

Newsletter – JULY 2024

Farewell & Thank You!

Thank you to all those school leaders who have served our church schools and are moving on or retiring. All of us at the diocese are grateful for your energy and commitment to leading your schools to be places for flourishing.

We wish you well in your next role or a very restful and enjoyable retirement!



Bishop's Badge Awards

Approximately 40 children received Bishop's Badge awards this year. The children were nominated by their headteacher for their generous faith, courageous hope, and life-giving love. The children and their families were invited to receive their award from Bishop Libby at a service on 27 June, held at Derby Cathedral.

Pupils from Scargill CE Primary School led the congregation in prayers.

Anti-Bullying Guidance for Schools

The Church of England Education Office will be releasing new anti-bullying guidance for church schools on Friday 05 July. This will be a draft for consultation, and feedback is particularly sought from church school leaders and staff, Diocesan Boards of Education, churches and faith groups working with schools, as well as parents and other interested parties.

They are running webinars aimed at school leaders, staff and governors on 09 and 11 July. For more details, see [HERE](#). Please do consider attending, if you can.

ACTION REQUIRED *If you have VAGC guidance on your school website, this should be removed before the new guidance is released on Friday 05 July.*

Partnership Agreement ****EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT****

Sign up before the end of summer term to receive 10% discount.

We are a family of church schools & partnership is a fundamental principle of being a church school. We are very aware of the constant demands on schools' budgets & seek to provide all support for partnership subscribers at an affordable level. Schools which access our support usually recoup the cost of signing up. All details are on our website [HERE](#).





New Headteachers and Heads of School

The DBE funds an Induction Programme for all headteachers and heads of school. We encourage anyone who is new to headship in a church school to access all parts, regardless of whether you have worked in a church school in the past.

If you were appointed and took up the post during this year, please do sign up, using the booking form [HERE](#)

Diary Dates:

Induction

Tuesday 17 September 2024, 10:00 - 12:00 online

Welcome Commissioning Service

Wednesday 25 September 2024, 16:00 - 17:30 at Bishop's House, Duffield



Staff Changes at RE Today

Many of you will have had the pleasure of attending events and training sessions with Fiona Moss, from RE Today and NATRE. We are sad to report that Fiona is off to pastures new this summer, to take up the role of Education & Programmes Manager at Culham St Gabriel's. We wish her the very best.

Debbie Yeomans will be taking over some of Fiona's previous work and we look forward to working with her very much. More details are available on the NATRE website [HERE](#)

Admissions - Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies

Admissions Authorities must determine their admissions policy and arrangements by 28 February each year.

Please ensure that this is an agenda item for your autumn term meetings. **We ask that schools send a copy of their draft policy to the DBE by 30 November.**

Specific advice for 2024-2025 academic year will be updated over the summer holidays and uploaded to our website [HERE](#)



Foundation Governor Nominations

All nominations (both new and re-elected) must be assessed and formally approved by the DBE Board.

The DBE meets 3 times a year to assess and approve nominations. Please note deadlines below.

We recommend that clerks to governors are proactive and mindful of the dates when their governors' terms of office are coming to an end and the dates of forthcoming DBE Board meetings. Timeframes and deadlines given on our website [HERE](#) and below for ease of reference.

The nomination process (see [HERE](#)) needs to start well ahead of time to allow applications to be written and endorsed by the headteacher, incumbent and PCC (where applicable, please refer to your Instrument of Government). When a parish is in vacancy or where PCC meetings are infrequent, **we recommend starting the process 6 months in advance.**



Academic Year 2024-2025

DBE meeting date	Papers published	Closing date for receipt of completed paperwork	Include all nominations for terms of office ending
06-Nov-2024	30-Oct-2024	09-Oct-2024	up to end of February 2024
12-Feb-2025	05-Feb-2025	22-Jan-2025	up to end of June 2024
11-Jun-2025	04-Jun-2025	14-May-2025	up to end of October 2024



Contact Details

It is important that we hold the correct contact email addresses – assistant headteachers, office staff, RE and CW co-ordinators, chair, clerk and foundation governors.

If you have people leaving at the end of this academic year, do please remember to tell us and email [DBE Office](#) with details.

Supporting our Schools to TRANSFORM – GROW – BUILD

Showing **generous faith, courageous hope & life-giving love**, Derby DBE's actions will be to:

- affirm and strengthen our relationship with school leaders and governors,
- offer a high-quality training & development programme for school leaders, governors, clergy, RE & CW practitioners.

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