



### **Welcome Back**

As we begin a new academic year, I would like you to consider everything you accomplished last year. It was another challenging year for families, schools, colleges, churches and communities across the world. I would like to thank all the staff in the Secondary schools and colleges for their resilience when everything was changing around them from day to day. I would also like to acknowledge the extra hours you and the staff gave to ensure that your students were prepared for their exams, and the additional assessments and marking you did to make sure everyone was given the opportunity to reach their full potential. I feel privileged to be working with you and hope that I am able to meet more of you in person this year.

### **The Season of Creation**

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration that unites Christians in praying for our common home. It was endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015 and is celebrated from the 1<sup>st</sup> September to the 4<sup>th</sup> October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. Many of the Primary schools start the school year with a Creation topic in RE which incorporates Catholic Social Teaching Stewardship. There are resources available on the Clifton Diocese Website which includes a timetable of prayers, reflections, and a Mass Bishop Declan will celebrate for green recovery. You will also find the 10 Green Commandments which can be used as a starting point for students to write their own. The resources can be accessed through this link <https://cliftondiocese.com/laudato-si/> There are free resources on the Season of Creation website <https://seasonofcreation.org/> CAFOD have Laudato Si resources for young people which can be accessed through this link <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Laudato-Si-resources>



### **COP26 and the Eyes of the World Campaign**

COP26 the United Nation's Climate talks for World Leaders will take place in Glasgow this year from the 31<sup>st</sup> of October to the 11<sup>th</sup> November. Pope Francis will also be attending. CAFOD is asking schools and colleges to join them in a campaign to call on the Prime Minister to support the world's poorest countries. Resources can be accessed through this link:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Laudato-Si-resources>



### **Education Sunday**

Education Sunday will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> September. The theme this year is 'A Word in Season.' A word in season is taken from Isaiah and explains that the one who was to come would be an anointed teacher. The theme was chosen as an acknowledgement of the weariness that may have affected the education sector with the disruption of Covid and to keep in mind the strength that will enable us to open up to the possibilities that lie ahead.

The Bible passages are:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 116:1-8

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

There are secondary resources available on the website [www.cte.org.uk/educationsunday2021](http://www.cte.org.uk/educationsunday2021)



# Secondary Newsletter September 2021

## Relationship Sex Education and Health Education

Please make sure that your school's policies and resources are compliant with the statutory requirements. There will be an opportunity to share resources at the Secondary Heads of RE Department Conference on the 13<sup>th</sup> October at St Bernadette's Secondary School. Several of the Head Teachers in the Diocese have received a letter and booklet entitled 'Parents Rights under continued attack' from the Coalition in Defence of Primary Educators. If you receive the letter and booklet, could I please ask that you do not respond to it and let me know.

## CAFOD

CAFOD are encouraging schools and colleges to 'Go Green' for this harvest. The appeal will support the communities protecting the Amazon and to stand up for people dealing with climate crisis. The Harvest Family Fast Day is on 1<sup>st</sup> October. A 10-minute national assembly will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> September. A fundraising pack including posters and stickers is available to order online.



<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Harvest-resources-young-people>

## The God Who Speaks

There are free resources available to download on 'The God Who Speaks' website. Resources include Sources of wisdom for GCSE, what we need to remember when teaching scripture and living scripture in School by Dr. Margaret Carswell. <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/education/>



## Noah Day

The Bible Society are launching a 'National Noah Day' for schools, colleges, and parishes on the 1<sup>st</sup> September. This is to promote deeper biblical understanding and environmental awareness through the focus of Noah. It will also enrich our knowledge of Noah beyond the Ark/animals theme to include ideas around baptism and salvation through his wider mission/symbolism. The resources will be available on the 'God Who Speaks' website from 1<sup>st</sup> September. The prayer stations for secondary were written by Kevin Loud, the Lay Chaplain at St Bernadette's Secondary School and St Bede's Catholic College, Bristol and so can I thank

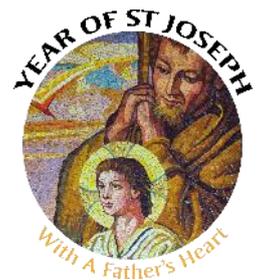
him on your behalf.

[godwhospeaks.uk/noah-and-creation-care](http://godwhospeaks.uk/noah-and-creation-care)

**Noah Day -** [godwhospeaks.uk/run-your-own-noah-day](http://godwhospeaks.uk/run-your-own-noah-day)

## The Year of St Joseph

The special year of St Joseph ends on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. In the Apostolic Letter entitled Patris Corde 'With a Father's Heart' Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, obedient, accepting, creatively courageous, a working father and a father in shadows. Pope Francis drew parallels between Saint Joseph and the ordinary people, discreet people who we have noticed more during the pandemic such as NHS staff but also shop assistants and delivery people who gave us hope and kept us going during the pandemic. There are resources available on the Missio website <https://missio.org.uk/year-of-st-joseph/> and The Diocese of Westminster <https://education.rcdow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/St-Joseph-final.pdf> <https://yearofstjoseph.org/resources/> website



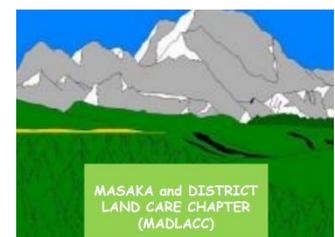
## Clifton Diocese Project

This year we would like Clifton schools and colleges to support the Clifton Diocese Project. In Laudato Si Pope Francis reminds us that:

"Each community has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming Generations."

We would like to raise enough money to supply 23 schools in Uganda with water pumps to enable them to attain water security and irrigate the tree nurseries. The project will help them plant and improve the communities public health, sanitation and hygiene, increase the farm productivity and income. 30 schools in the diocese have already pledged their support. If you would like to join the project this year please email Stephen Whelan at St Edward's School, Melchet Court on

[SWhelan@melchetcourt.com](mailto:SWhelan@melchetcourt.com)



# Secondary Newsletter September 2021

## Secondary Heads of RE Conference

The first conference for the Department Heads of RE will take place at St Bernadette's Secondary School on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October. There will be updates about the new RECD and Section 48. There will be opportunities to share good practice and resources in RHSE and pupil tracking. Further information will be sent out shortly. The second conference on the 29<sup>th</sup> April will take place at Alexander House. Ann Fowler will introduce the new RECD and there will be opportunities for collaborative planning.

## Education Mass

The Education Mass will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> November at Clifton Cathedral. This will be the first time we have been able to gather together in person for over a year. It will also be an opportunity to pay thanks to former heads and the department personnel who, owing to Covid, were not able to be thanked in the usual way. All members of the school community including parents and pupils are invited to attend.

## Chaplaincy Service

This year there will be a service for Secondary student chaplains on the 5<sup>th</sup> November at Clifton Cathedral. We look forward to seeing your school represented.

## Judaism with Jeremy

I have booked Jeremy Michelson to facilitate a virtual course about Jewish festivals and feasts, how they are celebrated and why they are important on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October. The virtual training will start at 3:30pm and last for an hour. Jeremy Michelson has taught children and young people about Jewish life through his post as the Education Officer at Manchester Jewish Museum and through 'Judaism with Jeremy.' He has trained primary and secondary teachers at the Catholic Diocese of Salford from EYFS to GCSE. Places are limited to 25 people.



## The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)

**The RE Curriculum is changing in all key stages.** The CCRS is a national qualification, and our modules are adapting to take account of the new syllabus to enable staff to feel better prepared to teach. It is a nationally recognised course designed to give staff an understanding of basic Christian theology. Each year students have found that the course gives them a chance to explore the Catholic faith, study the Bible, discuss and understand church teaching, explore the work of scholars past and present, look at how faith is put into action in the world we live in and share teaching strategies. The course offered in Clifton is directed at all those teaching in Catholic schools or who may wish to teach in a Catholic school. The course consists of eight modules run over a two-year period. Each module takes place over two days, a Saturday (10-2) and a full day on a Monday. Full details are on pages 13 and 14 of the courses booklet online. In order to achieve the national qualification, you will need to complete a 1500-word assignment for each module but you can attend purely for interest and receive a diocesan certificate of attendance. **All Governors and Headteachers** are asked to support and encourage their staff to attend this course, so they are better prepared for the challenges ahead. The first module will begin on the 25<sup>th</sup> September and will be on the Old Testament.

## Heads of RE, RE Coordinators and Religious Education Link Governor – Working Together

I have organised a meeting in partnership schools for Heads of RE, RE Leads and Religious Education Link Governors. The meetings will take place in partnership schools which I considered to be a central point of the partnership. Guidance will be provided for Governors relating to the monitoring of RE and RHSE during the meeting.

# Secondary Newsletter September 2021

## More Key Dates

- Religious Education Link Governors 2<sup>nd</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Aspiring Leaders Course Day 1, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Governor Induction Training 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Cross Phase Modular Course Day 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022
- World Mission Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- National Youth Sunday TBC



## Prayer

Let us pray,  
God of wisdom and understanding,  
Guide us in our work this year.  
Send the Holy Spirit to sustain us,  
Strengthen us,  
and nourish us as we seek to serve our school.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Our Lady, Woman of Hope,  
pray for us.

St Peter, Rock of Hope,  
pray for us.

St Paul, Apostle of Hope,  
pray for us.



Louise White  
Diocesan RE Lead Adviser