

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

Although it is now some time ago, I do hope you enjoyed a time of rest and recuperation during half term. By this point I am sure you will be planning for the return of the remainder of your pupils on 8 March. I have no doubt that this for many will be daunting and challenging but you have been here before and have achieved amazing things already throughout this pandemic. I hope this will be one of the last hurdles that we have to overcome as the country seeks to return to some sort of normality. You should have no doubts as to how valuable and important your contribution has been to the welfare and mental health of our communities throughout these past twelve months. As a diocese we look on your achievements with great pride and gratitude.

These next few days will continue to present a number of logistical challenges but hopefully this now brings your whole school community together again and you can begin to function as you have always done. Thank you for your ongoing commitment, attention to detail and desire to serve your communities - you are greatly valued.

I hope you will be aware of the relaunch of our Peer to Peer Support Programme for Headteachers. I have mentioned this in our recent communications and the interest this year has been brisk with only a few places remaining. The deadline for booking was on Friday 26 February however if you missed any of the communications and would like more information please contact [Jon Gilbert](#) or [Lesley Hurst](#) who can outline the programme in greater detail or contact [Yasmin Heasman](#) to book your place. The final booking deadline for these remaining places is Wednesday 3 March.

As you know we have changed the date for our Headteacher's Conference from Friday 26 March to Wednesday 7 July. We are aware that this does involve a clash of dates with some of the transition days in West Sussex. Sadly we have reached the point where available dates are very few and we will have to continue with this date as arranged. We do hope that all colleagues who have planned to attend are still able to join us. Obviously, we are going to have to work within Government Guidelines but we hope by this point you will have the opportunity to join one another in a day that is not only constructive but also restorative. If you need to discuss this any further, please contact [Yasmin Heasman](#).

Throughout the challenges of the last few months, we have greatly enjoyed some of the lighter aspects of school life that we have been hearing about. For instance, this month we had the pleasure of sharing in the pet photograph competition at Framfield CEP School (more on this in 'News from our Schools' in this edition of the E-News). It is lovely to hear how so many of you have ensured that your children still enjoy the lighter side and treats of school life despite the

challenges of working remotely or within various locations. It is actions like this that ensure that any fragment of normality is preserved for the children. I know how much extra work this takes in our current circumstances and again we are so appreciative of those extra steps you are all taking.

Our thoughts and prayers will be very much with you in the coming days. Please don't hesitate to call us if you need us.

Trevor Cristin
March 2021

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