

## Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education

### Weekly Communication: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## Reflection: *Paradox*

We discussed the paradox of feeling that we have nothing left to give yet still making an active choice to step out and give more; and how, in making that brave and difficult choice, we often experience positive and unlooked for results.



Touch the Sky  
'I found my life  
When I laid it down'

[Touch The Sky - of Dirt and Grace - Hillsong UNITED - YouTube](#)

Prince of Peace  
'My Heart's a Storm...  
In your light I found rest'

[Prince of Peace - of Dirt and Grace - Hillsong UNITED - YouTube](#)

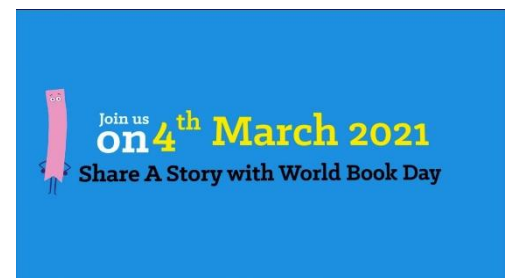


## Feedback from Headteachers: themes of the week

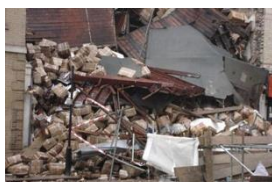
### Celebrations:

It was lovely to spend some time sharing positive experiences which have lifted spirits this term. Highlights include:

**Planning something to look forward to:** we discussed World Book Day. One school is taking it to a whole new level with a World Book **week** as something for pupils to look forward to, for staff to have a bit of time off planning and teaching their remote learning curriculum and for parents to get a break from home schooling. Each day of the week will be themed – joke book day, recipe book day etc. Another school is planning a morning story and bedtime story each day. Don't forget just to check you aren't breaching copyright by reading books aloud online. Lots of authors have given permission. You can check here:



<https://www.jonescntysd.ga.schools.bz/userfiles/304/my%20files/publishers%20consent%20to%20share%20books%20online.pdf?id=4528>



**School improvements:** works completed at schools have lifted spirits for several schools including playground improvements; kitchen replacements and, for some, just the joy of cleaning and clearing – we talked about simple pleasures, the difference making things tidy and organised can bring and how wonderful it can feel to control the things we can control.

**Unlooked for COVID advantages:** we reminded one another to hang onto some of the positive changes that have resulted from the enforced change in ways of working. We heard about a lovely example of one member of staff who has been a birthing partner for a family member being able to return to hospital for visits, something that would never normally be possible when in school full time. We also heard about a curmudgeonly farmer who would never in a million years attend a school church service joining in with collective worship online at home!

**Questionnaire about remote learning:** everyone who has sent out a questionnaire to parents spoke about how overwhelmingly positive the experience has been. It has refocused attention away from “niggly” complaints or unpleasant emails and back to the majority of parents who are really grateful for everything schools are doing. In particular, lots of individual staff members have been boosted to hear specific comments, to know that they are making a difference and getting things right.

**Contact from link schools overseas:** receiving updates and photos from link schools overseas has given a couple of schools a boost recently. It’s lovely to be reminded of something very “different” from COVID issues/paperwork/remote learning.



**Banter:** we all agreed that sometimes it’s the silly things that sustain us. A good laugh with colleagues in our school, another school (we know about those WhatsApp groups!!) or at the Diocese can pick us up and revive us. For us at the Diocese, Huddles are the highlight of our working week and always revive us. And, for anyone joining us last Tuesday, you will understand why just the mere thought of spandex is enough to make us smile and keep us going when things are hard! Thank you.

## Returning to school:

We know that the uncertainty hanging over everyone is ever present and that there is a temptation to begin planning and preparing for welcoming pupils back but that, until we know more, it is probably unwise to do too much work to prepare as time spent may be wasted (as was the case over the Christmas holidays).

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## Information sharing from the Diocese



### HUDDLES AFTER HALF TERM

Tuesdays 3.45pm

Thursdays 1.30pm

*Please note the new time on Thursdays*

**Do come along when you can**

### Training, Courses and Events:

An up-to-date Events Programme is attached. For further information or to book onto any of our courses, please contact: [education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto:education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk)





## SIAMS Update:

For anyone who missed the update about the new national management of SIAMS inspections, you can read all about it here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-school-inspections>

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Charlotte

## DBE Services SLA Offer:

Some of you have received an offer of traded school improvement support from DBE Services this week. DBE Services is a vehicle for the working together of the Diocesan Boards of Education of Blackburn, Carlisle, Chester, Liverpool, Manchester and York. Recently, DBE services have begun offering traded school support to schools in these dioceses. We were unaware that they were planning to approach Cumbrian schools. Any offer made by them is completely separate from the support we provide under our Partnership Agreement with you. We have been in touch with DBE services and apologise for any confusion their email may have caused.

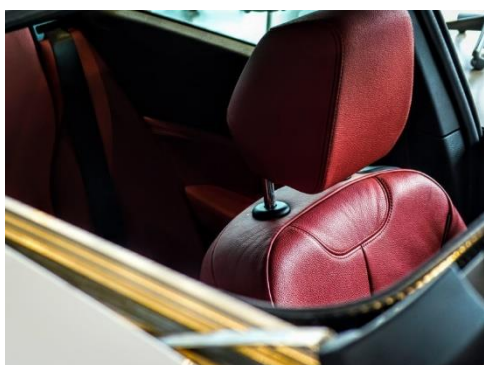
## Preparing for half term:

We encourage all of you to spend some time planning and preparing for your half term so that you will get some rest. Some questions to think about: When will you work? When will you take your time off? How will you ensure your time off really is time off (out of office reply, not checking emails, having tidied your house so you aren't tempted to do boring jobs during your holiday time perhaps)? What will you plan to do that will make it feel like a holiday (reading a book in the daytime, buying and doing a jigsaw, ordering some craft or supplies for your hobby e.g. car parts, plants etc)? Sometimes taking a little time to plan your downtime can massively enhance the quality of that time when you get to it.



## Headrest:

*with thanks to Lynnsey @ Shankhill for sharing this*



Former headteachers, Ros McMullen and Andrew Morrish are the co-founders of a new, free wellbeing service for headteachers.

Headrest offers a free daily wellbeing telephone support service for headteachers and CEOs. As experienced ex-heads themselves, they understand how challenging it is right now. Ros and Andrew provide a sympathetic and confidential listening ear at the end of the phone. Whether you feel stressed, anxious or overwhelmed, we are here to listen. We've got your back.

The service is available to talk every Monday - Thursday from 7pm - 8pm. At all other times, we'll try and get back to you as soon as we can. You can also call free on 0800 862 0110 and leave a message.

For more information visit the website here: <https://www.headrestuk.co.uk/>

## Attendance returns thank you:

As you are aware, there is a concern nationally about whether vulnerable pupils are "falling through the cracks". The increased rate of attendance returns is helping to monitor the picture on a county and country wise basis. Thank you all for your part in helping with this. We know it's another thing to do but it is making a real difference. Don't forget that if you are having a busy day and need to return it late, that's still better than not doing it at all.

# The Archbishop of York Youth Trust: Young Leaders Award



## Free Twilight Webinars this March

**Introduction to Character Education**  
With input from the Jubilee Centre for Character & Virtues

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> March & Tues 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 4.00pm-4.40pm

**Introduction to the Young Leaders Award, YLA**

### Primary KS1 & KS2

Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> March East Anglia 4.00pm-5.00pm

Wed 24<sup>th</sup> March All Regions 4.00pm-4.45pm

Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> March West Midlands 4.00pm-5.30pm

### Secondary KS3

Tues 9<sup>th</sup> March & Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> March 4.00pm-4.40pm

### Secondary KS4/+16

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March & Wed 17<sup>th</sup> March 4.00pm-4.40pm

To book a place visit [abyyt.com/conferences](http://abyyt.com/conferences)  
Queries? Contact us on [ylevents@abyyt.com](mailto:ylevents@abyyt.com)



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## European Conference on Christian Education:

ECCE is a tri-annual gathering of Christian Educators across Europe. This year we should have been gathering for a week in Hungary – but for some reason that's been postponed. However, it does mean that there will be a free online taster for the event on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Registration details are here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wellsprings-of-hope-registration-138244632417?ref=elink>

Those of us who have attended ECCE in the past have found it hugely enriching as we meet with colleagues across Europe and share our similar (and often quite different) experiences. Even though this is just a 2 hour taster, I'd encourage you to attend.

Mary Hawes - National Children & Youth Adviser

The Education Office, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ, 07967 701891

## Lent resources

### Lent Resource with love from Sheffield Diocese:

Our colleague Huw Thomas in the Diocese of Sheffield has kindly shared the following. It is a Lent resource to give families and schools something for every day of the season, ranging from Ash Wednesday to days like International Women's Day, and then the 'invention' of the shoelace. You can access the resources here:

<https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/education>

### 40acts: Doing Lent Generously



40acts is a community of over 100,000 people across the globe who have decided to do Lent differently. For 10 years we have asked the question: "what if Lent could be about more than just giving stuff up?". 40 days, 40 challenges, 40 ways to make a difference.

Join us as we discover a world of generosity.

<https://40acts.org.uk/about/>

### Pilgrim Pathways:

With 6 weeks of content, **Pilgrim Pathways** will take pupils on a pilgrimage journey through Lent, looking at 6 different items that are important on a walking pilgrimage.



Each week will focus on a different item beginning with a lamp and followed with a map, first aid kit, walking stick, shelter and finally food & drink. **Pilgrim Pathways** will help KS2 and KS3 pupils explore how these items symbolise ideas that can help them when facing challenges in their personal life journey.

The resource encourages reflection and practical actions that can support pupils' wellbeing and happiness. They are suitable for use in the classroom, as part of collective worship, or can be used for pupils learning from home.

A PDF with more details is attached. The resources can be accessed here:

[www.abyyt.com/projects/pilgrim-pathways](http://www.abyyt.com/projects/pilgrim-pathways)



Charlotte Tudway  
Deputy Director of Education  
[charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto:charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk)  
07917 993659