

## **Important Diocesan Education Team Update #7, Mon 20 April 2020**

Dear colleagues,

I hope that you have managed to have some sort of break over what used to be called the 'Easter holiday' and that you are getting time to yourself to switch off and be restored. If you have not yet had a day off, you really do need one – or more than one preferably – so that you don't burn out. We appear to be in this for the long haul. Thank you for sharing some of the moving, creative and funny videos that you are making for your school family. We love being able to be part of you in this way so please do keep them coming our way.

- **DfE announcements**

- I am sure that you will have heard Gavin Williamson's [press briefing and announcements](#) yesterday and I think it is safe to assume that we are nowhere near the point of schools getting back to normal. Do have a look at the resources that have been made available via the new [Oak National Academy](#) which launches today. They are already quite active on Twitter and you may want to follow them [@OakNational](#). The Church of England Education Office has been asked to provide a weekly act of collective worship as part of these resources so do look out for that and the [BBC's home learning resources](#).
- I am sure that you will have heard about the IT equipment that the DfE is providing for disadvantaged pupils and I believe that local authorities are coordinating individual school needs so that nobody who is eligible misses out. If you would like us to make representation to either Dudley or Worcestershire LA on your behalf or if you are struggling to register your school needs, do let us know and we will see if we can help. Remember when you are in touch with the LA to include information on whether your school site is open and where hardware will need to be dropped off, if appropriate.

- **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)**

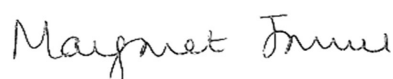
- You will be relieved to hear that the implementation date for the new RSE requirements has been moved back to September 2021 to enable schools to carry out the required consultations and to prepare sufficiently.
- As you know, we had planned RSE training that many of you had booked to attend this coming Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April but we had postponed it. The training has now been rescheduled for **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020**. If you had originally booked a place for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April this will be automatically transferred to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September; and if you had booked onto Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April your place will now be allocated to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. If this arrangement does not suit you, please contact [Laura Farmer](#) and she will make a change that works for you. //cont. |

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- **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) \cont.**
  - We would be most grateful if you could please forward this information onto your colleagues, if you have booked a place on their behalf.
  - If you had not booked onto the original April training but would like a place in September, please email Laura and she will do her best to get you booked on. As we now live in a very uncertain world, it is of course possible that the September training may have to be postponed again. If this is the case we will let you know but otherwise, please amend your diary and we will see you at the September training.
- **LCVAP/School Condition Allocation (SCA) for VA schools**
  - All headteachers of VA schools have been contacted about submitting a bid under the new SCA scheme. If you have not already done so and would like to, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Rob Stephens, our new Buildings Adviser, will be in touch shortly with those who have submitted bids to discuss how we intend to progress. Building projects may be highly problematic this year but we will do as much as we are able to.
- **Bereavement Support Material**
  - A sad reality of the new world in which we live is that many more children and young people are going to be dealing with bereavement and loss than in previous years. Schools are very skilled at helping their pupils in these circumstances but we may all feel more overwhelmed than normal in the current circumstances. The Church of England is in the process of putting together some support material which we will share with you soon.
- **Covid-19 Resources for Children**
  - You have probably already found a wide range of good resources to use with children when explaining and discussing the Covid-19 pandemic but this [book](#) and [selection of social stories](#) might be good additions for you.

Please do stay in touch and let us know how you would like us to pray for you and your school community specifically. We remember you daily. Give us a ring at any time, even if you just want to chat or offload. My mobile number is 07500559783 and Tim's is 07919274194. Most of all, stay safe and well and do take care of yourselves in the midst of meeting the needs of others.

With best wishes,



**Dr Margaret James, DDE**

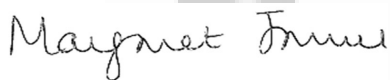
## **Important Diocesan Education Team Update #8, Tue 21 April 2020**

Dear colleagues,

In yesterday's newsletter I mentioned that the date for implementation of the new RSE requirements has been put back to September 2021. It appears that I have jumped the gun a little and, although this might well end up being the case, it has not yet been announced and so should not be taken as a definite decision by the DfE quite yet. My advice is that you continue to develop your policy ready for implementation but, obviously, reschedule any parental consultation events. As soon as I hear anything definite I will let you know.

My apologies for misinforming you for the time-being.

With best wishes,



**Dr Margaret James**  
**Diocesan Director of Education (DDE)**