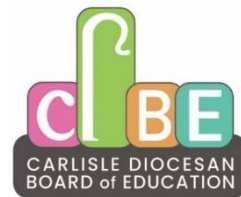


Weekly Communication: 3rd April



www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/education

If someone has forwarded this communication to you and you would like to be added to the distribution list to receive one every week, please email: charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

Reflection:

Yesterday, we were delighted to work with eight schools, a mix of primary and secondary, community, voluntary controlled and voluntary aided, who have expressed an interest in being part of a new diocesan trust – a loving and supportive 'protective structure' to safeguard the long-term flourishing of our schools in Cumbria.

Here are just some of the benefits of being part of a trust we listed:

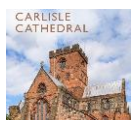
- Flourishing versus limping along
- Context is key – celebrate the individual
- Flourishing pupils:
outcomes and wellbeing
- Flourishing staff
- No 'undoable' jobs
- Do more of what you love (*& less of what you don't*)
- SEND support
for pupils and staff (paperwork???)
- Career progression
- Immediate financial savings
- Long-term financial viability
- School building support
- Opportunities for children



If you think this might be something you want for your school, please get in touch.

#HOPE #TRUST #LOVE #EQUITY

Proud to partner with:



DBE services



NEW THIS WEEK!

SOLD OUT!

#FLOURISH
Annual Conference for School Leaders
with special guests including:
[Mary Myatt](#) ♦ [Nigel Genders CBE](#) ♦ [Elizabeth Olulari](#)

10th June 2025, North Lakes Hotel & Spa, Penrith

CBE
CARLISLE DIOCESAN
BOARD of EDUCATION

Hedy Lamarr

March has been **Women's History Month**, and we thought you might be interested in the attached article by Bennie Kara (of last year's Diocesan conference fame!).



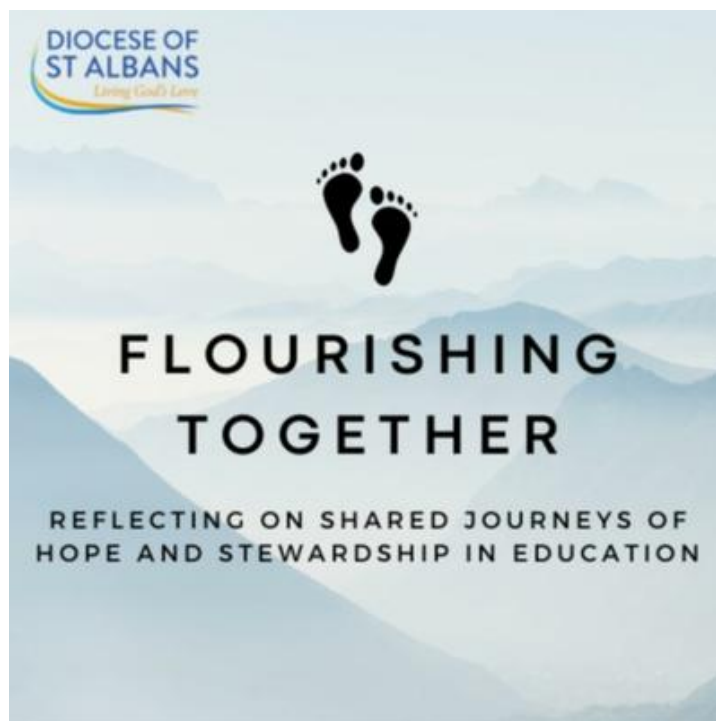
Introduction to Spiritual Development

Are you confident in your school's shared understand of spirituality and your chosen language for spiritual development? Come and join our online training on Tuesday 29th April at 4pm.

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DMRD>

Try listening to this podcast 'spirituality, nature and the early years' to get you thinking.

[Flourishing Together • A podcast on Spotify for Creators](#)



The second of our 'long read made short' series focuses on this recently published DfE report.

Please see the attached PDF for the write-up.

[This report](#) examines the relationship between attendance and academic achievement for pupils in state-funded mainstream schools during the 2022 to 2023 academic year at the end of:

- key stage 2
- key stage 4

The study, which builds on previous research from 2016, uses a regression model to account for various factors that could influence attainment, such as prior performance and pupil characteristics. It uses recent data to look at how similar pupils with different attendance rates perform, isolating the impact of attendance on the likelihood of achieving successful outcomes at each key stage.

The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year

**Research Report
March 2025**

The Lord's Prayer song

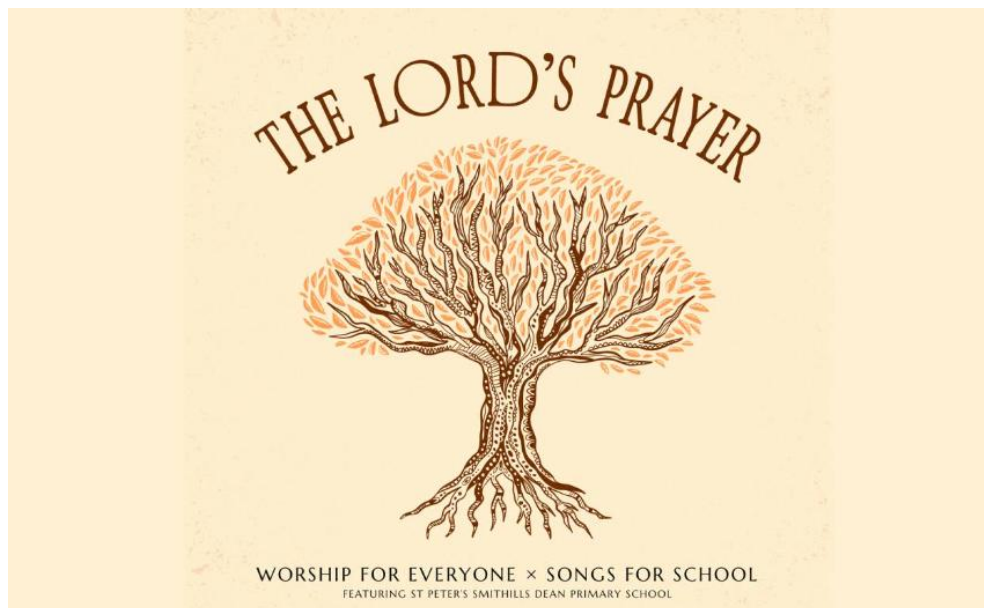
[New music resource for schools](#) brings 'The Lord's Prayer' to life

Nick & Becky Drake, the creative duo behind [Songs for School](#), are delighted to announce an original song inspired by The Lord's Prayer. Designed to be accessible and singable, this new resource aims to bring a timeless prayer into the hearts and voices of the next generation.

Nick and Becky have focused on:

- Making the theology of the prayer accessible and engaging for children while staying true to its meaning.
- Ensuring the music flows naturally with the original text.
- Crafting a piece that's fun and easy for young voices to sing

To learn more, visit faithinthenorth.org or follow @songsforschool on social media



DfE launches consultation on 'narrowing the digital divide'

The Department for Education (DfE) [launched a consultation](#) on 21 March, to gather views on a long-term ambition for all schools to meet 6 core digital standards by 2030. This consultation is open until **23 May 2025**.



Qur'an training session 22nd April 4-5

How much do you know about the Qur'an? The training session will look at the Night of Power Story, how the Qur'an was revealed and preserved, why the Qur'an is important to Muslims, the most important chapter in the Qur'an (Al Fatihah) which is recited in every single prayer, how the Qur'an is organised (Juz, Surah and Ayah) and finally how Muslims respect the Qur'an.

To book a place on the live webinar (includes a Q&A session) or to request a video recording of the entire course, please click [HERE](#)



Growing Faith Foundation

Church of England

Question of the half term

The Question of the Half Term is a tool the Growing Faith Foundation are using to listen and respond to the voices of children and young people. Throughout the year, they are asking six key questions in a quick, easy-to-share format.

The question this half term is: **Does Music help you to feel closer to God?**

You can submit your responses by clicking the following link

<https://churchofengland.tfaforms.net/4904219>

Do you subscribe Picture News?

Picture News – Funding News for Carlisle Diocese Schools!

We are very excited to announce that we have recently received funding which we are using to help embed Picture News in a limited number of schools. We are offering this initially to all Carlisle Diocese schools.

Full details, and express your interest [here](#).



Training Schedule

We have a variety of training sessions running each month. Most of the sessions are online and are cost-free if you are part of the partnership agreement.

Want to attend a session but can't? Please get in touch and we can arrange for it to be recorded for you.

You can find a copy of the training schedule [here](#). Booking is quick and easy just click the link and follow the on screen steps.

Any queries then email Anna – anna.lea@carlisle-diocese.org.uk











Governor Zone






As always, if you have any questions about any of the information contained in this week's communication, need any help or support or want to arrange a visit, don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Diocesan Education Office Team

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RHS Campaign for School Gardening



and communication

Growing plants in schools has a number of benefits including:

- Improving mental and physical wellbeing
- Enriching the curriculum from science, maths and geography, to art, design and languages
- Teaching about the environment and the importance of biodiversity and sustainability
- Building life skills such as confidence, resilience teamwork

The RHS are running a school growing community. The community is free to join and if you choose to sign up you will receive regular tips and advice into your inbox on how to support your pupils through the power of plants, as well as updates on our free [teacher training](#) and [awards programme](#).

Even without signing up the RHS have produced lots of free resources linked to growing in school including how to get started. Access them [here](#).

When we sing, it brings us closer

Laura and Ruth had a fantastic meeting with Pam Lawson (Music, RE and Global Links leader in a South Lakes Primary School) and part of the wonderful team (including CDEC, Christian Aid and Fischy Music) that have put these two events together. One event is for pupils, and one is staff CPD, Laura and I are attending one each! Hope to see you there.

If you would like to find out a bit more about it, please contact pam@qantraservices.com or ruth.houston@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

Happy singing everyone!

'WHEN WE SING, IT BRINGS US CLOSER'	
 SING UP for Climate Justice! 	 USE SINGING TO SUPPORT GLOBAL LINKS & CLIMATE EDUCATION IN YOUR SCHOOL 
	
BRING YOUR CHOIR OR CLASS TO...	CPD for teachers - primary or secondary £30pp for whole afternoon, including lunch
Kendal Parish Church on Wed 21st May at 2pm	Thurs 22nd May Quaker Tapestry Hall, Kendal Lunch 12pm // CPD 12.45 - 5.15pm
SCAN HERE FOR BOOKING & INFO	CLICK HERE FOR BOOKING & INFO
	
   	   

You can book your place [here](#) or use the QR code above.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

The Board of Deputies of British Jews offer free teacher support and INSET on teaching Judaism. For more details contact education Officer Anna Silver –

anna.silver@bod.org.uk

They have also created a free, digital resource for secondary schools (aimed at KS3) to help support the teaching of Judaism (and antisemitism). It contains information via multimedia content (including real British Jewish voices), discussion and critical thinking questions and assessment tools. JLO aims to make the lives of teachers easier as it requires little planning or subject knowledge, as well as being modular and flexible – to support the schemes of work teachers already have in place. Go to <https://jlo.org.uk> to watch the marketing video or to create a login.



Local Schools Nature Grants



The window for [applications](#) for grants for schools, funded by the People's Postcode Lottery is closing very soon: on Friday 4th April. The fund supports applications for a grant worth £500. Schools then choose the products and services they would like, including one year's membership to Learning through Landscapes, CPD and outdoor learning kits from a catalogue.

wordsworth

GRASMERE

Wordsworth Grasmere

On 10th April 10:30am Wordsworth Grasmere are celebrating Romantic painter JMW Turner's 250th birthday! Taking inspiration from his paintings and techniques, they will paint, write, and play. Go and try watercolour painting, get crafty and create your own leaf print, or explore the Sensory Garden in search of inspiration.

Free event, no need to book just turn up! For families with children of all ages.

Follow the link for more information <https://wordsworth.org.uk/event-directory/>

If you have any further questions or queries, please contact education@wordsworth.org.uk

Free trees for schools and communities

We want to make sure everybody in the UK has the chance to plant a tree. So we're giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities. Together, we'll get millions more trees in the ground. [Click here](#) for more info



Do you have a sustainability lead and action plan yet?



The [sustainability and climate change strategy for education](#) states: "By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan". This includes early years settings, schools, multi-academy trusts, colleges, and universities.

Read more here - [Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education - GOV.UK](#)

Sustainability Leadership in Education 30 Apr | Online



This webinar will give an intro to sustainability practices and provide an understanding of how they can be practically applied. It will help sustainability leads meet DfE targets coming into force later this year and show how to reduce your carbon footprint, waste and costs.

[£25 - book](#)

[now!](#)

B&Q Community Reuse

The B&Q Community Reuse campaign will see stores donate unsellable materials and products to their local community groups and charities. It's a great way to reduce waste whilst helping out the community and those most in need.

The products donated by B&Q are reused by schools, charities and community groups to transform local spaces for the community.

Click [here](#) for more information



How it works



Sign up to register your interest in partnering your organisation with your local B&Q store



Neighbourly will match your organisation with an available store and invite you to set up a Neighbourly profile



Once you're connected, you'll receive an alert each time products are available that match your needs



Collect the products in store and put them to use in the community



Muslim Learner Services

•Assemblies •Workshops •Training

Dear RE advisers/friends

I hope you had a peaceful summer break. I would greatly appreciate it if you could share the valuable training courses I am running this academic year (listed below) with your primary schools. These courses enhance subject knowledge and teacher confidence in teaching Islam.

2024/25 Islam Training Courses for Primary Schools

We will run 12 courses as live webinars (recordings are also available) during the academic year, providing a convenient and accessible way to enhance subject knowledge and teacher confidence in teaching Islam. A link is provided below to book a course / see prices, and for more information.



21st April 9 am - Islamic Stories for Primary Schools

23rd May 4 pm - The Holy Qur'an

2nd June 4 pm - Hajj / Pilgrimage to Mecca

19th June 4 pm - Diversity in Islam - Sunni & Shi'a

To book a place / see the price list, please click [HERE](#) or copy this link:

<https://zfrmz.com/PqQDypl5mnNEF2qBHCYo>

Thanks

Imran Kotwal

Governors



For clerks and governance professionals

The following “HOT TOPIC” on **Processing New Appointments: What Governance Professionals Need to Know** has been taken from the weekly newsletter of the National Association of School and College Clerks:



“When processing new non-executive directors (Trustees or Governors and even Members), remember that the term of office starts from the date of appointment—whether by election, Member resolution, or Board approval—not when pre-appointment checks are completed. To stay compliant and maintain momentum:

- **Request DBS ID documents within 14 days** of the individual agreeing to take on the role.
- **Submit the DBS application promptly**, and log that the outcome may affect eligibility under your Articles.
- **Don't delay appointment** for DBS clearance if your meetings are virtual or after-school hours with no pupil contact—but ensure they are **not invited to any in-school activity where pupils are present** until clearance is confirmed.

With many DBS results coming back in under a week, the risk of delay is low—but make sure you're logging everything clearly and updating your records swiftly.”

In the case of Foundation Governors, who are appointed by the Diocese Board of Education, this means that the *appointment date* is the date of PCC approval of the person's nomination. This is to ensure that all the dates of publicly recorded documents tie together and help us fulfil our 'Safer Recruiting' responsibilities.

It is possible for schools to then arrange a *start date* to suit their own contexts if they wish.

Get Information About Schools

School Clerk UK

School Clerk UK

The role of clerk (or governance professional) to our governing boards is an incredibly important one, Clerks deserve to be recognised, and developed, in the same way all our governors do. In a forthcoming edition of Weekly Comms we will be collating resources that may be useful to clerks and governance professionals – please make sure your clerks are signed up for the distribution list. The [School Clerk UK blog](#) explains recent developments in the way clerks are recognised on GIAS along with boards:

“Update your records: add your governance professional details on GIAS

Schools and trusts can now add their governance professional details to the Get Information About Schools (GIAS) platform. This is not a mandatory requirement, but the DfE is strongly encouraging institutions to add their governance professional’s details. This will allow the DfE to communicate directly with governance professionals and share key information, rather than relying on schools or chairs to pass news along.”



GOV.UK

Get Information about Schools

This recognition is also referred to under Item 2 of [this gov.uk document](#).
