

Newsletter – OCTOBER 2025

### New Headteachers

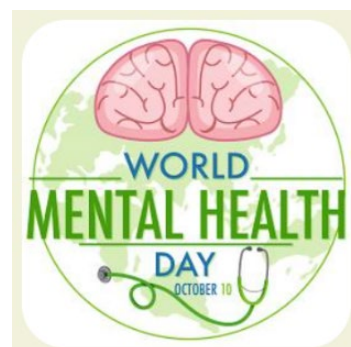
Bishop Libby and Bishop Malcolm welcomed our new headteachers at a commissioning service in Derby Cathedral on 23 September sharing words of encouragement and affirmation to the new school leaders. The new heads were each given a holding cross as a small gift to remind them of their belonging to the diocesan family.



Nicola Oliphant, Church Broughton CE Primary  
Karen Burton, Coton-in-the-Elms CE Primary  
Andy Brown, Derby Cathedral School  
Sarah Humpleby, Earl Sterndale CE Primary  
Louise Shaw, Hulland CE Primary  
Karin Shields, St Laurence CE Primary  
Helen Reader, St Peter's CE Junior  
Paula Martin, Stanley Common CE Primary  
Daniel Wildman, Walton-on-Trent CE Primary

### Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is celebrated every year on 10 October. This year's theme set by the World Federation of Mental Health is **Overwhelm: when global events & relentless bad news become too much**. We may not have the power to influence or change everything we'd like to on a global scale, but there are things we can do to protect ourselves & others from feeling overwhelmed and hopeless in the face of current events.



Mentally Healthy Schools have free resources [HERE](#).



### Black History Month

It's Black History Month during October. This year's theme, **'Standing Firm in Power & Pride'**, is a powerful tribute to the resilience, strength & unwavering commitment to progress that defines the Black community across the globe.

The National Society for Education has FREE resources for church schools [HERE](#). These materials have been intentionally created without reference to a specific date or year, so they can be used not only during Black History Month but also at any point throughout the year. This reflects feedback from Collective Worship advisors.

The Economist Educational Foundation also has FREE resources for schools [HERE](#).

## Leaders Like Us (LLU)

The National Society of Education is looking for applications for the next cohort of the Leaders Like Us (LLU) programme.

LLU is designed to support UKME/GMH aspiring senior leaders from across Church of England schools and surrounding schools. Participants do not need to work in a CE school, but they must identify as UKME/GMH. See links below to apply.

- Participant application form: [LLU Cohort 4 \(2026-27\) Participant Application Form](#)

This year, following further reflection, the NSE is welcoming mentors in the following capacities:

- Headteachers from primary schools
- Heads and deputy headteachers from secondary schools

- Mentor application form: [LLU Cohort 4 \(2026-27\) Mentor Application Form](#)

**Applications close on Friday 21 November 2025**



## Admissions Policies – For all VA schools & Academies

A reminder that you need to email us your draft 2026-2027 Admissions Policy by 30 November (or 01 November if you are consulting).

Please refer to the checklist that was recently emailed out to you & review the guidance documentation on our [website](#) which explains all that you need to know. If your school is an academy in a MAT, please liaise with your central team to check arrangements.

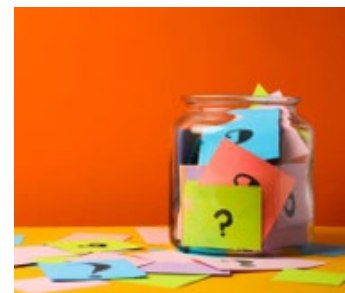
## Annual Return 2025

School leadership team to complete online form [HERE](#)

Clerk to governors to complete online form [HERE](#)

School office to complete online form [HERE](#)

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.

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.



## Christian Aid: Creative For Climate Justice

This is a fantastic project to support schools and pupils in their engagement with decision makers around a key issue of global justice. This year's project is putting a bigger emphasis on local engagement with MPs and the wider community.

Interested schools should register for a webinar to learn more about the project on [16:00 Tuesday 02 December](#) or [16:00 Wednesday 03 December](#). You should register, even if you can't attend, because Christian Aid will use the webinar registrations to keep in touch and share updates on the project.

## Upcoming Briefings

### Headteachers

10:30 Wednesday 22 October

11:00 Tuesday 25 November

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

19:00 Wednesday 22 October

19:00 Monday 24 November

### Collective Worship

**NB apologies October has been cancelled**

16:00 Monday 03 November

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



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

## 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.

## Key Dates for 2025/2026 Academic Year

### Autumn Term

CPD PROGRAMME Ensure staff & governors are booked onto relevant training. Details & booking links <a href="#">CPD programme</a>	ASAP
MONTHLY BRIEFINGS Ensure dates in diary for headteacher, chair, clerk & foundation governors. See newsletter and <a href="#">CPD programme</a> for dates	ASAP
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT Sign up via website <a href="#">HERE</a>	
LAND & BUILDINGS COLLECTION RETURN for Academy Trusts More information <a href="#">HERE</a>	
ANNUAL RETURN School leadership team to complete online form <a href="#">HERE</a> Clerk to governors to complete online form <a href="#">HERE</a> School office to complete online form <a href="#">HERE</a>	31 October
ADMISSIONS: CONSULTING - <i>VA schools &amp; Academies only</i> Review policy for 2 years ahead & send draft to DBE. Guidance on website <a href="#">HERE</a>	01 November
FOUNDATION GOVERNORS Deadline to submit application form & reference for TOO ending before 28 Feb	04 November
FOUNDATION GOVERNORS – CHECK TERM OF OFFICE (TOO) Start renewal process for TOO ending before 30 June – see website <a href="#">HERE</a> (process can take up to 6 months)	ASAP
CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION Deadline for submission	22 November
ADMISSIONS: NOT CONSULTING - <i>VA schools &amp; Academies only</i> Review policy for 2 years ahead & send draft to DBE. Guidance on website <a href="#">HERE</a>	30 November
EXEC / HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SCHOOL RECRUITMENT Start process if notice has been given. DBE must be involved. See guidance <a href="#">HERE</a>	

For schools wishing to use our Admissions Appeals Service,  
see overleaf for hearing dates and deadlines for submission of paperwork.

Any school considering capital works must obtain DBE and site trustees' consent.  
In the first instance, contact [Jason.aldridge@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Jason.aldridge@derby.anglican.org)

## Admission Appeal Hearings for Academic Year 2025-2026

APPEALS LODGED BETWEEN		SCHOOL CASE SENT TO DBE <b>No later than</b>	DBE SEND OUT PAPERS	HEARING
FRI 20-Jun	TUES 22-Jul	FRI 22-Aug	THURS 04-Sept	THURS 11-Sept
THURS 04-Sep	FRI 19-Sep	FRI 03-Oct	TUES 07-Oct	TUES 14-Oct
MON 22-Sep	FRI 17-Oct	FRI 24-Oct	TUES 28-Oct	TUES 04-Nov
MON 20-Oct	FRI 14-Nov	FRI 21-Nov	TUES 25-Nov	TUES 02-Dec
MON 17-Nov	FRI 05-Dec	FRI 12-Dec	THU 18-Dec	THU 08-Jan
MON 08-Dec	FRI 09-Jan	FRI 17-Jan	THU 23-Jan	THU 29-Jan
MON 12-Jan	FRI 06-Feb	FRI 13-Feb	THU 19-Feb	THU 26-Feb
MON 09-Feb	FRI 06-Mar	FRI 13-Mar	THU 19-Mar	THU 26-Mar
MON 09-Mar	FRI 20-Mar	FRI 17-Apr	THU 23-Apr	THU 30-Apr
MON 23-Mar	FRI 24-Apr	FRI 01-May	THU 07-May	THU 14-May
MON 27-Apr	FRI 15-May	FRI 22-May	THU 04-Jun	THU 11-Jun
MON 18-May	FRI 12-Jun	FRI 19-Jun	THU 25-Jun	THU 02-Jul
MON 15-Jun	FRI 03-Jul	FRI 10-Jul	TUES 14-Jul	TUES 21-Jul
MON 06-Jul	THU 23-Jul	FRI 21-Aug	TUES *-Sep	TUES *-Sept

### School holiday dates:

Half Term 27-31 October / Christmas Holidays 22 December-02 January / Half Term 16-20 February / Easter Holidays 30 Mar-10 April / Half Term 25-29 May





# Christmas Card Competition 2025

**THE WINNING ENTRY WILL BE USED FOR DERBY DBE'S OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS CARD FOR 2025 & BE SENT OUT NATIONWIDE!**

**THE WINNING PUPIL WILL RECEIVE A £10 BOOK TOKEN.**

**Entries can be hand drawn, painted or electronically produced & should be either A4 or A5 in size.**

**Please scan entries & email to [officeDBE@derby.anglican.org](mailto:officeDBE@derby.anglican.org) or post to Derby DBE, Church House, Full Street, Derby DE1 3DR**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE THE PUPIL'S NAME AND THE SCHOOL'S NAME!**

**CLOSING DATE  
16:00 on Friday 22 November**