

# DBE Schools Bulletin

January 2023

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions



## In this Issue:

Moving towards Net Zero	Page 2
Headteacher Cluster Meetings	Page 3
Sprint Term Courses	Page 5
Chester Cathedral Science & Faith workshop	Page 6
Holocaust Memorial Day	Page 7
Diversity Resources	Page 8
News from Schools	Page 10

## What can be achieved in 2023?

What does 2023 hold for you, your school and your community? The start of a new year presents the opportunity to look ahead to all that is to come over the next 12 months. A chance to define the hopes and aspirations for the people we care for, including the children and young people who attend our schools. A time to set goals and targets for the next twelve months. As Christians, we may consider what God is calling us to do, the places He is leading us to, and where we should be focussing our time and energy in this new year.

A consideration for all of us in 2023, is how we are actively caring for our environment, seeking to look after God's creation and reducing the damage caused through our carbon footprint. The Church of England made an ambitious pledge at General Synod in 2020 to reach net zero by 2030, with schools a part of this pledge. The DBE is to make this a focus for our work in 2023, aiming to work alongside our schools and pupils, looking at the fabric of our school buildings and energy use, to pledge to reduce our carbon use and each play our part in our responsibilities to protect our planet.

The DBE will be setting its own goals and targets for schools around this and we are keen to hear from schools that are interested in taking a lead and being directly involved in this important work. The article on page 2 shares one way in which your school can get involved through the energy improvement grant, announced recently by the DfE. However daunting and challenging these targets may seem, when we come together, we can achieve so much more. Throughout the Bible, God's people accomplish unfathomable tasks. God is most glorified by bringing an event to pass which seems impossible. "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible," [Matthew 19:26] Let's see what we can achieve together in 2023.

## Moving towards Net Carbon Zero

As you may know Chester diocese has a link with the Anglican Church of Melanesia and we are in the process of refreshing links between schools in this diocese with schools in Melanesia. One of the areas that will be an important part of the link is the understanding of children and young people in this diocese about the environmental impact of global warming, felt first hand by the people of Melanesia and how what we do here, impacts directly there. The islands of Melanesia are at risk of rising sea levels with coastal communities in danger of disappearing and we have a desire and duty to support them. You can find out more about what the church is doing through the [Green Apostles Program](#) in this area of the world or you might explore [Christian Aid's 'Letters for Creation'](#). There is also a series of webinars from the Church of England on “**Getting Net Carbon Zero**” including information for schools, here [GNCZ Webinars](#). As individual schools, you could begin to consider the changes that can be made to your daily actions in order to support the Carbon Zero aim.

**One way would be to consider how you use your share of the £500 million funding announced by the DfE for schools across the country to spend on energy improvement measures.**

This funding has been made available as an additional allocation of DFC for all schools. Chester DBE has now received the allocation for VA schools as the responsible body. We are seeking your interest in joining with other North-West schools to make the most of the money on offer:

In partnership with DBE Services who serve hundreds of schools across the region, we wish to bring as many schools together as possible to make the most efficient use of these funds. Our proposition is that DBE Services procure the delivery of:

- LED lighting,
- Photovoltaic Panels (PV Solar Panels),
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers
- and Cavity Wall Insulation

so that we can bring best practice and best value for every VA school involved.

We understand that schools are under significant pressure financially and we believe these measures will help to ease the burden. We are now finding that **every £10,000 invested could deliver around £2,000 of revenue savings**, year on year, at the current price of electricity so we believe that by joining together we can get more back for every pound spent. Of course, there are environmental benefits too which is high on the agenda of the Church of England and Chester Diocese.

There is no commitment required at this stage but if you are interested in our proposition, please return an [expression of interest](#) by Friday 20th January 2023.

After we have assessed the interest from schools, we will get back to you with next steps.

[Confirm Your Interest](#)

## Headteacher Cluster Meetings

Spring			
Cluster Name	Chair / Agenda Contact	Date & Time	Venue
Chester		Mon 30 January 1.30pm	Hoole
Congleton/ Nantwich		Wed 1 March 1.30pm	Marton
Macclesfield		Tue 14 March 1.30pm	Macclesfield St John the Evangelist - School Hall
Northwich	Caroline Mackenzie	Thu 2 February 1.30pm	Norley
Rural Chester		Tue 21 March 10am	Utkinton & Cotebrook
Stockport/ Tameside	Vicki Hewitt-Lee	Thu 2 February 10am	Edgeley St Matthew's
Trafford		Mon 20 March 1.30pm	Sale St Annes
Warrington/ Halton		Thu 9 March 10am	Church House
Wirral	Amanda Donelan	Fri 20 January	Leasowe Castle
Secondary Heads		Wed 8 March 1:30pm	Church House

## Archbishops' Young Leaders Award

### Free Webinars



Archbishops' Young Leaders Award  
Key Stages 1 – 4/+16  
Developing Leadership & Character  
Through Social Action

**Free Twilight Webinars**

Introduction to the Young Leaders Award

Looking for a programme that supports pupils to develop courageous advocacy, leadership and character and to serve their communities? Come and find out more about the **Archbishops' Young Leaders Award** Programme through our free online sessions this term for both Primary and Secondary schools.

Find out more and sign up at [www.abyyt.com/events](http://www.abyyt.com/events).

### Building connections between school and church

Our latest blog, 'How the Young Leaders Award can connect schools and local churches', gives lots of examples of how schools have used the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award to facilitate and improve relationships with their local church. You can read the blog here: [abyyt.com/news](http://abyyt.com/news)

## RE Cluster Leader Groups

Launched by the Diocese in 2019, our primary RE subject leader cluster groups give RE leaders from church schools opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese. Meetings are being arranged for the autumn, more details to follow. Groups and leader details below:

		Spring	
Cluster Name	RE Leads	Date & Time	Venue
<b>Cheshire West &amp; Chester South (Chester &amp; Ellesmere Port)</b> [Chester]	Rachel Inns (Hoole CE)	Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Zoom Meeting
	Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port)		
<b>Cheshire East South</b> [Congleton/ Nantwich]	Fiona Pulle (Brereton)	Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> February 4.15pm	Wybunbury Delves CE School.
	Liz Ward (Wybunbury Delves)		
<b>Cheshire East North, Cheshire West &amp; Chester North (Northwich)</b> [Macclesfield]	Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.)	Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> March	tbc
	Michael Heathcote (Whitegate)		
<b>Cheshire West &amp; Chester (Rural)</b> [Rural Chester]	Finola Jackson (Saughton CE)	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Saughton CE
<b>Stockport/Tameside</b>	Amelia Wassall (Hyde St Georges)	Thu 9 <sup>th</sup> March	St George's Hyde
<b>Trafford</b>	Natalie McLoughlin (St Annes Sale)	Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 3.40pm	St Annes Sale
<b>Wirral</b>	Charlotte Fenwick (Christchurch Birkenhead)	Thu 12 <sup>th</sup> January 4pm	Bebington St Andrew's
	Rachel Clark (St Andrews Bebington)		

Please contact your RE Cluster Group Leader or [linda.boys@chester.anglican.org](mailto:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org) for further information.

## Mentally Healthy Schools - 2023 spring term calendar



To help you plan your mental health and wellbeing for the term ahead, we've produced our next calendar of curriculum themes and occasions linked to mental health.

The calendar covers the entire spring term, with suggested themes and resources for dates including Children's Mental Health Week, Safer Internet Day and secondary school places being offered. We hope you find it useful, and that you have a productive and positive spring term.

**The Mentally Healthy Schools team at the Anna Freud Centre**

[Download the calendar now](#)

## January, February & March 2023 CPD Courses.

Courses are listed on our [courses web page](#) and new [Ticket Tailor](#) site

Date	Month	Course	Location
19th	Jan	<a href="#">Being a Governor of a Church School / Academy</a>	Zoom
19th	Jan	<a href="#">RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 1</a>	Moreton Christ Church
20th	Jan	<a href="#">Heads, Chairs and Incumbents briefing</a>	Zoom
24th	Jan	<a href="#">Collective Worship Leads network</a>	
25th	Jan	<a href="#">Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23 - Day 3</a>	Mollington St Oswald's
<b>tbc</b>		<a href="#">Stepping Into Headship - Two evening course</a>	Zoom
6th	Feb	<a href="#">Chairs clinic and networking group</a>	Zoom
7th	Feb	<a href="#">Headteachers Surgery</a>	Zoom
7th	Feb	<a href="#">'Drop In' RE Surgery</a>	Zoom
8th	Feb	<a href="#">Governor Training - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)</a>	Zoom
9th	Feb	<a href="#">Deputies &amp; Assistant Headteachers' Briefing &amp; Networking</a>	Church House
9th	Feb	<a href="#">New Headteacher Support - 1 Year Programme - session 1</a>	Church House
27th	Feb	<a href="#">Effective Partnerships - 'Courageous Advocacy &amp; Global Neighbours'</a>	Zoom
28th	Feb	<a href="#">Clergy with church schools network</a>	Zoom
6th	Mar	<a href="#">Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23 - Day 4</a>	Ellesmere Port Christ Church
6th	Mar	<a href="#">Headteacher Wellbeing for Governors</a>	Zoom
15th	Mar	<a href="#">Employment and Staffing in a VA School or Academy for Governors &amp; Headteachers</a>	Zoom
16th	Mar	<a href="#">Collective Worship in a Church School</a>	Zoom
22nd	Mar	<a href="#">RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 2A</a>	Church House
23rd	Mar	<a href="#">Religious Education &amp; The SIAMS Evaluation Schedule</a>	Church House
<b>Other Courses &amp; Events</b>			
19/20 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Christian Leadership Course 2 day Residential	
27 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	CEEQ National Conference	
2nd	Feb	RE Leads Cluster Meeting	
2nd	Mar	Headteacher Wellbeing – Small schools	Foxhill
14th	Mar	Christian Leadership Course Day 5	

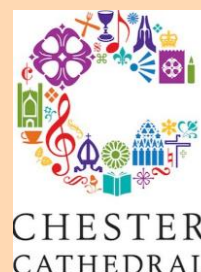
Any enquires about courses, dates or further details please contact [Linda Boys](#).



## VA schools' & academies admissions procedure.

A reminder to Voluntary Aided schools and academies that you must 'determine' (agree) your admissions procedures for 2024 by **28th February**. This is an annual requirement regardless of whether or not you have consulted.

### Chester Cathedral – Science and Faith workshops



**Discover, discuss and debate the compatibility of science and faith**



**Chester Cathedral  
13th February 2023  
10.00-2.30**

**A day of interactive workshops for Year 6 to explore topics including creation, climate change and innovation with scientists of faith under the Gaia Earth exhibit**

**Students are equipped with the tools to form their own opinions and consider some of life's biggest questions**

**Tickets are £10 per student  
To find out more and book your places email  
[sarah.moring@durham.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.moring@durham.ac.uk)**



[www.gatbb.co.uk](http://www.gatbb.co.uk)



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# Holocaust Memorial Day opportunities for schools



Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month, and we have lots of opportunities for you to engage staff and students with the day:

## School materials

We have a huge range of free resources for teachers that you can browse and download at [www.hmd.org.uk/schools](http://www.hmd.org.uk/schools).

## Online book launch event for teachers

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 4-5pm we are hosting an online event with Holocaust survivor and author Peter Lantos talking about and reading from his new novel *The Boy Who Didn't Want to Die*, which describes an extraordinary journey made by Peter at the age of five, through war-torn Europe in 1944 and 1945. You can submit questions to Peter in advance, and prize draw will be conducted during the event for one attending teacher to win a classroom set of books, donated by the publisher - Scholastic Children's Books.

Register for free on [our Eventbrite page](#).

## Ordinary People Film

New for HMD 2023 we have created a short version of the UK Online Commemoration film, suitable for screening at local HMD activities. Perfect for schools, local councils and many more settings, this 20-minute film will provide an introduction to your own HMD activity and set the scene for your audience as we hear testimony from Holocaust and genocide survivors about their experiences.

Download the film for free here: [hmd.org.uk/ordinarypeoplefilm](http://hmd.org.uk/ordinarypeoplefilm)

## Register for the UK Online Commemoration for HMD 2023 and order resources

The full UK Online Commemoration for HMD 2023 will be streamed on Thursday 26 January at 7pm. You can register to watch the commemoration on our website: [hmd.org.uk/ukhmd/](http://hmd.org.uk/ukhmd/)

Please feel free to share this link with parents who may like to watch the commemoration.

Also, new for this year, you can order a commemorative HMD candle when you register, to light in your window for the [Light the Darkness national moment](#) at 4pm on Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January. You can order commemorative candles, stickers, booklets and other resources on our website: [hmd.org.uk/resource/order-resources/](http://hmd.org.uk/resource/order-resources/)

## Let us know

Please let us know about the activities that you have planned for HMD 2023 and become part of the national picture of HMD across the UK: You can add your school to the HMD map at [hmd.org.uk/letusknow](http://hmd.org.uk/letusknow)

## Diversity Resources – Anthony Walker Foundation



Since our annual Head Teacher and Senior Leaders' conference in 2021, it has been a privilege to work more closely with the Anthony Walker Foundation. The testimony and heartfelt, faith-driven conviction of Gee Walker to forgive her son's racially motivated murderers was truly humbling. Catherina Quinn, the Education Lead Officer at AWF has already led an inspiring session for our CPD programme last autumn raising awareness of developing an understanding of anti-racist practice, addressing racial equity in education and racial bias.

Continuing our support of their work, we are keen to highlight two of the Foundation's sessions which support all primary and secondary schools in progressing anti-racism:

- **Celebration of Diversity Assemblies/workshops yr 1-6** Explains important concepts such as racial prejudice, discrimination and anti-racist allyship. The workshops share Anthony's story at an age appropriate level, his legacy and pupils explore how important it is to love and respect difference. AWF strongly encourages early interventions with primary age pupils that helps shape a more inclusive and caring school community where everyone is valued and respected.
- **Speak Out Stop Hate workshops/assemblies yr 6-13** were set up in response to an alarming number of hate crimes going unreported. These workshops focus on racism and hate crime awareness. Pupils learn of Anthony's story, how hate incidents can quickly escalate into hate crimes and the consequences. Pupils explore why so many hate incidents go unreported and they are introduced to the AWF Hate Crime reporting tool.

Please visit the Education section of the Foundation's website for more details:

<https://anthonywalkerfoundation.com/>

## Church Edit New Year Offer



Until the 31st January 2023 schools can get 20 months free on School Edit as part of our buy 20 months and get 20 months free offer. This is available for all schools and academies who take out a trial of our School Edit software and decide to sign up by the 31st January 2023.

For more details go to: <https://schooledit.co.uk/shareoffer>



## Picture News – Protected Characteristics resources



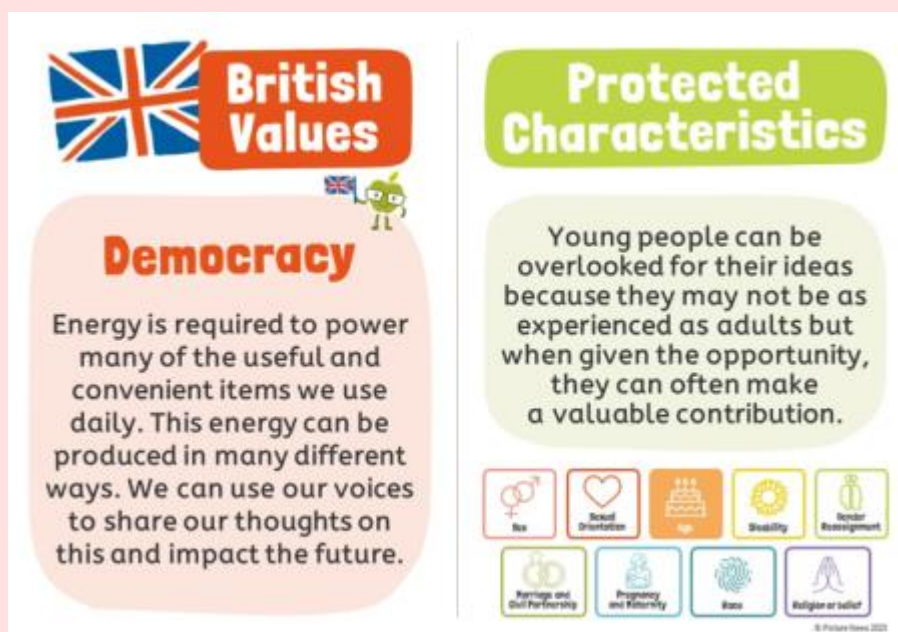
We have a new addition to our resource - alongside the British value, we will now include one of the 9 'protected characteristics' that ties in with the chosen news story. We will be running a Webinar to support this, details below:

### **Protected Characteristics and British Values through Picture News**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 4-4.45pm**

Explore how Picture News can help provide context for children and help them gain a greater understanding of both British Values and the 9 protected characteristics. This session is suitable for TAs, teachers and SLT.

[Register here](#)



## Contact the team

**DBE team contact details to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.**

<a href="mailto:chris.penn@chester.anglican.org">chris.penn@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director of Education	07540 722667
<a href="mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org">sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
<a href="mailto:mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org">mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
<a href="mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org">jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org</a>	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
<a href="mailto:simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org">simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
<a href="mailto:sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org">sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
<a href="mailto:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org">linda.boys@chester.anglican.org</a>	DBE Administrator	07549 109590

## News from Schools

### Guilden Sutton

During December, the children at our school took part in a 'Reindeer Run' to raise money for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd. They all put on their antlers and ran several times around the school field, having first collected sponsorship money from their family and friends. Head teacher, Mrs Rainford, was chosen by the children to wear the Santa outfit and run with the reindeer. They had previously had a visit from 'Kelly the Elf' who shared with the children all the work that goes on at the Hospice of the Good Shepherd and how their money can help. In total, we raised £2,457.30!



Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 walked to St. John The Baptist Church in Guilden Sutton to take part in a Christmas Service. Some of our families joined us there. They sang some songs from 'Wriggly Nativity' that they had performed in school the week before. Children took part in readings and prayers. They heard the story of the nativity from the animals' point of view.

Year 1 had a wonderful trip to Chester Cathedral to take part in 'The Nativity On The Move'. They watched performances of the nativity around the cathedral grounds and also enjoyed making their own Christmas decoration and nativity sequence.

### Hartford High

Christmas brings many things to mind. A time to rest and relax with family and friends; to eat delicious food from the 'naughty list'; to down tools from busy school schedules... and to breath! It is also a wonderful opportunity to remember the reason we celebrate: Immanuel, God with us. There have been so many opportunities to be involved with Christmas Services, but the absolute highlight for me was our school Carol Service on 14 December at St. John's Church in Hartford.

Our students had been practicing the Christmas carols in their music lessons and then boldly sang out gospel truths with gusto - 'Saviour's Day' raised the roof! Our school orchestra beautifully accompanied everything and also performed a wonderful Pachelbel's Christmas.



Readers, dancers and the school choir all added to the Services.

I believe all students, staff and parents were truly blessed. My prayer is that as the Christmas lights are switched off and the long dark days remain, the truths of what our students have proclaimed will continue to burn brightly in their hearts and lives in this new year and forever.



Having just received our Eco School Green Flag Award with Merit, our Eco Group have continued to work really hard to improve our school environment. Throughout December, School Council Reps from each form began planting a woodland area (with saplings from the Woodland Trust) of hazel, blackthorn, elder, dog-rose and hawthorn to improve grounds and increase biodiversity. We are now planning a

Time Capsule to bury among them. Watch this space...

## Hoole



At the beginning of December, Mrs Robertson, Mrs Inns and 19 children visited Rose Villa on Lightfoot Street where they sang Christmas Carols for the residents and our Ethos Ambassadors shared a reflection about the angels visiting the shepherds. We were given a box of celebrations! They then journeyed along to BELONG on City Road and sang carols to a gathering of residents and some children from

the nursery. They were warmly applauded and the audience joined in with gusto on the 12 Days of Christmas! The Ethos Ambassadors then shared readings from the Bible story of the Angel's appearing to the Shepherds. They also presented them with some angels to hang on the Christmas tree which they had made with messages of Hope, Peace and Love for the season. After a final set of songs including, Unto us a Child is born and Rejoice with us this Christmas, the choir and Ethos Children had a drink and a biscuit before their journey back to school.

We were so very proud of our amazing children who visited to All Saints Church earlier in December. Our choir sang a selection of songs, including 'Unto Us a Child is Born' and 'Rejoice with us this Christmas'. The Ethos Ambassadors led the cafe attendees in a reflection of the Angels and presented the church with a Christmas card and a variety of angels for their tree. We were treated to a cup of hot chocolate and a chocolate treat at the end. The children also were able to join in with a hug Nativity Art picture while they listened to the organ being played.



### Moreton Christchurch



Part of our school's vision is to 'serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion....' Our year 4 children reflected on this and focussed on the Christian value of service to spread joy in the community. They went to Harvest Court residential home to spread some Christmas cheer! They sang songs for the residents and distributed homemade Christmas cards. It was a joy to see the residents smiling and the children were certainly blessed by the joy it brought to the community.

### Saighton

It was a real privilege to collaborate with a number of Church of England schools nationally and record the beautiful song, 'The Blessing'. This will be shown at the opening of The Church of England's Foundation for Educational Leadership's National Conference: Flourishing Together on the 27<sup>th</sup> January in London. 'The Blessing' is a very moving song and we explored its meaning with the children and God's incredible love for the world. It is fast becoming a favourite for the Year 6 Leavers' Service.



### Stockport St Thomas



St Thomas' held various events during the month of December. We had our EYFS, KS1 and KS2 nativity performances, the children made Christmas decorations for our Christmas Tree and each year group went to St Thomas' Church to take part in Christmas Workshops with Rev Marie. The children also enjoyed taking part in our Christingle Service at Church.

### Stretton St Matthews

We have had a lovely time during the festive period. Class R decorated our own Christmas tree and the large Christmas tree in the dining hall. We played Christmas music as we did so and the children enjoyed a little dance.

We have also been busy making paper chains and decorating pinecones to put on the Christmas tree. Everyone made a snowman, Christmas card and a beautiful Rudolph bag to take everything home in.

We performed our Nativity today for our families and everyone agreed, it was amazing.

Well done Class R!



### Tilston Parochial



Our nursery, reception, year 1 & 2 children retold the Christmas story through their performance, 'A King is Born'. This year we put on a special performance for grandparents which they thoroughly enjoyed.

We were delighted to welcome parents to our beautiful Christingle service at St Mary's Church for the first time in three years.

The key stage 2 children shared Bible readings, prayers and sang a selection of songs and helped to spread Christmas cheer.

It's been wonderful sharing this special time with our children and families and making wonderful memories together.

