

**Director: Ms Lesley Hurst**

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing this on the feast day of Epiphany, celebrating Jesus' divinity revealed to the world and marking the end of Christmas. As I listened to our sermon exploring Epiphany in church on Sunday, I was struck by the importance of light. A star guiding the way for the Magi to the perfect light we find in Jesus, and of course you and your school communities who are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14).

In my letter this time last year, I spoke about Paul's encouragement to us to clothe ourselves "*with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*" Over the past year, I have observed that while these are virtues we often live by in our treatment of others, we are less likely to treat ourselves in the same way. Whilst I am not a fan of setting new year goals or resolutions, I am going to try to ensure I treat myself in the same way Paul encourages us to treat others, and I would encourage you to do the same.

As we enter the new diocesan Year of Matthew, I would like to share with you the incredible result of our Year of Faith project that took place across a number of our secondary schools last year. Working alongside singer/songwriter James Kirby; students from Bishop Luffa School, King's School, St Catherines College and The Holy Trinity School, Crawley have written and performed a song exploring the Nicene Creed. You can listen to the song here: [https://youtu.be/QB\\_oczsoots?si=6ia28huZT8DdpNV1](https://youtu.be/QB_oczsoots?si=6ia28huZT8DdpNV1) If you would like resources to enable you to sing this in your school, please do contact us and we will make these available for you.

You may have seen in my letter at the end of term that we will be holding an event to explore our Small and Rural Schools Statement in more detail on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**. The booking link can be found here: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FSBB> or contact us at [schools@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:schools@chichester.anglican.org)

May I take this opportunity to encourage you to book your place at our Headteachers Conference for this year. Taking place on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**, this is a great way in which you can live out compassion, kindness and gentleness to yourself by allowing us to look after you for a day. Places can still be booked following this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FDCM> If you would like to attend but the cost may be prohibitive, please do contact me directly.

I hope that term has started well. I know a number of you have already had meetings with members of our team. Please be assured that we continue to pray for you and your communities.

With all best wishes



Lesley Hurst  
Diocesan Director of Education

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

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