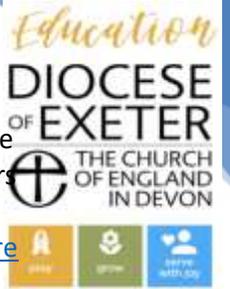


# EDUCATION NEWSLETTER FROM THE EDUCATION TEAM AT THE DIOCESE OF EXETER

*'To support, champion and challenge school communities to flourish together as an expression of God's love.'*



Dear Colleagues,

Last week's announcement from the Secretary of State for Education renews the government's vision for all schools to be part of strong Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs). We believe in collaboration and as such the Board of Education, through their School Organisation and Governance Group (SOGG), are considering what the right kind of partnerships might be locally. Please do get in contact if you have any questions or if you are exploring options.

In the Bible, St Paul's letter to the Christian people in Corinth tells them they are like the parts of the body. They need to work together for the good of all. *If one part suffers, all suffer together; if one flourishes, all rejoice together. (1 Corinthians 12.26)*

Together as school leaders, we all have a responsibility to ensure our school communities are the best they can be, and that together we do the very best for all children and young people in our care.

Best wishes,

*Sue Lockwood*

Acting Diocesan Director of Education

*'No man is an island entire of itself;  
every man is a piece of the  
continent, a part of the main'  
(John Donne)*



**Archbishop of York Youth Trust's Young Leaders Award (YLA):** In schools we know that young people have the power to change the world and we are passionate about empowering them to transform society. This Young Leaders Award (YLA) is a fully resourced programme which aims to build pupils' leadership skills and character; grow confidence, teamwork, resilience and care for others; and empower pupils to serve their communities. Available [here](#) for KS1 through to Post 16, the YLA links to SMSC, British Values, PSHE, Citizenship, RE and SIAMS.

**Three Minutes a Day:** During the ten days from Ascension to Pentecost (found in the Bible in Acts 1:6-11 & Acts 2:1-21, or as animations on YouTube [Jesus' Ascension](#) & [God sends the Holy Spirit](#)) we encourage you to think about the prayer life of your church school. Whilst prayer should not ever be compulsory or forced, all those who wish to do so should have regular opportunities to pray and reflect. In a good church school, 'Prayer is a natural and valued part of the culture' (SIAMS framework). We invite you to use this primary Collective Worship, [The Ten Days of Prayer](#), which invites everyone to talk to God, praying in simple ways, for three minutes a day. This year the 'ten days of prayer' are from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May.



**Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing, Supporting Friendship – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 14:00 – 15:00:** Join this national webinar in Mental Health Awareness Week to reflect on the challenges facing young people's mental health and well-being, and appropriate Christian responses and interventions. This webinar is led by the Children's Society in conjunction with diocesan colleagues from Sheffield. You can sign up [here](#) to attend or, if you can't, to receive a recording of the presentations, all the links and resources.

**Sharing the Story:** Would you like to link church-based volunteers with your pupils to support them in developing a love of reading? The 'Sharing the Story' project aims to galvanise church communities to come alongside schools to offer support for individuals in school and possibly also through holiday periods. Training is being provided through Ilsham English hub - please see the attached poster for details. If this might be helpful to your school, ask your church to get involved and email [tina.wilkes@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:tina.wilkes@exeter.anglican.org) for details. Schools will be responsible for their own safeguarding arrangements and local induction.



**The Big Ask:** Please encourage your young people (aged 4–17) to complete this [survey](#) from the Children's Commissioner for England. The results will be used to show the government what young people think, and what they need to live happier lives.

Our **Programme of Networks and Training opportunities** is published on our [website](#). Training for the next period includes:

- SIAMS hubs: Exeter & East, 4<sup>th</sup> May; Plymouth & West, 5<sup>th</sup> May; South Devon & Torbay, 12<sup>th</sup> May; North Devon, 13<sup>th</sup> May
- Leadership Forum – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 10:00 – 11:00
- Governance Forum – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 16:00 – 17:00
- Bridging the Diversity Gap (Governance), 17<sup>th</sup> May, 18:00 – 19:30. Book [here](#) through Baths & Wells
- Sharing the Story training (schools and/or churches together) - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 10:00 – 11:30
- Introduction to SIAMS – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 13:00 – 16:00
- Spiritual development – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 13:30 – 16:00
- Leading RE in the primary school – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 13:30 – 16:00
- Regular Friday 'wellbeing and spiritual refreshment' sessions – now open to all staff and governors



Please book on-line [here](#)