

Romans 15 v13

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the holy spirit'

Dear Colleagues

I hope you had an enjoyable break at half term and you have come back feeling refreshed. For headteachers in particular it is so important that you take care to sustain yourselves given how fast paced and demanding your roles are.

One of my priorities since my arrival as Director of Education has been to find ways of ensuring the wellbeing of our school leaders. We are currently working on a project with Brighton University to begin a Peer to Peer Mentorship scheme designed to offer support and sustain experienced heads. We will talk more about this at our Headteachers' Conference on Friday 29 March but I will also be sending written details to you all in April. This year we will have a pilot scheme and we will be looking for 20 headteachers who are not already involved in such a scheme or are not involved with new headteacher programmes. There is no element of hierarchal relationship in this programme which makes it quite innovative. It is genuinely designed to be peer to peer support. We will send more details soon, as we aim to launch it in September 2019. Have a think as to whether this could be a project for you.

On the subject of the Headteachers' Conference, we have now filled our allotted places. This is such an encouragement – thank you for your engagement. However, we have managed to negotiate another six places so if you have not booked and are keen to join us on 29 March at Ashdown Park Hotel, please contact the Education office as soon as possible (educationtraining@chichester.anglican.org). Because of demand we will also have a waiting list so that if for any reason you have booked and can't attend, please let us know so we can fill your place. Our theme this year is 'Mental Health and Wellbeing in your School Community' which is such a priority at this time.

Thank you for the many responses from you and your Governing Bodies regarding our Rural and Small Schools Strategic Guidance. It has been well received and hopefully will stimulate further thoughts. Please remember that if you are considering developing more formal partnerships such as federations or if you are thinking about joining a MAT, we need to know as soon as possible. Firstly, we are able to give guidance and secondly we can support you and ensure you do not hit legal 'road blocks' along the way. Some schools have come to us saying they want us to tell them who to partner with. Whilst we can do that, it isn't really our chosen way to work at this stage. Partnerships need to be school based and schools need to assess that crucial 'compatibility' in their own way. That is not to say that we won't help as we are keen to support in any way we can. Please remember to keep us informed at the earliest possible point.

Thank you for all you are giving our children. In education we are engaged in one of the most important roles possible and we continue to pray that you will be sustained and valued.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Cristin
March 2019