



YORK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Andrew Smith
Diocesan Director of Education

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Dear Colleague

Director's Newsletter – Spring Term 2017

I have summarised updates from our recent Leadership Network days in this newsletter. This link will take you to the presentations used there for those who wished to have electronic versions for use in school;

<http://dioceseofyork.org.uk/supporting-schools/recent-presentations/>

Please share this link with anyone that attended the Leadership Network days and any others you think would find the content useful.

The National Vision

We are continuing to frame a lot of our training and discussions around the Church of England's vision for education document, *Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good*.

The four elements of the vision include:

- Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
- Educating for Hope and Aspiration
- Educating for Community and Living Well Together
- Educating for Dignity and Respect

It is important to stress that the Church's vision document is not meant to be a top down vision that must be adhered to and schools will be measured against. Instead it is meant to be an enabler to open up a discussion around church schools in the current educational landscape. Nigel Genders, the Chief Education Officer for the Church of England, made this clear by saying, '*The vision is not a straightjacket to constrain, but rather a lens to provide strength of focus and through which local context can be brought alive*'. Therefore it is a lens through which to look at local practice in the Diocese and schools in order to help us to see things anew rather than conforming to a particular point of view.

Our Diocese of York Annual Education Conference at York Racecourse on Tuesday 20th June will hopefully help us in our making sense of the vision in our local context. It is the second in a series of three conferences based on the Church of

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Liverpool, Manchester & York**

England's Vision for Education – Shaping: **Being**: Impact – where we will explore through keynote speakers and workshops how we bring a vision into being.

DfE – Current policy update, system leadership, TSAs and strategic working

Tessa Mason, Teaching Schools Council and DfE Education Adviser, gave a wide ranging update on current policy with particular focus on Teaching Schools.

For further details, please see Tessa's presentation;
<http://dioceseofyork.org.uk/supporting-schools/recent-presentations/>

There are also places available at the TSC Conference on 20th March 2017 at The Principal Hotel, York.

The theme for the conference is 'This much we know...' and will focus on sharing evidence of the very best practice in school led improvement nationally and regionally, and how to truly make a positive difference to learning outcomes for children and young people.

For further details go to <http://www.yandhannualconference.co.uk/>

Staff Contracts for Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies

The Church of England Education Office provides a set of contracts for Church school and academy staff. The contracts have been revised in 2017 to make them more user-friendly and to comply with current legislation. The relevant Teacher and Support Unions were fully consulted.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/education/church-schools-academies/staff-contracts.aspx>

Local Updates

Acts 435

Acts 435 is a free resource for churches, schools, charities serving those in need in their local community. Its name relates to the Book of Acts Chapter 4 verse 35: "giving to anyone in need".

The website connects those in need and those who want to help, protecting anonymity and confidentiality. It is easy to use and there is minimal administration involved.

Acts 435 gives an ideal opportunity for churches and schools to be courageous advocates and provide practical help for specific items in a simple way and make a difference.

Further information can be found at <http://acts435.org.uk/>

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St Hilda's Pilgrimage

Following the success of last year's event, there will be another pilgrimage this year for young people, children and families from 30th August to 3rd September 2017. Starting at Hinderwell and finishing at Whitby Abbey, the pilgrimage follows the story of St Hilda, one of our most important local saints.

The pilgrimage is 40 miles and participants can choose to walk the whole distance or join for a particular day. Days will include walking, fellowship, worship (Messy/All age) and food. For further information, please contact Sarah Weyell at sarah.weyell@zen.co.uk

Understanding Christianity

We have been asked by a few people who missed the first round of Understanding Christianity training if we could put on some more.

Helen Wren and Olivia Seymour have found dates for this final training - 22nd May for Day 1 and 4th July for Day 2. Please contact them through the Diocesan Office for further details if you missed the initial training.

School Effectiveness – DfE and Ofsted Update

1. Ofsted has issued its March 2017 School Inspection Update, which is useful reading.
2. The DfE has outlined an amendment to the Children & Social Work Bill which will:
Make 'Relationships and Sex Education' compulsory in all secondary schools
Make 'Relationships Education' compulsory in all primary schools
Commit Government to updating the statutory guidance on 'Relationships and Sex Education'
The Government has stated that they want any new obligations to come into force for schools in September 2019. This would include the RSE obligations outlined today along with implementing statutory PSHE education, should that be the decision the DfE arrives at after consultation.
3. In April the DfE will be launching a new service which will provide schools and other existing user groups with detailed performance analysis to support local school improvement as a replacement to RAISEonline. It says the service will be easier to navigate and use, whilst retaining familiar tools such as filters. Access will be granted through 'Secure Access', in line with other DfE services. The DfE is also introducing new commercial arrangements to make the data that sits behind RAISEonline available to accredited suppliers who satisfy its security and usage criteria. As the new service is DfE led, the Ofsted Helpdesk will close on 31/03/17. When the new service is available the DfE will contact you again with the link to the new site as well as information regarding your Secure Access log-in. It will also be providing a couple of short

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videos to get users familiar with the new service. In the meantime, watch out for updates on the RAISEonline Latest News page.

4. Schools are to receive £415 million to help pupils benefit from healthier, more active lifestyles, Education Secretary Justine Greening has announced. Primary, secondary and sixth-form colleges will be able to use the funding to pay for facilities to support physical education (PE), after-school activities and healthy eating. This is additional to the funding for the PE and sport premium, breakfast clubs and universal infant free school meals. The money - from the Soft Drinks Industry Levy - will be available to schools in the 2018 to 2019 financial year and more details on how the fund will be distributed will be published later this year.
5. The DfE has made it clear that QTS will not be scrapped - instead, the government will work with the sector to develop and introduce a newly strengthened QTS from September 2019
6. Ofsted is currently trialling changes to the way that section 8 short inspections are converted to section 5 full inspections. There are three principal models (although Ofsted indicates it is possible that Ofsted's Regional Directors might trial slight alterations):
 - The short inspection lead Ofsted inspector stays on and leads the full inspection.
 - The short inspection lead Ofsted inspector hands over to an HMI, who comes on site the day after the short inspection and goes straight into the full inspection, following a brief meeting with the short inspection lead Ofsted inspector.
 - The short inspection lead Ofsted inspector hands over to an HMI and they meet off site on the day after the short inspection to plan. The lead HMI completes the full inspection the next day depending on the size of the school.

With best wishes for the remainder of term,

Andrew Smith
Diocesan Director of Education

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