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.

**Collective Worship re. Peace in Europe**

Please also find attached a collective worship PowerPoint and accompanying set of notes, from our friends in Coventry Diocese, which we trust you will find useful for planning collective worship about peace in Europe, and upholding the people of Ukraine and Russia in prayer during the coming weeks and months.

**Educating Our Children and Young People About the Spiritual Dimension of People’s Lives – Headteachers’ Conference – Every Dimension of Every Life Matters, 24th March, 9.15am – 3.00pm**

Atheism, upon which communism is firmly based, inevitably leads to the erosion of the state’s adherence to essential moral absolutes and a devaluing of spirituality.  Conversely, we are so fortunate to live in the free world, where spirituality is valued, but it is still not as fully integrated into children’s and young people’s education as it might be, enriching every aspect of life, with an insatiable sense of wonder, curiosity and exploration.  Spirituality not only makes education sparkle, but sparks a light inside each and every child and young person, infusing a profound sense of purpose and vocation.

At our Headteachers’ Conference on 24th March, Dr Anne Lumb will offer her own insights into the importance of the spiritual dimension of people’s lives, and how this should inform our curriculum design and pedagogy.  Anne has 30 years’ experience of working within education in a variety of roles. She is a practitioner, researcher, writer and speaker whose passions include exploring ways of supporting and enabling school leaders and teachers to make space for the spiritual and paying attention to well-being in their everyday practice.

Anne currently works as a Schools Adviser for the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham. She is also an Associate Lecturer at Liverpool Hope and Nottingham Universities. She is passionate about the role of RE and the place of spiritual development within education. Following the completion of her thesis on developing children’s spirituality in a Church of England primary school, Anne collaborated in researching and writing leadership resources and articles on the whole-person in a school context. Anne has written a Grove book on spirituality in a church school and her second book on developing a culture of well-being is due to be published imminently.

**Church of England MAT Leadership Network**

We would strongly encourage all our MATs to join the national Church of England MAT Leadership Network which is supported and facilitated by the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership.  Further details are attached.

**Joining a MAT**

58 of our 103 schools now belong to one of 9 MATs in Peterborough Diocese, and another two schools are in the process of joining one of our MATs, whilst one of our largest and most successful secondary schools is taking steps towards forming a new MAT.  We will undoubtedly see further MAT expansion in the coming years, and further reduction in the educational provision and capacity of local authorities, with Diocesan Boards of Education continuing to be the parental bodies for overseeing and supporting the development of all Church of England schools which are entrusted into the care and custodianship of MATs.

To support Governing Bodies in preparing to undertake appropriate and thorough due diligence around joining a MAT, we are always happy to provide a cost free presentation in person or on Zoom.  This is designed to help Governing Bodies think through the key issues and be able to make the best long-term decisions to support the viability and future success of Church of England schools.  If you would like to book such a presentation for your Governing Body (usually a 20 minute introduction, followed by 40 minutes of discussion together), please contact Alex Benoy via education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

**Levelling up in Education – a Church MAT’s Collaboration**

Chris Whittington, Head of Education Law at Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP, has written an interesting short blog, highlighting the recommendations of Ruth Lupton, Honorary Professor of Education at the Manchester Institute of Education, University of Manchester:  [Levelling up in education - and a MAT collaboration, Chris Whittington (anthonycollins.com)](https://blog.anthonycollins.com/post/102hiw4/levelling-up-in-education-and-a-mat-collaboration), which is worth reading.

**SLA Training Courses Coming Up Soon**

***New to RE Leadership Day 1 - Tuesday 1 March 9.30am - 3.30pm, presented by Lesley Pollard via Zoom***

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, presented by Julia Diamond Conway from RE Today via Zoom***

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

***Understanding Christianity: Creation and Fall Tuesday 8 March 9.00am – 12.00pm, presented by Adam Robertson via Zoom***

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

***SIAMS Updates and Training for Governors Tuesday 8 March 6.30pm – 8.30pm, presented by Jane Lewis via Zoom***

This session will provide updates for governors on recent developments in SIAMS and provide support for governors in relation to their role when it comes to working with the school through the inspection process.

***Appeals Training Wednesday 9 March 1.00pm – 3.00pm, presented by Peter French and Alex Benoy via Zoom***

Peter and Alex will outline the process with VA schools and academies, what happens with appeals and how to prepare a statement of case.

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**

***Primary Essentials***

May I highlight for you a series of innovative online CPD sessions, specially designed by ASCL 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.

**World Education Summit 2022 - Day One 21st March**

**Tony Wagner, Professor John Hattie, Dr Nneka Johnson and Professor Ron Berger all feature on day one of the World Education Summit.  It promises to be a really thought-provoking event, with some of the best educational CPD available anywhere on the planet.  Further details are attached.**

**Brackley Church of England Junior School**

Last week I was delighted to visit Brackley Church of England Junior School, ahead of addressing the Brackley Deanery Chapter meeting.  Rosalyne Peet, Headteacher of Brackley Church of England Junior School, has kindly written a few words to introduce her school below:

*‘At Brackley C of E Junior School we recognise that our children and staff all come with different life experiences. As schools and their workforces continue to face and deal with some of the most challenging circumstances in generations, Brackley C of E Junior is committed to re-establishing its role in the community.  We recognise that we are all unique and therefore we are dedicated to providing a friendly, caring atmosphere which is designed to help everyone in our care flourish, reach their full potential and become the best version of themselves.*

*Our traditional values are embedded by our Christian ethos, and we believe that through hard work and placing our trust in God we can provide an environment where everyone is loved, nurtured and know their place in the world. We recognise that each of us are at different stages in our spiritual journey. By embracing our key values and keeping our school motto at the heart of everything we do we will produce leader of the future that can shape and change the world. We are a Caring, Celebratory, Courageous, Christ-Inspired Community wrapped in love.’*

**Weston Favell Church of England Primary School Headship**

Weston Favell Church of England Primary School, which was recently graded as ‘excellent’, at its SIAMS inspection last term, is now seeking to recruit a new Headteacher to build on Jill Ramshaw’s considerable legacy, following Jill’s many years of distinguished service at Weston Favell.  The Chair of Governors has written to say: *‘We are seeking an excellent Headteacher from 1 September 2022 upon retirement of the current postholder. If you are a knowledgeable, skilled and inspirational leader who is keen to work in a successful two form entry Church of England Primary School that is in partnership with a strong and supportive local multi-academy trust we would like to meet you.’*  Further details are attached.

**A Prayer for Ukraine and Russia**

Finally, may I share with you a prayer for Ukraine and Russia.

*Holy and gracious God*

*We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.*

*We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.*

*We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.*

*We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.*

*We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.*

*Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.*

*And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.*

*Lord have mercy.*

*Amen*

Wishing you every blessing for Lent!

Peter

**Peter Cantley**

**Diocesan Director of Education, Diocese of Peterborough**

01604 887006 mob 07841032578
Education Office, Bouverie Court, 6 The Lakes, Bedford Road, Northampton NN4 7YD

[www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/)

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