



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

July
2005
4/05

To: Head Teachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies
Items marked do not apply to independent schools*

From Paul Barber, the Director of Education

At the time of writing, the proposals for the restructuring of the Education Service have been published and are the subject of formal consultation with staff. By the time you read this that consultation process will be drawing to a close. As ever, the most up-to-date information will be found on our website (www.rcdow.org.uk/education).

In its Vision for the future Service, the Commission wants to see:

- a parish catechetical support team which promotes active and effective catechesis and lifelong learning in ways best suited to the needs of the members of local communities;
- an advisory service for schools which ensures that students receive a solid religious and moral education in accordance with the teachings of the Church and diocesan guidelines which helps them to mature as authentic disciples of Christ;
- a school support team that gives confidence to governing bodies and head teachers, supporting all, especially those in most need, in promoting the unique and distinctive Catholic contribution to the educational endeavour;
- strategic planning and support for capital projects which is long term and committed to ensuring sufficiency of places and creating high quality environments in which Catholic education can flourish;
- an inspection regime which is respected as an independent, rigorous, and professional tool for raising standards and the quality of Religious Education and the Catholic Life of our schools;
- an effective and efficient administration infrastructure within the service which underpins the work of the whole Service in line with gospel values.

The Commission believes that their proposals will, after the benefit of the consultation process, enable us to deliver this vision as a reality. On the Commission's behalf, I should like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have contributed ideas, suggestions and comments during the consultation periods on this exercise. Those comments have all been taken seriously, and continue to inform the Commission's decisions.

We now move into the next phase of the process in the transition to the new arrangements. Whilst we hope to have much of this in place by the beginning of September, there will inevitably be some transitional arrangements during the Autumn Term. Nevertheless, we are committed to ensuring the continued delivery of the service to schools during that changeover period.

At the beginning of next term we will send all schools information on the new arrangements. I look forward to leading the whole of the Service forward in September. I am confident that the new look school support team will be able to support all your work even more effectively and efficiently.

Training Courses

Enclosed with this bulletin is a list of some of the training courses being delivered by the Education Service in the Autumn Term. It is hoped that this will assist schools in their forward planning. A more detailed Education Service Course booklet will be sent to schools at the start of the Autumn Term.

Please contact Paul Barber 0207 798 9005 or email paulbarber @rcdow.org.uk

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

The next CCRS Study Day is the module on the Church at 10am on Saturday 17th September 2005 at Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, London SW1. The first speaker is Fr John McDade SJ, the principal of Heythrop College, while Mgr Mark Langham will be the closing speaker. 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)

Inspection and the new Section 48 SEF document.

Thank you to everyone who attended the inspection update training and to everyone who has taken part in the development and feedback on the new SEF 48 document. Some schools have begun to complete the Section 48 SEF and we are asking everyone to complete it as soon as possible, at the latest by the autumn half term. For schools that are expecting an early inspection, please complete by the end of September 2005. The SEF relies on the ongoing Catholic self-evaluation process and we have all worked hard to ensure that one document feeds into the other.

The self-review key focus for 2005 – 2006 is on the ‘Catholic Curriculum’ and materials are being prepared to support schools in their reflection on this final section.

Contact: ritaprice@rcdow.org.uk or mikepittendreigh@rcdow.org.uk

New CAFÉ

The Catholic Evangelisation Service has launched its latest offering – a six-session course called “plugged in” – which is ideal for Confirmation, youth groups and schools. The course pack is very comprehensive, including a DVD with the six fast moving sessions on as well as the planning materials for catechists to create six varied sessions lasting up to two hours. To ask for a demo DVD contact Catholic Evangelisation Services on 01727 822837 or look up their website at www.catholicangel.org

Leadership in Catholic Education

Please find enclosed a flyer advertising the forthcoming courses for **Aspiring Headteachers** and **Aspiring Deputy Headteachers**, together with an application form. The **closing dates** are Monday 26th September for Aspiring Heads and Tues 29th November for Aspiring Deputies. The courses are organized jointly by the dioceses of Brentwood, East Anglia, Northampton and Westminster.

Please contact Janet Simmons on 01277 265284 on administration matters. The Westminster contact is Maureen Roe 0207 798 9005

Goodbyes

As usual at this time of year, there are goodbyes to be said. We acknowledge first the **Headteachers** who have recently left the service of the diocese or who will be leaving us at the end of this term:

John Allodi - St Ignatius Primary, Sunbury-on-Thames
Helen Bell - St Dominic Primary, Camden
David Berry - Holy Family Primary, Tower Hamlets
Tony Elfer - St Joan of Arc Primary, Islington
Margaret Finch - Our Lady of Muswell Primary, Haringey
Sr Clare Halpin - English Martyrs Primary, Tower Hamlets
Liz Hims - Holy Family Primary, Welwyn Garden City
Ed Kaye - St Paul's College, Sunbury-on-Thames
Shelagh Kelly - St Anselm Primary, Harrow
Brian McCloone – St Catherine Primary, Barnet
Ian McGibbon – Blessed John Roche, Tower Hamlets
Kate McKeever – St Mary Primary, Chiswick
Kevin McSharry – St James Catholic High, Barnet
Patrick Moloney – Our Lady of Dolours Primary, Westminster
Rita Murphy – St Edmund Primary, Richmond
John Murphy – St Vincent Primary, Acton
Sue O'Connor – St Anselm Primary, Southall
Ann O'Sullivan – St Raphael Primary, Northolt
Lillian Parker – St John's Primary, Baldock
Ali Szwarzak – St John's Primary, Rickmansworth
Jeremy White – Nicholas Breakspear School, St Albans
Mary Woodcock – Holy Rood Infants, Watford
Helen Woodhouse – Pope Paul Primary, Potters Bar

We thank them all for their hard work and dedication in the cause of Catholic education in our diocese and wish them every blessing in the next stage of their lives.

There are also two **members of the Education Service** who are leaving this summer: Sr Vicky Hummell and Liz Duffy:

Sr Vicky has been an RE Adviser with the diocese since November 1989 and has given particular service to the schools in the East Area of London. Her commitment to those schools, and to the diocesan service as a whole, has been greatly appreciated by colleagues and governors. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and dedication over these years, and to wish her every blessing in her well-deserved retirement. However, she won't be completely relaxing just yet – we are very pleased that she will be providing us with some assistance during the Autumn term while the Education Service restructuring takes place.

Liz Duffy joined the service in October 2002 as an Assistant Director. Now, having recently enjoyed the MA in Spirituality at Heythrop College, she has decided to take early retirement and enrol at Heythrop for a PhD. We thank her for her valuable service to the diocese through her dedicated hard work and wish her every success.

Paul Barber

Update on Capital Funding

The DfES is changing the arrangements for Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) and other aspects of capital grant. From April 2006 schools will receive DFC directly into their budgets. The process will be managed directly by the DfES in the first year (06/07) but in subsequent years it will be the responsibility of the LEA to manage, in the same way as for their own schools.

A number of other significant changes are being proposed which are related to the reductions in Civil Service personnel that the government is seeking. In effect the VA team in Darlington is to be reduced and much of that responsibility of managing VA capital is expected to pass on to the LEA. Details on how this would operate from April 2007 are hard to come by, but we will keep you informed as they emerge.

The LCVAP was a much reduced general allocation this year and we have therefore not managed to secure the levels of funding for building projects that we have achieved in the recent past. However, we have been led to believe that next year's allocation (06/07) will be more and, although there is never enough to meet all the needs, we hope to improve on the current year's funding. Letters inviting bids for the 06/07 round will be issued in early September and it is never too early to plan for projects. If you think you will want to submit a bid, it would be a good idea to discuss it with your building consultant now, so that enough time is allowed for them to prepare for it. This applies particularly for a new project that has not previously been submitted.

Contact Sally Livesey or Mike Pittendreigh on 0207 798 9005 or email: sallylivesey@rcdow.org.uk or mikepittendreigh@rcdow.org.uk

Good News Slot

Well done to:

- **Bishop Challoner Girls School**, Tower Hamlets, which has been awarded **Specialist Status** for Humanities, with a special emphasis on Religious Education
- **St Joseph Primary**, Watford, who have achieved **Healthy School Accreditation** and who **raised £2000** for the Catholic Children's Society – another excellent effort in a tradition of very high contributions
- **St Anthony's**, Watford, who have recently been awarded **Investors in People** status
- **St Mary Junior and Infant**, Uxbridge, who have been awarded the **Charter Mark**

Congratulations to:

- **St John Fisher Primary**, St Albans, who have been celebrating their **fortieth anniversary**

Special Congratulations to:

- **Colin Tufnell**, Head of Design and Technology, and governor, at **Salvatorian College**, Harrow, who was **awarded an MBE** in the Queen's Birthday Honours for **services to education**. Well done!

Please keep the good news rolling in to Greeny Longville

email: greenylongville@rcdow.org.uk

*****(Please Note** the change above as your present editor is leaving)*******

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