

## 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’d like to open with exciting news. We have successfully recruited two new School Effectiveness Officers who will be working alongside our team here in Church House. When the formalities are completed, I will write to you directly to give you more details and to outline how you can access the resources you buy in your Partnership Agreement. We are very aware of the concerns raised by the ending of the DEP programme but as I have emphasised in previous communications, our strategy is aimed at providing very similar support in a different approach. We are excited by the new team members joining us, who bring relevant credibility and expertise to this position. I would also like to thank the two headteachers on the interview panel (Sacha Strand – Sir Henry Fermor CE Primary School, Crowborough and David Bertwistle – Rake CE Primary and Rogate CE Primary Schools) for their wise and relevant input. Expect further information via email very soon!

One of our key initiatives this year has been our Peer to Peer Mentorship Scheme that has been designed to offer support to serving headteachers. The first round of this is coming towards a conclusion. We have been delighted by the very positive feedback from those who have taken part and for many it has been an invaluable source of support and development. If there is sufficient interest we would be keen to run this scheme again. The key aspects of this scheme are:

- It is for serving Heads who have been in a role of headship for at least two years.
- It is a peer to peer model. There is no ‘hierarchical’ relationship and you work as equal colleagues – both as mentor and mentee.
- You are unlikely (depending on numbers) to be working with a colleague you already know and you may need to travel.
- Involvement will require commitment for the year’s programme.
- **The cost of the programme will be covered by your Partnership Agreement.**

It is a strong aim of ours to support our heads in any way we can to preserve their own sustainability. The feedback from this year’s programme suggests that the resources we have put into meeting the use of this project is very well spent. If you are interested in signing up for this scheme, which we expect will begin in September 2020 please contact Lesley Hurst [lesley.hurst@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:lesley.hurst@chichester.anglican.org)

We are fast approaching our Annual Headteachers Conference. It is on the theme of ‘Church and School –Together and Inspired’ and will be held at Ashdown Park Hotel. We are soon going to need to submit numbers so we would appreciate you signing up as soon as possible. We have some great speakers scheduled:

- Murray Wilkinson, Growing Faith Enabler, Church of England and
  - Revd Rob Dillingham, Growing Faith Champion, Diocese of Chichester
- } **Growing Faith**

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

- Jack Carter, Educational Network Developer – **Transforming Lives for Good** (TLG)
- Jill Rowe, Oasis Ethos and Formation Director
- James Cary, Comedian, Writer and Lay Member of General Synod

It is also a really valuable time for headteachers to come together to reflect and spend time together.

I would also like to recommend the Headteachers' Quiet Day that we have scheduled for 5 June 2020 at West Dean College. This is usually quite a small gathering of headteachers and it works well as such. However, please do consider joining us. It is a wonderful opportunity to take yourself off to a place of calm reflection and peace in an environment that is both safe and beautiful.

Lastly, some of our team have been busy filming! We are looking at a number of strategies to encourage new recruits to the role of Foundation Governors. New information leaflets will be supported by a short film that we hope to show across the diocese to encourage people to consider taking up this important role of service.

You continue to be in our prayers.

Best wishes

Trevor Cristin  
February 2020