



# Schools newsletter

December 2012

## Reflections and News from the Director



Dear Colleagues

As the end of this long Autumn term approaches, how do you find the energy to both maintain the pace of learning and to go the extra mile to conjure up the magic of Christmas while at the same time ensuring that the children are helped to understand its real meaning? I know that the answer is by digging deep and by drawing on your faith and your commitment to the young people in your charge. As always, we and the Bishops and the Boards of Education of your Dioceses salute you.

I know you understand that this has been a difficult year for your Education team here at Church House. Brian's enforced absence through serious illness has meant that we have not been able to maintain the programme of school visits, training and courses that we would normally aim to offer, and we have had to cut some corners in prioritising our work. Nevertheless, our little team of occasional professional consultants - Margaret Nicholson, Richard Bishopp, Jenny Lewis, Nick Flight, Sally Lamb and David Johnson - have contributed strongly and with great enthusiasm to leading projects and plugging inevitable gaps. I must also pay tribute on your behalf to Mike Davison, who has gone more than the extra mile in facilitating countless curriculum, leadership and celebratory initiatives across school sectors and across the patch. However, I'm pleased to report that Brian Hedley has been able recently to follow a phased return to work programme, mostly working from home, and has among other projects completely revised and updated our SIAS inspection framework and scheduling arrangements in line with new national requirements. Briefings on how all this will work will follow next term.

New names and new roles too in our team as we reflect rapidly-changing national and local contexts and strive to respond positively to support all of you in these challenging times:

- Susie Taylor is now well-established and already known to most of you as my PA, while . . .
- Colleen Miller now supports Brian and Mike with remarkable patience, and . . .
- Having recently said farewell to Ann Adiguzel, we now welcome Lisa Padgett as her successor in Eileen Bell's office.
- Meanwhile, in January we will welcome a new part-time Assistant Director responsible for "Diocesan, School and Academy Governance and Structures". Rowan Ferguson, a qualified and practising solicitor, comes to us from the post of Head of Education at Dickinson Dees, one of the leading regional law firms, where she has gained a formidable reputation thanks to her command of Education law, and in particular the legal basis of school and academy governance. We are convinced that in order to safeguard the position of Church of England schools in the long term we need to make sure that we secure the best advice available, and I am delighted that we shall approach that task informed by Rowan's expertise and judgement.

Like you, we plan for and await the challenges which the New Year will bring in the knowledge that working together in the interests of the children we will rise to meet them. In the meantime, all my colleagues old and new in the Joint Education Team join me in thanking you sincerely for all you do, and in wishing you and everyone in your school a blessed and happy Christmas.

With my very best wishes  
Jeremy Fitt



## Looking forward...

### **'Where in the World' - Wednesday 27th February, Marriott Hotel, Gateshead**

Several colleagues have already signed up for this Primary Training event which looks at Christianity as a global faith. We certainly recommend this training to you which is being led by Chris Hudson. An application form is enclosed on page 4.



### **Primary Conference - Tuesday 9th July, Marriott Hotel, Gateshead**

We can now confirm with you the date of the 2013 conference. The day will be led by Lisa Fenton and will focus on the New Syllabus and activities for use in the classroom. We hope that every school will be represented. Application forms for the conference will be sent to schools in the new year.

### **Primary Resource Boxes**

Funding has been received from the St. Hilda's Trust to provide resource boxes for use in Primary Schools relating to the New Syllabus. These boxes will be available from September 2013. Details on how schools can access these resources will be sent out during the Summer Term.

### **Auschwitz visit 2013**

Natalie Chapman, our Secondary Religious Education Consultant, is busy organising a visit to Auschwitz for secondary school teachers and chaplains. The visit is in part sponsored by funding received from the Hild and Bede Trust.

### **SIAMS Training 2013**

Training sessions are at present being organised across both Dioceses to inform schools of the new requirements of the SIAMS Inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) These sessions will be held in different venues both North and South of the River Tyne. It is essential that all Voluntary Aided schools, Controlled schools and Academies are present at one of these events.

### **NSCL Church Leadership Training Day**

Eight colleagues from Church of England schools embarked on this course which began on November 29th. The feedback from the course members was very positive. One highlight of the day was a presentation given by Willington Church of England Aided school about the distinctiveness of a Church school. The presentation involved contributions from the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, a Foundation Governor and five pupils. The highlight for many of the Deputy Headteachers and Assistant Headteachers present was the contribution made by the pupils who, through reading, poetry, prayer and song, described what being a member of a Church of England school means to them.

## FREE Resource Sessions



FREE Resource sessions at Carter House, Durham and Church House, North Shields

The Religious Resources Centre is offering two **FREE** half day sessions for Primary and Middle schools who wish to explore resources supporting the new Diocesan syllabus for RE.

Participants will be able to view and borrow resources, meet the Centre staff, access on-the-spot professional support and discover new ways to ensure that RE is creative, interesting and academically rigorous. Coffee/tea and cake will be available providing we know who is coming along, so please **RSVP** on **0191 375 0586** or **enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk**

Carter House, Durham,  
DH1 1TB

Tuesday 5th March

1.45 to 3.15pm

(limited free parking)

Church House, North Shields,  
NE29 6HS

Tuesday 19th March

1.45 to 3.15pm

(ample free parking)



## Leavers' Services 2013

Plans are now underway for our annual Leavers' Services in Durham and Newcastle Cathedrals. Following the very positive feedback received from schools about the 2012 event we are again looking forward to some excellent services in 2013.

The services for Durham Diocesan Schools will be held on Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th June 2013. Please make sure you return your reply slips to Colleen Miller by Friday 21st December, indicating which services you would like to attend. We will then confirm with you your allocated date and time so that arrangements can be made.

The services for Newcastle Diocesan Schools will be held on Wednesday 19th June. Booking forms will be issued after the Christmas holidays.

Durham & Newcastle  
Leavers' Services  
2013



# Where in the World



A chance for all primary school teachers to explore Christianity as a global faith

The Marriott Hotel Gateshead, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013  
9.30am - 12.00pm

Cost is £30.00 per delegate including light refreshments

Following on from last year's successful training event 'Who Comes First', we have asked Chris Hudson from Barnabus in Schools to run another inset session.

'Where in the World' gives schools the chance to explore Christianity as global faith. Each workshop shows how pupils can be encouraged to ask questions and reflect on life for Christians in other countries as they become increasingly aware of the world as a global village. This will also make an important contribution to social cohesions and valuing of diversity.

Each delegate will receive a free resource book to explore these further in RE/PSHCE – Target audience is KS1 and KS2. The cost for this training is £30.00 per delegate which includes breakfast on arrival with coffee and tea, followed by a mid-morning refreshment break and snack.

Please find below the booking form which needs to be completed and returned by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012.



**Please detach and return to: Mrs Colleen Miller, Church House, St John's Terrace, North Shields, NE29 6HS**

Further details will be emailed to you nearer the time of the event

## BOOKING FORM

'Where in the World'

Marriott Hotel, Gateshead—Wednesday 27th February 2013

I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place (s) on the Primary RE course.

**School**

**Name & Position held**

**Diocese**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Payment of £30 per person must be made by 25th January 2012.** Cheques payable to: **NDEB**

Should your school require an invoice, please notify Colleen Miller via email: [colleen.miller@drmnewcanglican.org](mailto:colleen.miller@drmnewcanglican.org)  
Colleen will liaise with the Joint Education Team Finance Department to arrange that for you.

# Outstanding Teacher Programme

Colleagues in both Dioceses will be interested to see a really exciting professional development opportunity (the 'Outstanding Teacher Programme') offered by one of our Outstanding Primary Schools, St Aidan's in Gateshead. See details below...

## Outstanding Teacher Programme



*'I have become a more confident reflective practitioner and think more carefully about the learning opportunities I provide, ensuring elements of DR. ICE. I feel my teaching has improved and I have a greater understanding of outstanding practice.'*

(OTP Participant, 2012)

*'DR. ICE is at the forefront of my thinking when planning and leading learning in my own class and when supporting others'*

(OTP Participant, 2012)

*'It has been very beneficial to meet with and share practice with colleagues and other schools.'*

(OTP Participant, 2012)

*'This is one of the best pieces of professional development I have ever undertaken. I would urge colleagues to attend if given the chance.'*

(OTP Participant, 2012)

SPRING 2013



St Aidan's CE Primary School

Created with  
nitroPDF professional

# Outstanding Teacher Programme

Please contact Cheryl Lain at St Aidan's Primary School for further details:  
[cheryllain@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:cheryllain@gateshead.gov.uk)

**OTP Aim:** To move the practice of teachers from good to outstanding. To prepare teachers to have a wider impact in school.

## What can participants expect from the OTP?

- Clear development of understanding of elements of outstanding teaching and learning.
- High quality facilitation from senior leaders (Ofsted Accredited)
- High levels of challenge within a supportive environment.
- Thorough evaluation of own classroom practice.
- Observations of lessons at St. Aidan's CE Primary School.
- Impact on practice and on roles beyond the classroom.
- Quality assured programme developed with DfE and the National College.
- Proven track record of impact.

## Who is eligible?

This programme is for teachers who are consistently 'Good' and have the potential to achieve 'Outstanding' and have a commitment both to continuing their own professional development and that of other staff.

## How is it delivered?

A 6 week programme (4 full days, 2 half days).

## What are the costs?

£450 per participant. This includes all course materials, 2 facilitators to all sessions, lunch and refreshments.

In order to maximise the impact of this programme it is a requirement that delegates attend in pairs or larger groups.

## Dates

- 10/01/13 — Outstanding Teaching and Learning/Differentiation (Full Day)
- 15/01/13 — Questioning (Full Day)
- 24/01/13 — Assessment (Half Day—pm)
- 29/02/13 — Coaching (Full Day)
- 7/02/13 — In School Practice
- 12/02/13 — Final Plenary (Half Day— pm)

For Further information or to book a places, please contact;

Cheryl Lain—Programme Manager

St. Aidan's CE Primary School

(0191) 477 2690

[cheryllain@gate](mailto:cheryllain@gate)

# RRC Topic Boxes Coming Soon!

In response to a request from Primary Colleagues (thank you to Paul Rickeard in North Tyneside) the Religious Resources Centre is currently developing a series of Topic Boxes for the Primary phase to support the coming Diocesan syllabus.

We would REALLY appreciate any feedback on these proposals (positive or negative) Please email:

[enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk)

Proposals so far include:

- Baptism
- Christmas
- The Bible
- Harvest
- St Cuthbert
- Prayer (in 2 or 3 religious traditions)

Ideas for other Topic Boxes are welcome!

Please forward your ideas for other Topic Boxes to our Resources Centre

## Greenergy Solar Panels



Come along to one of our seminars to see how your school can save **30-50%** off their Energy costs while reducing their carbon footprint. It's at **no cost** to your school thanks to the Government cash back grants, so you really have nothing to lose and so much to gain.

Benefit from savings on your Energy bills for the electricity you produce

**Funding is only available until February 1<sup>st</sup> 2013**

If you're interested in our Funding Options contact us via:

Email: [sales@greenergysolar.com](mailto:sales@greenergysolar.com)

Online at: <http://www.greenergysolar.co.uk/apply-online.php>

By phone on: 01788 522879 or 01788 811003



*... "It makes Financial Sense to be Self Sufficient" ...*