

Director: Ms Lesley Hurst

06 October 2026

Dear Colleagues,

After a hiatus of several months due to staffing changes, I am pleased that our newsletter is now back. Please do take the time to go through each section, we are conscious that this is one of our main ways of communicating with you directly and therefore do not want you to miss anything.

The eagle-eyed among you may notice a change to our vision strapline at the bottom of the page. During the 2025-26 academic year the Diocesan Board of Education worked to renew and refresh both its vision statement and strapline. A great deal of thought was put into ensuring that this was theologically rooted, with a link to both the wider Diocese and the general functions as set out in the DBE Measure. Our strapline is now:

“Rooted to grow by faithfully shaping education to know, love and follow Jesus today.”

Our vision is to promote and assist in a transformative education across the diocese that is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England. We are committed to growing church schools where worship is central, and where every child is recognised as uniquely made in the image of God with inherent human dignity. Grounded in Christian teaching we foster a culture of learning that seeks to release the God-given gifts of every individual. Through co-operation with our schools, academies, and partners, we empower all to know, love, and follow Jesus today, enabling our communities to experience life in all its fullness.

We will be working this year to embed our new vision and ensure that all our work is rooted within this.

The Partnership Agreement invoices for this year will soon be making their way to your schools. We have not made any changes to our services or the price from the last academic year. This is because we would like to consult on the shape of the Partnership agreement with you through this year to ensure that this is fit for purpose as we move forward. It is more than 10 years since we have completed this exercise and as such, we would like to run some in person sessions in the Spring term in your localities. If you are able to potentially host one of these sessions, please do let Michelle know by e-mail: michelle.perry@chichester.anglican.org

Rooted to grow by faithfully shaping education to know, love, and follow Jesus today.

Education Department, Diocesan Church House, 211 New Church Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 4ED

Telephone: 01273 425687 • Email: schools@chichester.anglican.org

The Chichester Diocesan Fund and Board of Finance (Incorporated) Charity No 243134

A Company Limited by Guarantee Registered No 133558. Secretary: John Preston

For Voluntary Aided School, and academies where the trust board is seeking to make changes to admissions arrangements, please do remember to gain the advice of the DBE prior to going to public consultation. Any consultation must run for a 6-week period between 1 Oct 2026- 31 January 2027 for changes to be in place for the academic year 2028-29. You must consult at least once every 7 years, even when no changes are proposed. More details around consultations can be found here: [Admissions - Diocese of Chichester Education](#)

A significant area of focus for our team this year is Foundation Governor recruitment and support. It is some time since we updated our recruitment campaign and therefore, we are looking to refresh this in the next half term. We would love to feature a diverse range of governors within this campaign, providing testimony to the positive impact their governance makes on the life of the school, and how they also benefit personally. If your school or indeed individual governors would like to take part, please do let us know by e-mail to schools@chichester.anglican.org

We have now launched the Faith in Action Awards for the third year. Open to all pupils from Year 6-Year 13, this award celebrates the acts of service undertaken by our children and young people while also helping them to explore different areas of the Christian faith. There is still time to get involved in the awards for this year. Final submission is not until 28th May 2027, with the celebration service taking place at Chichester cathedral on 27th June 2027. More detail can be found here: [Faith In Action Award - Diocese of Chichester Education](#) please don't hesitate to contact Andrew Jervis should you wish to participate: andrew.jervis@chicheser.anglican.org

As we head towards half term, we will be hosting our first briefing session of the year for Headteachers and Governors. This will take place on 22nd October from 4.30pm-6.00pm and we will provide updates from across all areas of our work, Please do book your place using the following link: [Heads' and Governors' Briefing Tickets | TryBooking United Kingdom](#)

I hope that the next couple of weeks are rewarding for you, and when half term arrives, you get the chance to enjoy some proper rest and recuperation. As ever, please do not hesitate to contact us if you need us. You remain very much in our prayers.

Yours faithfully,



Lesley Hurst MA

Diocesan Director of Education