



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

ST PHILIP HOWARD CENTRE, 4 SOUTHGATE DRIVE, CRAWLEY, RH10 6RP

8th March 2024

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Education Service, thank you for your continuing support for our events and training opportunities. We are at an exciting stage in our discussions with Ten:Ten who are about to start a national trial of our Primary RE resources. It is testament to the work undertaken by Anna Flood and Emma Sharp that we are able to collaborate and share what we have developed on a professional platform, whilst continuing to serve our schools here in Arundel and Brighton with such high-quality resources.

Catholic Education Trusts

Dave Carter, James Kibble and I recently had a meeting with Dame Kate Dethridge, Regional Director, and her DfE colleagues. We were pleased to note how well briefed she was regarding our Catholic Education Trusts. She was able to give us both support and guidance regarding the growth plans that Bosco CET and Xavier CET have in place and most importantly, recognised the school improvement work undertaken by both. This was a key meeting which confirmed the diocesan vision for our two Trusts.

Education Service update

We welcomed Tamsin Connick to the post of Education Officer at the start of February and following Simon Parr's retirement, she can be contacted on tamsin.connick@abdiocese.org.uk. Her working days are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Mark Brunet is retiring at the end of August. The advertisement for the Buildings Officer role is still live and closes on March 22nd with interviews on April 4th. There will be more to say about Mark and his work for the diocese in due course.

School news

At the end of this term, Julianne Birch retires after almost fifteen years as Headteacher and more recently Executive Headteacher, at St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School in Woking. Julianne has been tireless in her pursuit of excellence for the pupils and has led an outstanding school. She is held in the highest regard by governors, parents, staff, clergy, and the St Dunstan's community. Her contribution to the diocese over the years, most recently in providing leadership support, has been greatly appreciated. We look forward to celebrating Julianne's many achievements at the Mass of Thanksgiving on July 4th and wish her well for her retirement.

Sign up for the Mass is already open and further details will be shared early next term.

[School Leaders Mass of Thanksgiving \(04-Jul-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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Congratulations to Georgina Morganti who has been appointed as Headteacher of St Dunstan's with effect from the summer term. Congratulations also to Deborah Bligh who has been appointed Headteacher at Mayfield School.

We also say 'goodbye and good luck' to Hanorah Murphy, Deputy Head at St Anne's, Chertsey. Hanorah has been appointed Head at St Ignatius Catholic Primary School, Sunbury. She has been Deputy at St Anne's for almost ten years and was acting Head twice, covering maternity leave. She will be greatly missed by the St Anne's and Xavier community.

Our best wishes and prayers are with Hanorah, Georgina and Debs as they take up their respective posts in the new term.

Schools Singing Programme

Faye Eldret and Fraser Ellson, our Choral Directors, are both holding choir festivals this term, bringing together a number of schools in the Chapel at Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Hove on March 13th, and St Dunstan's Catholic Church on March 14th. This is the next stage in the SSP, and we look forward to the continued development of this programme in line with Bishop Richard's statement in the 2024 Pastoral Plan 'The Word Who Is Life': "The development of the rich liturgical music tradition of the Diocese will continue, with the Schools Singing Programme creating new possibilities for prayer and encounter for many young people, their school and parish communities." Thank you to those schools and parishes involved, who continue to support the SSP.

Journeying to Easter

In his Message for Lent 2024, Pope Francis has taken the theme, "Through the desert God leads us to freedom."

His message is inspired by the passage from the Book of Exodus, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." (Ex 20:1-17)

He writes, "The Lenten exodus helps us to free ourselves from slavery. God sustains our hope-through an ecclesial, communitarian, and personal journey of conversion - to lead us to the land He wants to give us."

May we all embrace Lent as an opportunity for conversion as we continue to journey to the great feast of Easter.

With every best wish.

Julie Oldroyd
Director – Education Service

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