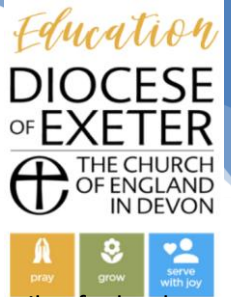


EDUCATION NEWSLETTER FROM THE EDUCATION TEAM AT THE DIOCESE OF EXETER



Dear Colleagues,

What a start to the academic year! We are only one month in and you have achieved so much already. Our children and young people are largely back in school with your teams ably focussing on rebuilding relationships and rekindling that sense of belonging that is so important to us all. It is well documented that we cannot separate the importance of belonging from our physical and mental health, and that the social ties that accompany this are a protective factor in helping to manage stress. The relationships and connections which you have nurtured over the years, along with the tremendous work you are currently undertaking, are vital for the ongoing health and wellbeing of individuals, our schools and our wider communities. Thank you.

There is currently lots in the news about those in our schools who are most disadvantaged: about hunger, the digital divide, learning loss and poverty. Whilst we know that the Government has pledged funding to support these issues, it is schools, churches and charity groups who are implementing changes and providing the practical support to make a tangible difference in our communities. You may have seen it reported that the Archbishop of Canterbury has recognised the vital contribution schools are making, stating, 'We are indebted to the teachers, cleaners, catering staff, administration staff and others who have worked tirelessly in incredibly difficult conditions, doing work that often goes unseen and unthanked.'

Whilst we don't know what the future holds, please know you have our support, and that the love, care and dedication with which you approach your work is greatly appreciated.

Sue Lockwood

Acting Diocesan Director of Education

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

Safeguarding: A letter is attached to the covering email with this newsletter to give assurances that named staff who visit your schools have an Enhanced DBS check, as per the national guidelines for Safer Recruitment in the Church of England. Please place this with your Single Central Record, and always phone if you have any queries.

Service Level Agreement: The new agreement will start in January 2021. Please click [here](#) to subscribe and gain additional support for your school, and in support of our family of schools.

Voice of Children and Young People (CYP): Both nationally and within the Diocese of Exeter, the Church of England is on a mission to better listen to the voice of CYP. However we need your help. We are looking for four primary aged and four secondary aged students who could join a national group to help shape the vision of the Church of England for the 2020s. We are seeking commitments by the 12th October. If you are interested please do make contact by emailing education@exeter.anglican.org. Additionally, our own Board of Education wish to know what is important to CYP so that this can influence our work. As such we are requesting that school councils share 'what's on their mind' with us at least once a term, before Board meetings. The next is scheduled for 24th February 2021.

Archbishop of York Youth Trust and Young Leader Awards (YLA): This trust is aimed at 'empowering a generation of young people to transform society.' The YLA is a fully resourced programme available from KS1 through to Post 16 which aims to:

- Build pupils' leadership skills and character,
- Grow confidence, teamwork, resilience and care for others,
- Empower pupils to serve their communities.

To find out more about the YLA click [here](#). For some great **free resources** click here, including ways in which young people can serve their communities during Covid-19, click [here](#).

Training and network opportunities are detailed in our Autumn 2020 [programme](#). Events in the next few weeks include:

- School Leaders Covid Support Group: Monday 5th October, and Monday 12th October, 16:00
- New School Leaders Induction: Tuesday 6th October, 09:30 – 12:00
- Suicide Awareness training: Wednesday 7th October, 16:00 – 18:00
- Diocesan Governance Forum: Tuesday 13th October, 16:00 – 17:00
- Governor / Director Induction – 2 part training: Wednesdays 14th and 21st October, 10:00 – 11:30
- New RE curriculum: Wednesday 21st October, 13:00 – 16:00
- Relationships, Sex, Health education: Thursday 22nd October, either 14:00 – 15:30 or 16:00 – 17:30
- Diocesan Leadership Forum for school staff: Tuesday 10th November, 10:00 – 11:00
- Secondary School Leadership Forum: Thursday 12th November, 10:00 – 11:00

Anti-slavery Awareness day – 18th October: Free resources from the Clewer Initiative can be found [here](#).