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

**The Best Day in The Year**

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote: ‘*Write it on your heart that* ***every day is the best day of the year****.  He is rich who owns the day, and no one owns the day who allows it to be invaded with fret and anxiety.  Finish every day and be done with it.  You have done what you could.  Some blunders and absurdities, no doubt crept in.  Forget them as soon as you can, tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely, with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense.  This new day is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on the yesterdays.*’

**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.

**Many congratulations!**

Many congratulations to Sally Gooding and all the staff and governors at Great Casterton CE Primary School on sustaining their ‘outstanding’ Ofsted rating!

**An Inspector Calls**

One of our headteachers recently shared with me that she has a typed script in her top desk drawer, to refer to immediately if any Ofsted inspector phones up, but she mentioned that she was quite uncertain about what a SIAMS inspector might want to find out in their first phone call.  As a result of our conversation together and further dialogue with Jane Lewis, our Assistant Director who leads on all matters related to SIAMS, Jane has put together a document, as attached, detailing the kinds of questions that SIAMS inspectors are likely to ask in their first phone call with headteachers, prior to inspection.  We trust you find this useful.  Jane will also be referring further to this document in SIAMS training she is leading this year.

**Courageous Advocacy**

Christian Aid has some great ideas and resources to help schools address and develop the important SIAMS theme of courageous advocacy. Jane Lewis has also kindly put together a very helpful document, as attached, summarising what Christian Aid has to offer, including details of the Global Neighbours school accreditation scheme, which encourages a deeper understanding of global injustice and equips school pupils across England to tackle this and become courageous advocates for change.  Virtually all our parish churches are committed to supporting international Christian charities, and the Global Neighbours scheme could be a great project to work on together with your local parish church.

**Spiritual Flourishing**

Mary Hawes, National Children & Youth Adviser, has shared the latest animation in the Faith in the Nexus Toolkit, helping children and young people to see that their spiritual questing is important – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4vXynkkhDU>, as a vital part of their journey of discovery about themselves, everyone around them and God, enabling all to flourish spiritually.  You might find this a helpful discussion starter with children and young people, to raise their awareness of spirituality and to encourage them to ask questions about spiritual issues which puzzle them.

**Collective Worship Resources**

May I commend to you the resources our friends in Guildford Diocese have put together on collective worship for this spring term re. ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ - [Latest Collective Worship Resources | Diocese of Guildford (cofeguildford.org.uk)](https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/christian-distinctiveness/collective-worship/latest-collective-worship-resources); an overview of the programme is also attached.

Also, highly recommended from our DSC Heather Rattenberry, may I commend to you: ‘Telling Tales’ by Dave Hopwood.  Heather has provided the following very helpful and compelling introduction…

‘*After using this book in collective worship for a number of years in my own school, I have been recommending the resource to some of the schools I am supporting now as a DSC. It contains 135 interactive Bible stories. A narrator (adult or pupil worship leader) can read the story and certain words are picked out for actions and/or sounds for everyone to listen out for and join in with. At my own school, I would ask worship leaders to model the actions for the younger children. I have recently observed the book used with visual clues for the actions. When in larger schools, I have tended to use actions only.*

*One vicar described the use of these types of re-telling as ‘engaging’ and has gone on to create his own versions of interactive Bible stories.  Always set within the context of themes and the recommended gathering, engaging, responding and sending, I have found it just one way to communicate the Bible.*’

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Telling-Tales-Dave-Hopwood/dp/1479368539>

***WEBINARS OPEN TO ALL***

**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*.*

***SLA TRAINING COURSES COMING UP BEFORE HALF-TERM***

**Prevent Training Update / Prevent Refresher Training** - **Tuesday 18 January 2022, 9.30am—12.30pm, via Zoom**

We are delighted to welcome Sean Arbuthnot (former Prevent Officer with Northamptonshire Police and now Prevent Officer for Leicester) back to lead this Prevent Refresher training. It is being held via Zoom to allow greater access for Headteachers, DSLs, DDSLs and other relevant staff in schools across the Diocese.

**Roles & Responsibilities of Church School Governors - Monday 24 January 2022, 6.30pm—8.30pm, via Zoom**

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: Retrieval / Ofsted Research** **Review - Thursday 27 January 2022, 1.00pm—4.00pm, via Zoom**

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

**Looked After Children Training** - **Friday 28 January 2022, 9.30am—12.30pm, Via Zoom**

A half day training session specifically designed for the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children.

**Pupil Collective Worship Conference** - **1 February 2022, 10.00am—2.30pm, via Zoom**

This will be an online conference for pupil leaders of collective worship. There will be workshops on Creative Ways to use the Bible in Collective Worship, Creative Prayer, Openings and Endings and Creating a Worship Space. Pupils will be in their own school for the conference, supported by a member of staff. Workshops will be led by experienced adult leaders of collective worship who have experience in working with children in the context of school worship.

**New Designated Safeguarding Leads (Northants only)** - **Tuesday 8 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.  This is only for DSLs working in Northamptonshire schools.

**Termly SIAMS Headteachers’ Briefing - Tuesday 8 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.

**Sikhs and Sikhism for KS1 and KS2 - Thursday 10 February, 1.00pm-4.00pm, via Zoom**

Ideas for great learning and progress in RE: Sikhs and Sikhism for KS1 and KS2 (focus determined by schools’ responses).

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

**National Younger Leadership Groups**

We are very grateful to St Mary’s Church of England Academy, William Law Church of England Primary School, Bishop Stopford School and The King’s (The Cathedral) School, for putting forward representatives to be involved in the National Younger Leadership Groups in 2020-2021.  The 2021 national report is attached, and it is well worth reading; we need to hear the voice of our children and young people to help create a vibrant national church and exceptional church schools in the 21st century!  We are also delighted that the following schools have put themselves forward to be involved in the 2021-2022 programme: Finedon Mulso Church of England Junior School, Freeman’s Endowed Church of England Primary School, William Law Church of England Primary School, Woodford Halse Church of England Primary Academy and Bishop Stopford School.

**Naseby Church of England Primary Academy**

Just before Christmas, I was delighted to visit Naseby CE Primary Academy (judged to be ‘good’ at both its last Ofsted inspection (section 5) and SIAMS inspection) and to join with the whole school for collective worship.  I was particularly delighted to see how confidently and thoughtfully the children led the worship, as well as how engaged they were in a range of learning activities across the school.  There is such a strong sense of a family community at Naseby, and a palpable atmosphere of care and consideration towards one another.  It is a warm and welcoming village school, where the children are able to flourish.  Louise Cook, the Headteacher, has kindly written a few paragraphs, as attached, to introduce her school, which is part of the Guilsborough Multi-Academy Trust, where I am also privileged to serve as a Member of the Trust.  The school website is also well worth viewing: [Naseby Church of England Primary Academy - Home (nasebyschool.co.uk)](https://www.nasebyschool.co.uk/).

**Sustainability and Climate Change – DfE Draft Strategy**

Please find attached the DfE’s draft strategy re. sustainability and climate change re. education and children’s services systems.  We trust you find this helpful for developing this aspect of your school improvement planning.

**Digital Communications Director**

The Diocese is recruiting for a Digital Communications Director.  Details are attached; please share these with anyone who might be well suited to this role.

**Prayer**

Finally, may I share with you a prayer from this Sunday, the second Sunday of epiphany…

*Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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!

Peter

**Peter Cantley**

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