



Dear all

I'm sure that you are all aware the scene in education has been changing very rapidly, but we seem to know what should be happening in rough outline on Monday morning. Schools are very worried about whether they will have enough staff to support the children of Key Workers, hand out Free School Meals for disadvantaged pupils and care for those on special educational and pastoral plans.

If you are receiving this email, then please could I ask you to read what some of the very real needs and opportunities for ministering to the young people of this part of Oxford are. If you think you can help in any way, then I urge to fill in the Google Doc Volunteer Form (link below), which will show availability and what you are prepared to offer over the next two weeks.

<https://forms.gle/6fftJBZ3QqRzBF77A>

Please think and pray about what you think you could offer; I have no doubt that offers of help will be very gratefully received by a very stretched school community.

Please could you also pass this email on to other churches/organisation/individuals who you think might be happy or open to help (bearing in mind that you should not volunteer if you are over 70, have an underlying health condition or self-isolating due to infection or possible contact with viral infection).

The various needs are articulated below, in more depth than in the online form:

1. The first and most immediate need requested from the Academy is **for around 10 volunteers every morning from 10.30am -12.30am**. The Academy expects to need help with the distribution of up to 300 grab and go lunch packets from 11.20a.m. - 12.10p.m. and will probably require a bit of help before and after in getting things ready. **Volunteers need to be DBS-ed (if at all possible) and they should bring their DBS number and some photo ID (driving license seems best, perhaps because it includes address)**. Geoff Bayliss, Vicar of Cowley, and I will be there making 10 in total. **We have enough volunteers for Monday 23rd March, but we have no idea about the rest of the week at this stage**
2. There has been a request for **Gardening equipment** on Tuesday onwards, as a key member of staff wants to start an allotment project. Items required are:
 - Seeds
 - Seed Potatoes
 - Compost
 - Seedlings
 - Gardening Equipment (Spades/trowels etc)
 - Trellises

- Pallets
- Picket – fencing
- Fence posts

These items should be brought either **directly to The Oxford Academy on Monday 23rd March at 10.30am** or can be brought to **Revd Geoff Bayliss's house (ADDRESS)** or mine **The Revd Charlie Kerr (31 Stone Meadow, Oxford , OX2 6TD – opposite the little playpark)** **before Tuesday morning**. Please note we will only be able to take a car load each, so please don't leave excessive amounts.

All equipment should be named and addressed if possible, so that we can return it to its rightful owners at the end. If there are no details we will assume that it is a gift.

3. There is a great deal of openness about **other initiatives that could take place during this time** in the school. A **Gospel Choir/Choir** workshop proposition was met with great enthusiasm, as was an idea of making **Junk Art/creating a Big Scale Art Project**, and I am also floating a **music/worship workshop** with one church too as a possible proposal. We are also considering whether to create a **Prayer Space**, as the Bespace equipment is suddenly now free.

If you have **any ideas or inspiration, if you have any time or skills to give**, if you are not self-isolating and are under 70, you do not have an underlying health condition, and particularly if you already have a DBS (but this might be surmountable) then please do feel free to suggest what these ideas are, and I can run them past the School Leadership at the beginning of next week.

Thank you in anticipation for any help that can be offered; The Oxford Academy is very grateful for your support at this difficult time.

Every blessing

The Revd Charlie Kerr and The Revd Geoff Bayliss