



9 January 2012

To All Diocesan Headteachers

Dear Colleague

May I begin by wishing you and all members of your school community a very Happy New Year.

I would like to bring the following to your attention:

### **STAFFING**

We are pleased to welcome Deborah Fox as she commences her appointment as Deputy Director. Deborah joins us after nine very successful years as Headteacher of St Alban's, Pelaw. I know that she is planning to meet with you and visit you in your school over the coming weeks and months.

At the same time as welcoming Deborah we must say farewell to Christine Taylor. After a distinguished career in Diocesan schools, including two headships spanning 26 years, Christine joined the Education Service in 2007. She has overseen admissions, governor training, succession planning and National College liaison. Her expertise and depth of experience have been great assets that we have been able to call upon to the benefit of our schools. We thank her for all that she has given to the diocese and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Please find enclosed a letter from Sr Sheila McNamara.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations must go to John Waugh, Chair of Governors at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw and St Robert of Newminster School, Washington, who was awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours list. John's award is for services to Catholic Education and is well deserved.

### **CAPITAL FUNDING**

Thank you to all who submitted bids for capital funding towards the end of last term. You will not be surprised to learn that if we were to authorise all of the projects we would need funding far in excess of what we have been allocated. Eileen Morrison and I will be evaluating the bids and will be contacting schools later on this term.

### **CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE CENSUS**

The 2012 Census will commence immediately after the DfE Census which this year falls on 19 January. Schools are expected to complete their Census returns as soon after these dates as possible. However, as with previous years, if schools need to contact the CESEW helpdesk for assistance there are five support periods allocated to groups of dioceses. The support period for the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle is Monday 6 February to Friday 10 February.

### **CESEW Census Website**

The CESEW has launched a dedicated Census website which can be found at <https://www.cesewcensus.org.uk>. The main features of the website are:

- Census guidance documentation and 'frequently asked questions', reproduced online and also available for downloading in Word format;
- File upload form. This replaces the FilesAnywhere facility which was used in previous years;
- Support page containing contact information.

Your support in this is greatly appreciated.

### COME AND SEE TRAINING

Training sessions on the new 'Come and See' Primary RE Programme, which replaces 'Here I Am' from September 2012, will take place as follows:

DATE	VENUE	COURSE CODE
Tuesday 12 June	St Mary's Catholic School, Newcastle	30/12
Wednesday 13 June	St Benet Biscop, Bedlington	31/12
Tuesday 19 June	The Durham Centre, Belmont	32/12
Monday 25 June	Cardinal Hume School, Gateshead	33/12
Wednesday 4 July	St Robert of Newminster School, Washington	34/12
Monday 9 July	The English Martyrs School, Hartlepool	35/12

All meetings will run from 4.15pm – 6.15pm and all staff are expected to attend.

Please email us at [office@edurcdhn.org.uk](mailto:office@edurcdhn.org.uk) with your school name, venue and numbers attending the training.

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. This training is free of charge.

### RE COORDINATOR TRAINING- SUMMER TERM CHANGES

The above training has impacted on the RE Coordinator meetings in June. There will be no morning meeting now for RE Coordinators and the moderation meetings now take place from 1.15pm to 3.30pm as follows:

DATE	VENUE	COURSE CODE
Tuesday 12 June	St Cuthbert's House, Newcastle	14/12
Wednesday 13 June	St Benet Biscop, Bedlington	15/12
Tuesday 19 June	The Durham Centre, Belmont	16/12
Wednesday 20 June	St Bede's Primary, Jarrow	17/12
Monday 9 July*	English Martyrs, Hartlepool	18/12

\* amended date

Please advise your Coordinator of the changes.

### EDUCATION SUNDAY

This will be celebrated on 5 February 2012. Please encourage your parish to mark Education Sunday by celebrating one of their Sunday Masses for their local Catholic school(s) and to extend a special invitation to the governors, staff and pupils to attend Mass.

The CES are preparing a number of resources, including homily notes and suggested intercessions, which will circulate shortly.

### HEADTEACHERS CONFERENCE

Last year's November conference 'Growing a Spiritual Community' in the Hilton Hotel, Gateshead proved to be a great success attracting 200 participants. Thank you to all who supported it and provided such positive evaluations. Planning for November 2012 has already commenced. I can confirm that the conference will run from 4pm on Tuesday 13 to 4pm on Wednesday 14 November 2012. The venue will once again be The Hilton Hotel, Gateshead. Further details will follow in due course.

### **CHAIR OF GOVERNOR CHANGES**

Please remember to advise us if your Chair of Governors change and let us have their email address if they have one.

### **MOSQUE VISIT**

The venue for the Mosque visit on 6 March has been confirmed as the Newcastle University Mosque in King George VI Buildings, King Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RYU.

### **SPIRITUALITY NEWSLETTER**

Please find enclosed a copy of Kathryn Turner's monthly newsletter, 'The Weavings'. Further copies can be printed from our website.

### **UK SCHOOL WEEKS IN TAIZÉ**

The Taizé Community, in Burgundy, south eastern France welcomes about 80,000 young people each year to participate in its international meetings. In 2012 two weeks have been designated as UK School Weeks: 1-8 and 8-15 July. For these weeks school and college groups including Year 10 - Year 13 students are especially invited.

There is information about the Taizé School Weeks at: [www.taize.fr/schools](http://www.taize.fr/schools) including information for teachers and group leaders, multimedia presentations and personal accounts of students' experiences in Taizé. Last term, two volunteers from Taizé visited schools around the country and demand for the visits has been so great that a further pair of long-term volunteers from Taizé will be visiting UK schools from 26 February to 17 March 2012. To request a school visit, contact UK Coordinator Jane Shields: [jane@laloge.co.uk](mailto:jane@laloge.co.uk) or 01924 377921. For enquiries about Taizé School Weeks, contact Brother Paolo: [brpaolo@taize.fr](mailto:brpaolo@taize.fr)

### **ST JOSEPH'S, HARTLEPOOL**

St Joseph's would be very grateful if anyone could lend them costumes suitable for St. Hilda, a bishop, six monks and six nuns. Please contact the school directly on 01429 272747 if you can help.

### **ROCK UK ADVENTURE CENTRES**

Rock UK Adventure Centres is a long established Christian charity providing exciting outdoor adventures at 4 centres throughout the UK. Their residential and non-residential programmes for schools are designed to help and encourage children and young people get a better understanding of the outdoors and discover more about themselves. For more information please visit their website [www.rockuk.org](http://www.rockuk.org)

## **COURSES**

### **THE NORTHERN SAINTS – KINDLING THE FLAME OF LEARNING IN THE DARK AGES**

*Thursday 26 January 2012, 9.30am – 3.30pm*

The spirituality of the Northern Saints was characterised by their deep love of God and passion for learning, particularly in their study of the Scriptures. In this session, we will explore this inheritance and take time for personal reflection on what this legacy means for us and those in our schools today. Please see website for more information.

### **DEVELOPING TEACHERS KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS (KS2) – EUCHARIST & RECONCILIATION**

*Tuesday 31 January 2012, 9.30am – 3.30pm*

This session is for all primary and middle school RE teachers. The aim is to explore creative teaching and learning strategies to ensure progression across Key Stage 2. Please complete a booking form to reserve a place.

### **ASPIRING PRIMARY HEADTEACHERS**

*Wednesday 8 February 2012, 9.30am – 3.30pm*

This day, for deputy and assistant headteachers, is designed to support those specifically interested in headship. Please encourage your deputy to attend. For further information see enclosed leaflet.

**FOUNDATION STAGE TRAINING**

*Monday 20 February 2012, 1.30pm – 3.30pm*

This afternoon is for all Foundation Stage teachers. To book please email us at [office@edurcdhn.org.uk](mailto:office@edurcdhn.org.uk).

**RE COORDINATORS CONFERENCE**

*Tuesday 28 February 2012, 9.30am – 3.30pm*

This year's conference is being led by Sr Angela Grant. Further information and a booking form is attached. Please encourage your RE Coordinator to attend.

**ASPIRING PRIMARY DEPUTY HEADTEACHERS**

*Wednesday 7 March 2012, 9.30am – 3.30pm*

This day, for teachers specifically interested in deputy headship, is designed to support participants in identifying and addressing their leadership leaning needs with regards to Catholic education. Please encourage attendance. For further information see enclosed leaflet.

**DRAWING ON THE LEGACY OF THE NORTHERN SAINTS**

*Thursday 8 March 2012, 9.30am – 3.30pm*

A day to look at ways in which we can draw on our spiritual heritage to enrich the experiences of staff and students in our schools. Among other things, we will use ancient Celtic/ Anglo-Saxon texts and themes and some of the contemporary works inspired by them; reflect on the Saints' love and sense of connection with the natural world and their reverence for the Word of God. This is a more practical session building on the reflections of Day One on 26 January. Please see website for more information.

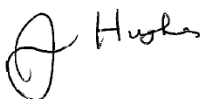
**DEPUTY/ASSISTANT HEADTEACHERS CONFERENCE**

*Thursday 22 March 2012, 9.30am – 3.30pm*

This annual conference is a day of reflection based around the distinctive Catholic aspects of a deputy/assistant headteacher role. Please see booklet for further information.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely



Joe Hughes  
Director

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