

Diocesan Schools' Newsletter

Spring Term 1 2018

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Director's Briefing

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that we are already heading towards half-term and the half-way point in the school year. One of the key priorities that I have committed to this year, alongside getting out to visit as many of our Diocesan schools as I am able to, is to further strengthen the partnership work between both our schools and the Board of Education. In what is an ever changing and challenging educational landscape, it is more important than ever that we look to support one another and celebrate the special and distinctive qualities that reflect our special relationship with our Church of England schools across the Diocese.

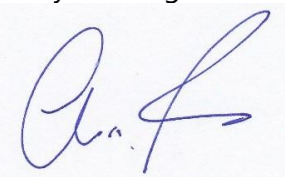
One way in which this exists is through the Anglican School Cluster Meetings. I am delighted that this term we have been able to ensure that all 116 of our schools have access to this invaluable network with the setting up of two new clusters in Cheshire East with a Macclesfield and Congleton group of schools, and in Cheshire West with our Rural Church School group. This compliments the groups already set up in Wirral, Chester, Northwich, Stockport & Tameside (inc. Derbyshire), Halton (SCRUNCH), Trafford and Warrington.

This term's meeting has looked in more detail at the Church of England's Vision for Education and an overview of the new SIAMs framework. It has also included highlighting the C of E Education office's, 'Valuing All God's Children.' This resulted in arranging a 'train the trainer' course, in conjunction with Stonewall, based on the publication in tackling HBT Bullying. The course has proved to be extremely popular, with all places being taken within just three days of publicising it. Due to the demand, we hope to be able to offer a second course.

A further exciting development available to schools from September is an improved 'enhanced' offer of support that compliments the existing 'Family of Schools' offer. It will enable Diocesan schools to purchase a School Improvement package that will include three half days of bespoke training and support within the school, a School Improvement Partner with a visit each term, the Headteacher Performance Review with governors, and a generous number of free and priority places from our CPD and training courses programme and conferences in 2018-19. We believe that the offer will provide both high-quality support and good value for money and will be delivered by our Diocesan and Headteacher Consultants. Further information and the cost will be shared with schools after half term to enable maintained schools to have the details prior to setting their 2018-19 budget.

Finally, it was great to meet up with colleagues at our recent Deputy Headteacher's and Senior Leaders Conference earlier this term, as well as with our Headteachers back in November. The feedback from both was very positive. We have already begun to plan our Conferences for next year, along with a more comprehensive programme of courses for 2018-19. As part of this, we are looking to establish a working party of interested headteachers to work with us on developing these important aspects of our offer to schools. Please contact Sue Noakes sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org if you wish to be involved with this.

Every Blessing,



Chris Penn

Director of Education

The Archbishop of York Youth Trust - Journey with us through Lent

It's almost Lent 2018. Last year The Archbishop of York Youth Trust had a fantastic response to their 40 days of kindness challenge. This Lent the Youth Trust Team are challenging young people to use this time to reflect on 6 key topics: Faith, Wisdom, Hope, Community, Respect & Dignity, Action

Resources

You can download a free resource pack for each week in Lent that unpacks the 6 key topics including:

- * A key Bible verse
- * Explanation on the topic
- * Questions to ponder and discuss
- * Challenge to Action
- * A prayer

The resources are designed to encourage pupils during Lent to think about giving up and giving out to others, and serving the world around them. 6 challenges are suggested for each week, which can be completed individually or in groups.

How to take part

Follow the link below to the website to download the resources. The challenge is open to all.

www.abyyt.com/lent

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School Links with Melanesia

Melanesia is an area of the south-west Pacific, made up of hundreds of islands, including two different countries, The Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The Diocese of Chester and the Anglican Province of Melanesia have a well-established link, which has grown from strength to strength over the last twenty years. One of the areas that is currently being developed further is links with the education system and especially the facilitation of links between schools in this diocese and those in Melanesia.

The church runs a number of schools in Melanesia and has an education department to support them. School Partnerships (twinning) are a major project for the Melanesian Mission today. They have schools in Chester, Blackburn and Exeter Dioceses linked with schools across Melanesia. These partnerships are enabling the children to experience cross cultural learning, as well as supporting teachers through learning resources and other skills.

A small number of Chester Diocesan schools have already created direct links with schools in Melanesia but we are now looking for more schools to become part of this project. What it is important to know is that

this is not about charity this is about creating meaningful links for staff and children that will benefit all in understanding different cultures across a shared faith. It is most definitely a two- way partnership.

Described by Andrew Cartwright (Trustee of the Melanesian mission and taking a lead in the Education links) as a living geography lesson, it is a great opportunity for pupils to communicate with those who live in very different environments. Links with school leaders and staff also encourages great CPD and allows staff to share teaching strategies with those overseas without the technology available to professionals in this country.

Examples of work that has already taken place includes:

- Storyboards created by pupils in Melanesia and shared with pupils here to help understand life in the Pacific
- Schemes of work created on memory sticks and sent to schools in Melanesia (this is quicker and cheaper than sending books)
- Using Skype and Facetime to communicate as whole classes or to give training to teachers (there is better computer speed in some areas over others and also some schools don't have constant computer access so this needs managing)
- Training for teachers on managing behaviour and how to talk to pupils
- Training on governance and managing educational institutions
- British staff visits to Melanesia and Melanesian staff visits here
- Regular communication by e-mail for staff to share ideas and manage pupil links

A number of schools in Melanesia are very keen to have a link school and are simply waiting for a school here to be matched to them and we would love to facilitate this to encourage the growth of fruitful partnerships.

If you would like to know more or would like to register your school's interest in being linked to a Melanesian school please contact sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org.

You can find out more about the Melanesian mission here <http://www.mmuk.net/> [back to the top](#)

Christian Aid - Global Neighbours Scheme

The Bishop of Stockport the Rt Revd Libby Lane has welcomed a new global justice scheme launched this January by Christian Aid in partnership with the Church of England which aims to empower a new generation of children to respond to poverty and injustice.

The scheme, Global Neighbours, is designed to support primary schools' work with pupils on global citizenship and aims to develop their understanding of global poverty and justice, the Christian call to tackle injustice and their own ability to bring about change as confident agents of change.

Schools are now being encouraged to register for the scheme and take advantage of the free resources on the [Global Neighbours webpage](#) with ideas on how to incorporate global justice learning into the curriculum, worship and school life throughout the school year.

Accreditation will come at three levels - bronze, silver and gold - which will be verified by the Church of England Education Office which will look for evidence across the five areas of learning, spirituality and worship, pupil participation, community engagement and school leadership.

Any primary school can now register for the scheme without any cost or obligation and download the free handbook from the website. Anyone interested in finding out more about the volunteer Christian Aid Teacher role can visit www.christianaid.org.uk/volunteering/become-christian-aid-teacher or contact the North West office on 01925 573 769.

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The Fight Against Period Poverty in UK Schools

One in ten girls have been unable to afford feminine hygiene products, according to new research from Plan International UK a global girl's rights charity. The research indicates that some young women have even resorted to using socks because they can't afford to buy sanitary wear, and that teachers have been buying or arranging supplies to be brought in from charities. The issue has been highlighted recently following the related rise in truancy among teenage girls during their period.

Companies, charities and MPs are pledging to support school girls in this country who don't have access to sanitary products and the Diocesan Social Responsibility Team would wish to offer our support too.

Please contact our newly appointed Engagement and Inclusion Officer, Vanessa Layfield at vanessa.layfield@chester.anglican.org who will correlate all information shared to take forward to our Committee for discussion.

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Church of England Educational Leadership Awards

There is so much wonderful practice going on across the education sector, but it can often be a challenge to find out what other people are doing that we can all learn from.

We are therefore delighted to be working with Allchurches Trust to run the first Church of England Educational Leadership Awards. We hope that this will be an opportunity to celebrate and recognise at least some of the great work going on across our network.

Great leadership is rarely the result of one person, and for that reason we have chosen to model our awards process around projects and teams, rather than individuals. You will also note that we are inviting nominations which reflect the four themes of the Church of England's Vision for Education, and we hope this will be an opportunity to highlight the many different ways in which people and organisations approach their vision for education.

Nominations

- Nominations are open until **23rd February 2018, 5pm**
- Projects can self-nominate, or be nominated by third parties
- Applications sent to cefel@churchofengland.org (Subject: **Award Nomination**)

Short-listing

- All applications are considered by the short-listing panel
- The panel will identify a short-list of three nominations by **12th March 2018**
- All shortlisted nominations will receive a certificate
- The short-list will be referred to the relevant Diocesan Board of Education for a supporting citation

Final

- The judging panel will review the original nomination, alongside the supporting DBE citation
- Winning candidates will be invited to the awards ceremony on **29th June 2018**

Nomination Guidance

We are seeking nominations for high-quality educational projects from a broad range of settings to be celebrated. Settings can include Schools/Academies, Teaching Schools, Multi-Academy Trusts, Higher Education Institutions, Educational Charities/Support Services and Governance etc.

Awards will be made in four categories, reflecting the themes of the [Church of England Vision for Education](#). For more information and an application form please go to <https://www.cefel.org.uk/awards/> . The closing date is **5pm, Friday 23rd February 2018**. [back to the top](#)

Middle Leader Course

Dear Colleagues

As many of you are aware, Chester diocese, in conjunction with colleagues from our neighbouring North West Anglican dioceses, runs the extremely popular Christian Leadership Course.

In response to the ever increasing demand for courses on church school leadership, the North West dioceses, in conjunction with Liverpool Hope University, are pleased to offer a bespoke Middle Leaders' Course for colleagues in church schools.

The next cohort will commence in the autumn term 2018. As with the Christian Leadership Course, places will be limited. To secure a place on the programme please contact Sandra Reynolds at Church House.

Click [here](#) for further details.

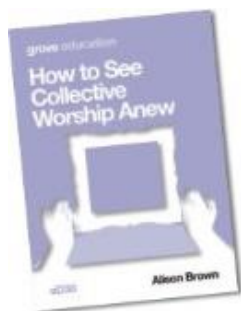
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St John's Church in Hartford

St John's Church in Hartford have a variety of sessions available for schools who wish to visit a place of worship and explore more about the Christian faith, as required in the RE curriculum. We have put together a booklet outlining sessions suitable for EYs, KS1 & KS2, but we are also able to arrange visits for High School pupils as well. There is no charge for visits to our church. To find out more, please look at the Schools section of our website www.stjohnshartford.org where you can download the booklet, or get in touch with our Children's Outreach Worker, Teresa Nixon on 01606 872255 or email teresa@stjohnshartford.org

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Useful Booklets



Grove Books have an education series produced in partnership with the Association of Anglican Directors of Education that offer and promote Christian thinking rooted in practice for everyone involved in schools, colleges and churches. The latest publication is entitled 'How to See Collective Worship Anew'. Collective worship is a core practice of any church school community. As such it carries a particular power which is often overlooked. Collective worship all too easily can be little more than moral education: 'Be good...because Jesus says so.' 'Seeing Anew' helps schools to explore how effective they are at painting a picture of what life looks like if lived as God intended.

You can see a copy of the publication in the resource library at Church House. It, and others in the series, can be purchased (or downloaded) from [Grove's website](#) for £3.95.

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School Job Vacancy Form

There is now a new form that needs to be completed for any school vacancies.

If you would like to advertise any job vacancies please email [Sandra Reynolds](#) for a form.



Please be aware that we need plenty of notice before the closing dates of the vacancies

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CPD & Training Programme 2017/18

This year's training programme has been structured to offer CPD opportunities for each level of teaching, from NQT to Senior Leaders and governor support. This is in addition to our usual standing courses.



Head teachers and Senior Leaders

Aspiring to lead in a church school		Click here for a booking form
Tuesday 6th March 9am -3.30pm New Venue now at Church House, Daresbury	<p>Explore and reflect upon distinctive Christian leadership. Listen to a church of England head teacher share their leadership journey. Gain some practical ideas for RE and worship within a leadership role and practical advice in applying for posts.</p> <p>This is a one day course with the offer of two venues across the diocese.</p>	<p>£50 for Family of Schools members</p> <p>£75 for non-members</p>
Growing spirituality in a church school		Click here for a booking form
Friday 15th June 9.15am -3.30pm Foxhill Conference Centre	<p>"but 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)</p> <p>One day at Foxhill will provide the opportunity to reflect and explore ways to further develop spirituality when leading a Church School community</p>	<p>£100 for Family of Schools members</p> <p>£150 for non-members</p>
Christian Leadership Course		
<p>The Christian Leadership Course is an innovative and exciting programme for aspiring leaders in Church of England schools. It was designed and is led by officers, advisers and professional colleagues from the five North West dioceses. We aim to develop a clear, coherent vision for the leadership of church schools and explore ways in which church schools can provide 'Life in all its fullness'. We also look to affirm the role of spiritual leadership in the school community and beyond. Due to the popularity of the course, we have opened a waiting list for the 2018-2019 course and beyond.</p> <p>Please email your name, school name and contact details to Sandra Reynolds as soon as possible. (sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org)</p>		

Middle Leaders

New North West Dioceses Middle Leader Course

Click [here](#) for more information

The Professional Qualification for Middle Leaders in Church Schools is a 5-day programme that has been specifically designed in collaboration with the five north west dioceses and Liverpool Hope University to support aspiring, and newly appointed, middle leaders working within a Christian school context. The programme will enable participants to explore and articulate their personal values and mission to have a better understanding of the distinctive mission and vision of Church of England schools and the role of middle leaders in these settings. It will provide participants with the opportunity to critically engage with leadership and management theories/research and how these relate to, and support, the understanding and development of personal leadership capabilities and practices.

To reserve a place on the 2018/19 course, please email your name, school name and contact details to Sandra Reynolds. sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org

Religious Education

World Religions Day

Click [here](#) for a booking form

<p>Wednesday 7th March</p> <p>Morning session 9.15am -12.15pm (Islam)</p> <p>Afternoon session 1pm -4pm (Hinduism)</p> <p>Church House, Daresbury</p>	<p>This day session is designed for the non-specialist who is interested in improving their knowledge and understanding of how to teach two major world religions. Delegates can choose to attend all day or alternatively attend either the morning (Islam) or afternoon session (Hinduism). The two sessions will involve an introduction to good practice in each world religion and consider how to teach them effectively in the primary school.</p> <p>There will be two invited guest speakers, Imran Kotwal (a popular Muslim teacher who runs workshops in schools) and Prajyoti from Pushpanjali Dance. A basic knowledge of these two world religions will be covered and there will be practical activities to show how RE can be taught creatively.</p> <p>Time will be given to look at curriculum planning and delegates will consider how to adapt ideas to the Diocesan and Locally Agreed Syllabus they may follow. There will be opportunities to raise questions and discuss ideas.</p>	<p>Full Day</p> <p>£150 per person for Family of Schools members</p> <p>£200 per person for non-members</p> <p>Half Day</p> <p>£75 per person for Family of Schools members</p> <p>£100 per person for non-members</p>
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Assessment and the Diocesan syllabus

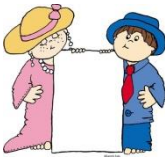
Click [here](#) for a booking form

<p>Friday 8th June</p>	<p>This half day session is for any primary school teacher interested in improving their RE</p>	
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9.30am -12.30pm Church House, Daresbury	<p>curriculum practice. The session will involve an introduction to good practice in 'RE and Assessment' based on a popular aspect of the RE syllabus.</p> <p>The activities will be based on the diocesan guidance for assessment written in summer 2017 but added to over the course of this academic year. Teachers will discuss how to put guidance into practice and develop their own ideas and there will be opportunity to share good practice and raise areas of concern.</p>	<p>£50 for Family of Schools members</p> <p>£75 for non-members</p>
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For Children



3rd July 1.45pm Please be aware that due to the Mystery Plays been held in the Cathedral places are limited and available on a first come, first served basis	Leavers' Service Click here for a booking form  The 11am Service is now fully booked	An opportunity for children to celebrate their time in a Church school in the Diocese. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to gather together with hundreds of others in the church school family to give thanks to God for their time in primary school and look forward to moving into high school. Participating schools receive a CD with the music that will be sung to ensure everyone knows the tunes.	Chester Cathedral 1.45 pm FREE Event
Astbury St Mary's Church 5th July	Leavers' Service Click here for a booking form	As above	11am FREE Event

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Prayers

Please pray for:

Mr Raj Barard, Headteacher at Bosley St Mary's C of E Primary School on the loss of his mother

Mrs Lorna Pleavin, Headteacher at Huxley and Utkinton CE Primary Schools who has been seriously ill

Mr Ian McDougall 'Mac' who is recovering after heart surgery.



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Staff News

A very warm welcome to the following:



New Headteachers' from January 2018:

Mr Darren Jones at Heswall St Peter's C of E Primary School

Mrs Christine Wright at Hoylake Holy Trinity CE Primary School

Mrs Natalie Tomlinson at Wharton C of E Primary School

Mr Andy Ramsden at Oxton St Saviour's C of E Primary School

Mrs Kelsey Mort at Tilston Parochial C of E Primary School

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Inspections

Congratulations to the following schools

Section 48 outstanding/good

Altrincham C of E Primary School

Antrobus St Mark's C of E Primary School

Frodsham C of E Primary School

Marple All Saints' C of E Primary School

Mottram C of E Primary School

Sale St Mary's C of E Primary School

St Anne's Fulshaw C of E Primary School



Section S5 / S8 outstanding/good

Brereton C of E Primary School

Chester Blue Coat C of E Primary School

Gee Cross Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

St Anne's Fulshaw C of E Primary School
Tintwistle C of E Primary School
Tushingham-with-Grindley C of E Primary School

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News from schools

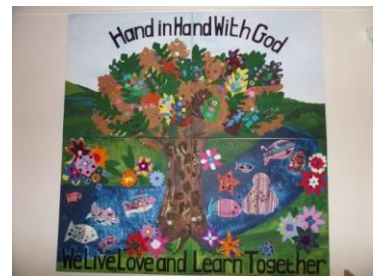


Antrobus St Mark's C of E Primary School

Following on from a successful REQM Award in July everyone was celebrating an outstanding SIAMS report,

'The very high standards achieved in religious education (RE) make a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual development and cultural understanding.'

The report talks about the Christian leadership and that drives all aspects of the school and makes it stand out, so it is nice for that to be acknowledged. All staff are prepared to go that extra mile and work hard for the children, to help them reach their potential.



Bickerton Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

The children have been working hard this term to support the charity Cardiac Risk in the Young. Class 4 led a lovely Harvest at Holy Trinity Church, then Class 5 hosted an afternoon tea for their parents adding £368 to the money already raised, giving a total of £428.86.

The afternoon tea was the culmination of half a term's topic work during which the children wrote formal letters to local people and businesses requesting their support.

The local community rose to the challenge, showing the children how to put on an afternoon tea and how to wait on, how to bake cakes, make interesting savouries, as well as making donations to help with the costs. On the day, the children made the cakes and sandwiches, laid the tables, welcomed their guests and then served them. They did a fabulous job; the evening was wonderful with a fantastic atmosphere. The children were proud of their effort and achievements.

A couple of the children then used the skills they had learnt when making the floral decorations for the afternoon tea to make this year's Advent ring, which is being used throughout this season of



Advent to help us prepare for Christmas. Each week we will be lighting another candle as we share our Advent services. During Advent we are collecting for the charity 'Chester Aid to the Homeless'. Each week a different class is bringing in food so we are remembering throughout Advent that we give as well as receive – so far the generous donations of the children have been very gratefully received.

Class 5 also had an amazing experience when they went to Liverpool, visiting the Al-Rahma Mosque, the Hospitality Rooms and the Anglican Cathedral. The overriding theme was the celebration of diversity, our similarities and the strength of faith. The children and staff learnt so much from Abu, the enthusiastic Imam, and from the guide at the cathedral. The Hospitality Rooms provided a real insight into life for a Muslim and an Ethiopian Christian, with many objects to look at and discuss. We recommend all three very highly.

Everyone is now looking forward to the infant classes' end of term Nativity, and Christingle, which this year is being celebrated early in the New Year.

Bollington St John's C of E Primary School

Recently linked with Shuanghua Primary School in Chengdu, China, in order to learn from each other both academically and culturally.

After a visit to the Chinese School a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to formally accept the partnership.

This link should provide the children with a huge opportunity to explore cultural differences with new friends in Asia.



On Wednesday 15th everyone was delighted to welcome the new Director of Education, Chris Penn, to the school. Along with our rural dean, Rev Veronica, Mr Penn toured the school, met all the children, discussed our activities for Children's International Rights Day and had a long and fruitful meeting with the Ethos group.



Universal Children's Day

As part of Universal Children's Day, the children in Class 4 took over the school.

The children all applied for the school jobs they wanted, were interviewed and awarded positions in the school from Headteacher to Site Manager. The Head teachers spent the day observing lessons, leading worship and evaluating the impact of the day. The site managers arrived at school at 7.15am to open up and then



proceeded to do risk assessments and check the safety of the site both inside and out. Children who elected to be teachers, sport leads and TAs planned and delivered amazing lessons. Children working as admin staff manned the office brilliantly and provide a warm welcome to anyone visiting the school.

Capenhurst C of E Primary School

The school Ethos group consists of 12 children ranging from Year 1 to Year 6. Their role in school is to uphold the Christian ethos, set an example to their peers and form close relations to neighbouring Christian schools by taking part in joint worship. The group play an active role in the Capenhurst community and school life. They are involved in delivering Collective worship as well as helping fundraise for important causes.



At the end of October, the Ethos group delivered a worship that linked the Christian value (community) with Black History month. They performed the Rosa Parks story, talking about how the black community stood together to oppose the injustices that were taking place in America. The group re-enacted the story as well as read passages from the Bible and led a prayer.



The Ethos group are a group of committed pupils who are wonderful ambassadors for the school. They act as the voice of the pupils. If anyone has concerns, problems or is in need of guidance the group is at hand to assist. They all take their role seriously and are dedicated to the school.

More recently the Ethos Group have taken part in joint worship and getting to know you sessions with other local Church of England schools: Bishop Wilson, Christ Church and St Oswald's, as part of the wider working together. They have already led an act of worship, and likewise St Oswald's. They have scheduled worship at the other two schools in the New Year. The head teachers are working together to plan more shared work on ethos and values with the children.

Frodsham C of E Primary School

Disability Week

On Monday 16th October pupils welcomed Mr Tom Makin-Bell from Cheshire Autism Practical Support (CHAPS) to kick start their week of exploring disability and how the lives of those affected by disability differ to their own.



Children were challenged with various tasks, from exploring the impact of vision impairment on their ability to carry out day-to-day tasks, trying to eat without using their hands and spending the morning with their arm in a sling in order to appreciate the difficulties faced by people with physical disabilities. They also looked at how seemingly simple tasks, such as reading, can be affected by certain learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

Children in the older classes participated in some Paralympic style activities such as blind football, received a workshop from Tom to further their understanding of autism and also tried some inclusive activities such as Foot Jenga.

Anti-Bullying Week

Pupils recently took part in National Anti-Bullying Week and in particular how we are All Different, but All Equal.

The week started when children arrived at school to find the entire building had been wrapped in blue ribbon! (as blue symbolises anti-bullying). After a week of learning about people's differences, different types of bullying, as well as how to stop bullying or who to tell if there was bullying, on Friday the children all came to school with one item of their uniform replaced by non-uniform. The children all looked fantastic.



I enjoyed finding out about how we can stop bullying. (Daisy, Y2)

I learnt about the different types of bullying (Nia, Y2)

I enjoyed finding out how people are the same and different. (Isabel, Y2)

Headteacher Mr Simon Jones said Throughout Anti-Bullying week our children have shown an amazing attitude towards celebrating that we are all different but that together we are a strong and safe community.



Lostock Gralam C of E Primary School

Inter-Faith week was an exciting week celebrating faith, and other faiths. They had: Grill the Vicar, Christian stories, Punjabi Dance, Open the Book, Islamic understanding, Messy Church, Salvation Army, The Journey Man and a Labyrinth in church.

The Journey Man took everyone on a journey about gaining Wisdom, with stories, drama and song. Every child walked through the Labyrinth and found items to provoke reflection at different stations. It was a fantastic calming experience.



Parents who came along found it worthwhile and enlightening. The children also explored, researched and then presented work on a designated religion. This work is now displayed with pride in school.



Sir Thomas Boteler C of E High School



There was an extremely moving service of Remembrance at school as everyone remembered many of the Old Boys from the Boteler Grammar school as well as former students and teachers.

The Service began in the school's Peace Garden, where members of the uniformed service attended a short tribute in front of our school cross which was decorated with clay poppies, made by the students. This then went into a full Service attended by the whole of Year 7 and Year 9.



The students played a major role in the Remembrance preparation. The poppy dress, worn by Sophie Barber, was made from over 500 individual fabric poppies. During the last month, each student in every art class across the school made the poppies, and staff and their families also donated poppies. Head of Art Mrs Joice then put them together to create the dress, in memory of those fallen. The dress was initially inspired by a display Mrs Joice saw in a Salvation Army charity shop in Lowestoft last year. Before each poppy was made, the students were shown the Royal British Legion website and e read *In Flanders's Field* to remind them of the significance of the poppy. The school's visitors commented on how impressed they were with the dress.

Inspired by Mr Paul Cummin's poppy display of 2016 in London. Each Year 7 student made from clay an individual poppy which they then decorated with papier mache and acrylic paint. These clay poppies then adorned the school cross, made by Shropshire based artist Jas Davidson, which is mounted in the Peace Garden. The poppies were placed in such a way to create a waterfall effect down the cross, flowing into the flower bed below, creating a poppy garden. Mrs Joice's intention

is for all future Year 7's to create a clay poppy in the same style which will be added to the poppy garden.

The English department encouraged students to write poems about war and remembrance. These poems are now displayed on the windows of the corridors looking out to the School's Peace Garden.

Careers Fair 2017

The annual Careers Fair was held in school on Friday 24th November 2017. This is a key event in their impartial Careers Information Advice and Guidance programme that is designed to enable students to explore potential career opportunities. Several companies represented a wide range of commercial sectors (including accountancy, banking, engineering, merchant navy, technology, manufacturing, retail, sports and leisure) alongside public services, all three armed forces and various training/apprenticeship providers plus colleges and universities offering further and higher level educational courses.

This event is open to all students in Years 9 to 11 and is designed to assist them in deciding their future choices whether it be selecting GCSE options in Year 9 through to Year 11 students making final decisions with regard to their post-16 progression from Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School.



27 exhibitors attended the Fair and staff most impressed with the manner in which students conducted themselves and engaged in fruitful conversations. Testimony to the success of the event is the level of return visits our guests make year on year.

These Girls Can

Since September girls sport has been on the rise with regular attendance at Netball, Football, Dance and Volleyball clubs. Sweating like a pig, feeling like a fox and I kick balls, deal with it, are in the minds of these girls and it is certainly changing attitudes as more and more girls want to be part of sport and exercise classes at school. Director of Sport and Performance, Mr Chris Burbidge commented These girls are a reminder to us all that exercising has a positive impact on the body and mind. Just exercising 30 minutes every day, that includes walking, can reduce your risk of major illnesses, such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and cancer by up to 50% and lower your risk of early death by up to 30%. Physical activity can also boost self-esteem, mood, sleep quality and energy, as well as reducing your risk of stress.

Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary School

Have had another busy half term, with many rich experiences for the children.

In November, The West Cheshire Interfaith Forum visited for a week and led workshops on a many faiths including Islam, Baha'i, Buddhism, Humanism and Quakerism. The children loved showcasing their work, supporting the values of equality, acceptance and respect, at a special sharing assembly for parents, governors and the wider community.



Teachers were delighted that the children were keen to support Operation Christmas Child this year, and at a recent whole school Worship, the children led prayers focusing on those less fortunate in the world.

Reception, Year One and Year Two visited Threapwood to select the school Christmas tree. The children enjoyed writing their own prayers on special stars to hang on our tree, inspired by the power of prayer sign they saw in Chester Cathedral last term.



KS2 enjoyed a memorable Tudor Living History Day at Tatton Park, Knutsford involving role-play and hands-on activities that transported them back to Tudor times. The children found themselves in the midst of intrigue as they assisted the servants of the Brereton household in their efforts to unearth the truth to help save their master's family.

The whole school enjoyed taking part in Sing the Christmas Story at Chester Cathedral and the children sang with joy and huge smiles.

The whole school Nativity is always such a special event with the youngest children taking on the traditional roles and older ones narrating the story, singing solos and performing a camel dance. There wasn't a dry eye in the house. All staff were thankful to everyone who donated so generously to the collection to support, the Singing for Syrians Initiative.



The recent snow made our school look even more picturesque and all of the children and staff



enjoyed some fun in the snow.



St. Bridget's West Kirby C of E Primary School

Sleepout Challenge



The Advent Sleepout is a national, sponsored event to help marginalised people in England transform their lives and communities through the work of the Church Urban Fund.

Following last year's success a number of the staff from St. Bridget's took part in the Sleepout Challenge. Some of the staff slept out overnight in the school hall and some of the more adventurous members of staff slept out in the playground under the stars or the Gazebo if there was room! This was the second year we have completed the challenge. Last year the weather was kind

to us, but the church bells rang all night and literally shook us awake each hour. This year we faced hail, snow, rain and general hardship. By 5.30am we had slept enough (or not at all) and were all in school having completed the fastest commute ever. The rest of the day was a greater challenge than usual but the children showed great sympathy and began to understand how difficult things are for some people.

As a staff the thought of sleeping out for a second night was nearly unthinkable and yet we are reminded that for many it is not an option.



St Mary's Halton C of E Primary School

Deputy Georgina Hulse and Head Rachel Tainsh attended a ceremony in London to be presented with the School's International Award.

This achievement celebrates the wonderful effort of all staff and pupils at St Mary's Halton. Everyone was determined to bring the outside world into school and

enrich learning by adding an International dimension to the curriculum.



This plaque will be displayed with pride knowing the hard work that went into achieving it.

Stockport St George's C of E Primary School

In preparation for the Remembrance Day everyone sold poppies and other merchandise in aid of the Royal British Legion. A special service in church and had a two minute silence which everyone observed. It was a very moving occasion. Year 2 children also laid wreaths at the cenotaph.



The Bishops' Blue Coat C of E High School



Last term Students were privileged to receive a visit from some members of the Russian Orthodox Church. Chester Cathedral has been linked with the Parish of Kondopoga, in



northern Karelia since 2008 and the school have been supporting them through a charity based in London but working in Russia, St Gregory's Foundation. This autumn four members of the parish team came to England to visit the Cathedral and meet people who have been supporting their community work. Father Lev Bolsakov, the parish priest, together with Nadezda, Maria and Nicolai, three of his team of parish helpers were able to join students and staff for the day to learn about the charity and community work that the students are involved in.

Speaking through an interpreter the day began with an assembly to year 8 and 9 students who learned about life in Kondopga. Students were surprised to learn that charity work had previously been forbidden.

A tour of the school with Students followed where Father Lev and his team were amazed by the whole concept of a church school. This was further enhanced in a meeting with the school Ethos Ambassadors, Charity Committee and Christian group. The students discussed their assemblies, prayer spaces, services and charity events. Father Lev and his team talked of the work they undertake and some of the challenges they face.

The team visited Art and RE lessons and commented on the hard work of the students. Lunch was with members of teaching and support staff, as well as local clergy who support the school.

In the final part of the day Students talked about their Archbishop of York, Young Leaders Award which all year 7 students undertake. Students explained how the course teaches them about faith, hope and action. They also told of their school and community projects as well as their personal volunteering projects which make up the course. Father Lev, Nadezda, Maria and Nicola had loads of questions about why students would be so involved in community work, the types of projects the students undertake and the difference they felt the community work made to the students themselves.

The day was a real honour to be part of for the students and staff involved. The Bishops' students learned so much about life in Karelia and its challenges, about how charity work is so different. The Russians guests were very impressed by the way Bishops' students are encouraged to look beyond themselves. As a result of the visit students of the charity committee chose St. Gregory's Foundation as one of the school charities for the next charity day.

Tushingham-with-Grindley C of E Primary School

Several Tushingham School Key Stage 2 children were selected to sing Christmas Carols at Tushingham Hall recently and were wonderful ambassadors of Tushingham School. They sang beautifully and were complimented on their attitude, manners and beautiful voices. The Mayoress of Chester was present and, along with many members of the local community and representatives from Cancer Research, thanked our children for helping to make the fund-raising event at Tushingham Hall so successful.



Pupils also performed enthusiastically and confidently during the first Christmas Market at St. Chad's Church, Tushingham in November. The community were thrilled to see so many Tushingham School children, families and staff at the event, helping to make the Christmas Market extra special.



University of Chester C of E Academy

Remembrance

On 9th November everyone was pleased to welcome Rev Lt Col Jerry Sutton who led the school assemblies on the theme of the Ultimate Sacrifice. During the services, students read war poetry and Bible readings. The Academy choir and musicians also performed a song which they had learned called Warrior, which was also witnessed by the Ellesmere Port School Pastors, who led the prayers.



Holocaust

Following on from this service, two sixth form pupils visited the memorial site of Auschwitz-Birkenau, a former German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp. Prior to the visit to



Poland, the two pupils, Josh and Zoe attended an Orientation Day in Manchester to hear a Holocaust survivor speak about their experiences, learn about pre-war Jewish life and prepare them for the visit to Auschwitz. When Josh and Zoe arrived back at the Academy, they were able to disseminate what they had learned and experienced to their peers, allowing them to become Holocaust



Education Trust Ambassadors to help raise awareness in the Academy of this as a historical event. They will also present their experiences to invited guests and dignitaries in February. Joshua, Year 12 student said: Visiting Auschwitz was a true experience of the terrible events that took place. I am looking forward to sharing my experiences with the younger students.

In early December, over 40 pupils in our Year 9 and Year 10 classes had the opportunity to visit the National Holocaust and Memorial Centre in Nottingham. As well as touring the museum and conducting various workshops, during the day they had the honour of meeting Mr Bernard Grunberg, a Holocaust survivor, where they had interviewed him.

A Level

The Schools A-Level Religious Studies class had the opportunity to meet Philosophers and members of the faith community. In November, the A Level students went to the Candle Conference at the Central Hall in Manchester where they met Dr. Peter Vardy, a best-selling author and educational consultant. During the event they had university-style lectures on the Nature of God, Feminism, and Religious Language and how to best answer exam questions. Students also had a guest talk on Secularism by David Webster, the Principal Lecturer at the University of Gloucester.

Everyone was pleased to welcome Rev Liz Shercliffe (Director of Studies for Readers in the Diocese of Chester) to the school to lead a session on the Role of Women, both in the church and in the



secular world. Additionally Rev Shercliffe shared some of her doctorate research about how feminists have shaped Christian thinking and the Church.

Wincle C of E Primary School

On Sunday 29th October, KS2 pupils researched, planned and delivered the United Service at St Michael's church, Wincle. The children led the service explaining to the congregation what Jesus meant when he said, I am the light of the world and, I am the bread of life, along with, I am the good shepherd. Everybody was given a glow stick to accompany them in prayer and joined in enthusiastically with Hide the sheep. It was a fantastic way to showcase the pupils' ongoing R.E. learning over the first half term of the school year.



Woodchurch High School

Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students took part in a careers session with the Royal Navy. Two Left Lieutenants from the Royal Navy Catering Core discussed future career opportunities for



students in the Navy that were related to hospitality and food. There was also a practical element to the session, pupils were given a mystery bag of ingredients and in teams they had to design and make a savoury and sweet dish. All pupils were very engaged and enthusiastic and made some fantastic dishes, as well as learning about possible job opportunities.

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Adverts

Rhema Theatre Adventure

Rhema Theatre Company have an exciting Easter Resource for pupils in Key Stages 1&2 this coming season. An Easter Theatre Adventure can tour to your school hall - for the whole school - plus interactive workshops - where your pupils step into the shoes of characters from the Easter story...



Give your Easter a boost with our brand-new ...The story of Easter- Drama Day. Read all About It! Water turned into wine. Mystery man makes sick people made better. Storm clouds disappear. (Local weatherman resigns in protest).

Hear the story of the life of Jesus told in a fresh way in this exciting new piece of storytelling! Followed by the chance for your pupils to explore the stories and the meaning behind them, through workshops, by stepping into the shoes of characters at the time of Holy week. Fresh, inspiring & invigorating with lots of audience participation, and a touch of magic it's a day they'll be remembering for a long time to come.

Dates available on tour

February 26th until April 20th 2018

Cost

Assembly Performance only: £295

Assembly & Half day of workshops: £345 (2/3 workshops)

Assembly & Full day of workshops: £395 (4/5 workshops)

To Book

Contact admin@rhematheatre.org/ Phone 0161 929 6384

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Who's who in the education department

Telephone number: 01928 718834

Mr Chris Penn - Director of Education

Ext 222

chris.penn@chester.anglican.org

General advice, governor support, academies, admissions and incidents

Sue Noakes – Deputy Director of Education

Ext 230 (In the school holidays mobile 07540722668)

sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org

General advice particularly in connection with teaching and related school issues

Jill Kelly – Deputy Director of Education - School effectiveness

Ext 245 or 07540722669

jill.kelly@chester.anglican.org

For governor appointments, newsletters, events

Sandra Reynolds – School Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Ext 265

sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org

Property and Finance

Aided school and academy building work, legal, school site and trustee issues

Adele Holt - School Assets Manager

Ext 228

adele.holt@chester.anglican.org

DFC and aided school building project administration and queries, Gift Aid

Sandra Jones - School Assets Administrator

Ext 227

sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org

Administrator

Charlotte Somers

Ext 248

charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org

Chester Diocesan Board of Education

Church House

5500 Daresbury Park

Daresbury

Cheshire

WA4 4GE

Website www.chester.anglican.org/schools

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