

SCHOOLS' NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term : September 2014

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Dear Colleagues

Welcome back to what seems to be an interesting year ahead, especially with a General Election in the offing. I extend a very special welcome to our new school leaders, staff and governors. We very much look forward to working with you.

We welcome Bishop Robert, our new Diocesan Bishop, who arrives with a strong track record of understanding church schools and institutions. He has already visited several of our schools and been impressed with what he has seen. He is particularly interested in developing the spiritual side of our schools, including collective worship and has written extensively on these areas. Bishop Nick is continuing as Chair of the Board of Education and here we also have someone grounded in the reality of day to day church school life.

Thanks to all of you for your support in communicating your SATS and external exam results to our DEO's. You don't need me to rehearse the plethora of new initiatives and expectations you have needed to implement this term and I know that you have needed a variety of skills – from imagination to fortitude as well as making creative opportunities to enhance your children's learning. It appears that all our schools have managed to find practical solutions to the school meals issue, with one of our number having to wait until about half term to implement their plans. This is a considerable achievement by all. Well done.

I want to focus on a couple of developments of current interest. Firstly, there is a national focus on attracting high quality governors for our schools, at a time when it is becoming more difficult to attract such people. I attach a letter that all Chairs of Governors have received from Lord Nash about this issue, together with the revised Governors' Handbook. Christina Mabin has worked closely with SSGOS Governors for Schools and this link has already been fruitful, bringing new volunteers forward. If you want to find out more, please contact her. In conjunction to this, incumbents and PCC's will have received a letter outlining a decision of the DBE about nominating and appointing Foundation Governors. This clarifies the existing situation and brings us in to line with other dioceses. It does not alter the nominating sources – PCC's, trusts etc only – names will be brought forward locally as always where they have before.

Following the letter from Bishop Nick with reference to foundation governors, it is very much hoped that the very valuable school and Parish links will continue to enable the preservation and development of the religious character of each school which will include nominations for foundation governors. The DBE will be the appointing body which will enable us to advice and support PCCs when issues arise. The change will affect VA schools where the instrument of governance states that the PCC is the appointing authority. This wording will change

to the PCC being the nominating authority and the DBE the appointing authority. Where there are vacancies for foundation governors that PCCs find difficultly in filling please let us know so that we can work with you to find suitable candidates.

The importance of Religious Education in the curriculum has been underlined recently by events elsewhere in schools. It is even more important for our children to fully understand the major different world faiths. The new Agreed Syllabi for Devon, Torbay and Plymouth will sharpen our thinking in this regard. We have this week received the Review of RE in Church of England Schools, named 'Making a Difference?' One of the main findings was the extent of superficiality in the teaching of RE. The immediate focus is to ensure that all teachers have sufficient subject knowledge to deliver the required depth and to make the experiences an exciting learning experience. From this we encourage all diocesan schools to engage with the roll out, from January next, of the national Christianity Project, funded centrally. A national review of SIAMS inspections and the RE review has shown that RE is the weaker area in SIAMS inspections, so the aim of this project is to redress this. Training plans for the Christianity Project will be added to our CPD programme this term. Watch this space!

And finally, a date for your diary:

**Diocese of Exeter's School Leaders' Conference
Will be held on 12th and 13th, March, 2015
Venue and details to be confirmed and forwarded in due course.**

Philip Mantell

Director of Education, Youth and Children's Work



Prayer Spaces in Schools Project

"Prayer Spaces in Schools enable children and young people to explore faith and spirituality from a broadly Christian perspective in a safe, creative and interactive way. A range of flexible resources can be adapted to work for participants aged 5 to 18 bringing an experiential dimension to a variety of subject areas and to pastoral aspects of school life."

Several schools across the Diocese have taken advantage of the Prayer Spaces boxes which have been produced, some of the resources are going to be available on a Prayer Spaces page of the Diocesan Website, so watch out for updates. There are now boxes available to borrow on the following topics: Friendship, Peace, Love, Creation, Perseverance, coming on stream, Trust, Forgiveness, Justice.

The boxes contain all the resources needed to set up a Prayer Space or can be divided up to resource individual Prayer Spaces in classrooms, they can be an aid to RE, developing the spiritual dimension of the curriculum and enhancing the school Christian distinctiveness. .

Help can also be provided to set up Prayer Spaces themed days as appropriate. For more information please contact Cate Edmonds ; cate.edmonds@exeter.anglican.org or 07850112997

Stop Press!

Autumn Experience is in production, this will incorporate resources for All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance



Are you interested in becoming part of the International Cross of Nails Schools?

The awarding of the Cross of Nails is in recognition of Reconciliation work already undertaken in schools and a commitment to future work.

What's it all about?

Coventry Cathedral, UK; a simple cross of **3 nails**, was made from nails of the roof found in the ruins of the old cathedral. This now stands on the altar of the new Cathedral and has become an international symbol of peace and reconciliation.

Cross of Nails Communities now exist all over the world in churches, prisons, schools; indeed, anywhere where the work of peace and reconciliation is important to that community. Schools in the UK are already **ICON Schools** (International Cross of Nails Schools). This seems appropriate, since reconciliation, peace-making and conflict resolution play an important role in work done in schools, concerning all sorts of areas of school life including race, religion, citizenship or personal life.

How to find out more?

Look on the website; <http://www.crossofnails.org/icons-section/>

Contact Rev Cate Edmonds who is the local link with Coventry ICONS team and local assessor; cate.edmonds@exeter.anglican.org

Why not think about joining this growing international group of schools and communities to promote PEACE and Reconciliation?

NEWSLETTER FOR ALL SCHOOL GOVERNORS AND

ACADEMY DIRECTORS

Governor training for all Church School and Academy Governors

If you are a newly appointed governor or have not yet attended one of our Church School training days you are invited to an introduction to Church school governance including SIAMS, RE and collective worship.

Thursday 16th October – The Old Deanery, Exeter
9.30am coffee for 10am start until 3pm

Saturday 6th December – The Old Deanery
9.30am coffee for 10am start until 1.30pm. Light lunch provided.

Thursday 5th March – north Devon
9.30am coffee for 10am start until 3pm
The church school training days are open to all governors of church schools and academies.

Heads, Chairs and Ex-officios

To understand each role and the responsibilities and expectations of working together in a church school, we invite you to: Three twilight sessions focusing on working together in Collective Worship, RE, Christian Distinctiveness and the links with the parish. It is recommended participants attend all three sessions to gain the full potential of this training. Foundation governor may attend as substitute. All at The Old Deanery, Exeter, 4pm arrival for 4.30-6.30pm. A reminder for those who attended the first session - SESSION THREE - 23rd September, 2014

School Admissions

A consultation on amendments to the School Admissions Code started on 22nd July 2014 and will last for 10 weeks.

The consultation is available at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-school-admissions-code.

The closing date is 29 September 2014.

We encourage all schools to read the draft code and respond to the consultation.

For further information on the draft admissions code and consultation please come along to one of the following roadshows:

Autumn Admissions Roadshows

For current updates on admissions and help with your admissions policy which needs to be reviewed in the Autumn term and sent to the diocese by 31st October you are encouraged to attend one of the following roadshows:

Tuesday 16th September - Pilton Bluecoat Junior School, Barnstaple

Tuesday 30th September – All Saints Academy, Plymouth

Tuesday 7th October – Old Deanery, Exeter

Monday 13th October – St Marychurch, Torbay

Tea/coffee at 4pm for 4.15pm start until 6.15pm

There is no charge for attendance at the roadshows

All admission arrangements for 2015/16 must have been determined by 15th April and on the school's website by 1st May.

To book a place on any of the above dates please complete the booking form that follows and email to Fran Bradley educationevents@exeter.anglican.org. Telephone number 01392 294921

New Constitution Regulations statutory guidance

The DfE has published statutory guidance about the amendments to the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012. As expected, the amendment requires all governing bodies of local authority (LA) maintained schools to be constituted under the 2012 Constitution Regulations or the 2012 Federation Regulations, as appropriate, by 1 September 2015.

Appointment of Foundation Governors to all Church School Governing Bodies in the Diocese of Exeter

Following a meeting of the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) in July it was agreed that all Foundation Governors will now be appointed by this body. Currently there is a mixture of appointing authorities, all of which will be able to nominate to the DBE. The DBE recognise and acknowledge the increasing difficulty in recruiting Foundation Governors. The Governors Handbook 2014 underlines and enforces the high expectation on Governing Bodies and in all schools, Governors should focus on three strategic functions:

- a) ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic development
- b) holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and
- c) overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

The DBE is now working with SGOSS (School Governor One Stop Shop), an organisation that links prospective Governors with vacancies in schools. These are usually professionals who want to become Governors but don't have links with particular schools. One concern Parishes may have is the preservation and development of the religious character of the school. Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) will nominate Foundation Governors who have both the appropriate skills to govern the school and the commitment to enhance and develop the religious character of the school. The religious character is evaluated through the SIAMS inspection process, which is an additional part of being a Church School. Emanating from its Mission Statement, agreed Christian values, policies and practices will ensure a consistency in all parts of school life, particularly, but not only, in RE and Collective Worship. In the appointment process the DBE will closely scrutinise all foundation governor nominations against the criteria agreed by the DBE prior to any appointment being made along with identifying other skills and expertise required.

The DBE values every person who volunteers to help improve their school by being a Governor. How well a Governing Body fulfils its role will have a real impact on the success of the school. The performance of the Governors is also part of an OFSTED inspection and Inspectors will look at the consistency and effectiveness of the Governing Body in all of its major functions. The process of all Foundation Governor appointments being made by the DBE will take effect from 1st September 2014 as and when governing bodies reconstitute. For further information please contact Sarah Owen – governance@exeter.anglican.org.

New Governors' Handbook

A revised version of the Governors' Handbook was published in May 2014. The Governors' Handbook contains essential information that all governors and trustees need to know. It outlines what the legal responsibilities of school governors are, and how these fit together with the day-to-day responsibilities of the headteacher running the schools, the local authority, academy trust, and others.

The changes include:

- New section on changes to the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 and the School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012
- More information on the strategic/operational divide
- Updated information on external reviews of governance
- Updated content on careers advice

For any advice and support please contact Sarah Owen on 01392 294938 or email governance@exeter.anglican.org

In order for us to keep our database up to date and to ensure that we have the correct details for all governors, academy directors and members please can you let us know of any changes by emailing Sarah Owen on governance@exeter.anglican.org

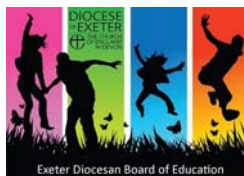
Similarly, minutes of full governing body meetings need to be sent following each meeting to governance@exeter.anglican.org

CPD PROGRAMME Autumn 2014

Summary of course dates:

Governor training	Date	Place	Time
Admissions Roadshow	Tues 16 th Sept	Pilton Bluecoat School, Barnstaple	16.00 -18.30
Chairs, Heads & Ex-Officios	Tues 23 rd Sept	The Old Deanery, Exeter	16:30 – 18:30
Admissions Roadshow	Tues 30 th Sept	All Saints, Plymouth	16:00 – 18:30
Admissions Roadshow	Tues 7 th Oct	The Old Deanery, Exeter	16:00 – 18:30
Admissions Roadshow	Mon 13 th Oct	St. Marychurch, Torbay	16:00 – 18:30
New Governor Induction	Thurs 16 th Oct	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 15:30
Clerks Update	Wed 12 th Nov	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 13:00
Academies Network Meeting	Wed 26 th Nov	The Old Deanery, Exeter	14:00 – 16:00
All New Staff Networking	Thurs 4 th Dec	The Old Deanery, Exeter	16:00 – 18:00
New Governor Induction	Sat 6 th Dec	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 13:30
Leadership and Management	Date	Place	Time
Ofsted Training	Wed 1 st Oct	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 15:30
Safer Recruitment	Tues 21 st Oct	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:00 – 16:00
Teaching in a Church School	Wed 5 th Nov	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 15:30
Critical Incident Aftermath	Tues 18 th Nov	The Old Deanery, Exeter	09:30 – 15:30
Senior Leaders Induction	Mon 8 th Dec	The Old Deanery	09:30 – 15:30
Quiet days			Time
Senior Leaders Quiet Day	Fri 21 st Nov	Dartington Hall, Totnes	09:30 – 15:30
RE	Date	Place	Time
Learn, Teach, Lead – Enhancing RE in the South West	Thurs/Fri 16 th /17 th Oct	St. Mellion Resort Hotel, Saltash	4pm 16 th to 4pm 17 th

Exeter Diocese : Children and Young People : Booking Form

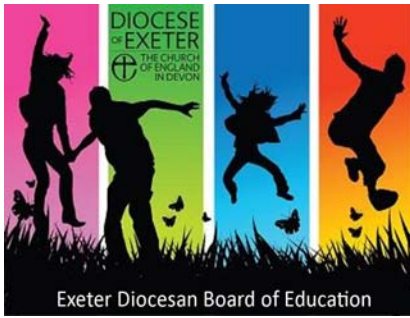


Course Title	
Course date and venue	
Name of Delegate	
Position in School e.g. Head, Governor	
School Name	
Email address for delegate	
Phone number For delegate	
Full Address For invoicing, (school address unless paying for yourself!)	
Special Dietary Requirements?	
Any other special requirements?	
Cost per delegate	
Total cost to be invoiced to school	£180 (plus VAT where applicable) - School staff – NON SLA £130 (plus VAT where applicable) – School staff – SLA £80 (plus VAT where applicable) – Governors – NON SLA £50 (plus VAT where applicable) – Governors – SLA

We respectfully draw your attention to the following **Terms and Conditions**.

1. Please note that bookings for this event will be on a first come first served basis.
2. Please confirm special dietary requirements at time of booking.
3. A programme and information will be sent prior to the event.
4. CANCELLATION - In the event of cancellation, and if no other delegate can be sent as a replacement, the school may be liable to a cancellation charge (100% if cancelling within one week of an event) but subject to terms and conditions of venues where applicable.
5. Most courses will have a minimum number of participants required to make the course viable. In the event of the Diocese cancelling the course, a full refund will apply.

Completed forms to be emailed to educationevents@exeter.anglican.org or posted to Events, Exeter Diocese Board of Education, Education Office, The Old Deanery, The Cloisters, Exeter, EX1 1HS.
Tele Number: 01392 294921.



Exeter Diocesan Board of Education
Diocesan Education Office
The Old Deanery
The Cloisters
Exeter, EX1 1HS

Main Telephone Number: 01392 294950

For individual contact numbers please add extension number: 01392 29XXXX

Website: www.exeter.anglican.org

Main E-mail: education@exeter.anglican.org

For individual email addresses use firstname.surname@exeter.anglican.org

Education Team:	Job title:	Ext:
Philip Mantell	Director of Education, Youth and Children's Work	(x 4950)
Lynne Sargeant	Executive Assistant (Mon to Thurs) education@exeter.anglican.org	x 4950
Fran Bradley	Administrator Events (Mon to Wed) educationevents@exeter.anglican.org	x 4921
Sarah Owen	Administrator Governance/Admissions (Mon to Wed) governance@exeter.anglican.org	x 4938
Marilyn Pearce	Administrator for SIAMS SIAMS@exeter.anglican.org	email
Christina Mabin	Schools Admissions & Governance Adviser For governance queries For admissions queries, or email address schooladmissions@exeter.anglican.org	X 4938 X 4939
Janine Waring	Academy Project Officer, St Christopher's MAT janine.waring@stchristophersmat.org	x 4923
Adrian Hilliard	Director of Finance and Business St Christopher's MAT Adrian.hilliard@stchristophersmat.org	x 4922
Tatiana Wilson	Diocesan Education Officer	x 4941
Fr Richard Maudsley	Diocesan Education Officer	x 4961
Penny Burnside	Diocesan Education Officer	x 4942
Katherine Lyddon	Children's Work Adviser	x 4937
Paul Reisbach	Youth Work Adviser	x 4932
Revd Cate Edmonds	Diocesan Adviser for Education Chaplaincies	x 4933
Revd James Grier	Adviser for Youth Church	x 4934
Property Services:		
Raymond Twohig	Schools Funding Adviser (Accountant)	(x 4952)
Richard Power/Jason Down	Diocesan Surveyors (Education)	(x 4952)
Peter Armstrong	Administrator	x 4952