



Archdiocese of Westminster
Education Service
Dedicated to Lifelong Growth of the Whole Person in Faith
BULLETIN

Easter
2005
2/05

To: Head Teachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies

Items marked do not apply to independent schools*

From the Director of Education: A Service for the Future!

Last year, the Education Commission took a bold decision to unify the three existing Departments of the diocesan Education Service into a single structure, under a newly created post of Director of Education. The Commission has a vision, based on the Church's understanding of the uniqueness of the human individual, to support "**Lifelong Growth of the Whole Person in Faith**", assisting every individual to become fully alive. The results of the Service Level Agreement Review at both school and parish level last year clearly showed support for this vision, and a desire to build on some of the excellent work already provided by the Service. The decision was therefore made that a single Service covering education "cradle to grave" would be the best way to support this vision.

On 1st March I took up the new post of Director of Education. I am very grateful for the many expressions of good will and support already received from so many of you. My principal initial task in this new rôle is to restructure the Service so that we move to a unified Service by the beginning of the Autumn Term. There is much work to be done in a relatively short time. In making these changes, it is important that we do our best to communicate with, and involve, all our partners. So, although the time scales involved are relatively short, I do want to know your views about how the future Service should look as I draw up my proposals for the restructuring.

I already have many of your views as a result of last year's SLA reviews on how the Service is currently performing and the things you would like to see us increase or decrease. All those views will be taken into account. But if you would like to add further views or, even more helpfully, give us more detailed ideas about how the Service could be structured, I want to hear those views. I can't guarantee that we will always do exactly as you suggest, but I do promise that we will consider all your views very carefully.

Time Scales

I have to draw up my initial proposals for the restructuring in time for approval by the Education Commission meeting on 25th May 2005. If the Commission approves those proposals, there will follow a formal consultation process with all employees of the Service, the outcome of which will be considered by the Commission in June or July. So the sooner I receive comments and suggestions, the easier it will be to incorporate them in the thinking behind my proposals. Responses **before the end of April** would therefore be particularly appreciated.

I want to keep you all informed of the progress of the restructuring process as it unfolds. There will be updates in the next few Bulletins, and all the latest information will be put on to our website.

In the meantime, we will continue to deliver the existing service in the usual way throughout the Summer Term. I am also continuing for the time being as Director of Schools. So if, occasionally, you find it difficult to get hold of me, please have some sympathy!

Many thanks for your help and support,

Paul Barber

Arrangements for Inspection – Update

The new arrangements for inspection under Section 5 (currently Section 10) and Section 47 (currently Section 23) are becoming clearer. The diocese is well represented on the Section 47 national working group. There are changes to the self-evaluation form (SEF) in both inspections but, despite some concessions allowing schools to give more contextual information (in part 1b and 1d), Ofsted was not willing to accept a single self-evaluation form to cover both inspections. Reports from the Section 5 pilots are available on the Ofsted website. The effort now is to define more realistically the Section 47 framework, the core elements and the place of the school's self-evaluation. Lesson observations in religious education will be reduced in number but cannot follow the same 'broad brush' pattern as Section 5 because of the canonical requirements of inspection. There are two days reserved for inspectors in the summer term to prepare for September 2005 – 23rd and 24th June at Vaughan House. Details to be circulated.

(Contact Rita Price or Mike Pittendreigh – ritaprice@rcdow.org.uk, mikepittendreigh@rcdow.org.uk)

Self-Evaluation. Section 2 - The Catholic Identity of the School and College

Thank you to the schools and colleges that have sent in copies of their self-evaluation summaries. It is helpful to have your reflections on this section and we hope it has encouraged conversation across the school. Some Heads have said the section is long and we have extended the period for completion to the summer half term. Please do not let it go beyond this because we need to prepare for the section on the curriculum in September 2005. (Contact Rita Price– ritaprice@rcdow.org.uk)

Request for more SACRE representatives (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education).

We have one or two vacancies for SACRE representatives from the diocese across London LEAs – namely Camden, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Barnet. Normally there are 2 Catholic representatives on behalf of the Diocese. The role of the SACRE is to give advice to the LEA on matters connected with religious education and collective worship within community schools. Those who serve on the SACRE are expected to attend an evening meeting once every term. There is the opportunity to serve the local community, to dialogue with other faith communities and to help the development of religious education and collective worship in schools. It is a good opportunity for professional development.

Contact Rita Price : ritaprice@rcdow.org.uk

Advanced Skills Teachers – Religious Education.

Will Headteachers who have identified teachers of Religious Education for Advanced Skills assessment get in touch with me if they need help? It is important that we have teachers in sufficient numbers meeting the AST standard.

Contact Rita Price: ritaprice@rcdow.org.uk

Post 16 Certificate – General Religious Education

The certificates produced by the CES and NBRIA are now being printed and will be distributed to schools as soon as they arrive. Please let me have approximate numbers of students.

Contact Rita Price: ritaprice@rcdow.org.uk

The Cardinal's Lectures – “Faith in Europe?”

Enclosed with this Bulletin are flyers and small posters advertising a series of six public lectures in the Cathedral in April and May on the theme “Faith in Europe?” Admission is free but by ticket only. As this bulletin goes to print, all the tickets for Bob Geldof's talk have already been allocated and others are going quickly, so any one interested needs to act fast!

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

The next CCRS Study Day is the module on Jesus Christ at 10am on Saturday 16th April 2005 at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1. The speaker is Fr Eamonn Mulcahy. The cost is £15 for the module, £6.50 for the day only. Prior registration is encouraged though people are also welcome to register on the day. Current students are specially asked to register in advance. See the website for further details at www.rcdow.org.uk/lilac
(Contact Moira Wilson on 020 8202 3611 or email to: moirawilson@rcdow.org.uk)

Catechists Conference – Teachers Welcome

The diocesan conference for catechists this year is from Friday evening 1st July to Sunday lunchtime 3rd July at All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney. It is being led by Fr Perry Gildea and the title is ‘Catechesis and Liturgy’. Further details will be distributed shortly.
(Contact: the Lifelong Learning and Catechesis office on 020 8202 3611)

AYWL Says Thank You...

Over the last two years our involvement with schools has grown steadily. Although AYWL is conceived as a parish based renewal programme, it has become clear to us that renewal in schools is also vital. Both parish and school feed each other. All schools now receive from us a pack for use in the school. It is designed to fit easily into the whole school programme and to complement the many resources for prayer and assembly in both the classroom and the whole school setting. At a junior level we have been encouraged by the take up of resources especially our calendars. At the secondary level we have seen a steady growth of faith sharing groups amongst sixth formers and Year 11 pupils. The termly meeting of students with the Cardinal certainly produces a lively and full Cathedral hall.

...and Encourages You to Look Out for Season V

Season V may well be the most exciting Season for schools with the themes of Justice and Peace and Re-creating the Face of the Earth. The material will be with schools for their planning meetings at the beginning of the Autumn term.

We are also planning an interactive Workshop called Living Gospel Values which will take place on September 24th at locations still to be decided. On Sunday 25th September the Workshop will be at the Pastoral Centre, London Colney from 2.30-4.30pm. This will be for everyone in the diocese to engage in the themes and to see how they can get involved themselves. It will draw on resources and activities from organizations across the country. It will be an ideal event for schools to be involved in. We would love contributions from schools especially in the areas of dance, music, drama, display etc. Please get in touch with AYWL if this appeals to your school.

Contact: Fr Stuart Wilson at ‘At Your Word, Lord’: stuartwilson@rcdow.org.uk or on 020 7931 6059

Governor Training: Training for the Performance Management of the Headteacher

The next half-day session (10am-1pm) will be on Saturday 18th June 2005 at the Niland Centre, Bushey. A flyer and booking form are enclosed.

An Induction Day for New Governors - *and those needing a refresher*

This day session is planned for **Saturday 14th May 2005**, at Vaughan House. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 11th May. For further details see enclosed flyer and pro-forma.
(For both of the above contact Maureen Roe on 0207 798 9005 or email maureenroe@rcdow.org.uk)

Teacher Recruitment

Headteachers will find enclosed with this bulletin a list of potential recruits for our Catholic schools.
(Contact Maureen Roe on 0207 798 9005 or email maureenroe@rcdow.org.uk)

Photocopiers and Fax Machines

The nominated supplier for photocopiers, printers and fax machines to parishes throughout the diocese (and the Catholic dioceses of England and Wales) is Toshiba, and as a result parishes can get some good deals. Schools considering new machines may like to contact Toshiba's representative for the diocese in case the same may be true for them. He is Bob Cunningham: 07836 287 937 or email: bob.cunningham@toshiba-eis.com

New Diocesan Website – 'Education' section

Some people have had difficulty finding the Education section of the new-look diocesan website. The quickest way in is to enter 'www.rcdow.org.uk/education'

Good News Slot

Well done to one-form-entry Our Lady and St Joseph Primary School, Hackney, who raised over £4,100 for the Tsunami Relief in one week through a Sponsored Spell – a very generous community response which went to Cafod.

Congratulations to St Mary's Primary, Isleworth and St Teresa's First and Middle School and Nursery in Harrow, who have been awarded the 'Activemark', and to St Aloysius College, Islington, who have achieved a Sportsmark Extension Award.

Congratulations also to Sacred Heart High School, Hammersmith, who have achieved Specialist Status in Maths and ICT.

Well done, Finchley Catholic High on Fair Trade – the Westminster Justice and Peace Commission ask schools to see the enclosed sheet and www.finchleycatholic.org.uk for details and ideas.

Please keep the good news rolling in to Liz Duffy.

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