**To           :              Headteachers; Chairs of Governors; Foundation Governors; Ex-officio clergy; Deputy Headteachers; RE Coordinators**

(and please forward widely to your contacts & networks)

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               9th February 2022**

**Re           :              Fortnightly bulletin and resources from the Diocesan Education Team**

Dear colleagues

I was reminded this weekend by friends and family of my befuddlement with the TV News during the full lockdown in 2020 (at the time we were instructed to leave home only for an hour to exercise or to shop for essentials). Meanwhile TV News reporters and journalists daily did their live ‘piece to camera’ in Downing Street; outside The Bank of England; alongside the Palace of Westminster and at other ‘influential’ buildings ………………….. Why?! Does context add gravitas to commentary?

On Friday last week I was bemused to see BBC presenters in padded ski jackets hosting the Winter Olympics programme :  from a studio in the UK. Clearly a hot place, as the former Olympic speed skater guest was in an open neck cotton shirt under the bright studio lights. Fast forward to Saturday and the studio ‘expert’ in long après-ski hooded coat with collar up, gives insightful analysis on the moguls  - camera hits wide-screen and we see she is wearing cropped trousers and three-inch high heels!

After jovial predicting host and presenter-outfits for the 2023 Beach Volleyball coverage (if dressing as the sportspeople is the trend), our discussion eventually modified.

What is it about outfits, uniforms and role-expected dress that impacts our behaviour; adds credibility and belief in comments when given by said-clothed people; and generally affects our trust?  Sadly, another serious incident of uniformed police officers falling very low in their professional standards and behaviour last week shows that clothes can’t be entirely trusted as indicators of professionalism or morality.  And of course, the small but media-impacting minority of white-coated medics, besuited politicians and clerical-collars all fall in this category of vulnerability - and examples of abuse of trust, causes pain for victims and deep reputational damage for other colleagues in their fields.

The Bible is full of timeless wisdom on image and outward appearance, and highlights the more important focus on authenticity, genuine intention and integrity. We all do well to consider such matters, as we endeavour to build the kingdom and work for The Common Good. A touchstone for us all I hope.

This time of year for me is TV-heavy. As a skier, the Winter Olympics coverage is thrilling and consuming. As a rugby fan, the Six Nations calendar determines mine and my family’s mealtimes and weekends. So as someone who will each weekend be seen in a red shirt & appropriate stereotypical headgear; while weekdays suited-&-booted for the meetings where others expect it (rather than my preference) - I’m aware of messages, intentional or otherwise I’m sending, and ask for gracious understanding and your encouragement that authenticity and integrity shine brighter.

Thank you for all you do, and who you are in our schools and communities.

Best wishes

**Jeff**

**Voluntary Aided** **Schools** : Essential training from the School Buildings Officers - at least one representative from the governing body (preferably the Chair of Governors or Chair of Resources Committee or equivalent) and/or the headteacher is required to attend. The session will cover new **School Condition Allocation (SCA) funding rules** for Dioceses and schools, including a Memorandum of Understanding which all schools will be required to sign; School Asset Management Plans (AMPs) and the Diocesan AMP; Statutory and Governor responsibilities for schools and an opportunity for Q&A. The training will take place on Microsoft Teams on **Thursday 3rd March, 6pm – 7:30pm; Friday 4th March 10am – 11:30am; Wednesday 9th March 3pm – 4:30pm**   Copies of the training documentation will be sent to attendees upon booking for prior reading. Please register your attendance with my pa Sam Powell: sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org

**Admissions policies** – **VA, Foundation schools and Academies**: **January 31st** **marked the end** of the consultation window to communicate proposed changes to admissions policies for the 2023-2024 academic year. Thank you to those schools that have consulted and subsequently sent in their determined policies. The deadline for all governing body admissions authorities to determine their 2023-2024 policy, regardless of whether any changes have been made, is **28th February.** Once this process has been completed, please send us a copy of your determined policy to: robert.sanders@portsmouth.anglican.org Policies must then be published on school/admissions authority websites by **15th March.**

**Vacancy : Temporary School Buildings Assistant.** Tracy Dawkins, one of our School Buildings Officers (SBO) has been successful in obtaining a new role, continuing in the education sector. While we recruit for a new SBO, we welcome applications for a temporary administrative support role within our team. Salary: £24,777 FTE pro rata for 21-28 hours per week; hours and days are flexible and can be negotiated at interview. The successful candidate will be required to assist with invoicing, record keeping and reconciliation of capital spends; assist with School insurance matters, issue premium invoices; work with School Building Officers on all general insurance matters; carry out quarterly bank reconciliations; undertake general office administration duties. Please contact Robert.sanders@portsmouth.anglican.org for an informal conversation or for further details.

**Vacancy : Permanent School Buildings Officer.** Salary  c£30,000 pro rata for 3 days per week; hours and days are flexible and can be negotiated at interview. I’m looking for someone with transferable skills, as the role isn’t one that is widely replicated in the sector. Training is given – so if you know someone with existing or potentially developed skills in analysis of funding ramifications for projects; good or potential skills in project management; developing approaches to delivering government money; has insights and interest in project analysis and making an impact in our schools – please let them know we are recruiting. Please contact Robert.sanders@portsmouth.anglican.org for an informal conversation or for further details.

**Auditions : Choristers at Winchester Cathedral. Girls in Years 6,7 & 8 and boys in Year 3**

**The Cathedral Boys Choir** – with choristers from from all over the UK and abroad and form part of the long-established and internationally acclaimed choir. Accompanied by the Lay Clerks, singing at eight Cathedral services weekly in term time

For more information about the choir, please click [here](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1nFeTC-0001DH-4D&i=57e1b682&c=yxWWZCLwSez4w8kFzgqkIl6icTF1ecQEsZs8WAYzgu-fUwZU53Ok3a4vNpAl9vPuSp6AOe4h-dU73hOEzRLOsvVeCcMqcd5gJGHWCUvjYJpuxxGKaZMzBUU0gEkqxcEqHTRw-9MIjTOI-jMpogxB1C6lhvT6OQdXJop7PDRcYbRdws8roCD-tugCx4SEjC4bcTDkf8dOae_zvAN171qp296tU3aMY-Y9DSaWS-xgfkQbB7B_Q6ampVGoKyijv-dWy2JtO5-mD8vEbQIxkSokNQ) First, you’ll need to book an informal audition, then if successful he will be invited to attend the formal audition. Please contact choirs@winchester-cathedral.org.uk**as soon as possible.**

A school place must be secured at [Pilgrims’](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1nFeTC-0001DH-4D&i=57e1b682&c=DSp-5A6pPisQxWwWlloxmXkIoq6PnI3ktmdKRw6F_tjGZbjGCDM7RBpyKst54euuMUtlzK438EqetivkGeyo3kvM-7aHx7TGNkh6XB-Ti-5j9MQRJlLe00L-26fGbjahGtP6RtTz-bbk5quFw-6AmWzsl7YQaK19j8HoQHyP3Qzm4umF4AqTuqSQvmHHZbior50hhGzcBF9fkcMTDVzYlXNkPNnyn79WXeW8bhfSaQo) before a formal audition can be undertaken, as to become a boy Chorister, full boarding at Pilgrims School Boarding House is mandatory. Boy choristers receive 40% boarding scholarship, plus funding for instrumental lessons and vocal coaching (additional means tested bursaries may be available). Pilgrim’s school assessments are held on Tuesday mornings by appointments, via the Registrar.

**The Cathedral Girls Choir** - Founded in 1999 with 20 girls aged 12–17, all from schools in the Winchester and Hampshire area, who sing a weekly service alongside the Lay Clerks. For more information about the choir, please click [here](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1nFeTC-0001DH-4D&i=57e1b682&c=yxWWZCLwSez4w8kFzgqkIl6icTF1ecQEsZs8WAYzgu-fUwZU53Ok3a4vNpAl9vPuSp6AOe4h-dU73hOEzRLOsvVeCcMqcd5gJGHWCUvjYJpuxxGKaZMzBUU0gEkqxcEqHTRw-9MIjTOI-jMpogxB1C6lhvT6OQdXJop7PDRcYbRdws8roCD-tugCx4SEjC4bcTDkf8dOae_zvAN171qp296tU3aMY-Y9DSaWS-xgfkQbB7B_Q6ampVGoKyijv-dWy2JtO5-mD8vEbQIxkSokNQ). Auditions to join the Cathedral Girls Choir will be held on**Saturday 12th March 2022. Please contact**choirs@winchester-cathedral.org.uk**for more information.**

**Living Difference IV** The new Hampshire (incl Portsmouth City and Southampton City and the IoW)syllabus is now available to download on the [Hampshire RE website](https://re.hias.hants.gov.uk/) and schools have until September 2022 to implement the changes. With the LA we have updated the guidance to schools for using Understanding Christianity to support Living Difference IV and  put together a sample long term plan (attached).

**Any Questions?** The BCP Agreed Syllabus is also being reviewed – this is something that happens every five years – and the SACRE team are looking at ways to broaden the range of religions taught to include non-religious worldviews, and also how to de-colonise the curriculum, so we don’t assume that a Western, European perspective is the only way of thinking about religion.

**Understanding Christianity: Salvation** This popular session is being repeated, on how to use the Salvation units to teach about Easter, hopefully getting beyond Easter eggs and baby chickens to think about theological concepts such as sacrifice and resurrection. We will also look at how to teach younger children about Easter in a sensitive, age-appropriate way. We will focus on teaching these units using the cycle of enquiry in Living Difference IV, but the session will also be relevant to schools using Any Questions? You might like to offer this training to colleagues who are new to teaching RE, or new to teaching in a church school, or to anyone who would like their RE subject knowledge boosted. Please contact Jane.kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org if you would like the Teams link for **Thursday 10th February,** from 4:00 – 5:30pm - or training as a bespoke staff meeting, at a time to suit your school.

**Understanding Christianity: God** Training on these units on Tuesday 29th or Thursday 31st March, from 4:00 – 5:30. Please let Jane know if you would like the Teams link (specifying which date you are interested in attending) The session will look at creative ways of engaging with these units and how to develop children’s thinking, including interactive ideas for debates and discussion.

**Developing Thinking Skills in RE** Wednesday 2nd or Thursday 3rd March, from 4:00 – 5:30,  on how to promote deeper thinking in RE, including P4C strategies, encouraging high quality writing and using creative ideas to help children unpack complex ideas. Again, please contact Jane if you would like the Teams link.All of these sessions can also be delivered as a school staff meeting or INSET

**Nobody Stands Nowhere** There is a lot of discussion in RE at the moment about teaching worldviews, rather than the big six religions. This is the idea that we all have a particular perspective on life, whether it’s a religious or non-religious viewpoint and whether it’s conscious or unconscious. **Theos Think Tank** have produced an interesting short video about this, called [Nobody Stands Nowhere.](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=nobody+stands+nowhere&view=detail&mid=DD67E6C784762C6D3C67DD67E6C784762C6D3C67&FORM=VIRE) It would make an interesting discussion starter in a staff meeting, or with older children.

**Training and meetings** : We are returning to work from the office and engaging in more in-person meetings and training events, but will permanently offer some of our training online, given the exponential growth in attendance. If you would like bespoke training for your SLT, Governors or Staff, please contact my PA Sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org Meanwhile a reminder that these Governor training sessions are running this term – places can be booked via Sam :

Clerking in a Church of England School – Monday 28th Feb 6.30

Collective Worship in a Church of England School – Wednesday 16th March 6.30

The Role of Foundation Governors *(for new governors)* – Wednesday 30th March 6.30

Collective worship in a Church of England School – Monday 4th April 6.30

**Free training session by the DfE on estate management.**  Numerous dates in February and March on how to run school sites effectively ensuring sustainability**.** The training session can be booked via  [www.schoolresourcemanagement.co.uk](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1n6rjD-0006SS-69&i=57e1b682&c=3qSRq-3Dj7Vwpu_A-FyPyGOVU0-GcOA8GUMr228dSZKg76WX3rjNH0VzSjpPB4vgGw2o2UhYFNCTgs_hRlK3oKNU2HTtkp0Tc8EK4x05bwzgPl2yl5tLHEjptzF2CCBd5sK4m-sE4Qh2sO17KVR6aCUBfHNtFz6W1PZHceaENaBAcHKhilB--XBvNiUViQmvTQam6nvxNJydQls1Dvw73BUhMzbHAOapj4pASc_GPCQsYil6E4aqTul6gTj-Z81s4lAXV6jT70a_VTNd0OfXDh0hmF4g7DDPwd22fn8cKYEZlTu3TW90-dIahi8ZRVGkh5tGFIgg50f-o4pEv3P8Ffh2K6Wbc1req4lNr0IXHEkGBGfAcXEu4EueM66TKxHD7IqKKgnwCA07iz0m2Qs3NmTni0eZhtd2ZN_--th_MInltIWTh_QB5Yzfm-twTXbz2hgQcm7dSSxTbxHqD7ZKlhTxsVbFTHj5fvKIzVTO7Mxch6qFW3sblQw6Yo2qvHAAJCQJxLoB7DAJ1WeOHalNTMGGam3U_oD4d2Cw7rwJoEZ1F_X2cOtTsqTwn023TwpuX-L2NNQzBYyuQrNyqKLAh1CNHuUcxKTwHeUy3ilqSX0E6EaU5TdHA4Tji-vTZbMAfx9qR2MhS2KA0YtUN8Zg_onphtlzfpJXoYV8KBQ_DJhk4aC20WPGioN1niSoWcFq8Io124yP-stnV1w0E76o8o3Gy1by6L1zDG2VKtz-7-kHyqOWgqvRhrn-VOsgsdSl)

**Net Zero Schools Webinar** 9 May 4-5.30pm <https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2OiX7VqVQzmsbGV78LPOoQ> **Specifically for CofE schools** with demonstrations, ideas and resources.

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

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