

## **Important Diocesan Education Team Update #20, Fri 5 June 2020**

Dear Headteacher

As I write, my mind is full of questions and thoughts of how this week has been for you and your teams. I know how much work and planning you have already put into making the expansion of provision a success and I am sure that you have been continually tweaking and making changes as you steadily enable more children to navigate the new normal in school. My team and I are full of admiration and gratitude and you remain in our daily prayers and our thoughts. Please only do what you feel that you can do within the guidance and don't be pressured into expanding provision more widely than you feel is safe.

Although we sent a brief email yesterday about the DfE's update on RSHE, there are a few additional things that I would like to bring to your attention before the weekend.

The following **DfE updates**, including some on governance, might be helpful.

- [Alternative provision \(AP\) - year 11 transition funding](#): financial support available to AP schools and colleges to support current year 11 students into post-16 education.
- [Primary school planning guide](#): updated the planning guide for primary schools to reflect the announcement by the Prime Minister about the decision, based on all the evidence, to move forward with wider opening of education and childcare settings.
- [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#): updated to reflect the announcement by the Prime Minister that the Government's 5 tests have been met and the decision, based on all the evidence, to move forward with the wider opening of education and childcare settings.
- School governance: [updated guidance](#) for maintained schools and academy trusts in England during Coronavirus.
- **Rainbows and remembrance**
  - A workshop has been organised with St Peter's Saltley Trust on Tuesday 9 June at 1:30pm to support you in writing a liturgy for the return to school, with input from former Worcester Diocesan Youth Officer and WMCFEC member Revd Dr Sarah Brush, pastoral tutor at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. Register [here](#).

- **Diocesan briefings** for headteachers and chairs of governors are scheduled for:

Headteachers	Chairs of Governors
Monday 15 June 1.30pm-2.30pm	Monday 22 June 1.30pm-2.30pm
Tuesday 16 June 10am-11am	Tuesday 23 June 10am-11am
Wednesday 17 June 4pm-5pm	Wednesday 24 June 5pm-6pm

- Please email [Laura Farmer](#) for further details and to sign up and encourage your chair to do so as well. The briefings will be limited to 25 per session and will be led by Tim Reid and Margaret James. The number of sessions will be reduced if demand is low so please do sign up if you intend to join us.

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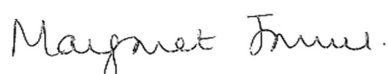
- Advance notice - please save **the morning of Friday 23 October** to join us at our first ever online conference. Entitled 'Never the Same', we will be joined on Zoom by a number of speakers including Bishop Martin Gorick, Professor Barry Carpenter (the UK's only Professor of Mental Health and Wellbeing in Education), and Andy Wolfe from the CEEO. The conference will address issues relating to recovery, reigniting learning, and dealing with grief and loss. We have rescheduled our normal annual headteacher conference for the summer term 2021 (details later) but we wanted to gather with you in the Autumn term and explore some of the more pressing issues as you navigate what are uncharted waters for us all. More details to follow but save the date for now.
- **Navigate**
  - 'Navigate' is a post-lockdown emotional resilience and wellbeing resource for primary schools from 'Imagine For Schools' that consists of 6 x 1 hour sessions and that has been recommended by our colleagues in the Diocese of Gloucester. Each session is easy to follow and is facilitated by a series of bitesize videos that run alongside teacher-led activities with accompanying 'Navigate' worksheets. Each session also includes a short training video for the class teacher. The 6 sessions are:
    - Exploring Emotions...
    - Lockdown Life Picture...
    - Peak To Peak - Dealing With Challenge
    - Dealing With Emotions...
    - Life Through A Lens...
    - In it together - Reconnecting...
  - Costs are £95 for Yr 6 (& KS2); £95 for KSI or £170 for both. [More information.](#)
- **And finally...**
  - I hope you know how inspirational you are and how much we value you. I am constantly humbled when I think about what you are doing day in, day out as you live out your vocation for the benefit of others. I am reminded of the verse in Micah:

*What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

Thank you for being the living embodiment of this call.

Have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes,



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