



During February we celebrate Education Sunday. It always falls on the 9th Sunday before Easter (3rd before Lent in the Common Worship lectionary) and it lays before us the absolute centrality of education in the life of the Church and the nurture of individual Christians.

This year we have a special reason to pray for the work of Education because we shall shortly be opening our new Church of England Secondary school in Magpie Hall Lane, Bromley Common. The vision of a Church school in Bromley has been around for some years now and it's taken a vast amount of work to get to this point. By the time you read this we shall have settled the name of the school (probably Bishop Justus, but it may change) and we shall have appointed the school's first Head teacher. Very soon the building will begin and in September the school will be open for business; sadly not in its own building, that will be delayed somewhat.

Our hope and our prayer is that this will be a school which offers an excellent secondary education in which every student will be inspired to reach out and to achieve the very best of which they are capable. Academic students will achieve high academic grades but those whose skills lie elsewhere will be equally valued. We hope to have a particular concern for students with additional educational

needs. All this will take place within a school that is based on Christian beliefs and Christian values.

That doesn't mean that it will be a narrow institution in which only Christian views will be welcome. On the contrary, Christians have always valued open and rigorous enquiry and a genuine search for truth. God is truth and, as Jesus promised us, the truth will set us free. Our school will affirm the faith of Christian students; it will value the insights of students of other faiths and to students and families of no faith it will offer Christian truth. All this will be seen to be done in the name of Christ

The journey to this point has been beset with problems and they're not over yet but it's a bright vision, and one that we shall realise come what may. Do please pray for the Governors as they get everything ready for the opening; pray for the Head and for the new staff who will be appointed; pray for those students who will be joining the school in September. Pray too that the remaining obstacles to the establishment of the school may come down, and above all pray that the school may genuinely serve God and his children.

Michael Camp

COMMON
GROUND

In this edition Michael Camp writes our leading article. It also appears in the magazines of Bromley Methodist Church & Bromley URC