

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 the term has started well for you. We are hugely aware that whilst many in the “outside world” consider life to have returned to normal it is still hugely complex for you. The worries of Covid are still challenges and in some ways the burden on you is greater because the regulation is less clear. We are fully aware of the pressures you face. Your judgement may often be questioned yet you are still having to handle the anxiety of families, children and staff. Our prayers are very much with you but please be aware that we are only a phone call away if you need help or somebody to talk to. Thank you for the amazing work you are all continuing to do.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our annual Headteachers Conference on Wednesday 29 September. We had so many kind comments and it was clear that the occasion was appreciated by such a large number of you. The subject matter – Growing Partnerships - proved to be a stimulating one for many but it was equally important to spend time together in a lovely setting. It was clear that those who attended enjoyed the opportunity to talk, reflect and just spend some time in a place of calm and quiet. I would like to thank our team for all the hard work they put into planning and delivering the conference. I hope many of you will join us when we arrange our next conference in 2022/23.

Please do use our Growing Partnerships video when talking to your communities. It is a useful summary of what we are doing with case studies from schools. This can be accessed on the front page of our website or [here](#).

I hope that you all saw my email regarding the NPQ courses on offer from the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership. The deadline for registration is 8 October- please bear this in mind if there are any members of your staff who you are considering are suitable for one of these courses. I contacted several schools who are eligible for direct funding in relation to these courses. Full details of government funding available can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-professional-qualifications-npqs-reforms/national-professional-qualifications-npqs-reforms>

We will be holding a Diocesan Briefing for Headteachers and Governors online on 19 October at 5pm. We will be doing these briefings once a term and the aim is to come together for 45 mins and catch up with information we hope you will find useful. The meeting will be recorded for those who can’t attend at that time. You can register [here on Eventbrite](#).

We are very grateful for the number of early responses that we have had to our Year 6 Leavers Celebrations email. We have been amazed at how rapidly places are being booked. This is a great encouragement for us but I would urge the rest of you to respond quickly if you would like to attend these services as places in some venues are filling up. As things stand we are not intending to produce a virtual service for Year 6 Leavers but we are looking at other opportunities where we can share collective worship throughout the year across the diocese. However, for our leavers in June and July 2022 we are looking forward to coming together as a family of schools to spend time worshipping in person. If you do have any questions please do contact [Vanessa Vollebregt](#).

I wish you all the best in the coming weeks. Half term is not all that far away and I know many of you have been working at great pace since the start of the year and once again I urge you to ensure you do enjoy a proper break.

With best wishes

Trevor Cristin
September 2021

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