

**Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education**

**Heads Huddle Notes**

**Tuesday 3rd November**

**Reflection:**

**Matt Redman:** I’m Coming back to the heart of worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5srTJTNero>

*“Simple can be harder than complex: you have to work hard to get your thinking clean to make it simple. But it's worth it in the end because once you get there, you can move mountains.”*

*Steve Jobs*

**Feedback from Headteachers: themes of the week**

**Bracing for what’s ahead:** the first half term was hard enough. This hard term is going to be harder. Second lockdown will result in more fear around jobs. Children are more aware of the issues this time. It’s going to be more difficult during the long winter months.

**Concern for school staff:** Half term was not refreshing because of the weather and then the announcement about the new lockdown at the end of the week. Staff remain exhausted. Looking for ways to find time for ourselves is important whilst schools are open but our usual opportunities to relax or unwind are not available (exercise classes, pubs and restaurants etc).

**Hope:** if you haven’t already, do find time with your staff to look for some opportunities to plan in things for your school community to look forward to – things to make your pupils smile and things to make you and your staff smile. What would you all really enjoy? Maybe you could spend some time at a staff meeting just thinking about this? Decorations? Christmas jumpers? Anything to give your school community hope.

**Safeguarding:** lots of issues occurred over the half term break. Concern about those families who will be locked down and life for some pupils behind closed doors will be difficult and not visible (it’s a relief that because schools will remain open, contact will be easier to maintain).

**Top tips for saving work that’s easy for children to do with their parents at home if or when bubbles or schools have to close:** don teach “Instruction writing”, save it … it is easy for parents to teach at home! Any other good ideas, gratefully received…

**Penny:** it was lovely to be joined by Penny Hollander today!

**Information sharing from the Diocese:**

**Sustaining Hope in School Leadership (Grove publication)**

Penny highlighted some key points:

* Hope isn’t to do with optimism, it is what is required when things are difficult.
* A leader is a dealer in hope (Napoleon Bonaparte).
* As a school leader, Hope is about Hope within yourself and radiating it within your school community and beyond.
* The thing that’s important is the quality of our **RELATIONSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS** to preserve the school community and teamwork.
* Take a moment to look at the table of stressors and sustainers (p.15): compare the stressor of constant external interference with the sustainer of friends and colleagues.
* The importance of networking cannot be understated both within school and with networks such as Heads Huddles or clusters.
* Importance of **RETREAT** and **REFLECT** – sometimes we need to escape to gain refreshment from reflection. It’s really hard to find the time to do but it’s vitally important to sustain you as leaders.

**Bubble Worship**:



The Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich have updated their Bubble Worship planning. It is attached with these notes.

Hannah Fishwick’s online worship and follow up activities which have been very popular will continue this half term. If you aren’t already on the distribution list and would like to be, please email Charlotte and she will add you to the list.