**To           :              Headteachers, Chairs of Governors, Ex-Officio Governors, Foundation Governors**

**From     :               The Education Team**

**Date      :               8th January 2021**

**Re           :              Spring Term 2021**

The Education team would like to extend their New Year best wishes to everyone and we hope that you all managed to get a break and spend quality time with your families over the Christmas period. We are very much aware that this has been an incredibly challenging start to the new term for everyone who has responsibility for the education of children in our schools, but most particularly for our headteachers. Your work on navigating a way forward through so much rapid change in tier restrictions, and now a national lockdown, has been exceptional. We are immensely thankful and grateful that our diocesan schools are full of such dedicated professionals, committed to serving the children of their school communities in the best ways possible, despite the circumstances.

We have been pleased to receive positive feedback regarding the resources we sent out last term and further resources have been planned for this term. However, given there is another lockdown in place, and many children will be learning from home, resources will need to be tailored differently. With this in mind, we are keen to hear from those of you who would be happy to share their thoughts about further resources that we could usefully provide and for other ways in which the team could support our schools. We appreciate that time is at a premium but if you have any straightforward suggestions to share then we would be keen hear from you. In the first instance, could you email Richard Wharton who will coordinate – thank you.

We are continuing to receive enquiries about the likely timeframe for the resumption of SIAMS inspections. The requirement to have a section 48 inspection every five years remains disapplied and so SIAMS cannot restart until that disapplication is lifted by the DfE. This will most likely be when Ofsted restart inspections. However, the absolute earliest that this could happen would be the summer term.

In the meantime, please be assured of our prayers and support at this time.

The Education Team