

DBE Schools Bulletin

June 2021

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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'Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all.'

Mark 16:15 (The Message)

Good news!

This is our penultimate DBE Bulletin of the school year, and what a year it has been! Our schools successfully navigated the reintegration of all pupils back in September following the first lockdown and then overcame further lockdowns during this school year, as well as managing the distribution of free school meals and determining how best to allocate catch up funding to name just a couple of key issues that put schools in the national spotlight.

Despite the many challenges, our schools have continued to shine throughout the year and have enjoyed spreading 'good news.' This month is no exception with the DBE Bulletin being published in two parts, with a separate special 'school news' edition. It includes a feature on Marple All Saints' being the first school in the Diocese to receive the Church & School partnership award, something we hope to develop and make available to other schools in the new year. There is much to celebrate and be thankful for across our family of schools.

Schools are being encouraged to take part in 'Thank You Day' taking place on Sunday 4th July. A chance to get with our neighbours, communities and families, to mark what has happened, celebrate the spirit that got us through and say thank you. From family members to key workers, good neighbours to volunteers, delivery drivers to teachers – we've all got somebody to say thank you to. To find out more about 'Thank You Day' and how your school can get involved, see the article on page 6.



Admissions

Important information for Voluntary Aided schools and academies – immediate action to be taken.

As indicated in previous bulletins a new admissions code is due to come into force on 1st September. The draft code is currently laid before parliament and is expected to have final agreement by 1st July. We will update our guidance appropriately with most changes coming into effect for admission arrangements and process for 2022 and 2023 however there is an immediate change required for both **2021** and **2022** admission policies with regards to Looked After Children. From 1st September Paragraph 1.7 of the new Code will require that highest priority is given to **“looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted”**.

The wording used in the code that can be cut and paste into your arrangements is: **Looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).**

This new provision will necessitate variations to determined admission arrangements to take effect from 1 September 2021. **Admission authorities will need to vary their admission arrangements for 2021/22 (which would have been determined by 15 February 2020) and their admission arrangements for 2022/23 (which would have been determined by 15 February 2021).** Without these variations, admission arrangements that have already been determined will no longer comply with the Code from this date. This means it will be in place for any in-year admissions for 2021 and may impact waiting lists if any children on the list come under this category.

Therefore, the DfE expect **admission authorities to hold a meeting sometime between now and 31 August 2021 to determine the necessary variations to admission arrangements for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023.** Variations will be conditional on the Code passing through its Parliamentary process (i.e. a date on or around 1 July 2021). If any variations are agreed before then, they must be expressed to be conditional on the Code passing through Parliament (as set out in the Board minutes). As this is a requirement there is no need to consult or request a variation through the schools adjudicator. All such variations should come into effect on 1 September 2021.

Other amendments

Other changes to the code that do not require variation but will need action to be taken include:

- In-year admissions – LAs may co-ordinate in-year admissions and admission authorities have the choice as to whether or not to use the LA. Schools must inform the LA by 1st October this year and 1st August in every subsequent year whether or not they are going to use the LA's co-ordination scheme. If schools choose not to then the application process must be

published on the school website with all relevant forms required. All schools must publish on their website by the 31st October 2021 and 31st August every subsequent year how in-year admissions will be managed.

- Schools must inform the LA of any places in their schools regardless of whether they use the LA to co-ordinate in-year admissions or not.
- Parents must be notified of the outcome of the application ideally within 10 school days but no more than 15 school days (a reminder here that unless there is a place available with one application and the child must be admitted – decisions on admissions must not be undertaken by a single individual but by the governing board or admissions committee).
- There are changes to the Fair Access Protocol which means that it may only be used where it has been difficult to place a vulnerable and/or hard to place child (this now comes with clear definitions) in-year. No school is expected to take a disproportionate amount of such children.
- All admission authorities must participate in the Fair Access Protocol once agreed.

Alongside the changes suggested by the Church of England Education office following the OSA exercise last year (highlighted in the previous bulletin) and the new code this is a good opportunity to reflect and review on your policy for 2023; to ensure it fits your vision and the community you serve. Many policies have continued as they as they have been inherited but may not serve your current context. Considering this now gives time for the required consultation period in the autumn term. This is also a reminder that policies should be sent to the DBE **before** they go out for consultation. This is a requirement of the code but is also a good opportunity for the policy to be checked to ensure it is compliant.

We will update the admissions guidance as soon as possible but if you have any further queries please contact sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org

Leavers' Service 2021



We are delighted to give you some information about the 2021 Year Six Leavers service.

Normally by now we would be well on our way with our planning and preparation for our year six leavers' services in the Cathedral and also at St Mary's, Astbury. Although we know there is a roadmap to lifting restrictions, we are very aware that these plans may change depending upon circumstances at the time and that in early July schools may still wish to show some caution as to the events they attend and the number of schools they mix with.

To this end and, wanting to ensure we have something in place that won't be at risk of last minute cancellation, we have made the decision to offer our year six leavers' service online, premiering on **7th July at 9.30am** through a secure YouTube link. Obviously we would prefer to meet together and sing in person but one of the benefits is the fact that we are not limited in numbers and there is no

need for people to travel long distances or attend different venues so we can all be worshipping together even though we are apart. The theme this year will be **Hope**. Details of the log in will be sent nearer the time but we hope that you can add the date into your diary (don't worry if it clashes with something else as we will make it available for you to enjoy after the premier). In the meantime, we would appreciate your help in preparing your year six ready for the service in a number of ways.

Banners or pictures – when we meet in person, we normally have a procession of banners completed by the children to celebrate their time in school. If you would still like to do this activity and then send a picture of the banner to us at sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org then we plan to have a scrolling presentation as we wait for the service to start.

Learning Songs – we would appreciate it if your year six could learn the following two songs. The second song 'New, New Day' is signed in Makaton so even if we can't sing along we can sign the song together. [Greater by Mercy Me](#)

*** It has been brought to our attention that the link we sent to you regarding the Makaton song for this Year's Year Six Leavers' Service was incorrect. We apologise for this error. ***

The correct link for the Makaton song:

[It's a new new day - Makaton signed by Becky George](#)

Prepare for our time of prayer - Prayer forms a key part of our Leavers' Service, and this year is no exception. The thought of High School is both exciting and daunting in equal measure. The writer in Hebrews 12 talks of needing to lift up drooping hands and strengthen weak knees as we mark out a straight path. So, in our space for prayer, we are encouraging our young people to take their hopes for the future to God, trusting that he is the one guiding the path that lies before them and gaining strength to move on. **Each person attending will need a length of ribbon or string in which to tie some knots**, all will be revealed closer to the time.

We can't wait for you to join us.

Keeping on Track (KoT)

Supporting our schools to be Deeply Christian in Serving the Common Good



Over the last half term, these visits have been part of the agenda for discussion at the Headteachers' cluster meetings and we felt it valuable to clarify the nature and purpose of them for all who may have been unable to make these meetings, or who would like a reminder. For those longer serving HTs, you may remember our lovely advisor Gail Fullbrook and her visits to support your schools in the inspection cycle. The Keeping on Track visits are designed to replace these in a way that will continue to serve our schools well.

Keeping on Track is a team of trained advisors, (some of whom have expertise as a SIAMS inspector), who will meet with you for a half-day 'light-touch' evaluation visit. **It is not an inspection!** Rather,

it is an opportunity to review your progress, look forward to the following stage of development and prepare for the next SIAMS inspection.

The visit consists of a variety of activities. These may include discussions with leaders, staff, governors and clergy, an ethos learning walk, conversations with pupils and sharing in collective worship. A brief report will be prepared following the visit.

As we know, the SIAMS schedule (2018) elevates the importance of the school's vision. It also precises what it means to be an effective Christian learning community. The emphasis is on the impact of provision that is driven by your distinctively Christian vision. It also provides a framework within which individual schools can answer for themselves, 'What is the work of God in this place?' A KoT visit is designed to enable you to explore, review and reflect on these and discern where you are on the journey through supportive conversation.



The events of the last year have meant that we took the decision to postpone many of these visits to allow for our schools to respond to the direct needs of the time. It's been wonderful to observe how your Christian distinctiveness has shaped this. Thank you for all that you have and are doing in our schools. With confirmation that inspections will resume in the Autumn term, (more information to follow for those in the window,) we will look to reschedule our KoT visits, recognising that this is not the ideal mid-way point for many but nevertheless a useful tool in preparing. We hope that you will look forward to your visit as and when it is arranged, and we know that you will benefit from the objective and caring support from one of our amazing team of advisors.

'Living Judaism' FREE Event



The 'Living Judaism' event will include a talk by Rabbi Fabian Sborovsky about Judaism today followed by an introduction to Passover meal led by Ann Angel, a consultant who teaches Judaism in schools and with teachers. Ann will take people through Passover.

Hosted by the Lord Mayor of Chester, Mark Williams, in the Council Room in Chester Town Hall.

Lecture Program:

4.30pm – 5.10pm – An Overview of the Jewish Faith with Rabbi Fabian Sborovsky

5.10pm – 5.25pm – Refreshments

5.25pm – 6pm – Passover with Ann Angel, followed by Q&A

Supported by Cheshire West and Chester Equality and Diversity Fund.

To book a place at this FREE event, email: chestercivic@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Thank You Day – Sunday 4th July



The last twelve months have been difficult for everyone, and we couldn't have got through it without each other. From family members to key workers, good neighbours to volunteers, delivery drivers to teachers – we've all got somebody to say thank you to. Sunday 4th July is the perfect moment for the country's biggest ever thank you party. A chance to get together in the sunshine (we hope), with our neighbours, communities and families, to mark what has happened, celebrate the spirit that got us through and say thank you.

There are three ways your school community can get involved in Thank You Day. This is for everyone - teachers, support staff, parents, governors and students!

1. Introduce the day to your students using the assembly (including a fun competition to get involved in!)
2. Ask each class to create a piece of the UK's first national thank you card.
3. Hold a thank you party on Friday 2nd July (the Friday before Thank You Day) to say thank you to everyone who deserves it.



For further details and to access the assembly go to the website [Thank You Day](#)

Ten:Ten Resources

Ten:Ten Resources are enabling Church of England schools to sign up for a **FREE 6-week trial** of their Collective Worship programme. The resource has been specifically written for C of E primary schools and includes collective worship, classroom prayer, links to home, support for teachers and access to other resources. **The trial runs from Monday 7th June to Friday 16th July.** For further details, please click [here](#).



Using Picture News to Support Christian Values

Picture News are very excited to let you know that they are running a **FREE** webinar for all C of E schools on Tuesday 15th June, 4-5pm.



They have been asked quite regularly how their resources can be used effectively to support collective worship, Christian values and SIAMS and so they thought the best way would be to ask the experts to explain. The 1 hour session will be led by SIAMS Inspector and Blackburn Diocesan Adviser Lisa Fenton and Assistant Headteacher and English Lead James Young. **Places can be booked by clicking [here](#).**

If you are unable to attend on the day, Picture News will be sending across the recording for all those who have registered. If you have any questions, please contact **Katie Harrison, Head of Support**, using the contact details below:



Katie Harrison 01765 609888 / DL 01765 530908
help@picture-news.co.uk
www.picture-news.co.uk

Christingle Celebration at Chester Cathedral

Primary School children are invited to sing, dance and celebrate the magical event of Christingle, taking place on **Wednesday 26 January 2022, 1.30pm-2.30pm at Chester Cathedral.**



The Children's Society

For further details and how to book please click [here](#).



The Archbishop of York Youth Trust

The Archbishop of York Youth Trust are offering **FREE webinars** in June 2021 aimed at schools who have not run the Young Leaders Award before. For more information and to book your place, please click on one of the events below:



[An Introduction to the KS1 & KS2 Award – Tues 15 June & Thurs 24 June 2021, 4pm-4:45pm](#)

[An Introduction to Character Education – Wed 16 June 2021, 4pm-4:40pm](#)

Church & School Partnership Award – All Saints CE Primary School & All Saints' Church, Marple

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!"
Isaiah 52:7 NLT

All Saints' Primary School and All Saints' Church, Marple are incredibly proud to announce that, following our successful application in the Autumn term, we have been awarded the 'Church and School Partnership Award', an award that reviews, celebrates and encourages us to share Jesus with each other even more!



This makes All Saints' the first school and Church in Chester Diocese to receive this award! This award aims to encourage even stronger links between the Church of England schools and the parishes to which they belong. We are extremely proud of the partnership and links we have with each other as well as our community and we look forward to building on this and making many more special memories together.

All Saints' Primary School and All Saints' Church would like to thank everyone involved in achieving this award and look forward to celebrating this brilliant achievement in the near future. The first celebration being in June when Chris Penn and Jen McIlveen will be visiting our school.

DISCOVERING GOD IN THE ALL SAINTS' WAY

Working together as a...

Taking risks!

Encouraging learning

Achieving goals

Making memories



"As vicar of All Saint's Church, I am delighted that All Saints' Primary and All Saints' Church have received the Church and School Partnership Award. The award signifies the very close links that exist between church and school and the deep partnership that we have together which benefits all the community. I want to thank, in particular, Sarah Holton (All Saints' Children and Family Worker) and the staff of All Saints' Primary who are so willing to invest in this partnership.

We know this benefits, not only the children of All Saints' Primary, but also the church, enriching all of our lives with faith, hope and love, and strengthening the whole community here in Marple." **Rev. Daniel Currie**

In the forthcoming academic year, we will be looking at developing this award specifically for Chester Diocesan Schools – we know there are many relationships between the churches and schools in our Diocese that should be celebrated! Many thanks to Liverpool DBE for sharing their award with us.

A full report on this special achievement from the school's perspective can be found in the special edition of School News publication that has been produced alongside the DBE Bulletin for this month.

Church School Links

Elworth C of E Primary School



On Wednesday 19th March, the children and staff of Elworth C of E School took part in our termly Prayer Spaces Day. The theme for reflection and exploration this term was Easter. For those new to the concept of Prayer Spaces there is a website 'Prayer Spaces in Schools' which will give you lots of information about the ethos and purpose of Prayer Spaces. I would like to encourage you in your setting to engage with the idea. For Elworth C of E School, our termly Prayer Spaces offer the opportunity for staff and children to ask spiritual questions in a peaceful and reflective environment. Our Easter Prayer Spaces provided opportunities for spiritual enquiry, reflection and elements of wonder and contemplation all centred around the story of the Cross and the meaning of Easter for Christians.

Cathryn Houghton – School Chaplain

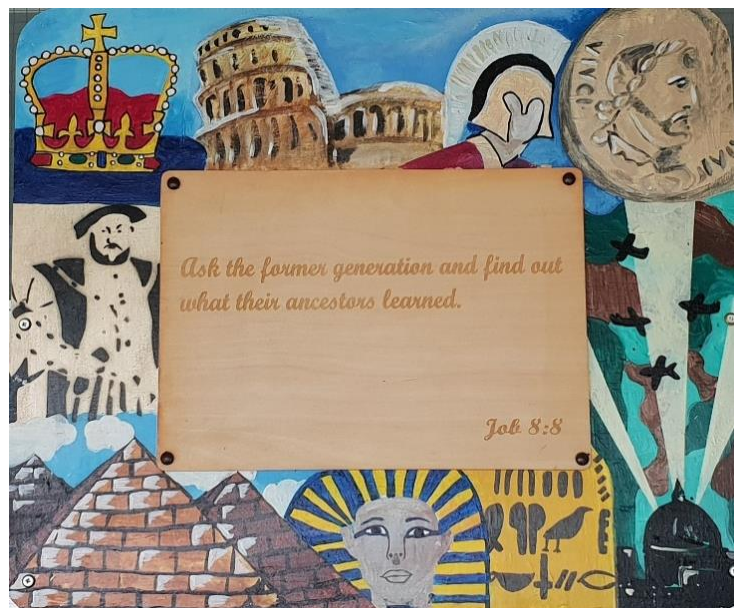
Hartford C of E High School

Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have chosen Bezalel ... and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts."

Exodus 31:1-4

As an artist (*my other hat*), I was so encouraged to read that the first time that someone was *filled* with the Spirit of God in scripture (as opposed to the Spirit coming upon them at a specific time for a specific purpose) was an artist named Bezalel, a man appointed to make beautiful designs for the Tabernacle of God. Indeed our Creator has made us in his image and given us each a unique set of gifts to use to display His glory.

At Hartford Church of England High School we have been blessed with a brand new building, thanks to years of hard work and dedication by our headmaster and governors. However, despite the building being beautiful and clean, the walls were very bare.





Gathering a group of creative students, praying about appropriate scriptures to represent each department and engaging with our Design Technology and Art departments has enabled us to begin to create 12 beautiful wooden designs for our walls which combine artistic ability with the Word of God.

Whilst working on these in an after-school group, we have been able to discuss in more depth in an informal manner what the scriptures mean and this has led on to many other topics of conversation about life and faith.

Our prayer is that in the years to come the living Word of God would continue to speak to staff, students and visitors alike through the display boards we have created and cause them to look to our Creator.

Tracy Morgan, School Chaplain

Lostock Gramam C of E Primary School



Children and staff were delighted to be back inside their beautiful Church once again to watch a pre-recorded Easter worship. It was definitely a goose bump moment for each teacher as they stood back and watched the children's eyes darting everywhere trying to take it all in. Even the Reception children visited for the first time. Everyone was given sunflower seeds to take home as sunflowers turn to the light in order to flourish just as our mission statement reminds us that Christ is the light that guides us in our lives.

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Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary School

Easter Services

A whole school virtual Easter service took place on Wednesday 31st March with Reverend Tim and Reverend Norma. A special classroom altar was set up and decorated with Easter crosses, made by the children with fresh flowers. Year 6s re-enacted 'The Tale of Three Trees' superbly and Worship Leaders took responsibility for the readings and prayers. The children explained the message of the story: when things are not going our way, know that God has a plan for us. God will do almost anything for us. Jesus reminded us through his teachings and his stories how much God loves us. Place your trust in God and God will always give you what is best for you. The children were able to link this with our school vision – "For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).

Strengthening the trinity between home, church, and school

Shocklach children made stunning Easter gardens to display at St Edith's on Easter Sunday. At this service, a handful of children represented Shocklach to read prayers and share their messages of reflection. Reverend Norma led a beautiful service and included the children in her sermon; they were delighted that this involved sampling some Easter eggs! Beautiful Easter sun shone down on us all whilst the children explored the grounds for chocolate.

June/July 2021 Courses

| DATE | COURSE | STATUS |
|-------------------------|---|---------|
| 22/06/21 | RQT Development Programme 2020-21 | ON-LINE |
| 23/06/21 | Admissions & appeals for VA Schools & Academies for Governors & Headteachers | ON-LINE |
| 25/06/21 | Chairs' Clinic & Networking Group | ON-LINE |
| 29/06/21 | NQT Course 2020-21 - 6 Day Programme | ON-LINE |
| 30/06/21 | Developing Excellence in Religious Education: Time to Review? | ON-LINE |
| 01/07/21 | Headteacher Wellbeing Follow Up Session for Governors & Headteachers | ON-LINE |
| 08/07/21 (morning) | Spiritual Development in a Church School | FOXHILL |
| 08/07/21 (afternoon) | Prayer Spaces in Schools | FOXHILL |
| 08/07/21 (full day) | Spiritual Development in a Church School & Prayer Spaces in Schools ** TICKET FOR BOTH EVENTS & LUNCH** | FOXHILL |
| 14/07/21 | Chairs Clinic & Networking Group | ON-LINE |

Headteacher Cluster Meetings

| CLUSTER GROUP | DATE | TIME |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| SUMMER/AUTUMN TERM DATES 2021 | | |
| Chester HTs | <i>Autumn date to be confirmed</i> | TBC |
| Nantwich/Congleton HTS | Thursday 17 th June Monday 8 th November | 10am -12pm 1.30pm -3.30pm |
| Northwich HTs | Monday 14 th June <i>Autumn date to be confirmed</i> | 1.30pm -3.30pm |
| Rural Chester HTs | Monday 21 st June <i>Autumn date to be confirmed</i> | 1.30pm -3.30pm |
| Trafford HTs | Thursday 24 th June Thursday 4 th November | 10am -12pm 10am -12pm |
| Warrington/Halton HTs | Tuesday 28 th September | 10-12pm |
| Macclesfield HTs | Tuesday 12 th October | 1.30pm -3.30pm |
| Stockport/Tameside HTs | Thursday 21 st October | 10am -12pm |
| Wirral | Friday 18 th June | 10am -12pm |

Joining instructions will be sent out nearer the meeting date. For any queries, please contact sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org

DBE Officer New Contact Details

Contact telephone numbers for members of the DBE team

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|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|
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| 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 |