in our school who work towards this goal for the benefit of the community we serve.*

**Brixworth CE Primary School**

I was also able to visit Brixworth CE Primary School recently, one of our largest and most dynamic primary schools, where Kathryn Young is the Headteacher.  Kathryn has also kindly shared with us some introductory comments about her school.

*We are a large village Church of England primary school with a small family feel. There is a strong sense of community within the school and a commitment to everyone aiming to be the best that they can be socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually.*

All *children are encouraged to develop as unique individuals and to be proud of who they are. Our four core values, Excellence, Aspiration, Inclusion and Respect underpin all that we do and we encourage children to put these values into practice for themselves, their communities and the wider world.*

*As a school we have identified three key drivers which we are aiming to develop in our children. These are: Life Long Learners, Global Citizens and Spiritually Aware. We support children to be resilient, resourceful individuals who are confident and just in voicing their opinions, in looking after God’s world and respecting others on a local, national and global level.  This is promoted and modelled to children by staff and other adult members of our school community.*

*Our Collective Worship is a vital part of each day and provides an opportunity for our children to ask and explore ‘big questions.’ Each term we focus on a Christian value as well as exploring different global events. We believe that our school community should reflect the love of God in all our relationships, standards, teaching and way of life. The community of our school seeks to mirror the value which God puts on each individual.*

*Last year we were proud to be awarded the Gold TAMHS award. The panel were impressed that we involved children in all we do and said that we were: ‘A true school community; caring, supporting and educating children, staff and parents and governors in the area of mental health for all.’*

**Free Piano**

Andy Lakatos has put a free piano on eBay.  His daughter used it for many years. It has been well looked after and tuned regularly.  If there is a school out there that would love a free piano, here’s the link: <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/144377366413?hash=item219d8fc78d:g:T3MAAOSwLslh5-sm>

**Prayer**

Finally, may I share with you a prayer from this Sunday, Accession Day.

*Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth,
and all who are in authority under her;
that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,
to the honour and glory of your name
and the good of your Church and people;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.  Amen.*

Wishing you every blessing for the last week of this half-term and for a good half-term holiday!

Peter

**Peter Cantley**

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*During this current pandemic the Education Office is partially closed, with officers and staff mainly working from home, but providing an ongoing service, predominantly through Zoom and Teams.*

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