**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      :               3rd November 2021**

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

Dear colleagues

I hope you were able to have some rest and recuperation over half-term. Part of my week included sitting on a Hampshire beach, leaning against a Dorset forest tree and climbing a beautiful Welsh mountain; stopping en route to enjoy and re-read a book first published in 1857 and one of the first autobiographies of a mixed-race woman. I remember as a Faculty Head many moons ago introducing a Year 9 History study unit on this woman’s life and impact, in parallel to work on Florence Nightingale and The Crimean War. I’m sitting at my desk now wondering if many moons later a significant number of you actually know the name of that woman?

Having treated hundreds of patients in the cholera epidemic, she crossed the globe from Jamaica to the UK, but due to her skin colour, five times she failed to be recruited as a nurse. This didn’t deter her and she funded her own passage to the Crimea, where she set up a hotel and boarding house to provide food and clothes for wounded soldiers. She bravely nursed soldiers on the battlefield and endeared herself to hundreds, who in time supported her when years later she faced financial difficulty.

Twelve years of planning and 18 months in the making, on 30th June 2016 a three metre high bronze statue of her was unveiled at St Thomas’ hospital in London – the first public statue of a black woman in the UK, and contributing to a mere 15% of public statues of women across the country.

This week a friend told me that Sainsbury’s are selling a children’s book ‘Little Leaders : Bold Women in Black History’ – great news! I recommend it as an informative and insightful read for children and adults alike, with short pen-portraits of mathematicians, scientists, TV and sports stars, politicians, singers and more.  In the introduction, author Vashti Harrison writes *‘I hope readers from every background find these stories compelling and inspiring – but I did create it with black girls, and my younger self in mind. I think about what kind of dreams I might have had if I’d known about all these women when I was growing up, if I’d known that so many people who looked like me had done such incredible things. To be able to see yourself in someone else’s story can be life changing’.*

We are in such a privileged position in offering children and young people glimpses of what is possible, and maximising their potential, flourishing and living life in all its fullness. 10:10#*flourishing*

Oh – the woman I mentioned above is of course, Mary Seacole. There’s a really well-produced programme on ITV that’s available on catch up / ITV Hub called ‘In the shadow of Mary Seacole’ – with differing opinions from people on her impact and life, which is educationally refreshing. If you’re interested in seeing the beautiful statue, with shadow intentions explained, please go to [www.maryseacoletrust.org.uk/mary-seacole-statue](http://www.maryseacoletrust.org.uk/mary-seacole-statue)

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

Best wishes

**Jeff**

**Termly Briefings for Headteachers, Governors and ex-officios :** I particularly wanted to ask you to please ensure someone is represented from your school, as I’ll be outlining a new and significant policy development in the deployment and roles of ex-officios (normally clergy) to every CofE school, in the context of the re-organisation of parishes and reduction in clergy numbers. This has been endorsed by the Senior Staff Teams in both dioceses; discussed and refined by the Board of Education; with feedback from a representative group of clergy and Headteachers. There are two more Briefings taking place on **Thursday 4th November 9.30-11am  Wednesday 10th November 1.30-3pm**  Please contact sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org for meeting links.  The Agenda was circulated before half term but is here again for ease:

**1. Ofsted & SIAMS updates and heads-up**

**2. NASENCO action research project & VIVA-GO (Kingdom) values based, solution focused quick coaching resource**

**3. ‘From Lament to Action’ & ‘An Angel Just Like Me’**

**4. Ex-officios & Clergy deployment to support schools**

**5. Ten Ten *#flourishing***

**6. Church-Home-School : National CofE ‘Growing Faith’ support & resources**

**Christingle :** details of service ideas and practical arrangements are attached from The Children’s Society.

**Free Advent resources for schools** called **Community Matters at Christmas** fromThe Archbishop of York Youth Trust.They look at how different communities in the Christmas story can bring joy, acceptance, generosity and love, and include videos, reflections and practical challenges. Schools can pre-order or sign up here. [www.abyyt.com/advent](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1mcpn2-0009zN-67&i=57e1b682&c=gsDRL3ogNXhAJ1N64W6AJ30F27yktkZda-7KdRlbYEocJZPAu51-ZribTQ5iTv0D-_DFULjLrbYT-UiOKJ3F7WymWzNfUDiL16h4JFiDwXzsP_Boi99r4cpjdZRM6sMv3jQjwwohW20vTwpvCoVPOJMsy6xNpdqyIYOS3aOGJuRiUK-Y644MTjtbaMVUEmr5bwTM1IVrjjZNxxd3SsWoZQnadvrujxDv4wr6LWA7rto)

**Reverse Advent Calendar :** last year a number of schools / classes took on this initiative. Attached is an example, but you can easily tailor-make one for your setting. Enjoy!

**Global Dimension** has produced some classroom resources for the **COP26 Climate Conference**, including a classroom conference where the children have to present the views of an endangered lifeform, such as a polar bear or the Amazon Rainforest. You can find further details on the [Global Dimension website.](https://globaldimension.org.uk/resources/november-activity-rebooting-climate/)

**Courageous Advocacy :** Online training about **courageous advocacy** and how the **Global Neighbours Award** can support this, on **23rd or 24th November from 4pm to 5:30pm.** These sessions will also include practical ideas and resources for talking with children about race and diversity, to support our Christmas mini-project **An Angel Just Like Me**. Please contact Jane.Kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org for further information.

The Church of England’s Courageous Advocacy report can be read here :  <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/180521%20Courageous%20Advocacy%20%28final%29.pdf> Caroline Weir of Christian Aid is the author and you can listen to a podcast here : <https://anchor.fm/cefel/episodes/Courageous-Advocacy-e18b68b>    You can find out more about Global Neighbours on the [Christian Aid website.](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/global-neighbours-accreditation-scheme)

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**An Angel Just Like Me : Christmas Project :** our project booklet is attached – a worship Powerpoint and YouTube video of Mary Hoffman’s reading of the book especially for us will be emailed shortly. Please share the Project booklet widely with colleagues in Community Schools and with churches.

**Year 6 Leavers’ days 2022 :** We are planning with our Winchester and Portsmouth Cathedral colleagues for in-person days next year! You will shortly receive some forms to assist with our administration and desire to bring over 2,500 children to spend time in morning workshops and fun, learning and experiential activities, and joining in afternoon worship with our bishops. The dates are being shared for general diary management, but please could I ask you to wait until you receive our booking forms to respond with requests for specific dates – which we always try to accommodate, but with 160 schools and thousands of Leavers, is always a challenge! Bournemouth area schools celebrate at Christchurch Priory, and our KS1 Leavers have their leavers’ day at Romsey Abbey – details will be shared separately.

**Winchester Diocese at the Cathedral : 15, 16 and 17 June 2022**

**Portsmouth Diocese at the Cathedral : 22, 23 and 24 June 2022**

**SIAMS – document updates** are available on the [SIAMS Inspections webpage](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-inspections). **The Revised Evaluation Schedule** has been updated to include a honeycomb graphic on the features of Excellence (new page 20). This is not new information and does not include any new or additional requirements but is, simply, an alternative representation which some may find useful. **The SIAMS Information for Schools document** has been updated to include section 4.5 on Quality Assurance and Inspector training, and section 7 on the SIAMS Duty Desk for inspectors.

**Understanding Christianity Incarnation resources** – online training to help teachers go beyond the glitter and tinsel of Christmas and explore theological concepts such as Messiah or Jesus the Light of the World. For schools using *Living Difference*, this will include help with planning using the cycle of enquiry. These sessions will take place from **4:00pm to 5:30pm on** **November 4th and November 9th** or can be offered as a tailor-made staff meeting. Please contact Jane.Kelly@portsmouth.amglican.org for further information.

**Project Earth Rock :** Aligned to the National Curriculum and in use in over 300 UK schools, Project Earth Rock is an award-winning KS2 eco arts scheme of work. It consists of songs, animations and lesson plans. Schools are being offered a 20% discount if they sign up for an annual subscription by 10th December. Use code INTRO2021 and you will soon have your pupils encouraging each other to save the planet with joyous song. You can trial the Power Challenge theme for free, just visit [www.projectearthrock.com](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1mdCsh-0002E2-3x&i=57e1b682&c=C02B-LAONGJ6oMk2qRW-AoVmieyKtxVO8vpjtfkC-DUtu8X7r3fkV9U-AezMYquJZU2oMZyDOiJzkto365zXbCc120Hr_1gIJQEvTRXnTuLsM2LA0q2KgscNZl_BAEzP6IlSI4t4qruxasYuvkPgIWOJYGTX6Jr4przzacoSp6mBmOXhRcEu2v--JRNnpTy_dIvaNo4xp95zLr28Y9XI5eR0dfMvPrECRkTY_sPk03g). Here is a link to the meat reducer karaoke video : [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3P6xIMwT0js](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3P6xIMwT0js)

**Termly Worship Resources.** The next set of resources (on Love) for October half term to Christmas were shared in a separate email – a reminder that these and this half term’s Worship resources can be found here: <https://www.winchester.anglican.org/Guidedreflections/>      <https://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/education/resources/guidedreflections/>

**Interfaith Week : 14th to 21st  November** and you can find out more on the [Interfaith website.](https://www.interfaithweek.org/) This would be a great way to raise the profile of RE in your school. You might consider inviting in a speaker (on Zoom?) from another faith, or asking children to explore faiths you don’t normally cover in school. It might be an opportunity to use curriculum time creatively and do some cooking, art, or dance  from another tradition. Some schools combine this with [Anti-bullying week,](https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week) which is held at the same time,  as a good way of embracing diversity. More ideas will be shared at the October RE network meetings. People who we can positively and actively celebrate amongst our **differences.**

**Coastal Learning Partnership : Trustee vacancies.** CLP is a mixed Multi Academy Trust with Winchester and Salisbury diocesan schools and community schools. There are two vacancies for Trustees – details attached. Do please consider if this is something that would be an expression of your commitment to education and the diocese. Feel free to contact Sue.bowen@portsmouth.anglican.org who is a Winchester Diocesan Trustee at CLP, and me as a Winchester Diocesan Trust Member if you’d like to discuss.

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

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