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**A FUTURE  
FULL OF HOPE**  
CLIFTON DIOCESE

January 2019

*Deepening prayer, enabling communion, strengthening mission*

### January newsletter

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope that you were able to have a restful break. As we start a new calendar year remember *“those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”* [Isaiah 40:31](#)



### Chaplaincy commissioning Day



Congratulations to all those newly commissioned pupil chaplains and thank you to all those who have continued in the role. There was a wonderful celebration at the Cathedral in November where over 900 pupils were in attendance. It is clear from talking to the pupils how much they value the opportunities that are presented to them in this area and just how committed they are to supporting the spiritual development of their peers within their school. Thank you to all for supporting the event and the work you do in this field.

### Year of Mission

On behalf of the Bishop, can I thank you for your involvement in the Year of Mission. Schools participation was outstanding with much work being done at both individual school level and partnership level. One example of partnership work can be seen in the picture below. All the schools within the Camino worked on designing and making a banner to depict mission. They also celebrated by having a partnership picnic for all school community members including families.



## Appointment of a new Project Officer

A replacement for Lisa has now been found and commenced on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. His name is Paul Kehoe from Gloucester. He has headship and governance experience and will prove to be an asset to the department and work going forward. His remit is the same as Lisa's in terms of working with partnerships to enable them to operate effectively but also to help implement the diocesan strategy in terms of moving things forwards in this new educational landscape. I am sure you will welcome him at any forthcoming meetings.

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## School Improvement Support for the 2018-19 Academic Year

Guidance was published by the DfE on 9 November 2018 concerning support for schools identified as coasting or below the floor standards, but not judged 'inadequate' by Ofsted. This is an optional offer for: a) primary schools defined as below the floor standards or coasting based on KS2 revised data published in December 2018, b) secondary schools defined as below the floor standards or coasting based on KS4 revised data published in January 2019, c) 'requires improvement' as judged by Ofsted and that are not subject to below the floor or coasting

All eligible schools will be offered up to 3 days of free advice from a designated national leader of education (NLE) or equivalent. The NLE will work with senior school or trust leaders to help them identify and access school improvement resources. Eligible schools also judged as 'requires improvement' by Ofsted in 2 consecutive inspections will be offered up to £16,000 of funded support to address the needs identified by the NLE.

All funded support will be delivered by the end of the 2020 spring term. Schools will be notified in January by the DfE if they are eligible.

N.B. In the 2018 to 2019 academic year, the Department for Education (DfE) will not use coasting and floor standards for intervention. It will only intervene on the grounds of educational underperformance if Ofsted has judged a school as 'inadequate'. The DfE will consult on a new way to identify schools eligible for future DfE-funded support.

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## Governors Briefings

Thanks to all who managed to attend the most recent governor briefings on self-evaluation and monitoring. Overall feedback suggested that the content was found to be very beneficial. The Mission and Ethos groups within partnerships have been asked to think of relevant topics for future briefings or trainings and for their representative at the CCDEF committee level to feed back. The aim of the briefings was to be driven by partnership needs for training or information. The next set of briefings will be in the Summer term. Dates will be distributed as soon as they have been confirmed.

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## LCVAP funding

May I please remind those in receipt of this funding that money can only be spent on projects that have been agreed and for which the funding was originally allocated. Changes cannot be made unless approval is sought from the department. This also applies to any project that is deemed to be going over budget. Failure to work with the department will result in the school being liable for any costs or indeed the money having to be taken back.

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## Safeguarding

May I please remind everyone how important it is to ensure that all staff are aware of the changes to the 'Keeping Children Safe' document and the amendments made in September 2018. Recent inspections have seen staff being asked questions related to it. You need to ensure that updates are just not brought to the attention of staff who are then asked to sign saying they have read it. There does need to be a clear briefing on any changes.

## **Mental health and wellbeing provision in schools:**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/705083/Supporting\\_Mental-Health\\_pen\\_portraits.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/705083/Supporting_Mental-Health_pen_portraits.pdf)

This report summarises a research project on the information schools provide to support their pupils' wellbeing and mental health. The report uses a sample to evaluate activities and approaches in different schools, including: what policies schools currently publish and how policies can help schools promote pupil wellbeing. Though not statutory, this report would be a good starting point for comparison and impact monitoring discussions. This has become a high priority area within our schools and one that governors need to be aware of along with the strategies the school are using to support pupils showing signs.

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## **Respectful Schools Toolkit**

The DfE has published a Respectful School Communities toolkit designed to support schools to develop a whole-school approach, which promotes respect and discipline. This can combat bullying, harassment and prejudice of any kind.

The toolkit is available at the following link:

<https://educateagainsthate.com/school-leaders/?filter=guidance-and-training-schoolleaders>

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## **Ofsted update- Launch of EEG (electronic gathering of evidence) for school inspections from November 2018**

Currently, inspectors gather evidence using a variety of methods, but the recording and evaluation of this largely involves pen and paper. The new EEG tool will allow inspectors to collect evidence electronically, straight onto an electronic device during inspection. It is already beginning to be used during inspections but

there is an aim that from the summer term of 2019 all inspections will be using this mode of gathering and recording evidence. To support this new way of working, inspectors will need to request schools to allow access to their internet connection

## **Diocesan Strategic Working Party**

The membership of this working party has now been finalised. Thank you to those who put themselves forward.

The group will meet over two days: 31<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February with an independent chair acting as a facilitator where it is hoped a recommendation on how to move the diocesan strategy forward will then be decided.

## **Membership of the group is as follows:**

- Lyn Murray - COO of Clifton Diocese
  - Michael Thompson - Educational Trustee
  - Michelle Morgan - Educational trustee
  - Colleen Collett - Schools and Colleges Director
  - Paul Kehoe - Schools Project Officer
  - Jane Hambrook - Regional Schools Commissioners Office
  - Chris Hogan - Primary Academy Governor
  - Garry Maher - Secondary Academy Head
  - Liam Jordan - Primary Academy Head
  - Marian Curran - 6th Form College
  - Matt Condon - Primary VA Head
  - Mike Flexman - Primary VA Governor
  - Rachel Ridley - Secondary VA Head
  - Stephen McKernan - Independent Sector
  - Steve Brunton - Secondary VA Governor
  - Jude Starkey - Secondary Academy Governor
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## **Year of Prayer**

What a fantastic turn out of schools at the Bishop's launch of the Year of Prayer. It shows how committed our school communities are to fulfilling the Bishop's vision within an educational setting. We look forward to hearing about and seeing the events we know you have already planned.

The department is currently updating and adding to the Diocesan Prayer Book that was issued in 2011.

## The Journey of the Cross



The cross designed and made by St Edwards has already begun its journey across the Emmaus and Samuel partnerships.

### Next key dates in its journey are;

- Dunstan Partnership 6-16 March
- Aquinas Partnership 18-29 March
- Newman Partnership 28 March-27 April
- Camino Partnership 29 April-11 May
- Gloucestershire Partnership 13-25 May

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### Key Dates to be noted

- Primary Chaplaincy 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- Clerk to Governors Induction 11<sup>th</sup> February
- New Governors Induction 9<sup>th</sup> March
- Heads Retreat 12<sup>th</sup> March
- RE Leaders 13<sup>th</sup> March
- Governor Refresher Training 27<sup>th</sup> April
- Secondary Chaplaincy (TBC)

Please check the diocesan website for details of timings, etc.

## Finally Pause for Thought



*Leadership is an active role; 'lead' is a verb. But the leader who tries to do it all is headed for burnout, and in a powerful hurry.*

*Bill Owens*

