



CLIFTON
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A FUTURE
FULL OF HOPE
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Secondary Schools Newsletter Easter 2019

**Happy Easter
Christ is Risen**

As I write the death toll in Sri Lanka has risen to 300 and seems set to rise further. Looking at the news it seems as though the world is in chaos. Pope Francis spoke at the Easter Vigil about the need to take the Gospel of resurrection to heart.

“The women bring spices to the tomb, but they fear that their journey is in vain, since a large stone bars the entrance to the sepulcher. The journey of those women is also our own journey; it resembles the journey of salvation that we have made this evening. At times, it seems that everything comes up against a stone: the beauty of creation against the tragedy of sin; Today however we see that our journey is not in vain; it does not come up against a tombstone. A single phrase astounds the woman and changes history: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” (Lk 24:5). Why do you think that everything is hopeless, that no one can take away your own tombstones? Why do you give into resignation or failure? Easter, brothers and sisters, is the feast of tombstones taken away, rocks rolled aside. God takes away even the hardest stones against which our hopes and expectations crash: death, sin, fear, worldliness. Human history does not end before a tombstone, because today it encounters the “living stone” (cf. 1 Pet 2:4), the risen Jesus. We, as Church, are built on him, and, even when we grow disheartened and tempted to judge everything in the light of our failures, he comes to make all things new, to overturn our every disappointment. Each of us is called tonight to rediscover in the Risen Christ the one who rolls back from our heart the heaviest of stones.”

The Year of Prayer

Please see Bishop Declan’s letter at the end of this newsletter

GCSE

The debate over this continues with concern expressed over the difficulty of engaging some pupils in the course. It is possible that entry level courses will be available soon. I will keep you updated on progress.

Heads of RE Day 3rd July at Newman University

This day is being run by the CREDO team.

This conference is convened by Philip Robinson (CES), NBRIA & University Personnel for Primary and Secondary Practitioners of RE. It will cover **The New RE Curriculum Directory** and using the Bible in Schools. This is in preparation for the Bishops’ Conference initiative ‘The God who Speaks’. There will be workshops and an opportunity to engage in discussion with

colleagues from other dioceses. **It is really important that your voice is heard.** These discussions will help shape the future of the Curriculum Directory. You need to book directly with Newman College itself on <https://estore.newman.ac.uk/product-catalogue/conferences-seminars-and-workshops/workshops/newman-credo-day-3rd-july-2019>

Please make every effort to attend this day it is important you are part of the conversation.

New Guidance on Relationship and Sex Education

The DfE guidance comes into force in September 2020. In view of this there will be a half day session to discuss the new guidance and how it might impact on our schools.

This will take place on Wednesday, 19 June 2019 at St. Augustine’s Parish Centre, Boscombe Crescent, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6QR. There will be two sessions.

Session A from 10.00am till 11.30am

Session B from 1.00pm till 2.30pm

If you would like to come to this training session, please contact Graham and indicate which session (morning or afternoon) you would like to attend. This is also open to governors. There is no cost.

The CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies)

You are welcome to join in this course at any point. Our next module will be on Saturday 18th May and **Monday 3rd June (this is a change from the publicised date)**. This will be on the topic of Faith and Science.

Important Dates for your Diary

The schools Department is organising a series of ‘briefings’ around the Diocese. They take place on:

Date	Time	Partnership	Location
Monday 13 th May	7 – 8:30pm	Samuel	Holy Family Swindon
Wednesday 22 nd May	7 – 8:30pm	Camino	St Gregory’s College Bath
Thursday 13 th June	6.15-7.45pm	Emmaus	St George School (Warminster)
Wednesday 19 th June	7 – 8:30pm	Dunstan	St Joseph’s Bridgewater
Wednesday 26 th June	7 – 8:30pm	Newman	St Bede’s College (Bristol)
Wednesday 3 rd July	7 – 8:30pm	Gloucestershire	St Mary’s Primary Churchdown
Wednesday 10 th July	7 – 8:30pm	Aquinas	St Brendan’s College

Although these are intended primarily for governors you are welcome to attend.

A Day of Formation for all Chaplains and Heads of RE on October 17th

This day, which will take place at the St John’s centre in Trowbridge, is designed not only to help our own formation, but to promote conversation between people from both chaplaincy and RE and across the primary and secondary phase. Confirmed speakers so far include: **Bishop Declan Lang**, **Philip Robinson**, (the National Re Adviser,) **Andrew Pinsent**, (Research Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion at the Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford), **Tim Byron SJ**, (Tim is a Jesuit Priest from Liverpool. He is currently working in Wimbledon as part of the Jesuit Institute. He is a teacher. He has been a Chaplain to schools and

Universities in Manchester. A wilderness seeker, amateur Astronomer and a lifelong LFC supporter.)

Education Mass October 22nd Clifton Cathedral

This is the completion of the pilgrimage of our Lampedusa Cross, which will also celebrate the Extraordinary Mission Month called by Pope Francis, and our work for Missio during this Year of Prayer. Please note the date and try to support this.

Many thanks for all you do

**Ann Fowler
Deputy Director**