

EDUCATION NEWSLETTER FROM THE EDUCATION TEAM AT THE DIOCESE OF EXETER

Dear Colleagues,

Advent has arrived and with it the countdown to Christmas. I know your pace of work will not subside and that the many activities, and associated joys of the season, are being approached in new ways. The nativity plays, the carol services, and the gathering together for Christmas dinner will all feel very different. There will be a wide range of emotions, often conflicting, coursing through our schools.

2020 has been hard. The pandemic has changed much in society and its impact will be long lasting. In these times of uncertainty we, as leaders, have considerable influence and responsibility in supporting and guiding our communities, and in giving hope for the future.

Christmas is a time of hope, a time to spread joy and to remember afresh that God loves us all. Jesus was born in unlikely conditions to a virgin mother, in a stable, visited by shepherds and wise men, and subject to a murder plot by Herod! His birth gives us hope that light can emerge in times of darkness.

We know how hard you and your teams are working and trust that as the term progresses and the Christmas break commences you will take time to reflect on all you have achieved over the last year in ensuring our children, young people and families feel a sense of belonging and know they are valued. We appreciate the time, love and care that you have given. Thank you.

Wishing you peace and joy,

Sue Lockwood

Acting Diocesan Director of Education

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13).

Fully funded internationally recognised training to support children's emotional wellbeing: The FRIENDS programs helps people of all ages build resilience, confidence, and emotional wellbeing, which can then help improve learning and social outcomes. For more details click [here](#).



Sacred Spaces at Advent: The Archbishop of York's Youth Trust has partnered with Prayer Spaces in Schools to produce the free resource 'Sacred Spaces at Advent'. The lead up to Christmas can be a busy time and we can forget to slow down, missing some of the most important things about this special season. With four weeks of content, moments of stillness found in the Christmas story are explored. Activities and challenges are suitable for 7 – 14 year olds and can be used at school, church or home.

The biggest festive carols and nativity event in the South West - 5th & 6th December, 7pm: An online Christmas extravaganza with thousands watching LIVE from homes across the region. Can you spot our local schools? To find out more or watch live visit www.southwestcarols.com.



Big Start Assemblies – 12 months free subscription: Our Church of England schools can have 12 months free access to this collective worship resource. Our diocesan 'coupon code' is EXETER2415 and gives 100% discount on the individual subscription. Click [here](#) for more information. Enjoy!

Secondary School Virtual Summit by SINCE 9/11: Ahead of next year's 20th anniversary of 9/11, and to mark Human Rights Day on 10th December, SINCE 9/11 is hosting an online summit for secondary school students around the country. The Student Summit will feature expert speakers – from a relative of a victim of the attacks, to leading educators on countering extremism – and opportunities for students to ask live questions. The summit is in association with research being carried out by UCL Institute of Education. Find out more [here](#).

Training and network opportunities are detailed in our Spring 2021 [programme](#). Events remaining this term are:

- Diocesan Governance Forum: Tuesday 8th December, 16:00 – 17:00
- Diocesan Covid Support Group for schools: Tuesday 8th December, 13:30

Service Level Agreement: The new agreement will start in January 2021. Please click [here](#) to subscribe. Your subscription allows us to continue to provide our core level support in addition to the extra benefits detailed.

Devon Primary Fairtrade conference and training workshops: Everything you need to deliver your own conference, including training, is available freely this year. Teacher workshops will be held on Tuesday 8th December and Thursday 7th January, 4:30 – 6pm. Please contact dde@globalcentred Devon.org.uk to register or to find out more.



Christmas closing: The diocesan offices will be closed from the 24th December until the 4th January 2021.