

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

Welcome back to the Summer Term! I do hope you all managed to get a proper rest at Easter.

We have been delighted with the response to our Peer to Peer Mentoring programme for headteachers. We have pretty much filled the spaces but we will hold the application process open until Friday 10 May. All you need to do is let us know via Michelle Perry michelle.perry@chichester.anglican.org. I really do hope this will be a valuable project that will properly support headteachers in their roles. We also expect it to be sustainable so that it can support heads in years to come.

We were very appreciative to get so many positive comments about our Headteachers' Conference on 29 March. It has been very encouraging but it has also helped us plan for next year. If those who attended have any further feedback, please do let us know via the online survey that was sent out as we want to continue to see this event grow in popularity, relevance and impact.

I would like to highlight our ongoing provision of training for SIAMS. I am sure you are aware that the new framework is demanding and it puts a strong emphasis on the distinctively Christian vision of your school. All our training for this year is now full, so please look out for the Autumn Term training on SIAMS when our brochure is published. Do raise this with your DEP or the Education Team here at our office if you want to discuss this further.

Over the past week you will have been receiving your invoices for your Partnership Agreements with our Education Team. We are very aware of how tight your budgets are and we know how every penny counts. This year we have tried to bring in adjustments that support our Small Schools and cap the contributions from our Secondaries. Money is tight everywhere and that includes here. We are supported generously by the Diocese to carry out our statutory duties but it is your Partnership Agreements that support the work of our DEP's, the support many schools ask for during inspections, the work we have done on Small Schools and on Federations, training and conference programmes and the advisory work when schools need help when improvement issues arise. I am proud that more and more schools are turning to us for this and we acknowledge that sources of such help are harder to find. However, without your support in paying the Partnership Agreement, providing these resources would be impossible. We will do all we can to avoid turning schools away and currently we have the resources that prevent us doing so. However, if our income from the Partnership Agreement is not sufficient, that support will begin to shrink and eventually disappear. That is enough of the 'sales pitch'! I just want you to know that your contributions do matter and are critical in equipping us. Thank you for what you have given.

Whilst the summer term brings special days and lovely weather (I hope) it is also challenging for us in many ways. Obviously we are now entering the season for testing and exams. This is the first year I have not been involved with SATS since they were introduced. These times are really challenging for you as heads and teachers and I do recognise the pressure. Please be assured of our prayers and we are here if you need us for professional help or a listening ear. However, right at the heart of this process are our children, whether they are being tested on their phonics knowledge or their A level courses. Whilst we pray for our school leaders, we must also pray for our children as they face these pressures and seek to show their capabilities.

I hope that this will be a really positive term for you all. We continue to pray for you and please do ensure you contact us if you need anything.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Cristin
May 2019

Learning with meaning and purpose: to know God and shape the world