

## Newsletter – MARCH 2026

### Lent Resources

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2026 is **Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent**. Find out more [HERE](#).



You can download sample pages from the Church of England booklet "Draw Near for Families & Children" [HERE](#)



### Women's History Month

Every March Women's History Month raises awareness of the contributions women have made to events through history and society. For 2026, the theme is "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future" spotlighting women educating and inspiring generations. The BBC has teaching resources [HERE](#).

### 2027-28 Admissions Policy Deadline

By now your Admissions Authority should have formally determined your admissions arrangements for 2027/27 (deadline was 28 February) and your policy **MUST** be published on your website by **15 March**.

For clarity, from 15 March, your school website must show 3 policies – current year, 2026/27 and 2027/28. See our website for guidance [HERE](#).



### British Sign Language Week 16-22 March

British Sign Language Week is a flagship awareness week to commemorate the first time BSL was acknowledged as a separate language by the UK government on 18 March 2003. The theme for 2026 is "United in Sign".

#### Bring BSL to the classroom!

Sign up NOW to access a FREE pre-recorded lesson [HERE](#).

The lesson will give you and your school the opportunity to learn BSL from a Deaf teacher, as well as the wider benefits for children is such as strengthened improved communication skills and confidence, new ways for them to express emotions, and an appreciation of the diverse cultures of the UK.



### Bishop's Badge Service

The Bishop's Badge service to commemorate school children who embody diocesan values, will take place at Derby Cathedral on **Monday 15 June**.

Bishop Libby will be writing to all schools shortly to invite you to nominate a child or group of children to receive a Bishop's Badge. Badges are awarded to children who embody the diocesan values of generous faith, courageous hope and life-giving love in an age-appropriate way.

Do look out for the letter! We look forward to receiving your nominations.

### Headteachers' Conference

Our Headteachers' conference takes place on **Thursday 18 June** at The Hayes in Swanwick.

The conference will provide you with

- Time to reflect & take part in CW if you would like to
- Time to connect and meet with colleagues

#### Speakers

- [Dr Sarah Dunlop](#) Lecturer Practical Theology, University of Cambridge
- [Amjad Ali](#) Leadership and CPD Specialist
- [Debbie Yeomans](#) RE Today



£75 for schools in the Partnership Agreement, £95 for other schools. Book [HERE](#)

### DBE Governor Two Part Training Programme

**Part 1** Tuesday 14 April **Part 2** Tuesday 16 June. Both sessions ONLINE 18:00-20:00

*This programme is for ANY governor not just foundation governors.*



Essential for new governors and a refresher course for existing governors who haven't accessed DBE training for a while. Provides firm foundations to carry out role effectively as well as networking and discussion time with other governors in the diocese.

- What a church school is (and is not)
- The importance of ethos and vision
- RE in a church school
- SIAMS
- Collective Worship

**Fee for both sessions:** PA £125 / Non PA £250 (per school)  
PA £25 / Non PA £40 (individual governor) Booking Form [HERE](#)

### Pupil-led Worship Training for pupils in KS2

Wednesday 18 March, 13:15 – 14:00

This 45-minute session for pupils covers how to host Picture News worship sessions. It includes how to plan, step up to the role of a leader, and share top tips for presenting.

All attendees will receive a comprehensive pack for all future 'Picture News Pioneers'.



Suitable for: KS2 pupils who would like to lead Picture News worship in school, their teachers, TAs and SLT. The course normally costs £10 per class, but we have been given a code to allow you to access it FREE OF CHARGE. You can register [here](#)

Access code: **PLWN43**

### Middle East News

With current events in the Middle East, Picture News have produced a special resource for schools to use which you may find useful.

You can download it [HERE](#).

### Job Vacancies at the Diocese of Derby

*Business & Operations Manager* - details [HERE](#)

*Racial Justice Project Manager* - details [HERE](#)

*Racial Justice Project Enabler* - details [HERE](#)



### Upcoming Briefings – held online

*Headteachers*

10:00 Monday 16 March

*Governors (chairs, clerks, foundation governors)*

19:00 Monday 16 March

*Collective Worship*

16:00 Tuesday 17 March

***NB there are no briefings in April***

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



## UPCOMING TRAINING

### SIAMS Inspection Networking

#### **Q4 - Theologically rooted Christian vision & treating people well**

16:00 Tuesday 24 March, online

#### **Q5 - Justice & responsibility**

16:00 Thursday 30 April, online

**Fee:** PA £25 / Non PA £40 per session.

Booking form [HERE](#)



### Early Career Teachers

Essential for all new teachers. RE is often a subject that teachers feel less confident teaching and this programme will improve both subject knowledge and confidence.

**Subject Knowledge in RE & World Views** - 13:00 Thursday 23 April, online

**Fee for both sessions:** PA £60 / Non-PA £120 (per school)

Booking form [HERE](#)

### SIAMS Framework Training

18:00 Wednesday 06 May, online

**Fee:** PA £25 / Non PA £40 Booking form [HERE](#)

### Understanding Christianity – Refresher Workshop

In-person event for schools already using the Understanding Christianity resource  
Tuesday 24 March, 09:30 -12:30 or 13:00 - 16:00 Church House, Full Street, Derby

**Fee:** PA £40 / Non PA £85 Booking Form [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.

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

## Key Dates for 2025/2026 Academic Year

### Spring Term

<p>CPD PROGRAMME Ensure staff &amp; governors are booked onto relevant training. Details &amp; booking links <a href="#">CPD programme</a></p>	ASAP
<p>MONTHLY BRIEFINGS Ensure dates in diary for headteacher, chair, clerk &amp; foundation governors. See newsletter and <a href="#">CPD programme</a> for dates</p>	ASAP
<p>FOUNDATION GOVERNORS Start renewal process for TOO ending before 30 June – see website <a href="#">HERE</a> Deadline to submit application form &amp; reference for TOO ending before 30 June</p>	04 March
<p>ADMISSIONS (<i>VA schools &amp; Academy Trusts</i>) Governing Body must determine (formally approve) policy for 2027-2028. Guidance on website <a href="#">HERE</a></p>	28 February
<p>ADMISSIONS (<i>VA schools &amp; Academy Trusts</i>) Deadline to publish policy on website and forward a copy to LA and Derby DBE. Guidance on website <a href="#">HERE</a></p>	15 March
<p>BISHOP'S BADGE Deadline for nominations</p>	End of spring term
<p>HEADTEACHER CONFERENCE Details &amp; booking links on <a href="#">CPD programme</a></p>	
<p>EXEC / HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SCHOOL RECRUITMENT Start process if notice has been given. Derby DBE must be involved. See guidance <a href="#">HERE</a></p>	

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)

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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



ASPIRATION  
COLLABORATION  
EXCELLENCE

## COULD YOU HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION?

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are a recently established multi-academy trust, looking to strengthen our Board to support our ongoing development

We seek individuals with expertise in:

- Accountancy
- Business
- Law and Compliance
- Estates Management
- Other relevant professional backgrounds

### LOCAL GOVERNING COMMITTEE (LGC)

Each school has its own LGC, drawn from the local community to provide governance and support

We are looking for governors with a passion for education and a desire to shape children's futures

**No prior governance experience is required –  
full training and ongoing support provided**



**SCAN HERE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION  
& TO APPLY**

[https://acederbyshire.org.uk/  
our-trust/#vacancies](https://acederbyshire.org.uk/our-trust/#vacancies)

**BE A PART OF SOMETHING TRANSFORMATIONAL**

Your time, insight and passion could help the future  
of hundreds of young people

