DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Director: Ms Lesley Hurst

04 November 2026

Dear Colleagues,

As we head into another busy half term, full of nativity rehearsals and carol concerts, I have found myself reflecting on the words of Paul that we must "sing with our minds" (1 Cor. 14:15). It is so easy to find ourselves caught up in the sentimentality and excitement of the season without paying close attention to the words that we are singing. I would therefore encourage you to find joy in the richness of the language of the carols we so often sing in school as we journey towards Christmas. A book I would recommend to you to explore these carols further is *"Sing in Exultation!"* by Jonathan Landry Cruse.

We are pleased to welcome Stephen Beaumont, Head of Youth Leadership for the National Society to the Diocese on Friday 27th November. We will be visiting a number of schools that have participated in the Faith in Action Awards over the past 2 years. We would really like to be able to show Stephen other examples of student leadership in our schools. Please do get in contact with me directly if you feel you would like to host a visit: lesley.hurst@chichester.anglican.org If you would like more details on the Faith in Action Awards, please see our website (Faith In Action Award) or contact Andrew Jervis directly: andrew.jervis@chichester.anglican.org

The planning for the Year 6 Leavers services in 2027 is now in full swing. If you have not yet requested the service that you would like to attend, please do drop us an e-mail at leavers@chichester.anglican.org If you would like to get a head start on learning some of the hymns, we will this year be including our own worship song, Light from Light, which can be found here: Light from Light Lyrics Video This song was created in collaboration with singer/songwriter James Kirby and students from our own secondary schools as an exploration of the Nicene Creed. Equally, this is a song that you may want to add to your Christmas services. If you have retained your Hympact! subscription, the song is available to be used through this platform. All other song details will be sent to you ASAP and recordings will be available on the Leavers Services page of our website.

Finally, may I encourage you to book your place at our Headteachers' Conference for 2027. Taking place on Friday 5th March at the beautiful Ashdown Park Hotel, our theme this year is ***Created to Create: Human Flourishing in the Age of AI.*** Our speakers include Bishop Will Hazelwood, Sir Anthony Seldon, Dr Johanna Payton and Karen Gibson MBE. Alongside this we will have a number of exhibitors on the day. We would really love to welcome as many of you as possible, and your booking may be made following this link: Headteacher's Conference Tickets

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

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