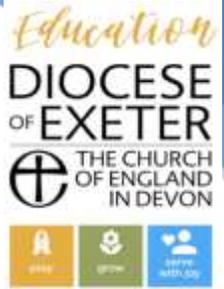


# EDUCATION NEWSLETTER FROM THE EDUCATION TEAM AT THE DIOCESE OF EXETER



Dear Colleagues,

I am very aware that the Christmas break in which many of you were hoping to rest and recuperate was taken over by track and trace, mass testing plans and by the ever changing and often conflicting advice about the start of the Spring term. I know too that you will have been reviewing your risk assessments and making seemingly impossible decisions about what is the right thing to do for your students, your staff and your communities as a whole. With rapidly rising infection rates nationwide and ever changing and conflicting guidance you are under enormous pressure. There may be moments when you despair and feel acutely lonely. You are not - we stand with you.

The Diocesan Board of Education is not a union, a sector body, a Local Authority or an employer of staff in schools but does have a statutory role set out in legislation to (amongst other things) 'promote or assist in the promotion of education in the Diocese that is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England'. During this pandemic this has meant that behind the scenes we work with and alongside all those who are working to determine the response of schools to the ever-changing crisis. We advocate for you, and for your voices to be heard as church school leaders. Fundamentally, we work to support you in holding fast to your school's distinctive Christian vision.

Whilst writing I hear there is to be a briefing by the Prime Minister tonight. Whatever the outcome, please know we are here to support you. Do keep in touch.

Thank you for your continuing dedication and service.

Kind regards,

*Sue Lockwood*

Acting Diocesan Director of Education

*"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."  
(1 Chronicles 16:11 NIV)*

**Training and network opportunities** are detailed in our Spring 2021 [programme](#). Upcoming events are as follows:

- SIAMS Hubs, 16:00 – 17:15: Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Jan (Exeter & East Devon), Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Jan (Plymouth and West Devon), Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Jan (South Devon and Torbay), Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Jan (North Devon).
- Faith at Home open network: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 11:00 – 12:00, Working together (schools & churches) to hear the voice of Children and Young People.
- Leadership Forum: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 10:00 – 11:00 with guest speaker Sharon Warmington, from the National Black Governors Network Ltd. More details to follow
- Clerk's Forum: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 09:30 – 11:00.
- Diocesan Governance Forum: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 16:00 – 17:00, with guest speaker Sharon Warmington from the National Black Governors Network Ltd. More details to follow.

**Children's Mental Health Week – 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021:** This year's theme is 'Express Yourself' and focusses on finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas through creativity. Free [resources](#) are available to support primary and secondary schools. There are assembly guides, class activities, and top tips for pupils and parents.



**Buckfast Abbey Education host online Wellbeing Festival for Primary Schools – 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February:** The festival gives pupils opportunities to engage in practical and fun workshops with a focus on developing spiritual, emotional and mental health. Find out more on their website [here](#), or contact the Buckfast Abbey Education Team on [education@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:education@buckfast.org.uk) or 01364 645517.

## PRICES

Band A: Up to 30 children	£25
Band B: 31 - 70 children	£50
Band C: 71 - 150 children	£75
Band D: 150 - 300 children	£100
Band E: 301+ children	£150

all prices incl. VAT

**Service Level Agreement:** New agreements for 2021 have now started and will run for the complete calendar year. If you have subscribed, please complete the planner to allow us all to plan the pattern of support required and to put dates in the diary as soon as possible. Thank you. If you haven't yet subscribed and would like to find out more, please click [here](#).

**Devon Primary Fairtrade conference and training workshops:** Everything you need to deliver your own conference, including training, is available freely this year. A teacher workshop will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 4:30 – 6pm, and repeated Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 4.30-6pm. Please contact [dde@globalcentredevon.org.uk](mailto:dde@globalcentredevon.org.uk) to register or to find out more.



**Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) Devon, 2021:** The 27<sup>th</sup> January every year stands out as an important day, reminding us of the unparalleled horrors of the WW2 holocaust, as well as subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. This year's theme, be the light in the darkness, is an affirmation and a call to action for everyone marking HMD. Detailed lists of resources and links to online talks can be found [here](#).



**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 [REDACTED] and gives 100% discount on the individual subscription. Click [here](#) for more information.