

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 do hope you had a restful half term and those who took part in the Jubilee celebrations had a happy time in their communities. We are fully aware of how busy your schedules will be over the next half term but these are often special times where memories are made. I do hope that the administration of SATS went well. Our thoughts and prayers now turn to our colleagues and our young people preparing for and sitting GCSEs and A Levels. We pray that all involved will know God’s peace throughout.

We are excited about seeing many of you at our Leavers’ Celebrations. Many of our venues are now completely full and we are delighted to see an increase in the total number of schools attending this year. I hope this will be a very special occasion for you all. It is a chance to celebrate all our children have given us and the people they have become as a diocesan family together.

A number of you have been inviting our team to talk to you about the White Paper for Education, the Schools Bill and the journey towards a fully academised landscape. I’m sure you can appreciate that it isn’t going to be possible to go to each individual school to have this discussion but we are very willing to come and talk to groups of schools because we think this conversation is best had in a shared environment.

I also think it is important to emphasise that many of the precise details of the legislation are yet to emerge and that some of the information that we will be sharing with you now may well need to change in the months ahead as the government unpack both the legislation and the regulation in more detail. To that end our Strategic Partnership of Diocesan MATs is preparing an event for the Autumn Term where we can brief you further and give you more detailed information about the opportunities within the diocesan family. More information about this event will be shared within the coming weeks once dates and venues are confirmed but we think the timing of a late Autumn meeting will enable us to have a clearer picture as information regarding any change can be as accurate as possible. This wider agenda is a fluid one and there are some things that are very difficult to speak with absolute certainty about at this point, but we aim to keep you fully updated.

We are delighted that the Diocese has agreed to fund Heat Decarbonisation Plans for all our Voluntary Aided Schools and academies which are within Church Majority Trusts. This is our first step towards the Church of England pledge for net zero carbon by 2030. We have e-mailed all schools that are eligible to be part of this programme. Please do respond as soon as possible as we would like to start to work on these plans as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the weeks ahead at various venues across the diocese. I do hope that the coming weeks will bring you a sense of joy and fulfilment.

With best wishes

Trevor Cristin
June 2022