



EAST ANGLIA DIOCESE SCHOOLS' NEWS JULY 2018



Editor's Note

Dear colleagues,

We hope you all have a very relaxing Summer break. Our sincere thanks and best wishes to all from the school's service team.

Address of Pope Francis to students and teachers from across schools in Italy in 2014.

Going to school means opening one's mind and heart to reality, in the wealth of its aspects, of its dimensions. And we do not have the right to be afraid of reality. School teaches us to understand reality. Going to school means opening one's mind and heart to reality, in the wealth of its aspects, of its dimensions. And this is so very beautiful! In the first years we learn a wide range of subjects, then little by little one delves more deeply into one subject and then ultimately specialises in it. But if one has learned to learn – this is the secret, to learn to learn – one retains this always, a person remains loyal to reality.

Another reason is that school is a place of encounter. It is a place along the way. we meet our peers, we meet our teachers, we meet the staff. Parents meet the Headteachers and staff, as do they meet the parents etc. it is therefore a place of encounter and today we need this culture of encounter in order to get to know one another, to love one another and to journey together.

And then I love school because it educates us in the true, the good and the beautiful. A Catholic school's mission is to develop the sense of the true, the sense of the good and the sense of the beautiful. Thus we cultivate within ourselves the true, the good and the beautiful; and we learn that these three dimensions are never separated but rather are interwoven. If something is true, it is good and it is beautiful; if something is beautiful, it is good and it is true; if it is good, it is true and it is beautiful. And together these elements make us grow and help us to love life, even when we are unwell, even amid difficulties. True education makes us love life, and it opens us to the fulness of life.

And finally I would like to say that at school we not only acquire knowledge and content, but we also learn deportment and values. One is educated to learn many things, that is, much important content, in order to behave in a certain way and also adopt values. And this is very important. I wish you all – parents, teachers, people who work in schools, students – a beautiful journey at school, a journey that enables you to learn three languages that a mature person should know how to express: the language of the mind, the language of the heart and the language of the hands. Harmoniously though, that is, to think what you feel and what you do; to feel deeply what you think and what you do; and to do well what you think and what you feel. Three languages, together in harmony!

Via Dei Consultancy working with the Diocese of East Anglia

This has been a very productive and exciting year in developing and making changes within Religious Education (RE) with our RE leaders whilst ensuring that they are kept fully up to date with national trends and innovative ways forward. We meet termly with Julie O'Connor to share updates, review initiatives and plan future continuing professional development (CPD) for Staff New to Catholic Schools (SNCS) and RE support for schools across the diocese.

Jan Southgate attends NBRIA (national board of religious inspectors and advisers) section 48 inspectors meetings and Margaret Stewart attends the NBRIA primary advisers meetings to feed back to the diocese to promote CPD where appropriate as well as provide update training within our termly Primary RE leaders' days.

S48 Inspections

Jan Southgate's work within the inspectorate section 48, has been to revise our diocesan handbook which includes the new national guidelines / schedule and the self-evaluation forms. Training has been given to the primary RE leaders in completing accurate and succinct analyses within their school SEFs, taking into account the distinctive aspects of Catholic Life, RE and Collective Worship within their schools. Our diocese has carried out inspections this last year using the new guidelines and feedback from schools has been very positive. The focus on self-evaluation will continue and CPD will also address how we work together in accommodating a new NBRIA national framework which schools will be asked to pilot in September 2019.

New Standards in RE

Margaret Stewart has attended the meetings on changes to the RE standards statements and a good number of our schools took part in the piloting of these standards to evaluate outcomes for pupils. This work is on-going and is an exciting way forward in addressing assessment of pupils' learning and how our curriculum ensures depth of study and with this in mind we will be focussing on moderation of pupils' RE work to agree exemplars to offer guidance for all leaders and heads of RE departments. Twilight sessions for school cluster groups gave opportunities for schools to meet to share and discuss good practice and the challenges of assessment for individual schools.

Staff New to Catholic Schools

We have offered twilight session in training staff new to Catholic schools at Poringland and Cambridge which were very well attended. Jan and Margaret led the primary group and Julie O'Connor led the secondary group. Within these twilight sessions we covered an overview of the diocese, the distinctive nature of Catholic schools and looked at expectations of working in a Catholic school.

Support for Newly Appointed RE Leaders

We also provide inset for newly appointed RE leaders and support for whole staff regarding Catholic life, RE and Collective Worship.

CPD for RE Leaders

At our primary RE Leaders' days we have invited speakers to provide useful additional resources for our schools eg CAFOD support materials linked to the new inspections format, pupil led support resources and a focus on Laudato Si "Creation" pack. We have had input from Mini- Vinnies and 'Rainbows' Bereavement support, as well as well-being for staff, and opportunities for our RE leaders to share how they support pupils' spiritual growth eg prayer trails.

We would like to thank all of our dedicated RE leaders for their immensely positive contributions to supporting pupils and students within our diocesan schools, and for their purposeful, prayerful and lively interactions which help us in our work. We look forward to working with you again in the new academic year and we wish you a relaxing and happy summer break.

Below pics from one of our RE days, productive and enjoyable!



Retirements:

We would like to pass on our very best thoughts to the following people who are retiring after many years of committed service. We wish them all a long and happy retirement.

Veronica Short, Headteacher, St Benet's, Beccles and St Edmund's, Bungay
Kieran O'Herlihy, Headteacher, Notre Dame Prep School, Norwich
Fran Ludden, Head of School, St Francis of Assisi

New Head/Deputy Appointments:

St Mark's – Mrs Claire Jackson - Headteacher
St Benet's, Beccles & St Edmund's Bungay, Executive Head, Mrs Sam Barlow
St Benet's, Beccles & St Edmund's Bungay, Head of School, Miss Amanda Lyons
Our Lady of Walsingham Mat (St Louis, Nkt, St Felix, Haverhill, St Mary's Ipswich) Executive Head Mrs Jill Sandvig, St Felix, Head of School, Mrs Andi Dodds, St Mary's, Ipswich, Heads of School, Joanne Berry and Josephine Measham
St Francis of Assisi, Norwich, Head of School, Mrs Felicity Hope

If we have missed anyone please accept our apologies.

Below you will find some reminders and other items of useful information. Remember, we want to share your news, so please tell us about special things happening in your school or anything we can celebrate or acknowledge together.

Please remember to forward these Newsletters and those sent by the CES to your governors. Send your news to ssc@rcdea.org.uk.

Catholic SEF

Please remember to send a copy of your Catholic SEF to Jane Delph at the Diocese ssc@rcdea.org.uk.

Primary RSE Policy

Just a reminder that these documents have now been sent to you.

This becomes the diocesan approved RSE programme from September 2018. However, the policy will need to be adopted and approved by your governing body and you and your staff will need time to look at what you are currently doing and adapt where needed. We appreciate this will need to be considered once you start the new academic year and it will take time to be fully introduced across the school. Much of what is in the curriculum document will not be new but, as always, you will need to review how it fits best within your general curriculum model.

Important Dates:

- Schools Commission - Heads Sub Group Tuesday 11th September 2018 10.30 – 12.30, Parish Centre, Newmarket
- Schools Celebration Mass, Friday 21st September, St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich. Please make sure you have completed and returned the reply form to Jane Delph ssc@rcdea.org.uk
- Primary RE Leaders Retreat Day – Friday 19th October 2018, Clare Priory
- Primary RE Day – Friday 29th March 201 – Conference Centre, Poringland
- Headteachers Autumn Conference – Tuesday 30th October 2018 – The Conference Centre Poringland
- Deputy Head Teachers Autumn Conference – Monday 19th November 2018 – The Conference Centre, Poringland

Prayer to St. Anthony of Padua

O God, good and merciful
Father, you who have chosen
St. Anthony as a witness of the
Gospel and messenger of peace
In the midst of your people,
Listen to the prayer we offer you
for his intercession.
Sanctify every family, help them
to grow in faith; preserve their
unity, peace and serenity.
Bless our children
and protect our youth.
Support us in our daily efforts,
giving us your love through
Christ our Lord. Amen