

# DBE Schools Bulletin

April & May 2022

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions

## In this Issue:

DBE Academies Strategy Page 2

DBE RE Leaders Conference Page 3

Heads' Wellbeing Programme  
Page 5

Developing diversity on GBs Page 6

ABYYT – Platinum Jubilee Challenge  
Page 7

Worship in a church school Page 8

April/May/June DBE Course Page 9

School News Page 11

## Defining the education landscape

The publication of the government's Education White paper last month, laid down their intentions and aspirations for the future shaping of the education system in England. A key headline of this will see a move towards all schools becoming academies and being part of a strong family of schools within a multi-academy trust (MAT). Thus creating close to a fully academized school system by 2030. Less than a quarter of church schools in this diocese are currently academies.

The DBE recognises the importance of defining its own academies strategy in order to determine and safeguard the long-term future homes for all 115 church schools in the Diocese, within a MAT structure. The DBE has written to each of our schools, outlining the DBE's ambitions and expectations for how such a structure will be formed. Further details on this can be found on page 2.

It is nearly two months since the war began in Ukraine, and in the March bulletin, schools were encouraged to pray for peace and the people of Ukraine. Schools, alongside our churches, have been proactive in their response to the crisis by offering practical support and help sending resources out to Ukraine as well as preparing to welcome Ukrainian families who are moving into our region and communities as they look to seek refuge from the war. We anticipate a number of our schools will be receiving Ukrainian children in the coming months. Further information on the Ukraine family scheme can be found on page 4

## DBE Academies Strategy

The Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) is proud of the history of church school education in this diocese that has been provided to hundreds of thousands of children over more than 150 years. We greatly value the special relationship that exists between the DBE and each of its schools; working together towards our shared common goal, in seeking to provide the very best education for every child who attends one of our church schools. One that enables every child and young person to flourish and to experience the promise of Jesus of life in all its fullness.

The DBE recognises that the DfE's aspiration is that all schools are academies and that the vast majority of these will be within Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) and has set out to provide a clear strategy for its schools. In such a system, the DBE's overarching aim is to retain a cohesive family of schools which will effectively deliver the vision to transform the lives of children and young people. We believe that this is best achieved by our schools being together and working together with other church schools within the same Multi-Academy Trust. A trust that has the Christian faith and Christian values at the heart of its mission, its vision and its ethos.

In the Diocese of Chester, a quarter of our schools are academies, with over a third of these being part of Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT), the diocesan MAT. This means that a large proportion of our church schools are yet to become academies and the church school MAT structure within the Diocese is yet to be fully formed.

CDAT was formed in 2014 by the Chester Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) and has worked in very close partnership with the DBE ever since its inception. The trust has a distinctive ethos that is clearly rooted in Christian values. Going forward, the DBE's strong preference is that its maintained church schools will seek to be part of the Diocesan MAT and this has formed the basis of its academies strategy. The DBE has been working closely with CDAT to consider how the Trust will operate and grow as a larger number of schools join.

As part of this strategy, the DBE recognises the need to review and consolidate the existing academies structure within the diocese and to prevent further fragmentation of its church school family. There is a commitment to establish strong partnerships between all of the church school MATs within the Diocese and to work with current academy trusts to ascertain their future plans and offer support around governance and possible growth. There will be opportunity in the weeks and months ahead to explore this further and the DBE team plan to run a series of meetings and events for school leaders and governors in the summer and autumn terms to provide further information and an opportunity to answer any questions.

The DBE recognises the significance and importance of this moment in defining the future landscape of its church schools in the Diocese of Chester. The Diocesan Board and its officers look forward to working alongside and supporting schools as they take these important steps towards seeking the right long-term home for their school.

## Chester DBE RE Leaders' Conference

On **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022**, we are thrilled that [Lat Blaylock, from RE Today](#), will lead us through **Creativity in approaching religions and worldviews**.

This will be a fabulous opportunity to develop your own subject knowledge, get updates on the national picture of RE, network with colleagues who are leading across the whole of Chester diocese, gain helpful resources and materials and engage with stimulating workshops across the day. All in the relaxed setting of the **Holiday Inn, Runcorn**. We know that you will return to your school refreshed and inspired!



It would be great to see as many of our schools there as possible, and a reduced rate is available when booking two or more places...to book a place on the conference click [here](#).

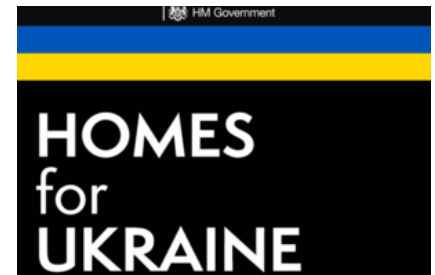
## Updated C of E Model Contracts for VA schools & Academies

As voluntary aided schools and academies will be aware, when appointing staff it is important that the correct paperwork is used for employees that names the governing board or trust as the employer rather than the LA, which is why LA contracts shouldn't be used in these cases. Model contracts have been available from the Church of England Education Office to support this. In a recent update a suite of paperwork has now been developed for use in Church of England Schools and Academies. The model employment contracts are provided in the form of a template master terms and conditions document, with an accompanying offer letter that is amended to fit the individual role/circumstances. The Offer Letter and Terms & Conditions together constitute the written statement of particulars of employment. This means that rather than the contract, it is the offer letter that details the terms of employment and can be more readily adapted.

Note that this suite of model employment documents is intended to be adapted to reflect the context of the particular educational establishment and its local circumstances, **ensuring proper consultation with trade unions and staff**, as appropriate. The previous model contracts are still available in the archive section of the Education Office website. Please note that it is not expected that current staff change over to these unless they undertake a change of role, or it is the plan to review all contracts with union involvement. These models should be used for new members of staff. All of the model paperwork can be downloaded by clicking [here](#)

## The Ukraine Family Scheme - an update for schools

All children and young people arriving under the [Ukraine Family Scheme](#) and [Homes for Ukraine](#), will have the right to access state education whilst in the UK. The government believe that the best place for all children to be educated is in schools. Local authorities will work with families to enable all children to attend school in the local area as soon as possible, even if these places are not in the immediate vicinity of their accommodation. The DfE understand the challenge of finding suitable school places for new arrivals and will work with local authorities where helpful, to make this as smooth as possible.



The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has published [guidance for local authorities regarding the Homes for Ukraine scheme](#), as well as a [frequently asked questions](#) resource. A dedicated team at the DfE are working on support for children and young people arriving from Ukraine. If you have any further questions, please [contact the team](#) by email or contact your local authority.

## Establishing Peace in ourselves: becoming Places of Peace for the World

**Wednesdays 4th, 11th and 18th of May**  
**7:30pm - 9:00pm**

This series of online meditation events is a partnership between the School of Contemplative Life and Glastonbury Abbey.

As a direct, practical response to the need for peace in our lives, our communities and world, each of us can commit to the quiet, steady work of establishing peace in ourselves. This is perhaps the most important thing we can do. Everyone around us will benefit from this peace.

In this three-week series of **evening online workshops**, we'll explore meditation in the Christian tradition as a simple but radically effective path to establishing greater peace, well-being and community.

For further information and booking details:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/theschoolofcontemplativelife/656117#>

For information about the School of Contemplative Life and free resources:

<https://schoolofcontemplativelife.com>



## Heads' wellbeing programme – a reflection

The headteacher wellbeing programme is a year-long programme to support headteacher wellbeing. Taking place in the beautiful setting of Foxhill we run two cohorts, one for experienced headteachers and one for those who are more recently appointed. There are four sessions that look at a variety of different topics and strategies as well as time to meet together and support one another. In addition to this Heads receive termly wellbeing visits that are an opportunity to discuss any matters that are prevalent at that time. Two of this year's cohort shares their thoughts below:

*As an experienced headteacher I tended to work on auto pilot, but I know this can lead to 'burnout.' We don't give ourselves time to reflect on us as a person even though we are always looking out for others. The headteacher wellbeing programme gave me permission to stop and reflect on myself as well as giving me the tools to support myself and others. As a result of this course I have been able to put things in perspective and to deal with an ever-increasing workload. I have had time to read some great books that have changed my practice but more than anything, the chance to meet others and talk about the importance of looking after ourselves, so we can look after others, has been really powerful. The beautiful building, grounds and artwork in Foxhill is the perfect place to reset yourself.*

*This course is a must for all headteachers, I can't recommend it highly enough. I hope there will be a chance for me to join another course like this in the future.*

*The Headteacher Wellbeing Programme has been a huge help to me, I cannot recommend it highly enough.*

*It has provided me with practical strategies, an opportunity to prioritise wellbeing and has helped me to build supportive relationships with other colleagues. The chance to meet in the beautiful Foxhill House, to stop and reflect on what can be such a fast paced and reactive role has really helped me to gain a sense of perspective and has helped me to take practical steps to support both my own and my team's wellbeing.*

*Please take this opportunity to prioritise your wellbeing, it will pay dividends in the future. I thoroughly recommend the course to anyone in headship, in fact I wish I could repeat it again next year!*

If you are interested in next year's programme click on this link for details:

[2022-23 Headteacher Wellbeing Programme](#) or contact [Charlotte Somers](#) .

## Free Twilight Webinars

Looking for a programme that supports pupils to develop leadership and character through social action? Come and find out more about

the **Young Leaders Award** Programme through the Youth Trust's free online sessions this term for both Primary and Secondary schools. They are also running their **Introduction to Character Education** sessions with input from Dr Tom Harrison at the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues. The sessions are being run throughout May and June. Find out more and sign up at [www.abyyt.com/events](http://www.abyyt.com/events).



THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK  
YOUTH TRUST

*Be the Change you want to see*

## Random acts of kindness



Pupils from Dawpool Primary School, Thurstaston were out and about on the streets of their village recently to share random acts of kindness to local residents. It's all part of the [Archbishop of York's Young Leader Award](#), a school-based programme that aims to equip young people with leadership skills and provide opportunities for them to engage with their community and serve others. The idea behind the day was to help children to think about citizenship both locally and globally.

The pupils began at St Chad's church where they attended a service, sang songs, and gave a gift to each member of the congregation. Following a short picnic lunch, they set out into the village to sing to local residents and hand out gift packs.

The first person they visited was pensioner, Muriel McKi who was herself a former pupil at Dawpool. Muriel was treated to her own private performance by the pupils, who sang on her driveway. "I was almost moved to tears. It was so beautiful", said Muriel. From there, they moved on to other streets in the area to sing and bring joy to other local residents.



There's a small parade of shops in the village and the school children took the opportunity to show a little kindness by handing out their gift packs to shopkeepers and customers alike.

You can also watch what happened on YouTube: [Random Acts of Kindness](#).

## Developing Diversity of Governing Boards

This Governor Conference, hosted by the National Black Governor Network, will focus on the reasons why diversity of race is good for governing boards. During this conference Sharon Warmington, keynote speaker and host will deliver a presentation outlining ways Diocesan schools can further understand what the primary barriers are, and how schools can overcome these barriers to secure committed governors from diverse backgrounds. The conference will also include breakout sessions to allow attendees to take a deeper dive into their current realities, what actions are needed, how the culture can be changed and move forward with continuing education to embed and embrace change.



This online conference takes place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June between 10am and 1pm and is free to attend. Please click on the link for further details. [Developing Diversity on Governing Boards](#)

## Summer Term RE Cluster Leader Meetings

Launched by the Diocese in 2019, our primary RE subject leader cluster groups give RE leaders from church schools opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese. Don't miss out.



Contact details for each group can be found below:

Name of Cluster Group	Group Leaders
Cheshire East South	Fiona Pulle (Brereton CE) Liz Taylor (Wybunbury Delves CE)
Cheshire East North & Cheshire West & Chester North (Northwich)	Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.)
Cheshire West & Chester South (Chester & Ellesmere Port)	Rachel Inns (Hoole CE) Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port)
Cheshire West & Chester (Rural)	Finola Jackson (Saighton CE)
Tameside & Stockport	Amelia Wassall Hyde St Georges
Trafford	Vanessa Horner (Bowdon CE)
Wirral	Charlotte Fenwick (Christchurch Birkenhead) Rachel Clark (St Andrews Bebington)

Please contact your RE Cluster Group Leader for meeting dates and locations, or [charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org](mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org) for further information.

## ABYYT – Platinum Jubilee Challenge

FREE resource from the Archbishop of York Youth Trust @abyyouthtrust

#PlatinumJubilee

Platinum Jubilee Challenge

www.abyyt.com/jubilee

The Archbishop of York Youth Trust 'Platinum Jubilee Challenge' asks pupils to consider what they would like to see change for the better over the next 70 years and to think about how they can start to take action towards these changes now and 'be the change they want to see' in their communities.

To take part head to the ABYYT website [www.abyyt.com/jubilee](http://www.abyyt.com/jubilee) where you can download a **FREE** activity pack.

## Worship in a church school

We warmly invite you and your associated clergy to join our **Collective Worship in Church Schools Network**. Aiming to meet once a term, via Zoom, we will look to share resources, ideas, explore the implications of the [CEEO Guidance for CW](#) and work through big questions together as we seek to offer high quality worship in our schools.



What makes working in a church school so special? When answering this question many people cite the joy of collective worship, whether that be the whole community coming together with shared vision and goose bump inducing, heartfelt singing or the intimate setting of form / class-based worship that allows friendship and knowledge of the Christian faith to grow.

In many of our schools, collective worship is most definitely the heartbeat of the school that permeates through the day. As a diocese we value and greatly appreciate those who take on the responsibility of leading on this important aspect of our school lives and want to further our support of those who are making this happen.

As we have engaged with the Growing Faith adventure, we realise too that our clergy would greatly value that time to be supported and support schools in this. Do share this information with those who support your school.

The next meeting will last one hour, **9:30-10:30am on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**  
The meeting is available to book through [Bookwhen](#).

**There is no charge for this network.** Looking forward to seeing you there!

### Does your school have any news to share from this month?

We are always keen to hear from our schools and aim to include all contributions received. We would particularly like to hear from you if your school has not previously been featured.

Please send a short article with a couple of photographs to  
[linda.boys@chester.anglican.org](mailto:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org)



## April, May & June 2022 Courses

Date	Course	Location
29/04/2022	<a href="#">Heads, Chairs and Incumbents Briefing</a>	ON-LINE
20/05/2022	<a href="#">RE Subject Leaders' Conference - 'Creativity in Religions and Worldviews'</a>	HOLIDAY INN RUNCORN
23/05/2022	<a href="#">Deputies &amp; Assistant Headteachers' Briefing &amp; Networking</a>	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY **
25/05/2022	<a href="#">Governor Training - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)</a> (Repeated Course)	ON-LINE
26/05/2022	<a href="#">Chairs' Clinic &amp; Networking Group</a>	ON-LINE
15/06/2022	<a href="#">Admissions and Appeals for VA Schools and Academies for Governors &amp; Headteachers</a>	ON-LINE
16/06/2022	<a href="#">Understanding Christianity &amp; the Diocesan Syllabus</a>	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY **
22/06/2022	<a href="#">Collective Worship in Church Schools Network Meeting</a>	ON-LINE
29/06/2022	<a href="#">Looking to the Future: Review, Reimagine, Research, Reset</a>	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESURY **

**\*\* DELEGATES WILL BE NOTIFIED IF A VENUE IS CHANGED FROM 'IN PERSON' TO 'ONLINE'**

## Picture News – Half term free trial.

Picture News are running a 4-week free trial this half-term for schools wanting to try their weekly resources around a current news story, providing an image, a thought-provoking question and a variety of teaching resources. You can see how schools use these on their [Advocate Schools Map](#)

Schools can register here to take part: <https://picture-news-online.co.uk/4-week-trial/>



## Headteacher Cluster Meetings

CLUSTER GROUP	DATE	TIME
<b>2022 DATES</b>		
Nantwich/Congleton HTS	Thursday 16 June	10am -12pm
Northwich HTs	Thursday 26 May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Rural Chester HTs	Monday 20 June	1.30pm -3.30pm
Trafford HTs	<b>New Date</b> Monday 20 June	12:30pm – 2:30pm
Warrington/Halton HTs	Monday 16 May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Macclesfield HTs	Tuesday 17 May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Stockport/Tameside HTs	Tuesday 24 May	10am -12pm
Chester HTs	<b>New Date</b> Monday 13 June	10am -12pm
Wirral HTs	Friday 10 June	12.30pm -2.30pm

There is also the [Heads, Chairs and Incumbents Briefing](#) on 29<sup>th</sup> April

### DBE team contact details to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.

<a href="mailto:chris.penn@chester.anglican.org">chris.penn@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director of Education	07540 722667
<a href="mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org">sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
<a href="mailto:mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org">mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
<a href="mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org">jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org</a>	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
<a href="mailto:simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org">simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
<a href="mailto:sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org">sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
<a href="mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org">charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
<a href="mailto:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org">linda.boys@chester.anglican.org</a>	DBE Administrator	07549 109590

## News from schools

### Bishop's Blue Coat C of E High



#### Thanksgiving Wall

Year 7 students spent time reflecting on the importance of thankfulness. They looked at the benefits of the two key words 'thank' and 'you' and how 'thank you' can have a positive impact in the lives of others, as well as boosting the mental well-being of those who are thankful. They were inspired by the thankfulness in the Bible, including 1 Chronicles 16:34 'Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!' and 1 Thessalonians 5:18 'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.' Inspired by the artist Mondrian, students then coloured blocks, representing something or someone they are thankful for.



#### Bishop Mark's Visit

It was a great privilege to welcome The Right Reverend Mark Tanner - Bishop of Chester to come and meet the students and staff, having been unable to do so previously due to Covid. Bishop Mark had a tour of the school, dropping into a number of lessons as well as seeing the new developments on site. After this, some of the students had an informal conversation with Bishop Mark explaining what life is really like in Bishops'. They also spoke eloquently about the issues that young people face. It was a wonderful afternoon, and we look forward to welcoming Bishop Mark back to school soon.

#### Easter Social Action Week

Our students and staff made a positive difference in the world as courageous advocates of change at Easter. Students took part enthusiastically in their social action by supporting our non-uniform day, raising £1,675. The proceeds of the day have been split between our Year Group Charities and the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) to support Ukrainian victims of war.



We also held a highly successful Easter Egg Raffle which raised nearly £200 for the DEC. Amazing pewter keyrings designed by Will Caley in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form and supported in their creation by Year 8 students have also been sold, raising over £150 so far. These are still for sale for anyone who is interested. In addition, students in Year 8 collected food and hygiene kits for The Salvation Army to help support vulnerable people locally, including refugees moving into the area.

### Bollington St John C of E Primary



Our Easter bonnet parade and Assembly. Year 2 read through the Easter story while Year 1 and Reception did drama freeze frames.



### Kingsley St John C of E Primary



One of our pupils, Emilia Johnson has shown amazing courageous advocacy through organising a fundraising for a special cause. When she found about The Little Princess Trust Charity she felt passionate to donate her long hair, by having it cut. Emilia wrote to her headteacher to ask permission to hold a sweet stall on the day of her hair cut too, so that she could add a donation to the charity as well as her hair.

Emilia's sweet stall raised £125 and her Just Giving page raised over £715 and other donations took her total to over £1000. On the day of the 'big chop' Emilia's celebrations were forced to be postponed as the hairdresser tested positive for Covid! But this hasn't stopped Emilia's plans and determination. Her headteacher said 'Emilia has really shown her commitment and resolve with her drive for this cause. She is such a shy and quiet member of our school family, but her kindness is infectious.'

### Mottram C of E Primary



The whole school have been engaging with Commando Joe's secret missions. Commando Joe's is an engaging and fun program used to develop each individual's resilience, empathy, self-awareness, positivity, excellence, communication and teamwork skills.



The pupils and staff complete different, exciting missions together. These missions provide the opportunity to develop life skills, a growth mindset and have a positive impact on their physical and mental well-being. We also have lots of fun! The children find the missions challenging but rewarding. 'Can you tell me about a mission that was tricky?' 'Finding the numbers was hard because I kept getting the wrong one, but I put it back and just said OK. But then I found the right number!' (EYFS) 'What do you like most about completing missions?' 'When it takes a long time and we finally do it we feel proud.'(Y6).

## Hartford C of E High



### Love For Ukraine

We have been shaken, with the rest of the world as we try to imagine the trauma of leaving your home and your loved ones and running for your life to a place you do not know. Yet, in the midst of so much suffering and uncertainty, we have seen overwhelming compassion triumph. As a school, we are partnering with Life Church, Barnton to collect much needed items such as nappies, sanitary products, first aid and dried and tinned products which will be sent by lorry to Grace Church in Nisporeni, Moldova for the refugees.

Our own students have rallied round, praying for the Ukraine and writing over 400 letters which will also go in the lorry. Each one will be received and cherished by someone, reminding them that that they are loved and encouraging them to stay strong. I am so proud of our amazing young people for their response, and my prayer is that each letter will be very precious to the person who receives it and may be the difference between despair and hope.



### Citizenship Day and Easter Service.

Year 8 Students were blessed this week at our Citizenship Day. Due to the Pandemic, it has been 3 years since we have been able to host such a day, which made it even more special. Guests were invited from 4 faiths: Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism to each deliver an hour's session on 'How does your faith deal with forgiveness?' The students rotated around the speakers and got a good overview of each faith, as well as their view on the topic of conversation. It was also lovely to see engaging question and answer sessions at the end of each presentation.



At the end of the day, all our Year 8 students walked up to our local Parish Church, St John's in Hartford for their Easter Service. Nathan Heeb, the church youth leader shared the Christian message of 'Forgiveness', something that is available to us all because of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross that very first Easter.

All our Year 8 students had been rehearsing the song Oh Happy Day (from Sister Act) in their music sessions last term, and we were eagerly looking forward to hearing them. We were not disappointed, and it was complimented with a solo from one of our Year 10 students too! With much to celebrate, the school orchestra aptly closed the service with a great performance of 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams. Our thanks to all who worked so hard to make this day happen, but especially to Jesus, without whom we would not know the forgiveness freely offered that very first Easter.

Tracy Morgan, School Chaplain

### Runcorn All Saints C of E Primary



On Wednesday 2nd March we welcomed three bishops to school. Bishop Mark, Bishop Sam and Bishop Julie had a lovely morning touring our school and meeting with our Ethos group. Bishop Mark delivered our collective worship on our value of Peace and we joined with him and others around the world in praying for peace in Ukraine.

Team Canaan have been looking at lifecycles this half term and welcomed chicks into their classroom. Nine of the ten chicks hatched and they thought about life and death. The unhatched egg was buried in our worship garden and prayers were said for him.



### Saighton C of E Primary



Earlier in the term, we were delighted to welcome Chris Lubbe to lead a session with Saughton pupils. It was wonderful that Hoole Primary School accepted our invitation to join us for the event and both schools were captivated. Drawing on his experiences of resistance against apartheid, Chris spoke passionately about forgiveness, courage and love. Children wrote their own reflections, prayers and dreams on a flame of hope and we are very proud that this display encourages rich discussion at playtimes. Huge thanks to Rachel Innes at Hoole for inviting Saughton to join them for a session with Imran Kotwal from the Muslim Learner Services and we are delighted to have some more exciting RE collaborations in the pipeline.

In March, Years 3 and 4 enjoyed a wonderful residential to Min-y-Don Christian Adventure Centre where they took part in abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing, archery, bushcraft and a crate challenge –we certainly packed a lot in to three days! We were blessed with beautiful sunshine and the children showed courage, resilience and determination in their activities together with friendship and love for one another. We could not be prouder. Given the last few years, this residential felt extra special and we certainly have so much to be thankful for.



## Sir Thomas Boteler C of E High

Sir Thomas Boteler High is extremely proud of the awards and commendations received at the Warrington Guardian Education Awards held in March, including a commendation in the School of the Year category.



Mrs Scott-Herron was awarded Headteacher of the Year.

"I'm extremely humbled. It really does mean an awful lot, especially being a local award from within the community I serve. The school is my life. It is a real privilege to do the job that I do for the young people of Warrington. I have amazing students who, no matter what, will always come first. I am so grateful for the award, but it is for everyone. It is a privilege to lead such a dedicated team of staff and I am so proud of their utter loyalty and their trust in me. I am proud of their reliance: we never give up, we find a solution to every problem and there are never any barriers. I can't do what I do without the support of everyone – the staff and the young people. It really is a team effort. We work really hard every day, we do it because we love it, because it is a privilege to do it and we want to make a difference. We do it together and we do it because we care."



DT Teacher Ms Perkins was awarded New Teacher of the Year.

"It was a huge surprise to be nominated and I am absolutely thrilled to have won this award. It is such a pleasure and an honour to work with the incredible young people at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School.

It's a wonderful place to work and I really enjoy it. With it being a small school, we are like a nice big family: we are known as the Boteler family. We make sure our young people are well looked after."



Year 8 student William Kenwright was also highly commended in the Student of the Year category.



March also saw the Grand Opening of Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School's Swap Shop, based in the school's Art Department. The project aims to teach students the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling, and to give them an avenue to steer them away from fast fashion.

The Swap Shop Grand Opening was a great success and the space was packed out with students, parents and staff, with many students perusing the rails and swapping items they'd brought along for something new for themselves.

**Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary**



Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the Virtual Ethos Conference which had LOVE as the theme. They loved learning a new song, and even managed the singing in three parts. We spent the entire day with two classes working together which is something we have done very little of in recent times. It felt quite poignant and very appropriate that the day should be focussed on Love. Here is a photograph of a display that contains all their work from that day.

A different combination of classes, for more collaborative work, followed later in the month when our oldest pupils helped our youngest pupils plant sunflower seeds. The sunflower being the national flower of Ukraine. The children reflected on why they thought the sunflower had been used as a symbol of peace in the past, the importance of hope and how the sunflower holds faith and follows the light. We send our love to the brave children from Ukraine at this difficult time.



**Tilston Parochial C of E Primary**



It was a pleasure to join together with children and staff from Shocklach Primary School for Education Sunday on the 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Mr Gilbert led an inspiring service and we thoroughly enjoyed singing and joining together in prayer for the first time in

two years. During these challenging times, remembering God loves us and spreading that love brings us all comfort and joy.

