

# Footprints

Step-by-step together

Your newsletter from the Diocesan Board of Education

June 2020



**Paul Dunning**  
Diocesan Director of Education

## Student Leadership

**We all have different views and experiences when it comes to leadership. We intrinsically know it is important and we can usually recognise when we see good leadership. That is why developing the leadership potential of children and young people is a central part of what schools do.**

Schools see age as no barrier to

leadership, something many other areas of society should, and are, learning from! The Bible also has examples of God choosing and inspiring younger people to do great things; think of King David for example, thrust into leadership in his 20s. But there were also some very young kings and Josiah was only eight years old when he became king. He reigned for 31 years and made a positive impact as the Bible records; 'He lived the way God wanted. He kept straight on the path blazed by his ancestor David, not one step to either left or right' (2 Kings 22:2, The Message). However, other examples in the Bible and in life show that young people can get it wrong, hence it is vital they have good adult support and guidance as they develop as leaders.

To further support young leaders, we have offered funding towards half the cost of schools introducing the Archbishop of York's Young Leaders' Award ([www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/young-leaders-award](http://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/young-leaders-award)). We sent out details in January as to how to apply and have had eight schools take up the offer. Whilst the lockdown has paused this work there is still funding available so do look at this again and get in touch with Jon Moule if interested.

As someone who spent most of their teaching career in the post-16 college sector I have been amazed at the confidence and passion shown by pupils in primary and secondary schools. There are some superb examples in this edition of Footprints, and I know there are plenty more out there. We'd love to run another edition on this theme so let us know your good practice.

Finally, can I pay my own tribute to David Saunders (see page 3). David has been a wonderful leader, and faithful and successful servant in the Diocesan education world for many years! We are going to miss him now he is fully retiring. I wish him and his family God's blessing.

LISTEN

CELEBRATE

IMAGINE

EMPOWER

...MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE

## Students in Westminster

### Year 11 Senior Student Leadership Team ASHS

On 6th February, ourselves (the Senior Student Leadership Team from Archbishop Sancroft) and a few students from Open Academy in Norwich attended the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership Conference at Central Hall, Westminster. United by our faith and leadership potential, we arrived excited about the action-packed day that was to follow. The event started with a lively performance from iSingPOP, an initiative set up in church schools across the country, to teach children about the core Christian values through the power of music. Soon after, we witnessed an array of inspiring, eye-opening keynote speeches by various professionals in their area, including Mary Myatt who talked about the fundamental materials that students should be receiving in school to best enrich their learning, and



Dr Paula Gooder who talked about how we as people all have a vocation because we are alive. Her excellent speech begged the question: how is God calling us?

After the inspirational speeches we heard collectively, the student leaders separated into our tailored sessions away from the adults. These different activities allowed us as young people to broaden our knowledge of what it takes to become an effective leader in today's society. We discussed the different traits we admire in leaders and how, through the Bible, we are taught about

the qualities a good leader possesses. Through conversation we compared our own role models to ourselves and discovered that we are similar in our beliefs and passion for change. From going to the Church of England National Headteachers conference we learnt that we are part of a generation who need to make a change and that we are the most important factor for the future of the world. The power is in our hands, and so we need to make the world a better, more sustainable place to live in so that we, as well as our future generations, can thrive.

## Students in Westminster

### Year 11 students Open Academy

On Thursday 6th February three Open Academy student leaders went to London to a young people's leadership conference with students from ASHS. The whole experience was very enjoyable. It started off with the iSingPOP children's choir singing to us, which was fantastic; it was great to see young children singing such meaningful songs. After this we heard some speakers who were very inspiring and had lots of great things to say. We then moved to workshops. The first one we went to was about what we can do as young people and how we can be

influential. The second one was about climate change and how as young people we can inspire others to help stop the world from going further downhill. Our last workshop was about communication and how to make ourselves seem more confident when we talk. We reflected that the third workshop was best:

- 'It really made me think about my posture and faith when I speak. I also liked hearing everything from the Bible and the things that happened in Jesus's life'
- 'It helped me to develop my conversational skills'
- 'Very helpful for learning how to communicate and make the other person feel comfortable'
- 'We learned to not let our anger get the better of us and how to deal with



situations in the right way!

Overall, we really enjoyed the whole experience and would definitely recommend it to other students. It was a brilliant day and great making new friends from ASHS and connecting with people from across the country.

## RE Ambassadors... and some Middleton CofE Primary Academy

### Lee Stevens Diocesan School Support Officer (DSSO)

I was recently invited to meet with the RE Ambassadors at Middleton Church of England Primary Academy, a meeting that left me with some indelible memories of children speaking with enthusiasm about the impact of Religious Education and collective worship on their quality of life. The role of RE Ambassador has only recently been introduced; my meeting

with them was their first "interview" and I am happy to confirm that they passed with flying colours. Amongst the things they were keen to tell me about was their involvement in planning and providing collective worship for the school community. The Year 3 and 4 Ambassadors have fed back to their teacher about their learning in RE and all the Ambassadors were very clear that the Christian values underpinning the life of the school have had a very positive impact on behaviour at the school.

I was impressed with the Ambassador's respect for each other, particularly their

willingness to listen to each other. There were some quite intense discussions around, for example, whether or not there was a difference between prayer and reflection and although there was no definite conclusion, there was a tangible sense of the pupils trying to come to terms with a challenging issue.

Given that these Ambassadors were relatively new to their role, they were positive advocates for learning and life in a Church of England academy. I very much hope that I will have the opportunity to meet them again in a year's time to find out how their role has developed.

**Dawn Read**  
**Headteacher**  
**Ellingham VC Primary and**  
**Woodton Primary Schools**

At Ellingham VC Primary, we aim to engender a passion for the natural world and preserving our planet. This, linked to the fact that we also endeavour to make our children as autonomous as possible, has resulted in an Eco Committee that has the drive and desire to make the world a better place. The Eco Committee is so successful that we have recently been awarded our fourth 'Green Flag' and have been winners (2019) and runners-up (2020) in the Norfolk Eco School awards.

Our committee (with members from Y1 to Y6) meet monthly; they add and discuss points on the agenda and put forward ideas. Olive, our Y6 secretary takes minutes, writes letters and is fundamental in organising us!

Each committee member is part of a team covering 10 different areas: Water, Litter, Global Citizenship, Biodiversity, Waste, Healthy Eating, School Grounds, Transport, Energy and Marine. The children take their role on the committee very seriously and can often be heard reminding fellow students and teachers to turn off the lights or taps and to use the bins correctly! They record, collate

and share information with the whole school during assemblies and through the school newsletter.

For many years we have sponsored a child in Togo, and the children take on the responsibility of raising the funds to help pay for his education.

Our particular focus at present is plastic pollution; the children have really taken the lead in spreading the word at every given opportunity. They have decorated a marine-themed Christmas Tree for a local festival, with decorations made solely from recycled plastics to highlight the impact of plastic pollution on the environment. During an 'Under the Sea' themed World Book Day, where we were visited by Bishop Graham, the committee shared their knowledge of plastic pollution with others in the school, and the choir gave a beautiful rendition of our school eco song; I am the Earth.

Our eco work has been extended into the community by carrying out beach and village litter picks and encouraging local residents – through a leaflet drop - to make Eco- bricks, (plastic bottles filled with plastic waste,) which we are currently using to construct a raised bed, to grow our vegetables.

We are incredibly proud of our eco committee; they truly are eco ambassadors, determined to save the planet!



## Heartfelt thanks!



**David Saunders**  
**DSSO**

The Diocese is proud of the Diocesan School Support Officer (DSSO) role it has provided to support headteacher wellbeing since 2008. One of those first recruited was David Saunders and after 12 years he has decided to retire. He will be sorely missed by us all and particularly those schools where he has been DSSO. Here are just a few quotes from his colleagues saying farewell:

- I consider myself very lucky to have had you as my DSSO for 7 years. I

always look forward to your visits and feel supported and encouraged by your words. You've proved to be a great listener and give me such a lift with your warmth, understanding and humour.

- It has been an absolute pleasure working with you, I am going to miss you greatly and so will all the headteachers you have supported. You have shown me such compassion at times, and I am eternally grateful.
- Your professional credibility, approachability, calmness and good grace in every interaction has been highly valued by recipient headteachers over many years. You have undoubtedly had more influence than you will ever know and will be sorely missed.
- From my first meeting with you when you took me round your school to help me prepare for my first SIAMS, to the time I have worked alongside

you as a DSSO, I have so appreciated your caring, thoughtful and totally professional approach to everything you do.

- You and I were part of the original DSSO team set up by Andy. Thank you so much for being a friend and a supportive colleague throughout all this time. I shall miss you and I pray that in the coming weeks, months and years as Mother Julian said, that all shall be well.

It is clear David has made a huge impact across the Diocese and Norfolk's school system as teacher, Headteacher and DSSO. He has modelled all that is special about church schools and contributed to the flourishing of children and adults enabling them to further experience the 'life in all its fullness' that Jesus spoke of in John's gospel. We wish him and his family God's blessing and peace.

## Governance during Coronavirus



**Jill Wakefield**  
Head of Governance  
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At the time of writing, it seems that social distancing will remain in force for some time yet, so we continue to be unable to hold face to face meetings or visit our schools to carry out monitoring. However, there are still lots of activities which governors can undertake.

**1. Keep informed.** It is important that governors keep themselves informed about what is happening in their school. The Chair of Governors should be in weekly contact with the Headteacher and can pass information to the rest of the Governing Board. Most schools in Norfolk use GovernorHub and this is an ideal platform to enable the sharing of information in a secure way. Use the Noticeboard to relay information to maintain transparency and clear evidence that governance has continued, albeit in a rather

different way. You can either write directly on the Noticeboard or create a Coronavirus Updates folder on your Documents page, and use this for any communication, then notify governors via a link from the Noticeboard. I expect a supportive message back to the school from other governors would be much appreciated.

**2. Hold a virtual meeting.** As we are working in very different circumstances, the usual type of agenda is not appropriate so instead create an agenda that focuses on priorities and doesn't create extra work for the headteacher:

- Verbal report from Headteacher on provision of education to children of key workers, vulnerable children, children with EHCP plan, home schooling
- Wellbeing, mental health and resilience (how staff, pupil, families are managing/ mental health and wellbeing strategies/ bereavement support)
- Plans/progress for wider opening of school
- Safeguarding (impact of current operating practices within/outside of school)

Try to keep the meeting to about an hour as that tends to be most people's limit for concentration in an external meeting. Remember that the meeting must be minuted.

**3. Monitoring.** Whilst governors cannot visit schools in person it is possible to do some remote monitoring on Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Website Compliance.

**4. Professional Development.** The DfE tweeted recently that "For those that have the time, learning can benefit personal wellbeing, improving self-esteem and giving a sense of purpose and control". There is lots of free online training and webinars available to governors at the moment. Remember to update your training profile on GovernorHub with any training you undertake.

**5. Have a look on GIAS (Get Information About Schools).** It is important to ensure that information about your school is correct. It's worth checking your information on the system. If it needs changing then ask your Headteacher to arrange for it to be updated. <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/>

I recently came across the following lines from the 14th century Persian poet, Hafiz. A little bit of encouragement for all of us:

*I wish I could show you,  
When you are lonely or in darkness,  
The astonishing Light  
Of your own Being!*

### Welcome

#### Headteachers

**Maureen Burns (interim)**  
Garboldisham VC Primary

**Emily McMillen (interim)**  
Swaffham VC Infant & Nursery

### Farewell and thanks

#### Headteachers

**Suzanne Halliwell**  
Garboldisham VC Primary

### Date for your diary

#### Headteachers' Conference

Tuesday 27 April 2021, 9am - 4pm  
at Norwich Cathedral



### Promote your local church groups & activities

**Bright Map** is an online map where visitors can search for community groups and activities near to where they live, many run or supported by local churches. Add your church groups and activities to the map for free at [www.brightmap.org](http://www.brightmap.org)