

DBE Schools Bulletin

September 2021

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

LOVING
in relationships

AMBITIOUS
in aspirations

BOLD
in actions

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**May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace as you
trust in him, so that you may
overflow with hope by the
power of the Holy Spirit**

Romans 15:13

Optimism and hope for the year ahead

The start of a new school year always provides a level of excitement, anticipation and optimism, with possibly a little trepidation, for both students and staff, as everyone is welcomed back and new pupils are welcomed to our schools.

It is hoped that after the significant disruption and upheaval of the last school year, this year will begin with an increased sense of regularity and consistency. And whilst the road ahead is expected to remain rather bumpy, we hope our schools are able to experience a more familiar and settled rhythm of school life, where the central focus can once again be on education and learning.

The Church of England's vision for education, is underpinned by the four elements of wisdom, hope, community, and respect and these serve as an excellent basis for the year ahead, providing the distinctive, Christian education and the promotion of educational excellence that we strive to deliver for all. This is best achieved when we seek to work together, and with others, to build partnerships within the communities that are served through our church schools.

The Diocesan education team are very much looking forward to engaging with you once again, as our networks and training courses commence in earnest this autumn. Whilst we will continue with the convenience and accessibility that on-line meetings have provided, it will be good to be able to meet in person once again.

Our full programme of courses and programmes can be found on the Diocesan website, with further details provided on page 6. We are also pleased that our annual Headteacher & Senior Leaders' conference will return in November. This year the theme is 'Leading the Way' and focuses on the vision strand of dignity and respect. Further details and how to book a place can be found on page 3.

Admissions - Important Information for VA Schools & Academies

As highlighted in the past few bulletins, a new Admissions Code came into force on 1st September. This requires schools to make variations to their 2021 and 2022 policies and to ensure that this variation is then included in future policies. The variation includes Looked After Children overseas in the first criteria (with the relevant definition). In addition to this schools are reminded that the variation regarding worship made following the 2020 schools adjudicator process needs to remain in policies unless they are consulted upon. Once these variations are made, they should be sent to the DBE, LA and other admission authorities in the area as well as on the school website.

We have made a number of recommendations following the adjudicator process and the new code in previous bulletins and would urge schools to look at these. In order to encompass these changes we have updated our admissions guidance based both on these and previous adjudicator comments. We would suggest that governing/trust boards look at this guidance and the various requirements to ensure they are compliant and if changes are required that they are included and consulted upon (just to remind you that it must come to the DBE first). The guidance has an example policy with all the relevant inclusions and an example SIF. It also gives some suggestions for criteria wording. The latest guidance can be found here [Diocese of Chester | Admissions \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org/dioceses/chester/admissions)

We would just like to remind schools that policies must be consulted on every 7 years even if there are no changes and that the consultation takes place for a minimum of 6 weeks between 1st October and 31st January. We would also like to stress the importance of determining (approving) the arrangements by 28th February – this **must** be done annually. If this is not done, then schools are left vulnerable to appeals. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Noakes.

Global Images- a chance for pupils' work to be displayed



Chester Cathedral is hosting an art exhibition from the end of September through October during Black History month on Global Images of Christ. The exhibition will feature images of Christ and other Biblical characters from around the globe and they want schools to contribute to this exciting exhibition.

Schools are being encouraged to look at global images of Christ either during RE or art or any other part of the curriculum and then to create images themselves either based on images they felt spoke to them or simply 'what's your view of Jesus?'. These can then be sent to the cathedral and be displayed alongside the exhibition.

This is a great opportunity to explore the global nature of Christianity, a key area for SIAMS, and to celebrate the artistic skills of your pupils. We would encourage as many schools as possible to get involved. It is for all ages, nursery to sixth form and the cathedral would love to display as many images as possible. Images to be sent to Jeremy Dussek, Canon Precentor at Chester Cathedral, by 17th September 2021 and contact sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org for more information.

We would also encourage schools to visit the exhibition once it is open, with resources currently being developed for schools to use.

Headteacher & Senior Leader Conference 2021

**Headteacher & Senior Leaders
Conference 2021**

LEADING THE WAY
- DIGNITY & RESPECT IN CHURCH SCHOOLS -

Featuring keynote speakers:
Gee Walker & Chris Lubbe

THE PARK ROYAL HOTEL
[STRETTON WA4 4NS]

26 NOVEMBER 2021

Tickets cost **£150**
[additional tickets purchased at £100]

**Book Your Place Now
on [Bookwhen](#)**

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester, Office of Education

Gee Walker is the founder and Patron of the Anthony Walker Foundation. The foundation works to tackle racism, hate crime and discrimination by providing educational opportunities, victim support services and by promoting equity and inclusion for all.



Chris Lubbe

First of all, I am Sam's husband, Khaya and Micah's dad, and a friend of God. At high school, I discovered I had a gift for speaking and led students in protest against the unjust system of 'apartheid'. I've had the honour of working with some of the greatest world leaders including Nelson Mandela. My purpose is to inspire positive change and to help others discover their own purpose.



For further details and to book a place click [here](#)

Christingle Celebration at Chester Cathedral

Primary school children are invited to come and sing, dance, and celebrate the magical event of Christingle. From human Christingles to live music, inspiring talks, and dramatic performances – children will love being involved in our fun and theatrical celebration in the beautiful Chester Cathedral. Help to give children across Cheshire and the rest of the UK hope for a brighter future.

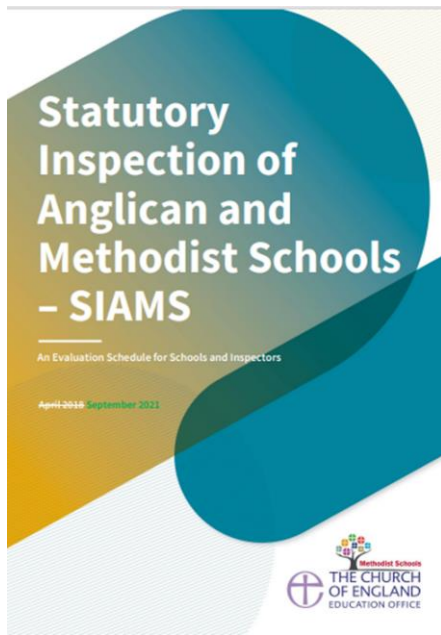


**The
Children's
Society**

Each school is invited to bring one KS2 year group.

Wednesday 26 January 2022, 1.30pm - 2.30pm at Chester Cathedral. (arrival time of 1.00pm to ensure everyone is seated and ready to join in at 1.30pm) For further details and how to book please click [here](#).

SIAMS Update



There are many things that we have missed over the last 18 months; whole school worship, singing, sports days, residentials, plays, the list could go on! As we see the term beginning with some relative sense of normality, so too those things we have longed for can begin to return. We are pleased to share with you that as of later this term, SIAMS inspections will resume!

It has been truly humbling to see our schools living out their distinctively Christian vision over this strange time. The inspection schedule has rightly been revised to acknowledge the impact of the past and to celebrate the flourishing that has taken place in good church schools as their visions have driven the way forward in challenging times. Click on the image to access the revised schedule – this is the ‘messy’ version that incorporates the old and new together so you can see the changes. A clean copy and an

information document that has been created for schools to outline the key changes moving ahead can be found [here](#).

As always, we will be directly supporting those schools who are in the inspection window this year and will be revising our Keeping on Track schedule so that those visits can resume for those midway through the inspection cycle. We have two dates in our CPD calendar to directly support you in the inspection process and self-evaluation. Do [book on](#) early and as always, Sue Glover is providing training for [RE leads](#) in this area.

The DfE have approved an extension window to the schedule to catch up and therefore you can expect now to be inspected within 8 years of your last inspection date. It will not be as straightforward to anticipate which term, or even year of next inspection, (1 or 2 years after your expected next date) and so the central SIAMS team will publish a list of inspections for the year ahead – not in any particular order.

Please be assured of our continued support and work on your behalf – as always, SIAMS has been about **being** good church schools, **not getting** an award. As we look at our schools, and the way you are loving your communities and serving them well, establishing your Christian visions at the heart of all you do, we know you can anticipate these inspections with confidence. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact [Jen Mcilveen](#).



CPD Programme 2021-22

We are delighted to launch our 2021-22 CPD programme for the new school year.

The programme reflects the needs of our schools and offers a range of courses for leaders at all levels. The [programme booklet](#) provides a list of courses under the sub-headings of school and leadership roles. Each course title has a hyperlink that will take you directly to the booking page, where you can find out more information about the course and book a place. The [calendar view](#) provides an overview of the programme, both can be found below:

[CPD Programme 2021-22 – Booklet](#)

[CPD Programme 2021-22 - Calendar Overview](#)

It includes an Early Career Framework programme ****new for this year**** delivered over two years and builds on materials from our successful NQT programme. We are also running our RQT programme again and have courses for middle and senior leaders, including a **new course**, 'Stepping into Headship' for aspiring headteachers.

Responding to your feedback, the programme will feature a range of on-line and face to face sessions, with some of the details still to be confirmed due to the current situation.

I am pleased to confirm that prices for both our Family of Schools' membership and course fees for 2021-22 have been frozen for a further year.

Booking pages are now open, enabling you to begin planning your CPD needs and securing your places for the new academic year, invoices for bookings will be sent out following the course (except for our multiple session programmes). ***please note that face to face training may revert to online if necessary due to restrictions**

September & Beginning of October 2021 Courses

DATE	COURSE	STATUS
21/09/21	Headteacher Wellbeing Session for Governors	ON-LINE
21/09/21	New to Church Schools	VENUE TBC
23/09/21	Building Work in VA Schools (Building for Building the Kingdom)	VENUE TBC
24/09/21	Heads, Chairs & Incumbents Briefing	ON-LINE
27/09/21 **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**	Early Careers, Teachers Welcome to the Diocese 2021 ***Welcome Sessions Available to Book for those not already attending the full 2 year programme ***	CHURCH HOUSE
5/10/21	Preparing for Ofsted Inspection - A Governors' Guide	ON-LINE
6/10/21	Visionary Subject Leadership	VENUE TBC
11/10/21	'Goodness & Mercy' - RSHE For Church of England Schools Choice of: 1.30pm OR 4pm	ON-LINE

Headteacher Wellbeing Programme

Wellbeing can be elusive to Headteachers/Principals who are juggling their daily workload and challenges of headship. This programme provides the opportunity to develop networks and practices that will help your own wellbeing and is aimed at enabling you to achieve a better work-life balance in your career.

We cannot remove the daily stresses of the job, but we can provide the time and space for reflection, a listening ear, practical support, discussion and encouragement aimed at helping to improve your wellbeing.

The programme has been designed to run over the course of the academic year and will include 'face to face' days, access to a mentor, visits to your school and peer to peer support. **There will be two cohorts – 'experienced' and 'recently appointed'**. The cohort size will be kept purposefully small, with a maximum of eight headteachers in the group.

Click [here](#) for more details.

Every Child Flourishing

Every Child Flourishing

In the final bulletin of the last academic year we highlighted a new pilot programme that Chester DBE is involved with called 'Every Child Flourishing'; a school focus around trauma and attachment. This will be a yearlong project involving Church of England schools across the country, and we are delighted and excited that Chester Diocese has been chosen as one of the dioceses taking part. We would love for your school to be involved and more details are provided below, there will also be a national secondary network set up run by Ruth Houston. If you missed the launch event last term, we have included a link to a recording of it here [Every Child Flourishing Event - YouTube](#). It is well worth a watch, whether you plan to take part or are just interested in learning more about this important area. Below is a summary from Krish Kandiak, the event lead;

The global pandemic has meant every child in school has experienced some form of disruption and trauma. Transitioning back to school has not been straightforward. One in six children aged five to sixteen was identified as having a probable mental disorder – five children in a class of thirty students. This was an increase from one in nine children in 2017 according to NHS digital. If our children are going to flourish we must recognise the place that mental health, trauma and attachment play in their development.

Schools have a vital role to play in the lives of children so we must ensure that the whole school is trauma informed, attachment aware and mental health diligent. This will help every child to thrive but will especially help vulnerable children. This special event brings together experts in Children's Mental Health, school leadership, and child welfare leaders for an inspiring and informative seminar. **We will also be introducing the Church of England's Foundation for Educational Leadership's yearlong network group which will help schools go on a transformative journey of change to become a trauma and attachment aware school.**

If you wish for your school to be part of this project, we have a couple of places left so please email sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org



Holocaust Educational Trust

The Holocaust Educational Trust offers **free training** for teachers at all stages of their careers. Offering free professional training workshops and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) residential courses to new and experienced teachers across the UK, sessions are delivered by an experienced team of trainers, and focus on pedagogical issues as well as demonstrating practical ideas, and free online classroom resources. Details of their teacher training programme can be found on their website by clicking [here](#).



Please click on the following links to access the **course dates calendar** and **course programme booklet for 2021-22**:

[Holocaust Educational Trust - Educational Programme Calendar](#)

[Holocaust Educational Trust - Educational Programmes for Teachers Booklet](#)

Free and downloadable teaching resources are also found on their website [here](#).

Details of their outreach programme, through which teachers can arrange for a Holocaust survivor to share their testimony with their students, can also be found on their website by clicking [here](#).

Bookings are now being taken for the 2021-22 academic year.



Picture News: FREE Training & Collective Worship Resource

Picture News are delighted to announce that they are running the following training webinars. The training is **FREE** and open to all. For full details and registration please click [here](#):

- **Mon 6th September – 1pm - 2pm – Bringing Assemblies Back!**
- **Wed 8th September – 4 - 4.45pm – How to use Picture News in Collective Worship with special guest Executive Headteacher Anthony David**
- **Tues 21st September – 2.30pm - 3pm – Picture News Training for Teaching Assistants and Support Staff**
- **Tues 5th October – 4pm - 4.45pm - Picture News Early Years Overview**

They have also provided the below collective worship resources, which can be accessed by clicking on the following links:

[How to Get the Best Out of Picture News Collective Worship - by Anthony David](#)

[Picture News 2021-22 Academic Year Printable Wall Calendar](#)

Springs Dance Company

Due to the success of their new **PARABLE Interactive Performance Workshops**, Springs Dance Company will be offering the work again to schools for the Autumn term. Further information can be found by clicking [here](#).



A Christmas Story: Refugee

They are also starting to book schools for their 'A

Christmas Story: Refugee' workshops. Workshops will guide pupils on a journey of dance, drama and discussion inspired by Anne Booth's Christmas story 'Refuge'. Please click [here](#) for further details.

Headteacher Cluster Meetings

Joining instructions will be sent out nearer the meeting date. For any queries, please contact sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org

CLUSTER GROUP	DATE	TIME
2021-22 DATES		
Nantwich/Congleton HTs	Monday 8 th November Monday 14 th March Thursday 16 th June	1.30pm -3.30pm 1.30pm -3.30pm 10am -12pm
Northwich HTs	Monday 4 th October Monday 31 January Thursday 26 May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Rural Chester HTs	Thursday 30 th September Monday 24 January Monday 20 June	1.30pm -3.30pm
Trafford HTs	Thursday 4 th November Thursday 17 th March Thursday 23 rd June	10am -12pm
Warrington/Halton HTs	Tuesday 28 th September Tuesday 8 th February Monday 16 th May	10am -12pm 10am -12pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Macclesfield HTs	Tuesday 12 th October Tuesday 18 th January Tuesday 17 th May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Stockport/Tameside HTs	Thursday 21 st October Thursday 27 th January Tuesday 24 th May	10am -12pm
Chester HTs	Thursday 7 th October DATE TBC Thursday 3 March Wednesday 22 June	10am -12pm

DBE Officer Contact Details

Contact details for members of the DBE team to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.

chris.penn@chester.anglican.org	Director of Education	07540 722667
sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org	Governance & Administrator	07549 109590

Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT) News

It has been a busy and exciting start to the year for the everyone at CDAT. We were delighted to welcome the children, staff and parents at Bosley St Mary's into the CDAT Family, with their conversion going through as scheduled on 1st September. As the trust grows, we are now in the process of setting up a regional cluster model, so that our schools get the dual benefits of being part of a larger group while also still working closely with a smaller, local network.

It was also lovely to be able to present Utkinton St Paul's with a plaque to mark their joining CDAT earlier in the year (pictured) and to welcome Steve Williams as he takes on the headship at Utkinton.

As you know, CDAT are also working with the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership to deliver four of the revamped National Professional Qualifications to schools across the area covered by the Diocese. The first of these programmes – the National Professional Qualification for Leading Teacher Development – launches in November, with applications closing towards the end of September. This is a fully funded programme aimed at ITE and ECF mentors and CPD leads. Details can be found at <https://www.cefel.org.uk/npqoverview/> and applications made at <https://www.cefel.org.uk/npq/>. The other programmes all start in April 2022 – more details to follow.



Neil Dixon (CDAT CEO)

News from Schools

Acton C of E Primary School



Acton C of E Primary School have a wonderful new outdoor reflection prayer space which has been developed for the children. They had been very lucky to receive a donation of £500 from The King's Lodge in Acton.

Their Christian vision and values are displayed on the inside and there are lots of spaces for the children to draw and write their prayers for other children.

Also included are several books and stationery on the inside for the children

to use. The children are so happy, and it is used all the time.



Federation of Antrobus St Mark's and Great Budworth C of E Primary Schools



The end of the summer term saw us saying goodbye not only to our year 6s, but also to our headteacher, Mrs Finney. Having joined Great Budworth in January 2010, when the school had just two classes and only 31 pupils, Sandra secured the future for our small rural school. During her years with us, she converted the school from VC to VA, opened a preschool, built a new classroom, staff room and library, grew the school to four classes and then joined with Antrobus St Mark's to form a Federation.

Working with the staff teams at both schools, she successfully took us through several Outstanding SIAMs inspections, as well as Good Ofsted inspections, where many outstanding features were highlighted. Sandra has worked hard to make sure that the



Christian ethos has permeated through every decision made and we will be very sorry to see her go. We wish her all the best for what is shaping up to be a very busy retirement!

The way that the staff from both schools have worked together to help the success of the Federation, was highlighted this summer when Mr Hathaway, a teacher from Antrobus, got married to Miss Bratherton, a Teaching Assistant from Great Budworth. We wish them both a very happy married life together.

Bollington St John's C of E Primary School



Many congratulations to pupils at Bollington St John's C of E Primary School who have been announced as the winners of a climate change competition, the 'Sunshine Solar Panel' competition.

The pupils wowed the judges with their idea – a phone app called 'Planet Points' – where points are awarded to users for sustainable actions such as turning off lights, litter picking, active travel and taking steps to lobby action and support from others.

Please click [here](#) to read the full article on the Cheshire East Council website.

Bunbury C of E Primary School

Bunbury C of E Primary School recently organised an event called School Fest during the week beginning 28th June. It was done as they have been unable to hold residential and school trips for over 18 months and as everyone knows in schools these events bring out so many different qualities in our children. As a team they planned and organised the school's fest event for all 172 children in school and were completely bubble safe with no mixing or cross over of adults or children. It was quite a task, but well worth it when they saw the enjoyment it brought.





Last week, School Fest took place on the school grounds and Bunbury Cricket Club. It was a highly memorable event that will forever stay etched into our minds! The week was full of fun activities: drama, orienteering, silent disco, cave bus, climbing wall, archery, camping, fire lighting, cooking, butterfly sports, nerf wars, team games, football, escape room, the cube, talent show, art, making bug hotels and more! It was a week to remember and made up for all the lost

opportunities due to COVID! Thank you for your support for Bunbury Fest.

Poppy Hayward Year 6

Bebington St Andrew's C of E Primary School

Bebington St Andrew's C of E Primary School gained the School of Sanctuary Award in July 2021.

This year everyone has worked very hard to think about how to make their school a welcoming and inclusive place for anybody no matter what their faith, colour, background, or beliefs. Refugee Week 2021 was a huge focus for everyone as part of work to become a School of Sanctuary.



During

Refugee Week, they were lucky enough to have some Refugee Visitors to talk to children in Year 4, 5 and 6. The children really valued the chance to hear real refugee stories and have the chance to ask questions and then reflect upon what they had heard. As part of Refugee Week, they spent time thinking about how to be welcoming, especially to refugees and asylum seekers who have made difficult journeys to get here. Each class made a welcome pack and thought about

where our places of sanctuary are. Children considered songs which make them feel, safe, happy, or welcome. They finished with a St Andrew's Sanctuary playlist, and it was wonderful to be able to hear everyone's choices on the Reflection Walk at the end of Refugee Week.

During the Reflection Walk, each class had to find a suitcase, inside the suitcase children placed their reflection postcards following Refugee Week. Some children said thank you, others wrote prayers, and some wrote their thoughts. The walk helped everyone remember "We cannot walk alone" and it gave them time to think and give thanks.

The school community collected toiletries and food for the charity Hearts 4 Refugees during Refugee Week and had an overwhelming response. Everyone was very proud that the artwork they created to welcome refugees will be used at a local church where the charity is now based. Their message of welcome is spreading through our community.

Edgeley St Matthew's C of E Primary School

Year 5 have had an exciting term of engagement in the arts. First of all, they took part in the Stockport Children's Shakespeare Festival: studying a Midsummer Night's Dream and producing an original dramatic performance that portrayed Hermia, Lysander, Helena and Demetrius lost in the magical forest. They performed their original piece on stage at the Adelphi Theatre in Salford and then had the recorded production streamed on YouTube for our



school community to see.

Year 5 followed this up by being invited into Stockport to visit the Mount Recyclemore artwork which was originally at the G7 Summit in Cornwall. The artwork was created entirely out of e-waste to raise awareness of the importance of recycling. You can see them in the Manchester Evening News by clicking [here](#).



Elworth C of E Primary School

It was raining and the wind was blowing but on Thursday 27th June we held our first outdoor Prayer Space Celebration Day at Elworth C of E School, and what a wonderful opportunity it was to use the outdoor space to worship Jesus in prayer.

Our theme was the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first Christians at Pentecost and the children and staff were engaged in prayer which encompassed the use of the elements of fire, water and wind to meditate on the prayers of their hearts.

Our Forest Schools leader, John Thorpe invited the children to watch the crackling campfire and to consider Jesus, Light of the World as a source of hope and strength. They then wrote their prayers on flame cards and a display was created replicating the campfire.

Other outdoor spaces were used too. 'Oliver's Hut', an outdoor summer house erected to commemorate Oliver, a former pupil of our school who tragically died at a very young age, was transformed into an area for contemplating Jesus, Light of the World as a symbol of Light in a dark world. The children wrote prayers and placed them onto the walls of the hut.



The concept of the Holy Spirit

being like a strong wind was considered as the children designed prayers on CDs which were hung outdoors to blow and clink together in the breeze. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to understand that although Jesus cannot be seen face to face today, His power and love can be felt just like the breeze on their faces.

We floated flower prayers too, and the children were able to watch as the petals of the flowers unfurled, and their prayers were symbolically sent up to heaven.

There were many more prayer space stations for the children and staff to visit and become engaged with and a wealth of prayers were produced to offer to God.

Having now done many prayer space days at Elworth, we have observed the children become more and more accustomed to the idea of talking to God. By suggesting prayer in many different settings, the children are beginning to understand the worth of prayer in all the different situations of life. Prayer is a living part of their learning at Elworth CE School.

If anyone in another school is considering an outdoor prayer space, please do get in touch. We'd love to share our ideas and experiences with you.

Cathryn Houghton – School Chaplain

Lostock Gralam C of Primary School



Y5 and Y6 children have enjoyed fishing lessons at the local Trent and Mersey Canal in Northwich with the Canal and River Trust.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed being out in God's world and valuing his creations.

They have definitely experienced many awe and wonder moments together.

It has also provided the children with time for mindfulness, the chance to be still and reflection.



**Mollington St Oswald’s C of E Primary School
St Oswald’s /Capenhurst /Bishop Wilson
/Christchurch**

These 4 small church schools work on a variety of activities and projects together all year including worship activities, headteacher meetings and so on. The latest collaboration has been a collaborative piece of artwork to display in each other’s schools.

Each school created 4 pieces of a wooden jigsaw which were to represent their school values and Christian distinctiveness. The four pieces were then shared out to create 4 separate jigsaws as shown in the example picture. Each school now has their own jigsaw to display to remind them of the friendship and unity that they share as church schools.



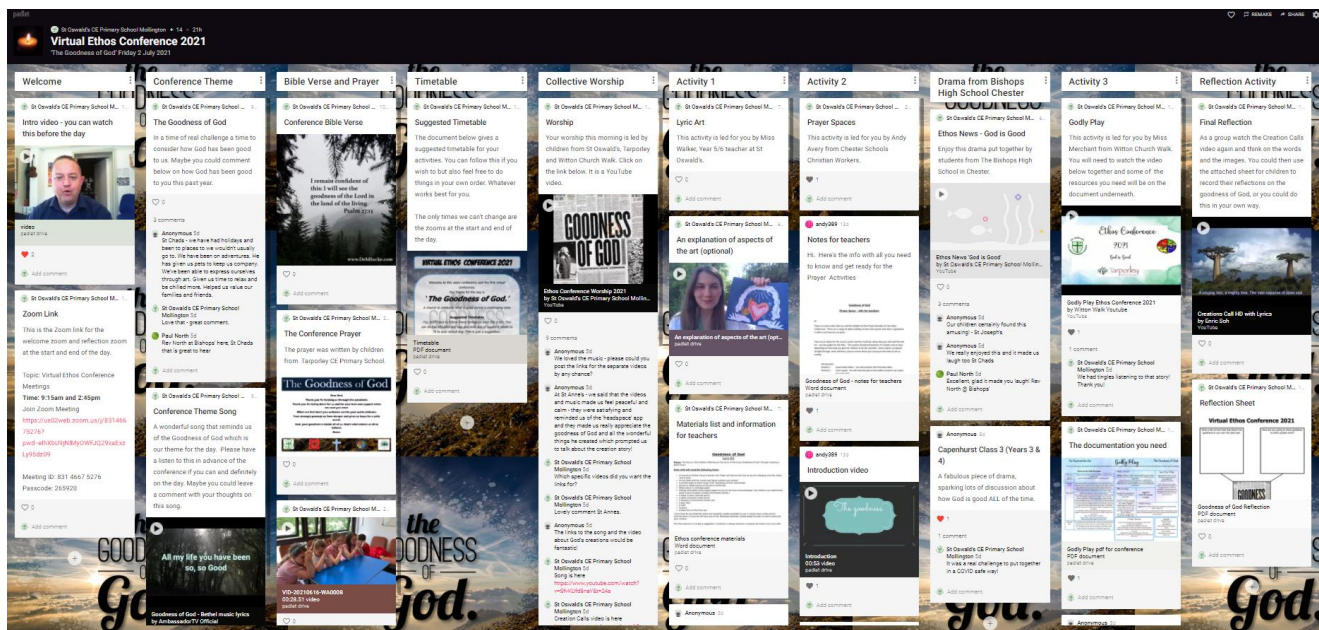
This is an example of the type of project that may not have been thought of pre Covid, as this work was designed to be done in separate schools and then brought together to be shared in a COVID safe manner. Everyone is looking forward to continuing to work together again next year.

Virtual Ethos Conference led by St Oswald’s, Tarporley, Witton Church Walk and the Bishops High School Chester

On Friday 02 July, this year’s Ethos Conference was held in a virtual manner and led by the usual 3 primary schools of St Oswald’s, Tarporley and Witton Church Walk with support from the Bishops High School Chester.

The theme for the day was ‘The Goodness of God’ inspired by this amazing worship song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f4MUUMWMV4> It was a chance to remember that God is good all the time and that even during the past 18 months there has been lots to remind us of this.

In line with restrictions all 20 schools took part from their own settings with all the activities provided on a central padlet page.



The day started with a pre-recorded collective worship and then there were three activities that schools could do. These were a song lyric art activity, prayer spaces and Godly play. Bishops High School also produced a drama for everyone to watch, which was an amazing achievement as most of it was recorded individually whilst students were isolating at home.

During the day schools worked on the tasks and added comments and examples of their work to the padlet page. The work was truly inspiring. You can view the padlet page here: <https://padlet.com/stoswaldsipads/zkni4m7v2zow8d94> and it will be left live for people to use in the future. You can use the materials for an ethos day in your own school or just use some of the activities for collective worship in your school. No permission required.

The pandemic has of course been a huge challenge to all of us, but we have always found ways to adjust, and the use of technology has been a brilliant way of connecting with other schools during these times.

Everyone is looking forward to having a face to face ethos conference again next year and this will be planned in the autumn term, there is definitely scope for looking at how more online activities can be organised for schools across the diocese to come together and investigate and celebrate their Christian ethos and values.

Shocklach Oviatt C of Primary School



As an Eco School, Shocklach School empowers their young people to engage with environmental issues that are important to both pupils and their local community. Mrs Jones leads this initiative right across the school along with her very passionate and dedicated Eco Committee members.

Building on the stepping- stones of Eco Schools Bronze and Silver Awards, staff are delighted and super proud that Shocklach has been awarded the top accolade with the Green Flag. The children have been very busy planting trees, making a pond and introducing more butterfly friendly plants. Healthy living has also been given a big focus with every child benefitting from mental health workshops. Shocklach also recycles crisp packets, batteries and clothing and are particularly excited about their fantastic pop-up Eco Shop. Once restrictions are eased further, the plan is to open this more frequently to both school and the local community.

Pupils made a film showcasing their ideas for how Chester can be made more environmentally friendly, and this was very well received at the 2020 Cheshire West and Chester's Conference on Climate Change. Pupils were delighted to hear that a local NHS group subsequently used their film to help inform employees! Mrs Jones is very proud and said "Eco schools is such a powerful programme, it is about more than academic learning and carrying out projects in schools - the learning is taken into the home and wider community, encouraging and persuading people to do the right thing and protect our precious environment. Well done Shocklach on this remarkable achievement".



Bugsy Malone!

The children put on an exceptional outdoor performance of Bugsy Malone this year. After a very turbulent year, the audience's appreciation, pride, and sheer delight was palpable. This production will undoubtedly create special lifetime memories for children, staff, and parents.

Kingswood Residential

Badgers Class enjoyed a fantastic three-day glamping residential at the Kingswood Centre near Doncaster. The children showed impressive courage, camaraderie, and good humour throughout. We enjoyed canoeing, archery, high ropes, problem solving, buggy building, a zip wire and a very challenging activity involving climbing up a pole, standing on a metal plate and leaping to catch a swing in full circus trapeze style



Chester Football Club fundraiser for Stick n Step

The whole school had a fantastic day developing their football skills with players from Chester Football club. This event was planned by our very hard working and creative School Council, led by Mrs Cobden. A wonderful £300 was raised for Stick n Step; this charity enables, inspires and supports children with cerebral palsy and their families.

Smallwood C of E Academy

'The show must go on,' well that's what they say at Smallwood Primary Academy after many months rehearsing Year 6 children performed an outstanding adaptation of Oliver to their parents. Keeping in line with government guidelines the performance took place outside and was limited to 30 parents per evening. Luckily the rain stayed away.



Smallwood Academy also believe that the children come first and despite music teacher Mrs Darlington having to self-isolate she zoomed in so the end of year music concert, which the children had been looking forward to, could go ahead and was enjoyed by pupils and staff. They also came runner up in The LMT singing challenge well done Oak class.



Sports day was held behind closed doors and the Rose Queen crowning was also limited to parents and close family.

The Leavers presentation service also took place outside and was limited to leavers parents, the children were blessed by Reverend Naylor and were presented with the usual end of year awards before being sent off by the rest of the school.



Sir Thomas Boteler C of E High School

On the 27th May 2021, the school hosted a prestigious event for the Chester Diocese. At 10am, Downing Street officially announced the new bishops of Birkenhead and Stockport. The Venerable Julie Conalty, Archdeacon of Tonbridge, will be the next Bishop of Birkenhead, and the Revd Canon Sam Corley, Rector of Leeds Minster, will be the next Bishop of Stockport.

Leading up to the announcement, the school's 'Samboteler' Samba band played outside to welcome their guests, whose visit to the Boteler was the first point of call on a busy schedule of meeting people across the diocese. Students were able to ask the new bishops questions about their



Bishop-designate Julie says of her appointment: "Being nominated to be the next Bishop of Birkenhead is a huge privilege. I am both honoured and daunted to have been appointed. I have a strong sense of calling to this role and to serve the people of Chester Diocese but that doesn't stop me feeling unworthy and slightly terrified.

"I am assured that I will receive a warm welcome and I really look forward to getting to know my new colleagues and community. Please pray for me as I prepare, just as I will pray for you."



Bishop-designate Sam Corley says of his appointment: "It is humbling and so very exciting to have been nominated as the next Bishop of Stockport."

"Any act of discernment is as demanding as it is energising, but I have had a strong sense of God's leading throughout the appointment process and I am eager to begin getting to know people across the diocese and to learning about the different communities we serve. And what a gift to be able to join a new episcopal team at such a key time in the life of the diocese. I am so excited about working together with Bishop Mark and Julie as we strive to enable the discipleship and ministry of the whole people of God to flourish and as we support churches, schools, and chaplaincies across the diocese in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. I know I have much to learn. But I come ready to listen and look forward so much to meeting you all and to all that is to come."



It was smiles all round for Sir Thomas Boteler students

Some of the school's top performers in terms of Attainment were: Sasha Kempster who achieved 10 Grade 9's; Jonah Holland, Scott Currall, Sophie Mawer, Zachary White, Bailey McDermott, Dylan Roberts, and Kayleigh James who all received a suite of 7-9 grades.

**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 sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org**