A Message from the Director of Education

September 2019

I would like to welcome you back at the start of a new academic year. Every year, I have the privilege of hearing about all the wonderful work which you do each and every week, so that our young people receive an excellent Church of England education. There have been yet more excellent results in terms of SIAMS, SATs, GCSE’s and A Level examinations and I thank you all for your dedication and hard work which has enabled such positive outcomes. However, there has been so much more during the last academic year which I would like to reflect upon. Many schools have engaged with our ‘Feed the Hungry’ partnership and this has supported our young people in learning to become courageous advocates for change. Nearly 2,000 students attended our ‘Inspire Project’ this summer which was truly ‘inspirational!’ I have taken part in some beautiful and creative acts of collective worship as I visit the schools and I have seen tremendous work on the curriculum that enables our youngsters to ‘live life in all its fullness.’ There have been fantastic opportunities for residential visits, the performing arts and sports. Professional development opportunities, networks and partnerships have enabled us all to grow and learn together.

I am delighted to announce that Lynsay Jennings will be joining our Christian Distinctiveness team from September. Lynsay has over fifteen years teaching experience across the Primary age range. This includes over 8 years as a SENCO and a Designated Safeguarding Officer. She has lead on Christian Distinctiveness, RE and Collective Worship. Lynsay joins the team as a CDA with a focus on Christian Character Education. I would like to wish you all a wonderful and happy start to the new academic year. I thank you, as always for your dedication, energy and commitment to the 45,000 students in our Church of England schools and academies.

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Welcome

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Welcome to our New School Leaders

We are delighted to welcome a number of new headteachers, who are taking up post this term (or moving from one school in the diocese to another or taking up executive headships).

- Sally Sixsmith, St George’s CE(C) Primary School, Telford
- Charlotte Ashton, All Saints CE(C) Primary School, Ranton
- Matthew Dodson, Waterhouses CoE Primary Academy
- Will Stevens, St Peter’s CoE Primary Academy, Hednesford
- Samantha Price, St John’s CoE Primary Academy, Essington

We wish them all every success and God’s blessings as they take up the challenges of headship at this time of considerable change in education.

Climate Action Day

From 20—27 September there will be a global week of action to coincide with the UN Climate Summit. Our Bishops, and the Bishop’s Staff have unanimously agreed that the diocese should show solidarity with young people to demand an end to the age of fossil fuels and climate justice for everyone. As part of this week we would love to encourage our schools to hold a ‘Climate Action Day,’ and to this end we have put together a pack with ideas to help plan such a day. This can be downloaded from the Diocesan website at https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/documents/climate-action-day-resources/

Christian Books

Speaking Volumes offers grants for libraries, schools prisons, care homes and churches—actually, anywhere a book can be borrowed and enjoyed by a wide readership. The grants are for the purchase of Christian books from a local Christian bookshop, the list of available books can be seen on www.speakingvolumes.org.uk along with details on how to apply for a grant.

Insire 2020

Join us at Lichfield Cathedral and be inspired for the day through interactive, inspirational, spiritual, reflective & deep learning, with session exclusively for years 4, years 6 or years 8 don’t delay in booking your places at this over subscribed event. For further details and booking form please visit our website at http://www.ldbe.co.uk/inspire-2019/

Ofsted Inspections

Congratulations to these schools and academies for achieving Good in their recent Ofsted Inspections

- St John the Baptist CE(C) Primary School, Ruyton Xi Towns
- St Luke’s CE(A) Primary School, Blakenhall
- St Margaret’s CE(A) Primary School, Great Barr
- Oulton CoE First Academy
- Walsall Blue Coat CE(A) Junior School
- St Peter’s CoE Primary Academy, Yoxall
- Beckbury CE(C) Primary School
- Trefonen CE(C) Primary School
- Knutton St Mary’s CoE Primary Academy
- St Andrew’s CE(C) Primary School, Whitmore Reans
- St Peter’s CoE Primary Academy, Stonnall
- Betley CE(C) Primary School
- Bilston CE(C) Primary School
- Bishop Lonsdale CoE Primary Academy, Eccleshall

Church School Leaders Conference 2020

Making Well-Being a Reality in 21st Century Church of England Education

This year’s Church School Leaders Conference will take place in Lichfield on Tuesday 4th February, please reserve this date in your diary and visit our website to download your application form at http://www.ldbe.co.uk/church-school-leaders-conference-2020/
SIAMS Inspections

Congratulations to these schools and academies for achieving Good in their recent SIAMS inspections

- St George’s CE(C) Primary School, Telford
- St Chad’s CE(C) Primary School, Chesterton
- Christ Church CofE First Academy, Stone

And a special congratulations for achieving Excellent in their recent SIAMS Inspections to

- St John the Baptist CE(C) Primary School, Ruyton XI Towns
- St Bartholomew CofE Primary School, Penn

St Chad’s Primary School, Lichfield
Computers to Africa

Children at a Church school in Lichfield have been keying into the benefits of blessing others after recycling their used computers overseas.

St Chad’s Primary has been developing close links with the Shekinah School in Kenya for the past 12 months. Earlier this year the school welcomed a parent from Shekinah School to St Chad’s where he taught pupils Kenyan songs, prayers and traditions.

When St Chad’s IT was due for replacement, they looked into whether they could send their computers, monitors and hard-drives to Shekinah.

Deputy Head Natalie Johnson explained: “Our children have been writing letters, sending gifts and learning all about our friends at Shekinah School. As a school, we have made the decision to replace our old computers with new technology so we thought it would be a kind to send the computers to them.

“As the cost of shipping was high, we approached UPS who we have worked with previously to improve the road safety of our pupils, who agreed to fund the shipping of our computers to Kenya. We are so pleased that as a school we are working with our local community, local business as well as supporting those worldwide who are less fortunate than us. As a Church school, this is something we believe is so important to teach to our children.”

UPS Operations Manager Ron Walsh added: “We have a long-established working relationship with St Chads’, visiting the school to teach the children about road safety. This opportunity gave us the ability to support in their wider school strategy and their partnership with a school in Kenya.

“By shipping the computers to Kenya, we have made the recycling of them stress-free and costless with the added impact of having a positive impact on the learning of the children in Kenya and supporting the wider global community.”

Keynote Speaker: The Right Revd Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely.

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Keynote Speaker: The Right Revd Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely.
Education Sunday 2019 will take place on Sunday 8th September but schools and churches can use the free resources whenever they like. The theme for this year is ‘Form and Flourish—to re-form’.

Resources can be downloaded here [www.cte.org.uk/educationsunday2019](http://www.cte.org.uk/educationsunday2019)

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**An Advent Prayer and Worship Resource for Churches and Schools**

The LDBE, in partnership with Pray for Schools, are designing a resource for use within our schools and churches.

**The Vision**

Every school in the UK is a prayed-for school! That’s the vision of Pray for Schools: to mobilise local churches to support their school communities through prayer. This resource hopes to be part of that vision by encouraging churches and schools across the Diocese of Lichfield to be praying for one another and the communities they jointly serve over this season of advent. The content also contains further ideas of how advent and Christmas can be celebrated together.

This resource will offer:

- General guidelines to set up a Pray for Schools prayer group
- Guidelines for pupils who would like to be praying for their schools during advent
- An advent prayer calendar that can be used either in schools, churches or as part of a daily devotional – with the prayers written by our schools.
- Prayers for the Sundays in advent focused on praying for your local school
- Ideas for prayer or reflection space – ‘A Gift of a Child,’ for use in a classroom, hall or church. One based on the traditional advent wreath and one based on the gospel accounts of the incarnation.
- An plan for a ‘Journey through Christmas Day’ that church and school could jointly run
- Five collective worships based on the gospel accounts of the Christmas story

We would love pupils from our schools to be involved in the writing of the prayers for the advent calendar. If you would like your school to be involved with this unique project please do get in touch with Alex Wolvers – alex.wolvers@lichfield.anglican.org.

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**The Church of England Professional Qualification for headship (including NPQH)**

Applications are now open for the CoEPQH starting in January 2020 at seven delivery centres across the country.

The programme takes a distinctively Christian approach to covering NPQH, exploring the practical challenges of headship through ethical and value based lenses, as well as...
For up to date information on the latest resources and training events please visit our website http://www.ldbe.co.uk/