

Tuesday 26 May 2020

COVID-19: LDBE Senior Leaders and Clergy Update

Dear Colleagues,

We need to update you as schools consider and plan for the return of some students from the 1 June. The challenges you have faced are unprecedented and the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education continue to thank you for your commitment and bravery during the period of lockdown. The creative ways in which you have cared for and educated our youngsters has ensured that students stay safe, continue to learn and receive pastoral and spiritual care.

We would also like to pay a heartfelt thanks to all our clergy and chaplains who have also offered creative and engaging ways to come together in worship. We thank you also for the continued pastoral and spiritual support you have offered our school and communities over the recent weeks.

We would like to highlight two statements which relate to the re-opening of schools for some students. The Church of England Education Office has released a statement from our Chief Education Officer, Nigel Genders. The Association of Diocesan Directors of Education, (AADE), has also carefully considered the needs of our schools, not only in the Diocese of Lichfield but across the whole country. A number of Diocesan Directors have offered a statement for schools.

At this point in time, schools and communities face yet more anxiety as we embark together on not just the partial re-opening of schools, but also on the return of some of our community to places of work. We encourage all our clergy, chaplains and school leaders to work together to support the next phase of transition.

The DBE Team have been working with Louise Bomber to deliver online lectures for schools. The schools which have accessed this have found the lectures extremely supportive in these unprecedented times. We encourage all of you, whether you are school leaders, clergy or chaplains to engage with this. Alex Wolvers and Matthew Welton will be sending out information on how to access this early next week.



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We encourage you also to keep looking at our website which is being constantly updated with resources to help schools as well as celebrating some of the positive stories which are coming out during lockdown.

www.ldbe.co.uk

We encourage you to contact the DBE Team with any questions or concerns. Below are the contact details of the team who are currently working. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require support.

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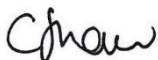
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Thank you again for all that you are doing for our schools and their communities. We hold you all in our prayers.

***"For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11***

Blessings,



Claire Shaw
Diocesan Director of Education



Rt Revd. Dr Michael Ipgrave
Bishop of Lichfield



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