

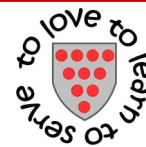
## **Important Diocesan Education Team Update #21, Fri 12 June 2020**

Dear colleagues,

Last night, I watched 'Becoming', the documentary based on Michelle Obama's book of the same name. I was inspired to the point of tears when I reflected on the positive impact that one person who leads with integrity, courage, and truthfulness can have on an unknown number of others. I appreciate that your spheres of influence are likely to be far smaller than Michelle Obama's (!!), but you inspire nonetheless and you are making a difference every day to the lives of the children and families in your school community. There is truth in the cliché that one person might not be able to change the world, but they can change the world for one person. You do that more often than you realise, even when you are tired, frustrated, confused and overwhelmed. Our thanks will never be enough but they are heartfelt. Thank you for what you are doing.

- **The next DBE and WDAT meetings will be held on Tuesday 7 July.**
  - If you have any applications for foundation governor appointments or reappointments or MAT trustee applications that need to be considered, please forward them to [Laura Farmer](#) as soon as possible. **Paperwork will need to be submitted by Friday 26 June.**
  - Similarly, if you are planning any building work on your school or academy, DBE or WDAT consent is required before it can begin. Laura can send you application forms on request. The same deadlines apply for consideration before the summer holiday.
- It would be helpful if you could let me know of any **foundation governor, including ex officio, vacancies** that you have on your Governing Body. I would like to be able to present as accurate a picture as possible to the DBE on 7 July.
- **National Secondary Leadership Network (NSLN)**
  - This week the Church of England Education Office (CEEEO) has shared the [overview for 2020-21](#) with all the current members of the NSLN confirming that the costs for this year, will cover membership and events up until August 2021. This includes further work on Faith at Home, along with other events looking at Inclusion / AP, and a special fully-funded curriculum development opportunity for Heads of Science and RE launching on 1 October.
  - If you are a secondary school or a middle school deemed secondary and you are not yet part of this network, you are still able to join. Please contact [Andy Wolfe](#), or [Emily Norman](#) for more information.
- **The Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2020** is now available to download from the RE Today website. Alongside the syllabus itself, you will also find:
  - A short, recorded webinar and slide show introducing you to the syllabus and how to use it, in terms of its intent, implementation and impact.
  - Workbooks for introducing the syllabus
  - Sample long-term plans
  - Links with Early Learning Goals for EYFS
  - KSI Core Knowledge Outlines
  - Two sample full units of work
  - Information about primary and secondary schemes of work
  - Information about training for the Understanding Christianity resource.

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- **The Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2020 \cont.**
  - To register for access to the syllabus and other resources, please fill in the form on this [page](#). When you have filled it in, you will receive an email from RE Today within 2-3 working days, giving you the access information.
  - Please note that RE Today advisers have developed some RE home learning materials for all schools to use. Have a look at the NATRE [website](#) for details.
  - VA schools in Dudley are also able to use the Worcs AS and can register in the same way. VC schools in Dudley might wish to avail themselves of some of the resources that support the Worcestershire syllabus whilst continuing to use the Dudley AS.
- **Training and Support SLA**
  - All diocesan training and advice services will begin again from September, so please make sure that you return your SLA payment over the next few weeks if you haven't already done so. If you are an academy, please check with your MAT central team that they have paid for your SLA. Contact Laura if you would like her to reissue your invoice.
  - For the Autumn term, services will be provided remotely and we will evaluate later this year how best to proceed from the Spring 2021. An amended programme of online central training events for the Autumn term will be circulated in the next week or so.
  - A bonus for the coming academic year is your invitation to two diocesan conferences – the first will be online in October and (hopefully) the second will take place in person next June.
- **Diocesan Headteacher Briefings** will take place by Zoom next Monday (1.30-2.30pm), Tuesday (10-11am) and Wednesday (4-5pm). Please sign up with Laura. It will be good to see you.
- **Briefings have also been arranged for Chairs** on Monday 22/6 (1.30-2.30pm), Tuesday 23/6 (10-11am), or Wednesday 24/6 (5-6pm). Please ask your Chair to contact Laura to let her know which session they will be attending. The agenda for Chairs is different from that for Headteachers and I think they will benefit from joining us.
- **Asset Management Planning for VA Schools**
  - Please remember to let me have your asset management planning documents as soon as possible. We are already benefiting from the expertise of Rob Stephens and he will continue to work with me in helping governors to plan the management and improvement of school buildings. If you would like a reminder of what you need to submit, please let me know.
- **Diocesan Education Team Update**
  - Many of you will have had the pleasure of Tracy Lister providing you with support and advice in RE. Sadly for us, Tracy has decided that she is unable to continue with this work due to other commitments. We are very grateful to Tracy for her inspirational and encouraging work and we will miss having her as part of our team. We wish her well as she focuses her attention on her work at Whittington Primary School and on her family.
  - We are also saying goodbye to Linda Perkins who has provided invaluable pastoral support and advice for the last few years. Linda constantly inspires and uplifts the rest of the team and I know that she has helped many of you as well. We will miss her greatly.
  - From September, we will be welcoming Bev Roberts (currently headteacher of St Mary's in Kingswinford) to the team as an adviser. We are really looking forward to Bev joining us and many of you will benefit from her advice and expertise in the coming months.

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- **,And finally...**

**Psalm 139: 1-14**

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.*

*Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limit of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.*

*For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

Even though I don't always feel it, I am enough – and so are you. You are fearfully and wonderfully made and I am glad that you are part of the church school family in this diocese.

With best wishes as ever,

*Margaret James.*

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