



called to be a people of

hope



Colleen Collett
Director
Department for Schools and Colleges
0117 902 5593

Website: <http://schools.cliftondiocese.com/>

September 2020

Deepening prayer, enabling communion, strengthening mission



We always know that the educational landscape changes from one year to the next but no- one could have predicted what has happened in the last 6 months!

I sincerely hope that you did manage at least some kind of break over what is deemed as the summer holidays.

I know that you will be receiving a lot of information from various sources and so this newsletter is purely to give you some of our updates and to reiterate we are here to support so please at any time call or email us.

RE Lead Officer

I am sure you join with me in welcoming Louise White our new RE lead officer.



Louise will be introducing herself via a letter and newsletter shortly and so I will not steal her thunder and duplicate what she may say.

Schools Partnership Officer

I am really pleased to let you know that Paul Kehoe has become a permanent member of our staff. The post was initially for a further two years following Lisa leaving. However, trustees have recognised the need for such a post to become permanent which is recognition of the work he has done and the work that is still required.

Engagement with schools during the Autumn term.

The department's role remains to provide support, and sometimes challenge, in partnership with other agencies in pursuit of providing an excellent Catholic education for all those within our diocese. All in the department are aware of the pressures leadership at all levels are under and the challenges faced to keep pupils and students on track educationally. It is not our aim or desire to increase any of this pressure but along with other agencies we will need to gather some information and work with you all to ensure that RE and Catholicity remains at the forefront of your work and that we are aware of how those in vulnerable positions are progressing in terms of addressing issues.

In line with LA's and other agencies engagement will be undertaken remotely, but where agreed and appropriate visits to schools may occur but with strict protocols in place according to both

your own and diocesan risk assessments. The Diocesan protocol for visits to schools by Schools Department staff is attached for your information.

Currently all training will be undertaken remotely unless an individual school requests inset which will need to be discussed and approved. In order to access training, it is important to remember that the person must accept the invitation to enable them to join the session.

School Closures

It is with regret that two of our diocesan schools closed at the end of the academic year 2019-20; St Dominic's Primary in Woodchester and St Mary's Independent School in Shaftesbury.

Both schools provided Catholic education within our diocese for a substantive number of years and will be a sad loss to our diocesan family.

All Saints Academy- Cheltenham a designated joint faith school

As from this September Clifton Diocese will no longer be in joint sponsorship with Gloucester diocese. The school has been officially re-designated as an Anglican Academy falling under the direction of the Diocese of Gloucester. Clifton will continue to provide support to the school for its Catholic community and they will continue to be invited to all events and remain part of the Gloucestershire and Cheltenham partnership.

Ofsted

I am sure you will have been made aware already that Ofsted intend to commence visiting schools this term. The following link will provide insight into the purpose and remit of the visits.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>

Engagement with Parish Priest and the celebration of Mass and liturgies

Having spoken to a range of people there are no official guidelines related to the above but that the key principal is ensuring that schools comply with

all guidance and their own risk assessments in terms of visitors to school etc.

There are a range of options available to ensure that liturgy within bubbles continues, the most obvious being via a remote link. It is for schools to decide how best to provide this working in close partnership with their parish priest. I would recommend providing your parish priest with the schools' risk assessment or any policies related to protocols for visits. Should you wish to discuss any specific issues then please make contact with me or Louise.

Section 48- Monitoring Visits

No section 48 inspections or official monitoring visits will occur during the Autumn term.

However, it may be appropriate to make contact with those schools with an inadequate or RI judgment and pending re-inspection which may or may not restart in January. We are awaiting guidance.

Safeguarding

As is always the case there are some updates to the Keeping Children Safe Document which all should be made aware of:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/912592/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_Sep_2020.pdf

GCSE and A' Level Results

Congratulations to all our Colleges and Secondary Schools for working hard to ensure that the students and pupils did as well as they could given the circumstances in which they were working. We have as always had some great results.

New Recruits

Welcome and good luck to all those new to our schools. I am sure you and all in your partnership will support and make them welcome.

We are in the process of setting session dates for those new to Catholic education, and those new to senior leadership have received a welcome letter with a date for a virtual session. Can you please check that a response of attendance has been sent.

Key headship changes:

- St Joseph's, Nympsfield - Interim Head - Clare Howells replacing Wendy D'Arcy
- St Brendan's 6th form College - Marian Curran substantive Principal replacing Michael Jaffrain
- St Joseph's, Portishead - Elaine Jackson now part time 3 days a week. Deputy Greg Bath - head for remaining two days a week
- St Edmund's, Calne - Louise Brown substantive head
- Christ The King, Amesbury - Richard Sanderson interim executive head also head of St Osmund's
- St John's, Bath - Interim head in place Catharine Young
- Holy Cross, Swindon - Andrew Henstridge interim executive head
- St Edwards Special school – Melchet Court – Graham Maher substantive head.
- St Edwards Independent Senior School - Matthew Burke replacing Pat Clayfield

Appointment of a South West Diocesan Hub Co-ordinator

In order to support the development of dioceses working together the CES have managed to obtain funding for one year for the appointment of hub co-ordinators. The remit is for them to work with their designated diocesan partnership to consider ways of working more closely together to maximise resources within dioceses. Priorities within our diocesan hub are the recruitment and training of Catholic leaders - including governance. Our aim would be to provide a South West Career training package for those seeking leadership in its many forms. The Co-ordinator appointed is Lyn Bourne who will work for 2 days a week. She is currently an executive head within the Diocese of Portsmouth.

A final thought

