



DBE Newsletter – November 2019 (Term 2)

Welcome to our second newsletter of the year. The best laid plans go awry as our newsletter genius who arranged it into the previous e-newsletter is off for several weeks. Please excuse the plainer publication style but the information is all still here. It's for heads, teachers, governors, church school workers, the vicar. Just pass it out to anyone who you think would benefit.

Friday Nov 15th 2019 DBE Annual Conference - 'A wise curriculum for wise children'

We have over 100 people joining us for the Annual conference: school leaders, governors, church leaders, Inspire mentors, our DBE Board and those showing practice from our diocese schools. Along with those bringing sales stands and Mary Myatt, curriculum guru coming to work with us, it will be a full day. Its not too late to book so don't miss out.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/diocese-of-bristol-education-10641061644>

Spiritual Development and Collective worship training - 4 December 2019

This course can be a whole day to reflect on both Spiritual Development and Collective Worship or a half day course to focus on one aspect of school life. For more information click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spiritual-development-and-collective-worship-registration-60391756369>

Friday 31st January 2020 - RE Annual Conference

The highly regarded Annual Bristol and South Glos SACRE conference is taking place **on 31 January** at the wonderful Engineer's House in Bristol. It is always one of the highlights of the year! Our keynote speaker this year is **Fiona Moss**. Fiona is an inspiring trainer – who bubbles with enthusiasm for RE. She was also one of the writers for the Understanding Christianity resource and the South Glos RE syllabus.

The conference will be **FREE** for South Gloucestershire teachers.

Teachers from Bristol and other areas will be charged £110. It is £65 for any subsequent delegate from the same school.

To register please visit Eventbrite: [Annual RE Conference 2020](#) or contact Ali.Driver@bristoldiocese.org

Church school network meeting

From feedback, we know that the two network meetings a year, held at each end of the diocese for the last couple of years, have been appreciated by many. However, with the annual DBE conference in autumn, the RE conference in January and other courses and bespoke training throughout the year, getting out for two networks can be time-consuming and potentially costly if supply is needed. Therefore, with the two big events above in the

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autumn and spring terms, we propose to run one **regular, free summer term network of two hours at each end of the diocese**. This gives you a chance to see someone else's school, and hear how they promote an aspect of Christian distinctiveness/ SIAMs/ curriculum and a chance for discussion with similarly aspiring leaders - the three main aspects of the meeting you said were useful, but less time away from school.

The dates are:

- **Wed 17th June 2020, Bristol/ S Glos end of diocese**
- **Thurs 18th June 2020, Wilts/ Swindon end of diocese**

It doesn't matter which one you go to – choose the most convenient date, school venues to be announced shortly!

We plan to run from 3 – 5pm with great snacks so the school is minimally interrupted. See you there – it's a network for all heads, senior leaders, church school workers, mentors and others interested in growing and sustaining church school effectiveness.

Church School Partnership Award

Congratulations to Christ Church Infants, Downend and St Michael's Winterbourne in gaining the Church School Partnership award. It was lovely to spend time with you in Collective Worship and hear from your school and church leaders of all the many activities that really do make a difference to school ethos, pupil wellbeing and curriculum.

Do you have the award yet? Get someone from church on board, maybe a link worker or governor and a school lead (not necessarily the head although they need to endorse the work and have their say) and take it from there! See <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/csp-award/>

WIRE Award

If your school has not yet entered, then why not make it a project for this year? The WIRE (Widening Participation in Religious Education) is a way of rewarding schools that participate in RE training and expose their students to the world of religions. To gain the award you have to do three things:

- attend an RE conference or RE hub
- take your pupils to a place of worship from a non-Christian faith
- either put on an encounter day about faith, or enter an RE competition. All very achievable in a year!

Schools in South Gloucestershire, thanks to generous funding from SACRE, are able to apply for a contribution towards travel costs to a place of worship.

In January, we will be launching the **Wire Award Gold!** This is for those schools who have already achieved Wire, but would like to showcase more of their great RE.

For more information contact:

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Katy Staples (Bristol, Swindon) katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org

Simone Kermode (Wiltshire) simone.kermode@wiltshire.gov.uk

Beautiful resource to help with RE



The [British Library Sacred Texts](#) website is a stunning new free resource. Beautiful manuscripts from all the major world religions have been digitised and made available. You can show medieval prayer books, Bibles, Qur'ans and Torah scrolls! A fabulous way of showing pupils the artwork and power of texts to believers. Could you use this in your RE teaching this year?

Inter-Faith Week (10th-17th November)

IFN materials for schools – click on the link [HERE](#) for more information

Harvest Festival

Did you have a great Harvest celebration? Liz Townend had three, joining St Michaels CE Primary Winterbourne, Avonmouth CE Primary and The Deanery Academy to give thanks for harvest through thoughtful pupil contributions and to sing 'Cauliflowers Fluffy' many times! Many of you were giving to local Food Banks or through other collections. We often hear from other sources that your contributions are appreciated so thank you for providing opportunities for families to give in service of time and food gifts.

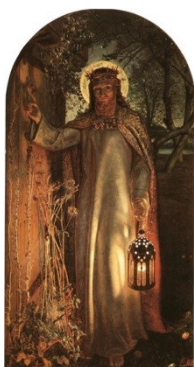
Christmas cards from the Diocese

Do you have a school Christmas card that you are getting printed this year?

We would love to send a Christmas card from the diocese (we send about 150) and it would be great to use a picture that has been designed by one of the children in the diocese.

We've wondered about going electronic but if we could use a fabulous school design, then we might stay with paper for another year. Do please get in contact as soon as possible if you can help out!

Advent/Christmas Lesson idea from Adam!

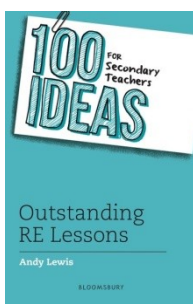


As we move into the period of Advent – the symbolism of light is very powerful. How about using Holman Hunt's '*Light of the World*' picture with pupils? What can they spot in the picture? Why is Jesus standing by a door? Then they could look at the quote about Jesus being 'the light of the world'. What does this mean? How might Jesus be the light of the world for Christians?

Finally, show the following quote:

"You are like light for the whole world.....Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do." Matthew 5:14

Ask pupils – what might this mean for Christians? How do they try to be light for the world? What about pupils themselves? How could they be a light in school? How could they be a light for others?



RE for Secondary Teachers

Follow this link – [100 Ideas for Secondary Teachers](#)

Parenting courses – would you like to run one?

We are exploring and piloting new Parenting courses that can be run in schools, in churches or between the two. There are four main resources on the market. Some cost, some don't, and all have something from booklets / videos / discussion groups / stuff to take home. They range from a focus for parents who want to bring their children up with a Christian faith to those which concentrate on general parenting skills.

We have a little resource; not in pounds but in a person who can work with you to get things off the ground so let us know if you are interested. First come first served!

School links with Uganda

Last month the diocese celebrated 50 years of its link with churches and schools across Uganda. Thank you to Joy Farrell, Head at St Francis Swindon who, amongst others, spoke at the celebration event about the value of her link for pupils and staff. Eight Bishops, Church and Education leaders and a choir came over from Uganda to cement and celebrate the partnership. Bishop Viv endorsed the link and said, 'Here's to the next 50!'

So with the new SIAMS schedule encouraging courageous advocacy, Ofsted endorsing that a curriculum must be broad and balanced, and the building of cultural capital, **we are keen to involve more schools and churches in partnerships with Ugandan schools**. There are rural and urban schools seeking links.

This might involve face to face visits, curriculum explorer days in both schools, cultural and education awareness projects, swapping of letters or other resources, supporting building or curriculum projects in schools and so on. It's definitely not one-way and education standards are sometimes higher in Uganda than here so cultural stereotypes can be broken down swiftly. Schools already involved report how they are benefiting hugely from the links. If you fancy getting involved, please let us know and speak with your local church leaders too. We'll make sure you can hear from those in the diocese involved in links already such as Joy who will be around on 15 November to chat with you more.

FARMINGTON INSTITUTE Scholarships

Ever had a Farmington award? Several teachers and leaders in the diocese have taken advantage of these so maybe it's your turn this year. It's a brilliant scheme so do consider it very seriously.

The aim of the Farmington Institute is to support and encourage teachers of Religious Education in schools and Head teachers working on values and standards. The Institute awards Scholarships to UK based teachers of Religious Education and associated subjects and Head teachers, publishes papers and reports, and arranges conferences.

What type of Scholarships are available?

Scholarships are divided into two types: university-based and school/home based. Teachers who live within a reasonable distance of one of the selected universities or colleges, may be awarded a university-based Scholarship. University based Scholarships awarded may be taken in the form of day release up to 30 days, the Scholarships to be taken within university terms. The academic facilities of the universities/colleges are available for Scholars.

Teachers awarded school/home-based Scholarships will be assigned a Farmington Tutor. The Scholarship may be taken in the form of day release, for instance for one day a week over a term or over the year, or for continuous periods up to a maximum of 30 days.

The university in our area is Bath Spa University (Study of Religions Department) but other universities further afield are also available.

Who is eligible?

The Scholarships are for teachers of Religious Education in UK secondary schools, primary school RE Co-ordinators, or other primary school teachers involved in teaching RE and associated subjects, and teachers of children with Special Educational Needs who are involved with RE. Head teachers who wish to undertake research into either Religious Education or Values Education are also eligible to apply. Applicants should have held their present post for at least two years.

Which subjects?

Scholars are free to study any aspect of Religious Education they wish, but preference will be given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of RE in schools. Occasionally, the Institute, in conjunction with one of its partner universities or colleges, may advertise for an RE teacher to undertake research on a specific topic which is relevant to RE.

How much will it cost?

The Scholarship will cover the cost of tuition, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale.

What is required of Scholars?

All Scholars are expected to produce an outline study plan of their project, which must be sent to the Farmington Institute before the start of their Scholarship. Towards the end of the Scholarship, the Scholar will give a presentation on their work at the university/school and again at our 2021 conference. All Scholars are expected to produce a written report on the work they have undertaken, which must be sent to the Farmington Institute on completion of the Scholarship.

Consultation on the Growth and Sustainability of CE schools in the Diocese of Bristol

The DBE have set up a Growth and Sustainability group to look at the future of church schools across the diocese to ensure they are sustainable, no school gets 'orphaned' and opportunities for growth are taken wherever possible. This group will also look at the theology and educational reasoning behind church schools, and models of leadership including diverse partnership arrangements and academisation policy.

A consultation will be coming out shortly and we ask that you please contribute along with your governors. Individual heads will also be contributing and if you would like to be part of the more in depth conversations, please let us know as we want to collect as many views as possible and make sure the final policy reflects the views of those leading the schools in this diocese.

Educational Foundations grants

Would you like to apply for a relatively small but significant capital grant for works additional to anything the LA or a CIF bid (academies) would consider? (Or for a grant to lend you money from the diocese at cheaper than bank rates). Get your skates on and apply by the first week of December using the form at

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/documents/educational-foundations-grant/>

CofE School Governors training morning

As part of the Leadership team of a CE school, governing is an immense responsibility but hopefully a joyful one. We are planning to put on a **half day of Saturday training** for all governors in CE schools across the diocese in May/June time 2020. We know that governors in schools can sometimes feel pretty cut off from other schools and we want all governors, whether or not foundation, to know the support of our diocese and the family of CE schools.

The morning will develop our understanding together of the role of a governor in a CofE school, both thinking through the ethos of schools, your part in promoting this and the technical skills of governance. They'll be speakers and workshops so everyone, experienced or new, can find something to engage and develop skills. We hope that every school will be supporting this event once the date is settled.

Please let us know your thoughts in advance as we plan the morning. We'd love to hear from you if you have someone on your GB who might like to contribute too!

CPD and the SW portal

Are you aware of the portal which is a one stop shop for training organised across the South West by a range of training providers including Teaching schools, Maths and English hubs, MATs, LAs etc. Some are local, some charged, others free; there's a whole variety. The attached sheet provides a summary of the latest training which we encourage you to investigate.

- A newsfeed and documents containing essential information from school improvement providers, sector organisations and the Department for Education.
- Updates on Team South West, Regional Education Partnership Boards and Teaching School Council activity across the region.
- The CPLD provision in your area and across the region (from over 80 providers across the South West). CPD events and courses can be searched by sub-region, Local Authority area, provider and by type and bookings can be made via the website. Regional training opportunities for school and system leaders can also be found here.

You can view a short walk through video of the Portal's CPD function here:

<https://cpdportal.link/cpd>



A System Leader Directory, containing details of over 600 system leaders across the South West, through which you can make links and connections to regional expertise and school support. A walk through video of how to use the CPD Portal System Leader Directory is available here: <https://cpdportal.link/directory>



Keep in touch about governance!

A reminder that clerks, governors and headteachers should let us know in the event of any of the following changes:

- Clerk resignation/Clerk appointment
- Chair steps down/New Chair elected
- Foundation governor resignation/retirement
- Changes to contact details for any of the above
- Headteacher resignation/ retirement (the diocese are always involved in supporting schools in the new appointment process as a non-voting member of the appointment team)

Our work at the Diocesan office and information flow between us and schools is much more effective if we have accurate details, so thank you for your co-operation in this.

Get Information About Schools (GIAS) – governance details

A reminder to all schools at this time of year to ensure that the governance information held on GIAS is accurate and up-to date for your school. In addition, the Academies Financial Handbook sets out the requirement for all academy trusts to provide a direct email address for their members and trustees using the governance section of Get Information About Schools using your DfE sign-in account.

If you have not done so already, please make sure you provide this information as soon as possible to ensure you are compliant with the handbook. You should provide a direct email address for your members and trustees - not a generic school mailbox address.

Governance – statutory documents

The DfE has released a new version of its list of statutory policies/documents. School governors and staff should take note and ensure that all the required documents are in place and up to date. The list can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-policies-for-schools-and-academy-trusts?utm_source=e537284b-ae67-481b-abe1-dc4d13e209b7&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Professional Clerks Development Programme (running in Swindon SN25 1QQ)

Dates are now available for this programme. The training will be facilitated by Anna Richardson, Governor Support Manager for Swindon and is aimed at clerks who have been clerking for at least 6 months and must be completed within a (big) term. There are two face to face sessions of 3.5 hours and then there are a number of activities that need to be

completed in your own time prior to the first face to face session and then prior to the second face to face session.

Including the face to face sessions the minimum amount of time required to complete the training is around 25 hours. However this is self-motivated learning so it is a case of what you put in is what you will get out of the course. The cost of the programme is £400 however the DfE are subsidising the training by £350 leaving **£50 for the school to pay**. Please note in order for this session to run there needs to be a minimum of 8 delegates. The dates and times for the face to face sessions are:

Friday 24 January 2020 and Friday 20 March 2020

9.30am to 1.00pm at the Haydon Wick Council Offices, SN25 1QQ.

In order to register for the programme please go to www.hants.gov.uk/professionalclerk and complete the registration form. As this is administered by Hampshire Governor Support it would be useful if you could just email arichardson@swindon.gov.uk direct to let her know as well. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact her on 01793 463876.

Putting people at the centre of all we do

Monarch Education (*part of Affinity Workforce Solutions*) places teachers and education professionals in short-term, long-term and permanent roles every day across the Bristol Diocesan area. They write, 'Personal and professional, our service begins and ends with people – from the consultants we hire, to the teachers we place, and the close relationships we build with clients. We already work in partnership with DBAT academies and want to offer all Bristol Diocesan Schools the opportunity to benefit from standard and transparent rates for all bookings. If you join as a Group, Cluster or whole Diocese you will be rewarded with access to competitive rates, an enhanced financial rebate and the opportunity to bid for termly funded projects. Let us concentrate on delivering you the highest quality teaching and support candidates available on the market whilst saving money.'

For more information or to book a presentation at one of your next Headteachers' meeting to hear more, please contact Amanda Webb, Strategic Relationship Director amanda.webb@affinityworkforce.com or contact Luke Cocking, Divisional Manager at our Bristol Office on 0117 938 2100 or luke.cocking@monarcheducation.com.

CPAS Venture Holidays

Are you interested in adding to your school residential provision – or considering something different for some or all of your children? There's a growing interest from CofE schools in School Ventures run by CPAS, long weekend holidays with a Christian ethos and loads of fun to be had for children and young people. These breaks are very well reviewed, incredibly good value and maybe right for your school in 2020/21!

Take a look at this video <https://vimeo.com/353530647> or make contact with **Tim Friend**, *the Ventures and Falcons Principal* for an informal conversation and recommendations from other schools you can speak with to hear how it all runs.

CPAS: 0300 123 0780 Direct dial: 02475 267845

Springs Dance Company - *The Easter Project* & *Get Fit Go Green* workshops

Springs Dance Company specialises in RE through dance and helps young people learn about and reflect upon the Christian faith. Springs is offering to schools its much sought after ***Easter Project***. Offering engaging and thought-provoking dance workshops.

The Easter Project provides a fresh and exciting way to explore the Easter story. The workshops can culminate in an informal sharing or performance by the pupils.

Springs ***Get Fit Go Green*** workshops provide a proactive and productive way for your school to consider climate change. The workshops offer energetic, action packed dance workshops that sensitively help children think about and discuss climate change and inspire everyone to take action. ***Get Fit Go Green*** celebrates all the world provides and shines a light on how we share the world's limited resources with our neighbours both near and far. The work links closely to the Christian faith exploring the idea of stewardship for the planet and those we share with it, looking at Jesus' call to love our neighbour.

Further details on ***The Easter Project*** can be found at

<https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/images/images/Workshops/Easter-Project-for-Primary-Schools-2020.pdf>

Please email touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or call 07876 752 910 to find out more

Further details on ***Get Fit Go Green*** can be found at

<https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/images/downloads/Get-fit-go-green-RE.pdf>

Please email touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or call 07876 752 910

Prayer for this term

Compassionate God,

as you know each star you have created,

You know the secrets of every heart.

In your loving mercy bring to your table,

all who are fearful and broken and

all who are wounded and needy.

That our hungers may be satisfied

in the city of your peace;

Through the God who is our peace.

Amen