

Footprints

Step-by-step together

Your newsletter from the Diocesan Board of Education

February 2019



Paul Dunning
Diocesan Director of Education

Hope & Aspiration

As educators we have a privileged, responsible and exciting role as day to day we encourage the children and young people in our schools to learn and develop. Without hope and aspiration that task would be extremely challenging. But on what is our hope and aspiration based?

The Church of England's vision for education says that 'Hope in God's future for the world, in God's ongoing love and compassion for all people, and for the whole of creation, and in God's promise of life in all its fullness are at the root of our dedication to education for hope

and aspiration.' This reminds us of the bigger picture in which we live and challenges us to ensure that all are given the opportunity to fulfil their God-given potential whatever their background or circumstances. Hope also keeps us going through difficulties, disappointments, failure and suffering. It inspires perseverance, patience, thankfulness and celebration; many of the Christian values I see displayed in our church schools. I'm reminded of the verse in Isaiah chapter 40 which says 'those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.'

And what of aspiration? It is a much-used word but vital for our society, for schools and for each pupil. It clearly links with hope but also challenges to go further, to make a difference, to be bold and courageous advocates for change. In the words of a prayer attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 'Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly – to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes, and push us in the future with strength, courage, hope and love. Amen.'

LISTEN

CELEBRATE

IMAGINE

EMPOWER

...MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE



Jan Chambers
School Bursar
Fairhaven VA Primary

At Fairhaven VA Primary School we believe it is important to think of others and share what we have with those less fortunate than ourselves. Each term we have a charitable focus and in the Autumn Term of 2018 we chose to support Global's Make Some Noise Day. The money raised supports small local charities who work with disadvantaged children and their families. To engage the children as much as possible we chose to dress loudly, to make vegetable instruments which were tested for tunefulness and volume and sold brightly coloured cakes.

As we were busy raising money we



were unaware that schools from across the UK that took part were entered into a competition run by Global's radio stations and in December we were thrilled to learn that Fairhaven had won.

On Thursday 17 December we took delivery of our prize, a brand new Yamaha Clavinova (an electronic piano).

This is a fabulous prize and the whole school will benefit from winning it.

Music is highly regarded at Fairhaven where all children have the opportunity to learn an instrument for two years. This instrument will replace our aging piano and be used by children for their piano lessons as well as in class lessons.

It was presented to the children in assembly by Heidi Secker – one of the breakfast show presenters. The school

and visitors were treated to a duet of Christmas tunes on the new instrument played by Mrs Brocklehurst and Mrs Parfitt, two of the school's music teachers and performances from our youngest pianist and one of the Year 6 pupils.

The children were also delighted to be able to surprise Heidi with a cheque for a further £140, for the Make Some Noise Charity, which was raised from the retiring collection from the school's Nativity play and donations from the staff in lieu of sending Christmas cards.

As many of our children later commented – "we set out to help others and ended up better off ourselves too". We hope this amazing gift to us will help our children continue to be generous and to think of others.



Kevin Lee
Headteacher
Moorlands Primary Academy DNEAT

A huge part of leading any school is moral purpose and this is amplified by taking on the leadership of a church school in very challenging circumstances. When I first started to work at Moorlands four years ago, initially seconded part time and living in a B&B, many people expressed surprise at my decision, especially as it involved commuting between Norfolk

and London. However, sometimes in life you have to tackle a situation head on, especially when you believe that this is a task you are called to. Just because something is daunting, it doesn't mean you shouldn't do it. In fact, I generally think the opposite is true.

Moorlands is a school that had been through a lot over the years and as a result it was very damaged. Sometimes that happens to a school and the result is disadvantaged children and unhappy, and very often temporary, staff. In this instance aspiration and hope are vital, as well as a steely determination and a moral purpose and vision based around simple Christian values. There were no quick fixes for Moorlands, it was more about steady, sustained improvement and sticking to what you believe in. Building trust and belief in the community is key too, and we have been very lucky to work with some great people in Belton, including supportive and proactive Governors

and the vicar of All Saints, the Rev Rosie Bunn, who has been and remains a huge advocate of the school. The church also provides support both practically and prayerfully.

In the time that I have been at Moorlands, we have had seven visits from the Regional Schools Commissioner, three visits from Ofsted and two SIAMS inspections. We have been weighed and measured in just about every way possible. Large amounts of resilience were needed by all. Moorlands has just been rated as 'Good' in all areas by Ofsted. My wife and I are very settled in Norfolk and live by the sea, which is quite a contrast to East London! I am lucky to work with fantastic, committed colleagues and Moorlands benefits hugely from being part of DNEAT and the wider Diocesan family.

The challenge now is to maintain the progress that we have made and to look to the future with confidence, optimism, aspiration and hope.



Steve Creasey
Headteacher
Ashill VC Primary

Preparing children for the next step in their education, and ultimately adulthood, has always been a challenge. We recognise that the children we teach today are very different to the generation of children in the 1970s and 1980s, of which many of our staff members can relate to.

This year our school marks the 30th anniversary of the 'new' school building, built in 1989 to replace the old Victorian buildings which once stood on what is now our playground. So, as we rummage through the photo albums, just how was being a child back then so different to today? And how do we as a school respond and adapt to the pupils we teach today and future generations, to ensure they continue to have hope and aspiration for the future?

First of all, we need to recognise the

difference and begin to unpick some of the challenges. For example, it's not uncommon for children to find it difficult to cope when things go wrong. It's equally not unusual for children to feel the weight upon their shoulders when things are unsettled in their lives. In order to inspire hope and aspiration, we need to ensure that they have the emotional resilience to cope with varied challenges, finding it in themselves to make positive and wise choices moving forward.

Since September of this year we have taken two significant steps in our school that may potentially support pupils in their journey to become 'emotionally resilient' as children and adults.

Like any Church of England school, ensuring that our school has a clear, Christian vision, backed up by strong and relevant values, is vital. In reviewing our vision and values this year, taking into account the views of all of our school community, we clearly identified the continued need for independence and

resilience but combined with ensuring we create the right environment for our pupils to thrive. A school that is 'happy, nurturing and inspiring', will lay the perfect foundation from which to build. Ensuring we continue to nurture relationships between home and school and develop the 'family', will equally support this aim.

Like many schools in Norfolk, adopting the PATHs programme has given a much needed structure to the way we teach and support pupils from a social and emotional perspective. We began the programme in September and we are already seeing a positive impact in the way children manage their own feelings, as well as embedding an even greater positive culture with aspects such as the privileges and compliments.

And the next step? Well, to review and redevelop our curriculum to ensure that what we teach our children impacts positively upon their hopes and aspirations for the future.



Celebrating the talents of our pupils at **THE ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW** **26 & 27 JUNE 2019**

Do you have a school choir, budding musicians, dancers or performers? If this is the case, OUR stage needs you!

This is a chance to perform in front of many and showcase your school at the same time. And it's all free!

Each year the Diocese of Norwich has a significant presence at the Royal Norfolk Show highlighting the work of the church serving communities across our county through churches, schools and academies. The marquee will be buzzing with activities for people of all ages and

once again, we are offering schools the opportunity to perform on our stage.

Representatives from our education team will also be at the Show. As many of you will be aware, the Royal Norfolk Show offers a fantastic day out for schools with an array of educational opportunities. Children, teachers and helpers are entitled to free entry to the show if booked in advance.

Please see the following link for more information: www.royalnorfolkshow.rnaa.org.uk/schools/tickets/



To book a slot for your school to perform or for more information please contact Angela George
angela.george@dioceseofnorwich.org
01603 881724

Governor & Clerk update



Jill Wakefield

The Governors' Role in Educating for Hope and Aspiration

With the changes to the SIAMS framework, no doubt governing boards have been involved in contributing to the new Self Evaluation Form (SEF) and will have revisited the school's vision. Strand 3 of the SIAMS self evaluation states that the Christian vision should support "pupils' character and moral development, giving them aspiration for themselves and hope for the communities of which they are a part". When you were considering this element of your school's vision, did you think about what your school is doing in terms of careers education?

Even at primary phase, we should be opening our children's eyes to the myriad of different careers open to

them, regardless of their academic ability. Re-reading that sentence, perhaps it should start with 'Especially at primary phase' as inspiring our children at an early stage will give them more impetus to develop themselves to allow them to follow their dreams for the future. The National Governance Association's *Annual School Governance Survey 2018* found that almost half of primary schools offer no form of careers education. This is despite research by the Department for Education which found that children who participated in career-related learning had an improved understanding about the types of work and the pathways that could be followed to get there. It also found some evidence that pupils were more confident about their ability to achieve their aspirations. Research has also found that four-year-olds show a strong gender bias in their thinking about jobs, with boys tending to express interest in typically male occupations and girls in typically female occupations.

There is no statutory duty on primary schools to deliver career guidance, but this doesn't mean that they should do nothing. Many primary schools already

cover careers, for example by encouraging local employers to work with pupils to provide an insight into the world of work. It is not always the case, however, that teachers draw out and individualise the career learning that takes place through these activities. Because of this, opportunities can be missed to reinforce positive messages about children's future roles as citizens, employers and employees. As governors, you may wish to ask questions around this topic, such as:

- How does our school provide opportunities to our pupils to learn about the world of work and careers?
- How does our school address issues of unconscious bias?

The Wellcome Foundation has an online resource called Questions for Governors – this contains a section on Careers at primary phase and includes a list of resources to support programmes of career guidance in primary schools (www.questionsforgovernors.co.uk/primary/science-and-maths/careers).

Jill Wakefield can be contacted by email: school.governance@dioceseofnorwich.org or call 01603 881722

Welcome

April 2019, Holly Marchand – Earsham VA Primary & Dawn Read – Ellingham and Woodton Federation