

DBE Schools Bulletin

February 2022

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,
our schools will be communities which are:

LOVING
in relationships

AMBITIOUS
in aspirations

BOLD
in actions

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***Look after each other so
that none of you fails to
receive the grace of God.***

Hebrews 12:15

Looking after each other

As this spring term progresses, we hope that you and your pupils are keeping safe and well. We are aware that schools are experiencing high numbers of staff and pupil absence and this is causing continued disruption and stress. Thank you for your on-going hard work and commitment to the mental health, safety and wellbeing of your pupils and staff.

The start of this month is Children's Mental Health Week (7th-11th February) and we have signposted some resources which you may wish to share with your pupils (page 3). This year's theme is focussed on 'growing together' and is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. It is recognised that emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'. Learning together and working with others can help us find strategies to work through such situations and we can grow in our understanding and feel better placed to deal with such situations in the future.

Two key events coming up and highlighted in this bulletin, firstly our first RE Leaders' Conference takes place on Friday 20th May, it would be great to see your school represented. (see p.3 for more details and how to secure a place). Later in the year will see the return of our Year 6 Leavers' Services at Chester Cathedral on Wednesday 13th July, with a service in the morning and afternoon. Booking forms available soon.

Finally, this month has seen the start of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and we would love to hear about how your school is planning to mark it. On page 2 you can find details of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

Important Admissions Reminder for VA Schools & Academies

This is a reminder to VA schools and academies that your 2023 admission arrangements **must** be 'determined' which means approved by the Governing Body/Trust Board/Local Governing Body (depending on delegated arrangements) by 28th February.

We would also like to remind you that if there are any changes made (unless made to comply with the code) that the policy must be consulted upon for a minimum of 6 weeks from 1st October. We are always working 2 years in advance and so any changes for the 2023 arrangements should have been through this process. If it has not then you need to revert to your previous arrangements and will need to consult from October this year for the 2024 arrangements.

****PLEASE SAVE THE DATE****

Year 6 Leavers' Service 2022

Wednesday 13 July 2022

Chester Cathedral

Morning or Afternoon session available

further information coming soon!



The Queen's Green Canopy

The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree-planting initiative created to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and everyone in the UK is invited to "**Plant a Tree for the Jubilee**". Go to [The Queen's Green Canopy](https://www.thequeensgreencanopy.org/) for more information.



Free Song Bank from PopUK



This year, PopUK are launching their **FREE** song bank for primary schools. As a Christian charity, they want to continue 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 '**A better day will come**' 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>

You can explore all the content on their song bank by clicking [here](#).

RE - The Core of the Core Subjects

Those who lead on this subject area are always passionate about raising the profile and academic value of RE and its reach across the whole curriculum. It goes without saying that the transferable skills developed are extensive, as are the life skills and knowledge that enable our children and young people to become, [“...free-thinking, critically aware and compassionate adults”](#)

At the DBE, we are just as passionate about supporting our schools' subject leaders to fulfil their roles ~ we are continually grateful for the work of our dedicated RE consultants; Sue Glover and Fiona Ashton, as they seek to do this on a regular basis through the networks and training offers presented. We are always looking for new opportunities to enrich this work and support schools as the national picture of RE itself evolves.



This year, we are excited to be able offer the first ever,

Chester DBE RE Leaders' Conference!

On **Friday 20th May 2022**, we are thrilled that [Lat Blaylock, from RE Today](#), will lead us through **Creativity in approaching religions and worldviews**. This will be a fabulous opportunity to develop your own subject knowledge, get updates on the national picture of RE, network with colleagues who are leading across the whole of Chester diocese, gain helpful resources and materials and engage with stimulating workshops across the day. All in the relaxed setting of the **Holiday Inn, Runcorn**. We know that you will return to your school refreshed and inspired!



It would be great to see as many of our schools there as possible...bookings can now be made [here](#).

Thank you, for all that you do to encourage and develop amazing RE in our schools.

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week runs from 7 to 13 February 2022. It is being organised by the children's health charity **Place2Be**. For activities and resources, please click [here](#).



To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week 2022 and this year's theme of 'growing together', **Mentally Healthy Schools** are sharing free mental health and wellbeing toolkits for primary and secondary schools, please click [here](#) to download the resources.



Blippit Boards



****Special Offer for Chester Diocesan Schools****

Blippit Boards is a company that provides a great resource for collecting evidence for your SIAMS inspections (and would be useful for other curriculum areas as well).

Downloaded as an app for your phone or tablet, Teachers and TAs use the Blippit Boards app to snap, tag and share work or displays privately within your school so they can be filtered, searched and graphed interactively in a private school Dashboard. Evidence is captured in real time and leaders can monitor different aspects across the school.

We are fortunate to be able to partner with BlippitBoards and so Chester diocesan schools are able to access a special price for signing up including:

- **40 day free trial per school**
- **A special introductory 15% off first 12 months which is a flat £179 reduced to £152**
- **Small schools get a small school deal which is £99 reduced to £84**

For more information about the app please click [here](#). If you sign up make sure you **mention that you are a Chester diocesan school** to get the special price.

Spring Dance Company



PARABLE Interactive Performance Workshops and **The Easter Project** available for your school.

Springs Dance Company specialises in cross-curricular dance, in particular with Religious Education, Values and PSHE. Delivered with Covid safety at the

forefront, Springs is offering to schools its **PARABLE** Interactive Performance Workshops, which combines a professional performance and integrated workshop experience in one. A great way to boost children's engagement with RE, **PARABLE** is an exciting opportunity for children to encounter and overcome creative challenges, accomplish tasks and influence the outcome of the performance whilst absorbed in a vibrant world of professional dance and theatre.

Also available is Springs' much loved **Easter Project**. Delivering fun, engaging and thought-provoking dance workshops, the **Easter Project** provides a fresh and exciting way to explore the Easter story. The **Easter Project** can culminate in an informal sharing or performance by the pupils.

Further details on **PARABLE, The Easter Project** and all of the workshops currently available can be found by clicking [here](#).

To book and to find out more please email touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or call 07876 752 910

FREE Twilight Webinars



THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK
YOUTH TRUST
Be the change you want to see



Free Twilight Webinars

Introduction to Character Education

With input from the Jubilee Centre for Character & Virtues

Wed 26th Jan, Tues 8th Feb & Wed 9th March 4.00pm-4.40pm

Introduction to the Young Leaders Award

Primary KS1 & KS2

Tues 25th Jan, Thurs 10th Feb, Wed 16th March & Wed 30th March
4.00pm-4.45pm

Secondary KS3

Wed 2nd March & Thurs 17th March 4.00pm-4.40pm

Secondary KS4/+16

Tues 8th March & Tues 22nd March 4.00pm-4.40pm

To book a place visit abyyt.com/events

Queries? Contact us on ytevents@abyyt.com

Virtual Ethos Conference

**Virtual Ethos Conference
on Monday 14th February 2022 - 9.15am-3pm**



The fifth annual children's Ethos Group Conference in Cheshire West and Chester has again been organised and planned by leaders and children from St Oswald's, Mollington, Tarporley and Witton Church Walk CE Primary Schools with support from The Bishop Bluecoat CE High School.

The theme for the day this year is: **'Love'**

The event is **FREE**.

To make a booking or to find out more information please click on the link: [Flyer 2022.pdf](#)

Spring Term RE Cluster Leader Meetings

Launched by the Diocese in 2019, our primary RE subject leader cluster groups give RE leaders from church schools opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese. Don't miss out.



Details can be found below:

Name of Cluster Group	Group Leaders	Details of meeting	Venue for meeting
Cheshire East South	Fiona Pulle (Brereton CE) Liz Taylor (Wybunbury Delves CE)	10th February 2022 4pm Contact Fiona Pulle at Brereton CE or Liz Taylor at Wybunbury Delves for further details	Zoom
Cheshire East North & Cheshire West & Chester North (Northwich)	Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.) Paula Perry (Lower Peover CE)	24th March Contact Carys Clark St Johns the Evangelist, or Paula Perry (Lower Peover CE) for further online details.	Zoom
Cheshire West & Chester South (Chester & Ellesmere Port)	Rachel Inns (Hoole CE) Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port)	10th March in person event Hoole Primary 4pm Just go along.	In person
Cheshire West & Chester (Rural)	Finola Jackson (Saighton CE)	1st February at 4pm (met already) Contact Finola Jackson at Saighton for details of future meetings.	Zoom
Tameside & Stockport	Amelia Wassall Hyde St Georges	17th March Contact Amelia Wassall at St Georges for further details	Zoom
Trafford	Vanessa Horner (Bowdon CE) Zoe Power	8th February 2022 4pm Contact Vanessa Horner or Zoe Power at Bowdon for further details	Zoom
Wirral	Helen Jones (Oxton CE) Rachel Clark (St Andrews Bebington)	3rd March 4pm Contact Rachel Clark at St Andrews, or Charlotte Cummings at Christchurch Birkenhead	Zoom

Please contact your RE Cluster Group Leader or charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org for further information.

FREE Online CPD Session - Ramadan & Eid



Muslim Learner Services
•Assemblies •Workshops •Training

With Ramadan starting around the 2nd of April, **Imran Kotwal from Muslim Learner Services** (www.muslimlearnerservices.org) is offering a **FREE virtual** Teaching & Learning session about Ramadan & Eid for **Primary School RE Leads/Teachers/Headteachers**.

Led by a British Muslim teacher, the session will help primary colleagues develop an in-depth understanding of Ramadan & Eid. There will be an opportunity to ask questions throughout the session and all schools will be provided with FREE training materials and resources to use with pupils. By the end of the session, you will be able to confidently lead a Ramadan / Eid-ul-Fitr assembly or lesson for all your primary pupils! **Places are limited to one free place per school and sessions will be taking place on 15th March 2022, 4-5pm & 29th March 2022, 4-5pm.** To book your place, please complete the booking form [here](#).

Worship in a church school

What makes working in a church school so special? When answering this question many people cite the joy of collective worship, whether that be the whole community coming together with shared vision and goose bump inducing, heartfelt singing or the intimate setting of form / class-based worship that allows friendship and knowledge of the Christian faith to grow.

In many of our schools, collective worship is most definitely the heartbeat of the school that permeates through the day. As a diocese we value and greatly appreciate those who take on the responsibility of leading on this important aspect of our school lives and want to further our support of those who are making this happen.



So, we warmly invite you and your associated clergy to join our **Collective Worship in Church Schools Network**. Aiming to meet once a term, via Zoom, we will look to share resources, ideas, explore the implications of the [CEEO Guidance for CW](#) and work through big questions together as

we seek to offer high quality worship in our schools. **There is no charge for this network.**

Meetings will last one hour, **9:30-10:30am** on the following dates:

Tuesday 1st March 2022

Wednesday 22nd June 2022 *PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE*****

The meetings are available to book through [Bookwhen](#).

Looking forward to seeing you there!

As we have engaged with the Growing Faith adventure, we realise too that our clergy would greatly value that time to be supported and support schools in this. Do share this information with those who support your school.

Also, we have made an addition to our training programme this year to include a session specifically for **Clergy working with Church Schools** on the **9th February at 1:30pm via Zoom**. If interested, please contact sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org

Open4Community

Chester Diocese has linked with Manchester Diocese to establish an ongoing arrangement with **Open4Community**, a portal for churches and church schools looking for grant funding.

The portal allows tailored searches of about 98% of the grant making bodies in the UK, along with a funding newsletter and filtered funding updates. In addition, the dioceses provide regular webinars introducing the portal and helping people to make the most of it.

You can access the portal at [Open4Community](#). The introductory webinar dates are shown below. Please click on each date to register for your chosen event on Eventbrite:

[Thursday 10th February @ 7pm](#) , [Tuesday 24th May @ 2pm](#) , [Thursday 8th September @ 7pm](#)
& [Tuesday 15th November @ 2pm](#)

February / March 2022 Courses

**** DELEGATES WILL BE NOTIFIED IF A VENUE IS CHANGED FROM 'IN PERSON' TO 'ONLINE'**

DATE	COURSE	STATUS
08/02/22	Governor Training - SIAMS	**NOW ONLINE**
10/02/22	Chairs Clinic & Networking	ON-LINE
10/02/22	Deputies & Assistant Headteachers' Briefing & Networking	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY **
16/02/22 **CHANGE OF DATE**	RQT Development Programme 2021-22 **DAY 2**	CHRIST CHURCH MORETON C OF E
01/03/2022	Collective Worship in Church Schools Networking	ON-LINE
07/03/2022	Worship That Works	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY**
08/03/2022	Headteacher Wellbeing Session for Governors ** REPEAT SESSION**	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY**
09/03/2022	'Saints & Heroes Sacred Texts and Holy Places	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY**
10/03/2022	World Faiths- Sikhism (ONLINE TWILIGHT)	ON-LINE
15/03/2022	Employment & Staffing in a VA School or Academy for Governors & Headteachers	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY**
15/03/2022	Effective Partnering- 'Courageous Advocacy & Global Neighbours'	ON-LINE
16/03/2022	Collective Worship in a Church School	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY**
23/03/2022	Religious Education & the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule ** REPEAT COURSE**	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY**
29/03/2022	Vision Ambassadors -A Pupil Conference ** REPEAT COURSE **	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY**
31/03/2022	Chairs' Clinic & Networking Group	ON-LINE

Does your school have any news to share from this month?

We are always keen to hear from our schools and aim to include all contributions received. We would particularly like to hear from you if your school has not previously been featured.

Please send a short article with a couple of photographs to sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org

Headteacher Cluster Meetings

CLUSTER GROUP	DATE	TIME
2022 DATES		
Nantwich/Congleton HTS	Tuesday 15 March*NEW DATE* Thursday 16 June	1.30pm – 3.30pm 10am -12pm
Northwich HTs	Thursday 26 May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Rural Chester HTs	Monday 20 June	1.30pm -3.30pm
Trafford HTs	Thursday 24 March*NEW DATE* Thursday 23 June	10am -12pm
Warrington/Halton HTs	Thursday 10 March*NEW DATE* Monday 16 May	11am -1pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Macclesfield HTs	Tuesday 17 May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Stockport/Tameside HTs	Tuesday 24 May	10am -12pm
Chester HTs	Thursday 3 March Wednesday 22 June	10am -12pm
Wirral HTs	Friday 8 April - NEW DATE Friday 10 June - NEW DATE	12.30pm -2.30pm

DBE team contact details to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.

chris.penn@chester.anglican.org	Director of Education	07540 722667
sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org	Governance & Administrator	07549 109590

News from Schools

Acton C of E Primary School



On Monday 10th January, Acton CE Primary Academy Wellbeing Warriors had an exciting opportunity to work alongside One Goal to become accredited Wellbeing Community Champions.

As part of their certified training, the wellbeing warriors identified what the 4 stages of mental health are and how to recognise and regulate the different feelings they may experience. The children learnt different strategies to achieve a healthy mental state such as meditation, calming strategies and wellbeing games.

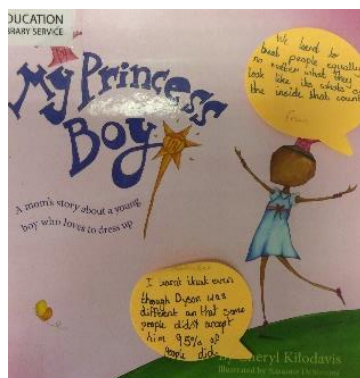
The children additionally learnt different strategies to identify when their mental health is being impacted and how to move back from a 'blue' or 'amber' mental state. Most importantly the children learnt that communication and self-regulation play a vital role in mental health. They are looking forward to relaying the message back to their classmates and taking an active role in promoting a healthy mental state across the school.

Brereton C of E Primary School

Before Christmas, Andrew Moffat, founder of No Outsiders visited. Andrew worked with each class before delivering a staff meeting where he shared the journey he had been on in developing the programme and the barriers he had overcome. Staff were incredibly inspired and couldn't wait to deliver their first lesson at the start of Spring term. Here are a few of the highlights

Year Two's acted out the story 'Blown Away' by Rob Biddulph.

They concluded that it is not true that different animals can't be friends because they are different from each other. People are all different, but we can all get along and help one another.



For the first of their No Outsiders lessons, Year 6 class focused on the book 'My Princess Boy' by Cheryl Kilodavis. After the reading the book, they had a mature class discussion about how the boy could be made to feel welcome and accepted if he came to our school, in which the class established that he would be welcomed with open arms, supporting the No Outsiders ethos of inclusivity, recognising that 'No one is the same, but everyone is equal.'

After reading the book 'My Family' by Todd Parr, Reception introduced their families proudly by drawing a picture of them and then showing the class who is part of their family. We have displayed the pictures along with some more books about families near our reading area so they can learn how different but amazing everyone's families are.

Hartford C of E High School

Sowing the Word in Hartford

New Year is always a time of reflection and optimism. We look back on 2021 reflectively, with some wonderful memories made, but perhaps also with some disappointments and sadness. Looking forward to 2022 we have renewed hope, a fresh start, and optimism for a better future. Yet the truth is, there are still so many uncertainties and fear can lurk just around the corner.

How do we move forward, whilst everything around us is still so unstable and uncertain? Hebrews 13:8 in the bible tells us, **'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.'** He is the Unchanging One, the Creator and Sustainer of our lives. He is the sure foundation on which we can build our lives with certainty and not have to fear.



That is why it was such a joy on 10th January to distribute over 200 New Testaments to our Year 7 pupils. Each one was received, and my prayer is that they will build their lives, not on changing media culture, fashion, peer pressure or shifting circumstances, but on Jesus who promises them **'Life and life in all its fullness'** John 10:10, The Bible

It was a double blessing when 2 days later, 5 Year 9 boys who had been regularly coming to our weekly school Chapel Service, turned up at the Christian Union, said they wanted to follow Jesus and asked if they too could receive a bible!

Please pray these seeds of faith grow to produce much Kingdom fruit.

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:10-11

Light in the Darkness



What a joy it was to take our Year 7 students to our link church, St John's at Hartford on 15th December for their Carol Service. For many, this was their first visit to this beautiful church, with its stained-glass windows, decorations and Christmas lights. Indeed, **'Light in the Darkness'** was the theme of the service, with a very pertinent message taken from John 12:44-46 delivered by Rev Mike Smith.

Our Music Department performed brilliantly, accompanying carols which were sung by all students, and our Ethos Ambassadors did a sterling job of retelling the Christmas story with bible readings and prayers. One highlight was an inspiring performance by one of our Year 11 students who played two astounding saxophone solos which truly put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

After over a year of not being able to do curriculum visits, to see our different school groups working together with the church to bring about such a beautiful service to celebrate our Saviour's birth, truly was a light in the darkness and one which we pray, will continue to shine throughout 2022.

TRACY MORGAN – SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Kingsley St John's C of E Primary School

The Barn Owls class are participating in the Archbishop of York's Young Leader award. The scheme is designed to support young people to become leaders and be the change they want to see in their school and their community.



So far, they have learnt how to work as a team, looked at what makes a successful leader and researched inspirational leaders. This week they are

beginning to look at their local community and plan their project to improve their village for other. Follow their journey @ksjceaided



Mossley C of E Primary School

'They shall have life, life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)



This half term the school's Christian value is 'peace'. In class Worships they have been thinking about what peace means to them. Year 5 children created graffiti posters where they drew pictures relating to peace. The idea was to ask the children about where they find peace, for example a particular room in their house or a quiet space at school.

In Year 1, the children created peace doves and they thought that peace was when you are relaxed and silent, they have been working on having 'moments of peace' throughout the day to collect their own thoughts. As a whole school, they have talked about how Jesus told stories about peace keepers and peace makers. They have thought about how they can be peace makers and keepers in their own everyday lives.



Pott Shrigley Church School



2022 kicked off in impressive style with a whole school Planetarium visit from Catalyst Science Discovery Centre to tie in with their current topic of space.

They were treated to an hour-long session in a huge inflatable planetarium where they explored the planets and constellations and watched a video which was projected all around them. They then had a science demonstration about Mars and did a few experiments focussing on what life would be like on Mars and whether other life forms could exist. This provoked some excellent discussions from KS2 children. They looked at images from an infra-red camera of

themselves and compared heat levels in different people and parts of the body.

Reception and Year 1 children have written their own accounts of the day which can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Smallwood C of E Academy



This year, the children, parents, staff and community elected to send only one Christmas card to the entire school community. Covid has put a real spanner in the works of normality and their usual traditions, but that wasn't a reason for them not take some positives from the situation and to do some good work.

In lieu of sending cards, the families at Smallwood were asked to donate to Rose Queen's charities: The RSPB, The Woodland Trust and St. John's Church, Smallwood.

Smallwood also collected food items for the New Life Church food bank. Alongside opening their traditional Advent Calendars, the children were asked to contribute to the "Reverse" Advent Calendar. This has been an opportunity to learn that, as well as receiving at Christmas, it is also important to give what we can.

Unfortunately, EYFS and KS1 were only able to put on one nativity performance in Church as there had been a Covid outbreak. However, where there's a will there's a SMALLWOOD way, Key Stage 2 did a fabulous job in performing their nativity outdoors. They worked incredibly hard on an outdoor roaming nativity to ensure that they could have an audience as safely as possible.



The Bishops' Blue Coat C of E High School



Year 10 students recently took part in the Cheshire Police Media Competition to create a podcast discussing the issue of hate crime in the UK. They created some inspiring and thought-provoking podcasts embracing their school vision and values of Dignity and Respect. After initial deliberations one of the groups made it into the final and later performed very well in the public vote. They would like to celebrate the fantastic team effort from Rumen, Isobel, Ben, Scarlett, and Edith and commend them for their achievements.

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