

Important Diocesan Education Team Update #23, Fri 26 June 2020

Dear colleagues,

As another week draws to a close and the summer 'holiday' approaches, I am mindful of the weight of new guidance documents and updates that drop into your inbox with terrifying frequency. We hear that the detailed guidance for the return of 'all children to all schools' *might* be published on Saturday 4 July and, if it is, I am sure that we will all make time between our hairdresser appointments, pub lunches, evening restaurant bookings and visits to the zoo / cinema / theme park / hotel* (*delete as applicable) to read it from cover to cover.

It was good to see so many of you at our recent Headteachers' and Chair of Governors' Briefings and please do continue to get in touch with questions. We will answer as many as we are able to and will go in search of the answers that we do not have at our fingertips.

- **Training and Support SLA (TSSLA)**

- I am delighted that so many of you have already signed up for the [TSSLA](#), the services of which will begin from September and run for the whole of the school year 2020-2021. We have made some changes from the document that we originally circulated prior to the lockdown, mainly to dates and format for some training events. *Please delete any previous versions in order to avoid confusion over dates and timings.*
- As discussed at the Briefings, all training for the Autumn Term has been moved online and we will review this for the Spring and Summer inline with current Government guidance, hoping by that time to hold at least some of the events face to face. Inset training, staff meetings, audits and advice have also all been reconfigured so as to be suitable online and you are able to [make bookings](#) for what you would like to attend and how you would like to make use of your 15 hours. We look forward to resuming these aspects of our work with you.

- **Briefings**

- Laura has circulated the presentation and documents from the Headteachers' and Chair of Governors' Briefings. If you attended but have not received this communication, please let [Laura](#) know.

- **New Headteachers**

- There are many new headteachers, executive heads and heads of school who have either started in their roles during this academic year or who will be starting in September. We welcome them to this diocesan-wide education family and we look forward to working together.
- There are also colleagues who will be leaving the Worcester Diocese and we are very sad to see each of them go.

- **Relationships, Sex & Health Education (RSHE) Training**

- One temporary casualty of the lockdown was the RSHE training that we had planned for April. We are delighted that this training has been rescheduled for Tue 22 and Wed 23 September (to be delivered online).
- If you haven't already booked your place, please email [Laura](#) and she will book you on. We are able to accommodate more delegates in this new format than we could have at the Old Palace which is one upside of the upheaval in arrangements.

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- **Relationships, Sex & Health Education (RSHE) Training \cont.**
 - Another positive is that we have been able to slightly reduce the price as we will no longer be providing refreshments. The cost will now be £130+VAT for one delegate (down from £150) and £220+VAT for two delegates from the same school (down from £260).
 - This training by colleagues from Herts for Learning has been specifically written for Church of England schools and incorporates legislative requirements along with reference to documents such as *Valuing All God's Children* and the Church of England's *Vision for Education*. It is therefore particularly suitable for those who work in Church schools but colleagues from non-CE schools and academies are also invited to attend. Speak to Laura if you have any questions.
- **The DBE and WDAT** are meeting on Tuesday 7 July. If you have any foundation governor re/ appointment applications or applications for consent for building work please send them to [me](#) as soon as possible. Papers have already been circulated but I can add any urgent applications. VA and VC maintained schools *and* academies require DBE / WDAT consent before any building work can commence on a Church school site.
- **Teach Rural**
 - Those of you who were with us at last week's Briefings will have heard Tim Reid outline the work that we are involved in with the Chartered College and Teach First to potentially develop expertise and improve recruitment and retention in rural schools. If your school can be described in any way as 'rural', or if you are CEO of a MAT that has any rural schools, it would be helpful if you could fill in the short and relevant survey below.
 - [Teach Rural School Leader Survey](#), or [Teach Rural MAT Leader Survey](#).
 - The deadline for submission has been extended to Monday 29 June. Many thanks to those who have already submitted their responses.
- **The Diocesan website** is in the process of being renewed and not all documents are currently available. If you are unable to find something that you need please [contact us](#) directly.
- **Skips and Storage Containers in Worcestershire**
 - With apologies to headteachers in Dudley, I just want to draw Worcestershire heads' attention to the offer from WCF to supply storage containers and skips completely free of charge to any school that would like one to help with the current situation. Further information about the offer can be found in the WCF bulletin from 23 June.
- **And finally...**
 - I was in a meeting this morning at which the Archdeacon of Worcester prayed, "accept us as we are and make us what we shall be". I was struck in that moment by the sufficiency in God's eyes of my inadequacy and failings – possibly even of their beauty and imperfect perfection, as I am made in His image. It is a thought that is both humbling and deeply reassuring as we stumble through present times, doing our best to be who we were made to be. I have shared this verse (Micah 6:8) before as it is one that I hold close daily.

What does the Lord require of you?

To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Maybe you would like to join with me as we walk this journey together. Have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes,

Margaret James

Margaret James, DDE