

EAST ANGLIA DIOCESE SCHOOLS' NEWS JULY 2021



Dear colleagues,



Here we are once again at the end of another academic year. This year has been filled with challenges which you have all risen too admirably. We hope you manage to get some rest and relaxation over the Summer and come back rested to a new Term. Our sincere thanks and best wishes to all from the school's service team.

An insight into what our Primary RE Leaders have been doing at their zoom sessions, this past Academic Year.

(Zoom session in progress)



Work with all things RE during this challenging year has continued to thrive. We are all so thankful to you for all your hard work and commitment to your pupils and families. We have witnessed how you have all given strength and support to each other along the journey and are emerging even stronger together.

This year we have focussed at the guidance from CES, the diocese and DfE on RSHE and discussed the impact on our schools. RSE is not a new curriculum for us in Catholic education. The challenge comes with ensuring that everyone has a clear understanding of how this is communicated in the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church. Our summer meeting with RE/RSE leads gave us a clearer picture of the way forward and we are planning to explore strategies and issues during the next school year at each RE Leaders' session.

We were very impressed with the enthusiasm shown for the two CPD events – 'Spirituality for children', led by Sue Price from Margaret Beaufort College and 'Everything is Connected', presented by Bethany Friery from CAFOD and the British Council.

In the Spirituality for Children session Sue Price led us to reflect on questions like 'What is meant by religion, what

is meant by spirituality?'. We considered the current research on how spirituality is identified, fostered and planned for in and outside school for everyone.

Research from experts such as Christina Robinson (2020) explains that in order to recognise children's spirituality, we need first to be in touch with our own. Colleagues went away with many exciting ideas to put into practice and an awareness of how much we are already doing in our schools.

The three CAFOD training sessions on 'Everything is Connected' awakened our perceptions of how closely we are all connected globally and how our faith in action and responsibilities towards each other and the planet are having a real positive impact on equality for all. We thought deeply about the messages of Laudati Si and Fratelli Tutti from Pope Francis and considered how 'We are all a single family living in a common home'. Colleagues went away being inspired to act on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to address poverty eradication, reduce inequality and protect the planet. We look forward to sharing the exciting work that will be developed and embedded in our schools over the coming years ahead.

Over the new school year we will be working on the developments in the new RE curriculum, changes to CSI inspections and developing RSE in schools.

We look forward to being able to meet face to face again in Poringland but until then we wish you a restful and restorative summer break with your friends and family.

Margaret Stewart & Jan Southgate

Dates for your Diary:

Primary RE Leaders Days

Autumn Term - Friday 5th November 2021

Spring Term 2021 – Friday 11th March 2022

Summer Term 2021 – Friday 1st July 2022

Headteachers/Heads of School Autumn Conference – Monday 8th November 2021

Deputy/Heads of Sch./Assistant Heads Autumn Conference – Monday 22nd November 2021

We hope the meetings will be in person at the Conference Centre, Poringland, subject to all being well with Covid etc. Nearer the time we will confirm whether they are actual or virtual meets.

Headteachers/Heads of School Pilgrimage to Assisi 16th – 18th June 2022.

Deputies/Assistant Heads Pilgrimage to Trani, 23rd – 25th June 2022.

DEA Year Planner, Celebrations and Weekly Theme Resources

In September, we will send an email to Heads, Deputies, RE Leads, PSHE Co-ordinators and Heads of Governors with a compilation of links to free resources from IGNITE, PEBBLE and a variety of Catholic Charities.

It will include a liturgical year planner with all the key feast and awareness days for the year. There will also be an easy to adapt ppt of assembly/prayer resources to enable all schools to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham on 24th September.



New Senior Appointments over the last 6 months

Mr Simon Blain – Headteacher Sacred Heart School, Swaffham
Mrs Tom Pinnington – Headteacher, Notre Dame High School, Norwich
Mr Dan Pickard – Headteacher, All Saint’s Inter-church Academy, March
Miss Natasha Wilmore – Deputy Headteacher, St John Fisher High School
Steve Olaman – Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral), St John Fisher High School
Kate Lewis – Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum), St John Fisher High School

We wish them all well and look forward to working with them.

Retirements – Senior Posts

Mrs Teresa Selvey - CEO Our Lady of Walsingham CMAT
Mr Mark Millinson Headteacher -All Saint’s Inter-church Academy March
Mrs Irene Henden, Head of School – Sacred Heart School, Swaffham
Mr Tom Reilly, Deputy Headteacher – St John Fisher High School, Peterborough

If we have missed anyone please accept our apologies. We wish them all a long and happy retirement.

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.

Send your news to: ssc@rcdea.org.uk

Please remember to forward these Newsletters and those sent by the CES to your governors.

Wishing you all a restful and restorative break and many thanks for all of the hard work and dedication you give, especially in these challenging times.

from: Julie, Flavio, Helen and Jane