



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of
Rochester

Board of Education

**Bishop's Officer & Director of
Education**

Rev Canon. John L. Smith, M.A.

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Our Ref: JLS/H/Director's letter

Your Ref:-

To Heads, Chairs, Incumbents, others

21 April 2010

Dear colleague,

Director's letter April 2010

Firstly, I hope I shall see you at my farewell service, 13 July in Rochester Cathedral at 3.00 pm (bunfight afterwards in the Diocesan Office, St Nicholas' Church).

Secondly, I am writing this while the government is in "purdah", by which they mean that they are not doing any governing during the election campaign. There is no point in trying to foresee what will happen, or what the policy of the next government will be. They all speak of the importance of education; but undoubtedly there will be a heap of difficult financial decisions to be made soon, and what the impact will be on schools no-one knows. For universities, it will be massive and very adverse.

What this means is that we will be forced back to first principles. Education is a social activity, in our case a Christian activity too, informed by human relationships and values. It centres around everyone involved learning about themselves, the world and each other. None of this is dependent on any particular setting: it is a human activity. I am confident that in all our schools internal relationships, the church, and all the different elements of the community are sufficiently strong to enable you to continue the excellent work which you are doing.

It has been a privilege to be Rochester Diocesan Director of Education, to work with you all, and to have had so many opportunities to be involved. Thank you for your contributions, and I wish you all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely,

John Smith

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