**To           :              Headteachers; Chairs of Governors; Foundation Governors; Ex-officio clergy**

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               21st  October 2020**

**Re           :              Fortnightly email and resources from the Diocesan Education Team**

Dear colleagues

**Dead Poets' Society** - features high on the ranking of my top ten films. If you aren't familiar with the story of the inspirational , but somewhat unconventional teacher played by the talented and multi award-winning actor Robin Williams (no relation), I recommend it as a treat and escape during half-term!

I'm reminded of the film daily as there's a terracotta tile in our garden that my wife gave me with the iconic phrase from the film that greets me indiscriminately in the warmth of Summer, the dampness of Autumn, the frost of Winter and the new life of Spring. And when you have a dog, you have no choice but to, even if briefly, venture into one's garden several times a day out of necessity, regardless of the snow or torrential rain!

The quote ‘Carpe Diem’, from the Roman Poet Horace, became a commonly familiar and internationally-known Latin phrase as a result of the film.  During the darkest parts of Lockdown, many of us seriously reflected on our own mortality, but also re-assessed our priorities, and perhaps re-engaged with lost friends or distant family members. ‘Seize The Day’ was a real exhortation to me and remains so. Chatting with two friends who are a Classics/Latin Teacher and a Professor of Classics and Archaeology about my own Latin teacher, we pondered on perhaps something even more apt for our current times – which may be Carpe Horam (Seize the Hour) and Carpe Momentum (Seize the Moment). Flourishing while we can, and Living Life In All Its Fulness (Ten-Ten) – however restricted that may be currently - is a Biblical exhortation, which I offer you.

With one of my weekly emails during Lockdown I shared an activity that looked at photos during Lockdown of various exotic, farm, wild and domestic animals who took Carpe Diem to another level! You may recall the Puma wandering around Chile’s capital city Santiago, the herd of deer roaming around a housing estate in London and the birds that re-appeared in the changed crystal-clear waters of the usually dirty Venice canals (attached is the activity for children which I commend if you didn’t use it during Lockdown – ‘Standing Together for The Earth’).  My favourite was the online video of the sheep who really embraced Carpe Momentum, and were filmed enjoying a children’s playground in Monmouthshire, even pushing one another on the roundabout – enjoy again :  <https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2020-04-05/sheep-take-over-empty-children-s-playground-in-monmouthshire>

Thank you for all you have been doing during another challenging and often unpredictable half-term. Thanks you for making the most of the time you have with the pupils and students in our schools, and with one another. Have a well-deserved break, and if you have a spare afternoon or evening, why not watch Dead Poets’ Society.

**Carpe Diem** – **Carpe Horam** and **Carpe Momentum** to you all, that you may have a flourishing ten-ten life and a good half-term.

Best wishes and thanks for who you are and what you do.

**Jeff**

**Sally Taylor of BBC South** has kindly made an excellently-produced video of her reading ‘The Selfish Crocodile’ just for us! You can view the video here :  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjxmhpNrWYo&feature=youtu.be>  We have also created a Guided Reflection using this video for classroom engagement with this week’s bundle of resources for teachers (in the second email you receive)

**Free places are available:** 22nd October, 3:30 – 5:30 **Courageous Advocacy** How can we enable our pupils to become agents of change? How do we meet the SIAMS requirement for courageous advocacy? We’ll explore what good global learning looks like and how the Christian Aid Global Neighbours scheme can support this.  3rd or 5th November, 3:30 – 5:30 **Teaching Christmas: Beyond the glitter and tinsel** How can the Understanding Christianity resources help us explore the deeper themes of Christmas, such as the Incarnation and Jesus as the Messiah? Practical ideas for teaching about Christmas in a Covid-safe way. For Hampshire schools, this will be linked directly to the Living Difference 111 agreed syllabus. Please contact [Jane.kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:Jane.kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org)

**Anti-Bullying Week & Odd Sock Day (16-20 November)**:  Why not hold an odd sock day on Monday 16th to open up discussions about uniqueness and diversity. You can find out more on the [anti-bullying week website](https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week) and download the Odd Sock Day schools pack [here.](https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/odd-socks-day) It has lots of suggestions for helping children express their individuality and creative ideas such as  sock puppets and odd sock bunting. We have also created a **Guided Reflection using the book ‘Simon Sock’** which is in this week’s bundle of resources.

**Funds available to schools during the Pandemic :** The DfE has launched an initiative to help schools transition to remote learning platforms An industry coalition headed by Microsoft and its partners are to support the DfE providing remote e-learning platforms, devices and connectivity, for educational establishments across England.  Subject to eligibility, the scheme offers grants of up to £2,000 to schools to help fund the implementation of a ‘Digital Education Platform’.  If you are eligible, you will also receive 60 days free technical support from Stone.  You will be eligible if you do not have all your students provisioned into Microsoft Teams <https://covid19.thekeysupport.com/news/digital-education-platform-scheme/?marker=content-body>   Select Stoneas a partner from the drop down menu. **COVID Catch Up Premium – Devices available** [**https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-catch-up-premium**](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1kTMS8-0009pI-3V&i=57e1b682&c=w3AevR0lXWyPhgpF4RC-SurHA8e2sMedrEM-E6Op2TpT1ikKNZ6p3-TtPjeDmtrr8qihQSgXVUYndcc-mgmj-Y9gH_XKbELwe1TIJDDV7olqaOnwJAzFGemrmvQoKZBNDAmu_2GrGcj8_27oNzevqw0Nk9tiTNpJ4VFSZRcLWDve06ma9F9hVwuaSmGoIYVnrDwRu3b5c_BF8iU1L4DTX8chmIj1bTTMkQmvv6V3oje71eaJ8kUo7sF1KBBdf3PDNAcT_O_qsgXJqRFG6eJZmg)

**‘How we show love for the planet’ by Bethany Pennington, Year 6 pupil at Pilgrims Cross School** – this poem was sent to me recently, and we are keen to share it, so have created a Guided Reflection based on it (in this week’s Resources bundle). The Carpe Diem animals theme reappears here as well! Do send me any poems, art work or particularly special pieces of writing from children – we’d be delighted to generate class activities from them.

**SIAMS :** Planning and discussions continue nationally. There will be an announcement and further information, we anticipate before Christmas. I’ll update everyone when I can.

**Calendar of the Church Year** – please find attached the Autumn dates and references.

**Liverpool Hope University : Church School Governance Training Programme** – please see the attached flyer with significant savings for the first 40 applicants.

Best wishes

**Jeff**

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

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