

Important Diocesan Education Team Update #6, Thurs 9 April 2020

Dear colleagues,

As we approach what would have ordinarily have been Bank Holidays for Good Friday and the Easter weekend, we are looking forward to joining with you in prayer at 11am as we remember each other and all of our colleagues in education across Dudley and Worcestershire. These are extraordinary times and your actions, dedication, compassion and courage are also extraordinary. Thank you.

Info about the **New Worcestershire RE Agreed Syllabus**, received from the SACRE:

- *Worcestershire SACRE has decided to postpone the launch conference for the new RE Agreed Syllabus to the autumn, but RE Today will make the syllabus and some accompanying resources available from 1 June, along with a webinar recording that takes teachers through the syllabus, how it works, how to use it for planning, how it fits Ofsted's impact, implementation etc. to enable you to begin planning. If this is ready earlier, RE Today will let us know and we will pass any information to you for dissemination to RE Leads.*
- I know that several people have asked us for an update and I hope that this helps to reassure any who are hoping to make use of this time to get ahead with planning.

Please do make sure that you have some time to rest over Easter. As you care for the children who are still coming to school and put together rotas to ensure that your members of staff are not unduly overworked, take time for yourself, to recharge your batteries and make sure that you have what you need to keep going over the coming weeks and months.

Although the current reality is harsh and indiscriminate in its harm, I am reminded of the psalmists words in Psalm 121:

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.*

Even as we face fear, grief and loss we are able to turn to the never-changing God for comfort and refuge. My prayer is that you will find in Him what you need.

With best wishes,



Dr Margaret James, DDE