

## **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 really hope you had an enjoyable and peaceful break and you have come back to the joys of the new year fully restored. This was my first August in the office and whilst I appreciated the chance to catch up with those tasks I inevitably pushed into the 'pending' tray, I did miss you all and it's good to be back in touch.

The new year brings some new faces and I would like to welcome the following new headteachers into the Diocesan Family:

Jacqui Dommett, Boxgrove CE Primary School  
Sean Smith, Forest Row CE Primary School  
David Hemsley, Wadhurst CE Primary School

We will be praying for you in these early days in your new role. I hope to get to come and see you as soon as I can and I am confident some of the colleagues around you will be in touch if they haven't already done so.

In addition, I need to give a belated welcome to The Venerable Luke Irvine-Capel as he has become the new Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE). This is a vital role within the diocese as it requires wise, compassionate and committed leadership to help us all to thrive. Archdeacon Luke has long shown this in his work with some of our schools in St Leonards, on the DBE and in dealings with DCAT. As he settles into his new role as Archdeacon of Chichester we are delighted to have him take on such an important role for us.

The Leavers' Celebrations were genuinely fascinating experiences for me this year and it was so lovely to get to speak to so many of you. It is remarkable how different each service is despite the consistent format. As a headteacher I tended to go to the same venue each year. That has the advantage of being with familiar schools and colleagues and many of the children know each other a little more. However, I do recommend you try a new venue every now and then. You will be surprised at how refreshingly different the service will be. There was a lot of joy and a real sense of celebration. This is due to the hard work of the organising team but more importantly to the efforts of each school and their staff who helped the children learn the songs and other aspects for the service and then inspired them to fully engage. Thank you for your effort.

Our Training Programme has now been published. We are publishing online this year but we will be sending you hard copies of the Year Planner so you can schedule the course you want to engage with. We will also send you monthly updates in these emails so please keep an eye out. As part of this I would like to highlight the Diocesan Briefings we are holding this term. There will be seven of these and they will be held at:

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

**All briefings are 16.30 – 18.00**

**Dates:**

Tuesday 24 September  
Monday 30 September  
Tuesday 1 October  
TBC  
TBC  
TBC

**Venues:**

Sir Henry Fermor CE Primary School, Crowborough  
Bishop Luffa CE School, Chichester,  
The Holy Trinity CE Secondary School, Crawley  
St Catherine's College, Eastbourne  
All Saint's CE Primary School, Sidley  
St Nicolas & St Mary CE Primary School, Shoreham

This year we will be looking to ensure you leave with ideas and resources to help you. I will give a brief overview at each one and then we will focus on three areas:

1. Church and School Partnerships
2. Surviving the new SIAMS Schedule
3. Growing your evidence base.

It is also a great opportunity to meet and talk to colleagues so do please come and do bring your Chair of Governors or other key leaders.

There are a couple of dates for your diary:

**Headteachers Conference:** Church and School – Together and Inspired

Friday 27 March 2020 from 09.30 to 16.30

Ashdown Park Hotel, East Grinstead

Places for this will go quickly and some schools may choose to bring their Parish Priest (although this is not essential).

**Headteachers Quiet Day** lead by Archdeacon Martin Lloyd Williams

Friday 5 June 2020

West Dean College

This is always quite a small gathering but everyone who attends really appreciates it. I attended for the first time this year and it offers an opportunity for quietness and peace that we so rarely get to encounter.

In the same way that you face challenging budgets, so we have to be very careful with the way we manage resources. This does mean we are having to look at the way we work. One way forward is to rely less on consultancy fees and more on using our own staff team. We are looking to expand our staff team gradually and over the next couple of weeks we will be advertising for new School Improvement Officers. Do have a good look at these and ask if they might be good opportunities for you or for somebody you know. We can be flexible regarding hours and location. These roles are all about finding the right people, so it is always worth having a conversation with us if you want to find out more. We also hope this will not be the only opportunity to recruit for roles like this over the next eighteen months. So again, stay in touch with us.

That is about enough from me for now. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Diocesan Briefings in the coming months or in your schools.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Cristin  
September 2019