

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 would like to welcome you back to a new term and I hope that you all have had a relaxing and restful break. Easter is such a time of great hope and encouragement for Christians and my prayer is that you will have all benefitted from this special time in the year.

We are aware that many of you continue to battle with staff absence and whilst there are hopeful signs that Covid numbers might be declining again, we know that the ongoing burdens and pressures you are carrying remain. However, this year we are optimistic that the summer term will start to resemble those of previous years again. This is a time of the year when precious childhood memories are made and we pray that your children will appreciate and embrace all the opportunities that you provide for them. Whilst the summer term can be a long and tiring adventure for the adults, I also hope that there will be a sense of joy for you all throughout the events and occasions that lie ahead.

It is particularly encouraging to see the high numbers registering for our Diocesan Leavers Celebrations and we greatly look forward to seeing you in June and July. By now you should have received your ‘Leavers Pack’ with the programme, various instructions, details relating to our identified charity and list of music. All the backing tracks are on our [website](#), please do start practicing them especially the new ones so that the children can enjoy singing them in the services. We also hope that you will find these songs useful in your schools in the coming year.

With the return of some of our regular school events and routines also comes the challenge of assessments and exams. We know that this will bring pressures to both our teachers and our school children and we will be praying for you as you readjust to these. Please remember we are here to support, even if it is simply to let off steam amidst the challenge.

It was very encouraging for us to see so many of you attend our diocesan briefing at the end of last term. We hope that this was valuable and informative for you. We intend to hold our next briefing on Tuesday 12th July between 4:30 and 5:30. This will give us an opportunity to say thank you for all that you have been doing, say some farewells and update you on the latest information on a wide range of issues. You will be able to register on [Eventbrite](#).

As I said at the last briefing, we are advertising for a new Education Department Administrator. We are sorry to see Vanessa Vollebregt and Yasmin Heasman go but they are excited about the opportunities ahead of them. They have served this department with great loyalty and capability and we are going to miss them. Do please [look at the advert](#) and share it with anyone you think may be appropriate and may like to serve the diocese in this way.

I hope you have a very enjoyable May and enjoy the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

With best wishes

Trevor Cristin
May 2022