



25th March 2020

Edition 1

Welcome to this weeks' edition of **Flame** our Virtual Religious Education and Spirituality newsletter. This will be the main way the Advisory Team at the Education Commission will communicate with RE subject leads during this exceptional time. As always your feedback and input is important so if there is anything you would like to see please let us know.

When the storms arise, bestow Your tranquillity and peace upon me so that I may not be moved. Work from within me, Lord to bring a revival into my Life. When I feel broken Lord, transform my spirit so I can emerge whole again. And, as I pray Lord, use me daily as Your vessel. Amen. (Anon)

Commission News

As of Monday 23rd March 2020, the Advisory team will be available to support schools remotely as we will be unable to carry out visits. You may contact us via email and our work mobiles (number in the footer of our emails).

Words of faith and encouragement for Archbishop John Wilson

Archbishop John has recorded several messages which are all available on YouTube and can be accessed via <http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/> . The website also contains all Pastoral Letters, updates and links for parishes which are livestreaming Mass and liturgies.

Archbishop John has recorded a special message for those working in our schools. There is also a link to this message on our website <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/>. Please share the Archbishop's message with others at your schools. (Headteachers should have received the link separately.)

News from the Catholic Education Service (CES)

<https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/>

Bishop Marcus Stock has written a letter addressed to all involved in Catholic education, including parents, please share with your staff and parents. They also have some good Lent resources on their site.

Mental Health in the time of Covid-19

Mentally Healthy Schools have a variety of free to use resources for schools, parent and young people on how to cope in the coming weeks.

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk>



GCSE & A Level awarding 'calculated grades'

No further details are yet available from the exam boards about what they will require as evidence for the awarding of 'calculated grades' for yr 11 and yr 13 pupils. The most recent post on the DfE website was a FAQ document on Friday 20th March.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

The main points can be summarised as follow:

- Regulators will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible and will work with exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.
- Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.
- To produce this, teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. **Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges soon.**
- Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.
- Regulators and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising the approach, to ensure that it's as fair as possible. **More information will be provided as soon as possible.**
- The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
- In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.
- The aim is to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students aren't disadvantaged.
- Students will be able to appeal their grades if they don't believe the right process has been followed.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to. Students may also choose to sit exams next summer

Each of the exam boards have issued a holding statement based on the DfE statement. The indications are that they will contact schools in April with the details they need to start the awarding process.

We don't get copied into communications from exam boards to schools. We would ask Heads of RE to let Patrick Harrison know when information about gathering evidence is sent.



Message from the Catholic Children's Society :

<https://www.cathchild.org.uk/resources/lenten-appeal-2020/>

The Good Samaritan Mass due to be held on 21st April 2020 in St George's Cathedral has been cancelled. The Catholic Children's Society Southwark Crisis Fund are continuing to work in many ways to support the most vulnerable children in our diocese throughout the current pandemic measures.

Please see the following letter sent by Greg Brister, Deputy CEO explain the decision to continue to support families but not through the provision of food parcels. It was sent to Headteachers late last week.

I'm very sorry, but following the government announced on Wednesday evening (that when schools close funding will be made available to help pupils entitled to free school meals) we are no longer processing new applications to help with foods costs. We're also conscious that there is likely to be considerable demand on our Southwark Crisis Fund over the coming months so we are trying to be careful not to exhaust this resource.

Our understanding is that the government will reimburse schools for any costs they incur supporting pupils with food costs if they are entitled to free school meals (see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>). So I hope this provides some help for your families.

I hope you appreciate why we have had to make this difficult decision. Please be assured that our standard Southwark Crisis Fund continues to operate and can be accessed as normal to support specific families facing exceptional difficulties.

Best wishes,

Greg

Greg Brister

Deputy CEO

Catholic Children's Society

Message from Missio

The Good Shepherd Liturgy 20th May 2020 and Coronavirus

After much discussion and in line with existing guidance from the UK government, Missio have made the decision to cancel this year's Good Shepherd Liturgy which was due to take place at Aylesford Priory on 20th May. The Education Commission fully supports this decision.

Missio is grateful to you and your school communities for the generous support of Mission Together and for everything you do to encourage your pupils to be 'Children helping Children'. Now, in particular, the world needs our children's prayers. Please continue to encourage your pupils to include the Mission Together Prayer as part of their daily prayer life.

The website <https://missiontogether.org.uk/> has a wonderful selection of activities for children to do at home with their families. Keep in touch with the Missio family: Join us on Facebook and Twitter. Thank you for everything you are doing to help children here and overseas

Flame Newsletter



Resources

Please see these resources which can be used as guides for parents/carers or to create your own virtual lessons.

When I can't get to Church: The Salesians (Order of John Bosco) have created a wonderful liturgy resource which can be used by families or individuals who are unable to celebrate Mass. <https://www.salesians.org.uk/news-articles/featured-news/when-i-cant-get-to-church.html>

All of these sites regularly update their resources and include activities for all phases.

'Come and See' and 'They Way, the Truth and the Life'

The online resources for both schemes are available as they always have been. Please download and adapt to the needs of your pupils. Do not send parents directly to the sites and please do not share your passwords with them.

Ten: Ten Free Prayer Resources

After consulting with their subscribers, Ten:Ten have been able to make available daily Acts of Collective Worship which can be used by parents and caregivers in the home.

All teachers can sign up for free and will be given access to the resources. As with the Come and See, please don't share your password with parents/caregivers. The PowerPoints and resources can be downloaded and sent out by teachers and chaplains or placed on learning platforms. There is also a Sunday Liturgy resource for parents and caregivers. This follows the order of the Sunday Mass leading to a 'Spiritual Communion'. These resources will be updated weekly. Prayers for Home link:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home>

Ten: Ten have also made extended their free trial period for the 'Life to the Full' programme for both primary and secondary schools. Their home learning platform for secondary will be launched Summer Term 2020 and is available to all schools who have subscribed.

NATRE: National Association for Teachers of Religious Education

There are resources for a great many world faiths including Christianity. They are not Catholic specific but still very valuable.

<http://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/>

CAFOD

There are free to download ideas for primary schools and secondary schools. CAFOD have indicated that they will update the materials weekly.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Resources-for-school-closures>

Aid to the Church in Need:

They have a large selection of resources which can be used in school and at home.

https://acnuk.org/resources/?filter_resource_category=255