**From   :          Jeff Williams**

**To        :           Headteachers, Ex-officio Governors, Foundation Governors, Chairs of Governors**

**Date    :           7th May 2020**

Dear colleagues

Two opportunities that you may like to engage with Families at Home and any children at school.

**Banksy’s latest artwork :** You may have heard that Banksy’s latest artwork (photo attached) called 'Game Changer' was put on display yesterday in a corridor at Southampton University Hospital. Banksy left a note for workers saying: *Thanks for all you're doing. I hope this brightens the place up a bit, even if it's only black and white.* It is uncharacteristically for Banksy, a piece behind glass in a frame! It however means that everyone in the hospital can safely view it, and take a moment in their busy lives to pause, reflect and appreciate this piece of art. It will be put on public display later, then sold at auction to raise money for the NHS.

You may recall that two years ago our Theme for the year was on **Everyday Heroes**, stressing that you don’t need a cape or superhuman powers to be a real hero. Schools created and decorated chairs as pieces of art that were displayed in the Cathedral. These were subsequently used in school worship for a child to sit on to celebrate them being an Everyday Hero, having done something special, simple, or an act of kindness. Given the direct link with Everyday Heroes and what Banksy, and indeed others, are saying, you might like to stimulate family conversations around the piece of art, as it has great potential for unpacking deep Biblical and ethical themes around human flourishing, selflessness, service, respect, and much more!

I’d like to set up an Art display, using children’s responses to the photo. A great way of linking one of our previous themes, and something that is being talked about nationally, but based right in the middle of our patch! We’ll share all of the submissions and it will be a fantastic shared undertaken and a record of our time in Lockdown.

So can I ask you to encourage children to create their own piece of art under the theme ‘Everyday Heroes’ – and offer them suggestions that could involve refuse collectors, bus drivers, shop keepers – the list goes on as we show our gratitude for those embodying the values that we all promote in our schools every day.

The artwork needs to be:  no bigger than A4 on paper, plastic, card, wood, stone, slate or anything that is available! It can be 2D or 3D, and in any media.

Ex-officios might want to ask children and young people in their parishes to get involved. It would be lovely if some governors, Headteachers and teachers and support staff joined in. Enjoy!

**Looking to the Rainbow :** Many families are displaying a Rainbow in their windows – the Biblical symbol of Hope. At the Launch of #Faith at Home last week, The Bluecoat School in Birmingham’s song that was created during lockdown was shown. Do take a look – it’s emotional seeing all the ‘zoom’ children appearing. With similar talent in all schools, and some inspirational teachers who could get on board, there’s now a national drive to get 1,000 community schools and CofE schools involved. Another way of bringing the school together at this time. Imagine seeing your own children appear in a school video like the one highlighted!

Do seriously think of getting involved – engaging children whose carers and parents are fine for them to appear in something that you could then post on your website as a permanent reminder of Lockdown, and a great achievement. The steps for downloading the resources, music and other details, as well as the Bluecoat Video are at : <https://worshipforeveryone.com/looking-to-the-rainbow>

I hope that the good weather for the Bank Holiday, and the anticipated relaxation of some of our Lockdown requirements, brings you joy this weekend

Best wishes and thanks

**Jeff**

Jeff Williams

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