

Director: Ms Lesley Hurst

Dear Colleagues,

As this September starts, I am reminded of the anticipation of new opportunities and new challenges that can often come with new beginnings. Whilst I write this I am sat in a familiar office, but at an unfamiliar desk, knowing that this September in particular brings a new start moving from the Assistant Director role into the role of Diocesan Director of Education. I am so grateful for all of the messages of support that I have had from Heads and Chairs of Governors and would like to pass on that support and encouragement to those of you that are just starting your own journeys in leadership roles across our schools.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our secondary school colleagues for everything that they have achieved with their young people in the recent exam period. This can be a period of immense joy, but we are also mindful that for some young people the coming weeks may still be uncertain and bring challenging decisions. We thank you for your continuing love and determination to care for these young people.

As we move into this new term, our team are working hard to finalise our training offer for this year. Our courses that are scheduled until Christmas can be found and booked here: [TryBooking](#). For now, please do save **Friday 21st March 2025** in your diaries for our Headteachers Conference. The conference will focus on the theme of "Journey", and we are delighted to be joined by Bishop Will Hazlewood, Bishop of Lewes and Steve Chalke OBE, founder of Oasis Charitable Trust. With more speakers to be confirmed, we would love as many of you as possible join us. The booking link is here: [Diocese of Chichester Headteacher Conference 2025](#)

We hope that the start of the year is a time of joy for your communities- you remain strongly in our prayers.

Your sincerely,



Lesley Hurst
Diocesan Director of Education

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

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