

## Newsletter – SEPTEMBER 2023



### Welcome back!

We trust you've had a restful summer holiday and the first week of school went well.

Bishop Libby and Bishop Malcolm welcomed our new headteachers at a commissioning service on 06 September sharing words of encouragement and affirmation to the new school leaders and they were each given a holding cross as a small gift to remind them of their belonging to the diocesan family.

### Admissions - Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies

Admissions Authorities need to confirm their admissions policy / arrangements each year.

Please check our admissions guidance on the website [HERE](#) and send us your draft policy for 2025-26 as soon as possible. If your school is in a MAT, please liaise with the central team to check whether they will be undertaking this work on your behalf.

Specific advice for this academic year can be viewed [HERE](#).



### Annual Return

We wrote to headteachers, chairs and ex officio foundation governors last week asking them to provide information about their school's Christian distinctiveness and to review the effectiveness of the school's governing body. Thank you to those schools who have already submitted their data; we would be grateful if you could complete and return the questionnaire by the end of October.



### Partnership Agreement

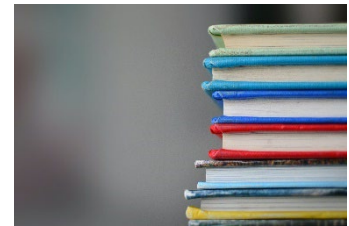
Thank you to all those schools who have responded so far.

If you've not already done so, please do sign up. Details are on our website [HERE](#) and you can respond using the online form [HERE](#). Thank you for your support.

### Guidance for Headteachers, Governors & Clergy

We updated our guidance over the summer holidays. Please do take a look [HERE](#) and share with your staff and governors.

Many questions that you will have about the leadership of a church school are answered in this guidance.



### Creative for Climate Justice



Creative for Climate Justice is an evolved version of Letters for Creation. Christian Aid is working in partnership with Oxfam, CAFOD, Send My Friend, and The Climate Coalition. They will be hosting a climate justice art exhibition at the Houses of Parliament that will feature artworks created by children and young people from across the UK.

The project presents a fantastic and accessible opportunity for pupils to explore climate as an issue of justice, and to use their art to be courageous advocates for a just and sustainable future for people and planet.

The Schools and Youth team at Christian Aid would really appreciate your sharing their [flyer](#) with your networks so that teachers can incorporate this in their planning for the autumn term (should they wish to take part). Creative for Climate Justice provides a strong opportunity for schools seeking their Global Neighbours accreditation to support their application through the project.

If you would like further information on how schools in your diocese can get involved, then please contact Josh Gear [jgear@christian-aid.org](mailto:jgear@christian-aid.org). See their [website](#) for a resources pack.

### Foundation Governor Nominations

Procedures and timeframes for appointing Foundation Governors are on our website [HERE](#). Please do check this information with your clerk.

#### Please note

The deadline for sending in nominations for terms of office ending before 28 February 2024 is **11 October**. Applications will then be considered by the Board at the meeting on 08 November.





### Guidance for Governors & Site Trustees

It's important that you know who the site trustees are for your school site and also that you think about the school's Church of England foundation when you allow the school building to be let outside of school hours. We have produced [guidance](#) to advise governors and site trustees about their roles.

### Training Programme

Just a reminder that we are now taking bookings for our [CPD programme](#) for this academic year.

Please do have a look through carefully and diarise anything that is useful to you. See the end of this newsletter for details of courses that are running this autumn term.



### Upcoming Briefings

#### Headteachers

10:00 Tuesday 26 September

#### Governors (chairs, clerks, foundation governors)

19:00 Tuesday 26 September

#### Collective Worship

18:00 Tuesday 03 October

If you would like details, please contact [Liz](#)



### Archbishop of York - Young Leader Award

Looking for a programme that supports pupils to develop leadership and character through social action? Find out more about the [Young Leaders Award Programme](#) . Free webinars are being held this term:

#### Primary KS1 and KS2

Thursday 28 September 16:00 - 16:45

#### Secondary KS3

Tuesday 03 October 16:00 - 16:45



This award provides pupils meaningful opportunities to explore leadership skills and character virtues. Getting involved in social action early in life is key to developing young people who show confidence, resilience and care for others. This award helps our youngest citizens explore the idea that small steps can lead to big changes. Pupils are introduced to the story of Gracie and her friends and are provided with opportunities to learn about, and put into practice, key leadership characteristics such as kindness, perseverance, teamwork and action.

There is also a video on YouTube with information: <https://youtu.be/c7qAdjstSs0>

**Do remember to visit our [website](#) for lots of useful information and guidance. Previous newsletters can be viewed [here](#).**

## AUTUMN TERM TRAINING AND EVENTS

To book onto paid courses please visit the DBE website.

<https://www.derbydbe.org/training-and-events/>

### RE Subject Knowledge - Non Religious World Views - online

This is run by Fiona Moss from RE Today and is great for teachers, subject leads, support staff and any other member of staff who will be leading or supporting the teaching of RE.

Fee Schools in PA £40/ Non PA Schools £85

Friday 29 September 12:30-15:30

### Headteacher Briefings – online

These are free sessions where information is shared from Liz Seymour around local and national initiatives. There will be invited speakers at some sessions. Invite sent to all heads.

Tuesday 26 September 10:00-11:00

### Governor Briefings – online

These are free sessions where information is shared from Liz Seymour around local and national initiatives particularly focussing on governance. Invite sent to Chairs, Clerks and Foundation Governors.

Tuesday 26 September 19:00-20:00

### Collective Worship Briefings – online

These are free sessions where information is shared from Liz Seymour focussing on different aspects of Collective Worship and sharing of practice from schools around the diocese. Invite sent to heads, office, RE and CW leads.

Monday 2 October - Anew Part 1 - 16:00-17:00

### Monitoring Collective Worship - online

You will explore diverse ways to evaluation and monitor collective worship and the roles of school leaders, pupils and governors. Good for governors to attend.

Fee: Schools in PA £25/ Non PA Schools £40

Tuesday 3 October 18:00 - 20:00