

Director's Letter "Turning the Corner"

Goal 8: Nurturing Education:
Together to improve the standards and develop the Christian distinctiveness of our church schools, wholeheartedly embracing our contribution to education across the diocese



**Guildford Diocese
Family of Schools**

1 Peter 2 vs 7: "Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone"

26th February 2021

Dear Colleagues

One of the most encouraging things about this time of year is that after the long dark days of winter, we are starting to see the lighter mornings and longer days.

For some reason this sign of hope and promise of brighter and warmer days to come seems to have more significance this year after almost a whole calendar year of living in the dark shadow of the pandemic and the impact on our professional and personal lives.

We are very aware that after this week's announcements on the roadmap for the end of the lockdown and the return of all pupils to school from 8th March, that the hard work for school leaders and staff is still ahead and there is a long way to go before we can once again gather our whole school communities together.

That said, I give thanks for our many blessings and some of the unexpected glimpses of glory that we have discovered during this challenging period and the hope that at last, we may be turning the corner.

Headteacher Sabbaticals – Online Workshop – Friday 5th March 11.30am – Zoom

A reminder that we will be running an online workshop for governors and school leaders on short-term sabbaticals for school leaders. The workshop will be run by Anne Hudson, our Lead Officer for HR and will explore the different options for organising a short-term sabbatical for school leaders in the summer or autumn term. To book a place and get the Zoom details for the session, please log on to the Schools Portal and register here:

<https://gdbeonline.org/course/356>

Deputy Director of Education

We have had an encouraging response to our recruitment campaign and adverts for the Deputy Director of Education post and we are keen to ensure that we invite applications from across the diocese and beyond.

If you are an experienced Church school leader with a proven track record in school improvement and looking for a new challenge, do contact Sarah Bolton who will arrange a time to discuss the role. The application pack and details are available here: [https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/vacancies/deputy-director-of-education-\(head-of-school-effectiveness\)](https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/vacancies/deputy-director-of-education-(head-of-school-effectiveness))

Canon Tony Chanter – Diocesan Director of Education

We are very sad to announce the death of Canon Tony Chanter on Ash Wednesday. He will be remembered in this diocese as headmaster of Bishop Reindorp School, Guildford (later to become Christ's College) and then as Diocesan Director of Education for nearly 20 years, establishing the Diocesan Education Centre and the team that served both parishes and schools. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Yvonne, their daughters, Fiona and Alison, and the grandchildren. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

With best wishes

Alex Tear
Diocesan Director of Education

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Christian Distinctiveness

Lent Reflections for School Staff

Each week I am working with colleagues in Liverpool to create a short video reflection for school staff. This half term these are based around the 'wilderness experience' and Easter.

This is the first one [Into the Wilderness](#)

You can find the others on our webpage [here](#)

Schools that have used them said that teachers have valued the opportunity to take a few moments to pause and reflect or pray.

Lent Calendar of Kindness Now open

The calendar doors will now open on the calendar, you can join in at any time and catch up on days that you may have missed.

The primary school calendar is [here](#)

The secondary school calendar is [here](#)

Muddy Church Resources

This website has lots of ideas for worship activities outside, including several different Easter trails with QR codes. Suitable for primary and secondary and linking into your local community.

<https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/>

Wintershall Education

Restrictions mean that Wintershall cannot do their Easter plays and Lent workshops this year, so they are offering some new opportunities. These include Pilgrim Packs to use in school and meeting Bible characters via online assemblies.

<https://www.wintershall.org.uk/wintershall-education>

Easter Resources and Ideas

We are gathering ideas and resources for Easter in schools on this page on our website. There are lots of new materials and ideas on here.

<https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/christian-distinctiveness/collective-worship/lent-and-easter>

There are also ideas and resources for churches on this page, some of them could be of use in a school context.

<https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/christian-calendar/campaigns/lent>



Education Services and Support – Visit us <https://gdbeonline.org/>

2021/22 – Support in place moving forward – our Education Service Level Agreements (EsLA)

Lynne Rigg, our Independent Safeguarding Children and Child Protection consultant will be delivering our session for **Safeguarding Link Governors** on the **11th March** – This is free for all our subscribing EsLA schools and Trust's Safeguarding Links to attend. It is extremely good for those new to the Safeguarding link role and how to be effective in monitoring at this time

C0269	Safeguarding (CP) Governor Training	Thurs 11/03/2021	Virtual Session
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We are still offering both our Networks for EYFS practitioners and SENDCO's running next week, again these are free for all our subscribing EsLA schools and Trusts – booking links below.

Our consultancy support and CPD for schools and their governors continues 'virtually' for the **Spring term**. As always, if you require our specialist support, an on-site school visit or have a safeguarding concern please contact a member of our Education Team."

Spring 2021 Diary Dates – Course information links below take you directly to our schools portal:

Course Code	SPRING 2021 - Course information	Day/Date	ALL Virtual Sessions
C0271	GDBe/ELT 20/21 NQT Induction - Support, Assessment & Accreditation – Session 5	Tues 02/03/2021	Virtual Session – start time 15:30pm
C0265	EYFS Leaders, Practitioners and Learning Support Network Meetings	Wed 03/03/2021	Virtual Session
C0296	Christian Distinctiveness - The heart of the church school - for governors	Thurs 04/03/2021	Virtual Session
C0259	SENDCo Network - in partnership with SEND Teaching School	Fri 05/03/2021	Virtual Session
C0299	Monitoring the impact of your school Christian vision for governors and SLT	Tues 09/03/2021	Virtual Session
C0269	Safeguarding (CP) Governor Training	Thurs 11/03/2021	Virtual Session
C0293	Introducing the Trinity in a church primary school	Tues 16/03/2021	Virtual Session
C0294	Adding a global dimension to your school curriculum	Tues 16/03/2021	Virtual Session
C0273	GDBe/ELT 20/21 NQT+1 - Support and development modules for colleagues embarking on their second year of teaching.- Module 4	Tues 23/03/2021	Session postponed – NEW Dates to be announced

what makes us different

ETHOS | EMBEDDED SUPPORT | FOR EDUCATION

