

# Peterborough Diocese PSN – December 2020

# Reflection

“You know the seasons – you are patient for things to change.”



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Patience can become our orientation in relationship with children and adults, and helps us to build compelling, attractive and reliable communities to which others are drawn. It often means endurance or perseverance, which can connote suffering or hanging in there. **Flourishing adults know that challenge is coming.** They are patient in it, holding one another to a clear vision, not swayed by short-term changes of policy or procedure. Even as the most terrifying storms will break, flourishing educators **have developed the wisdom to re-frame the storm.**





‘In a changing world, it is our **roots** that will ultimately define us.’



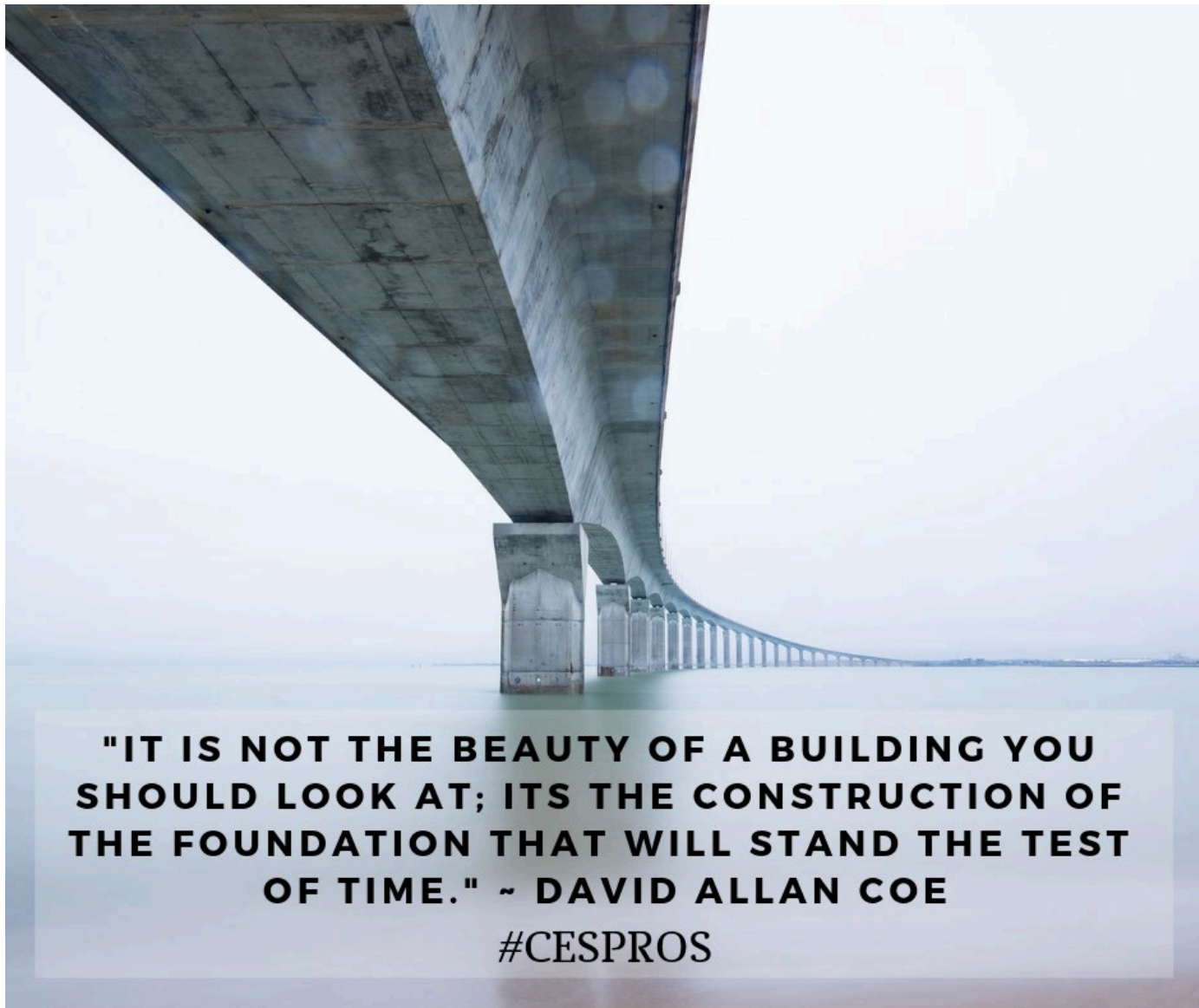
What do you consider to be your ‘roots’? How deep do they go?

“In a century threatened by nuclear warfare, environmental catastrophe and much else this can be an inspiration to give ourselves *together* as never before for the sake of ‘life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10).”

What opportunities have you had to work together? What difference has this made?





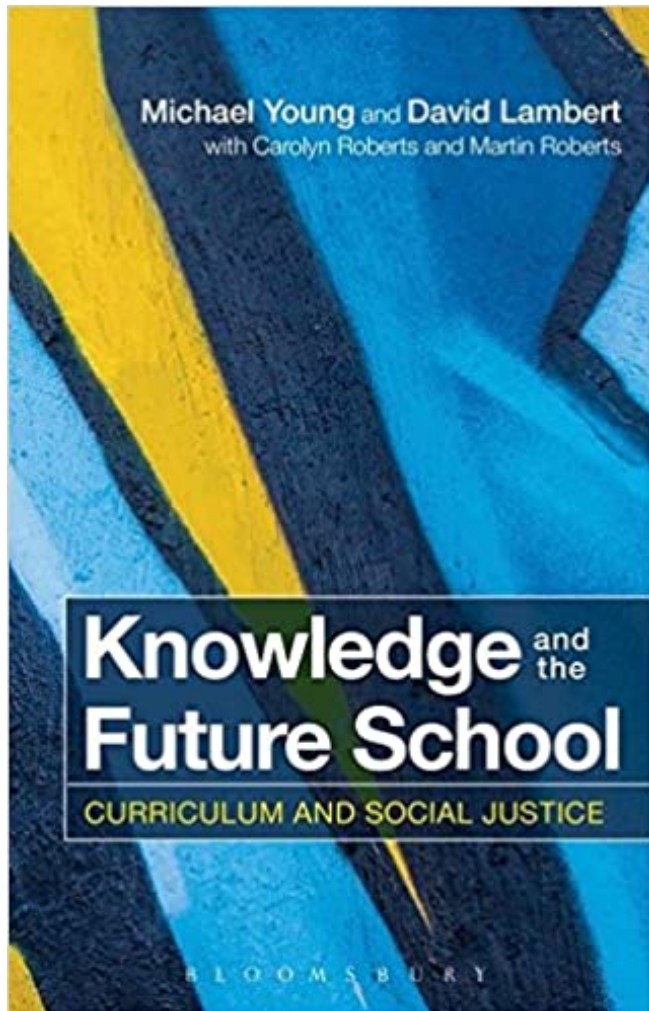


**"IT IS NOT THE BEAUTY OF A BUILDING YOU SHOULD LOOK AT; ITS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FOUNDATION THAT WILL STAND THE TEST OF TIME." ~ DAVID ALLAN COE**

**#CESPROS**



**What are you learning about the strength of your foundations – your shared vision?**

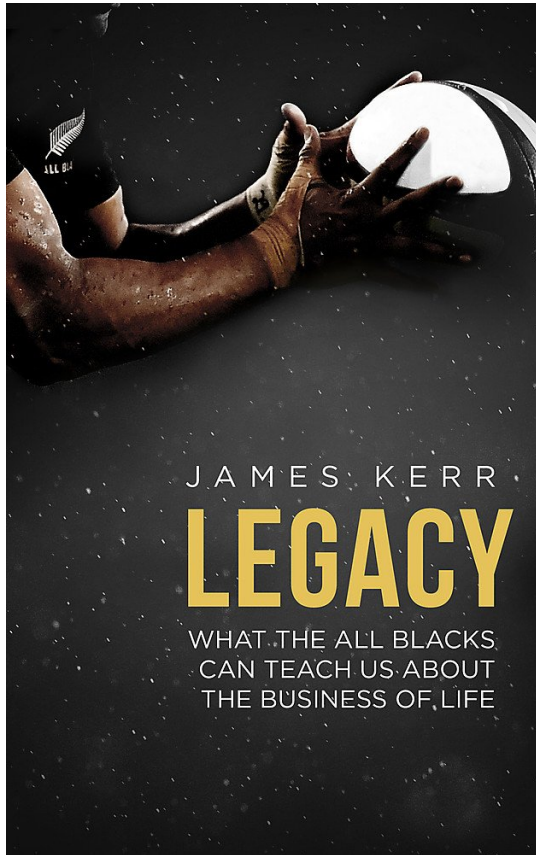


According to Michael Young, the main purpose of schools:

*‘is to enable all students to acquire knowledge that takes them beyond their experience.’*

*‘The clearer sense a school has of its purposes, the stronger will be the trust held in it by parents and the better position it will be in to deal constructively with external demands.’*

# Play with purpose: ask why?



Better people make better leaders

Leaders connect personal meaning to a higher purpose to create belief and a sense of direction

Inspired leaders, organisations and teams find their deepest purpose – their ‘why?’ – and attract followers through shared values, vision and beliefs.

‘Our fundamental human drive comes from within – from intrinsic rather than extrinsic motivations. **Leaders who harness the power of purpose have the ability to galvanise** a group, aligning its behaviours to the strategic pillars of the enterprise... it is the beginning of the being of team.’



‘Holding one another to a clear vision, not swayed by short-term changes of policy or procedure.’



Alison Peacock,  
CEO of the Chartered  
College, spoke about  
*Leading Learning* on  
our podcast.

‘You are drawn to noticing the small things much more...you have time to engage with colleagues about the things that really, really matter.’

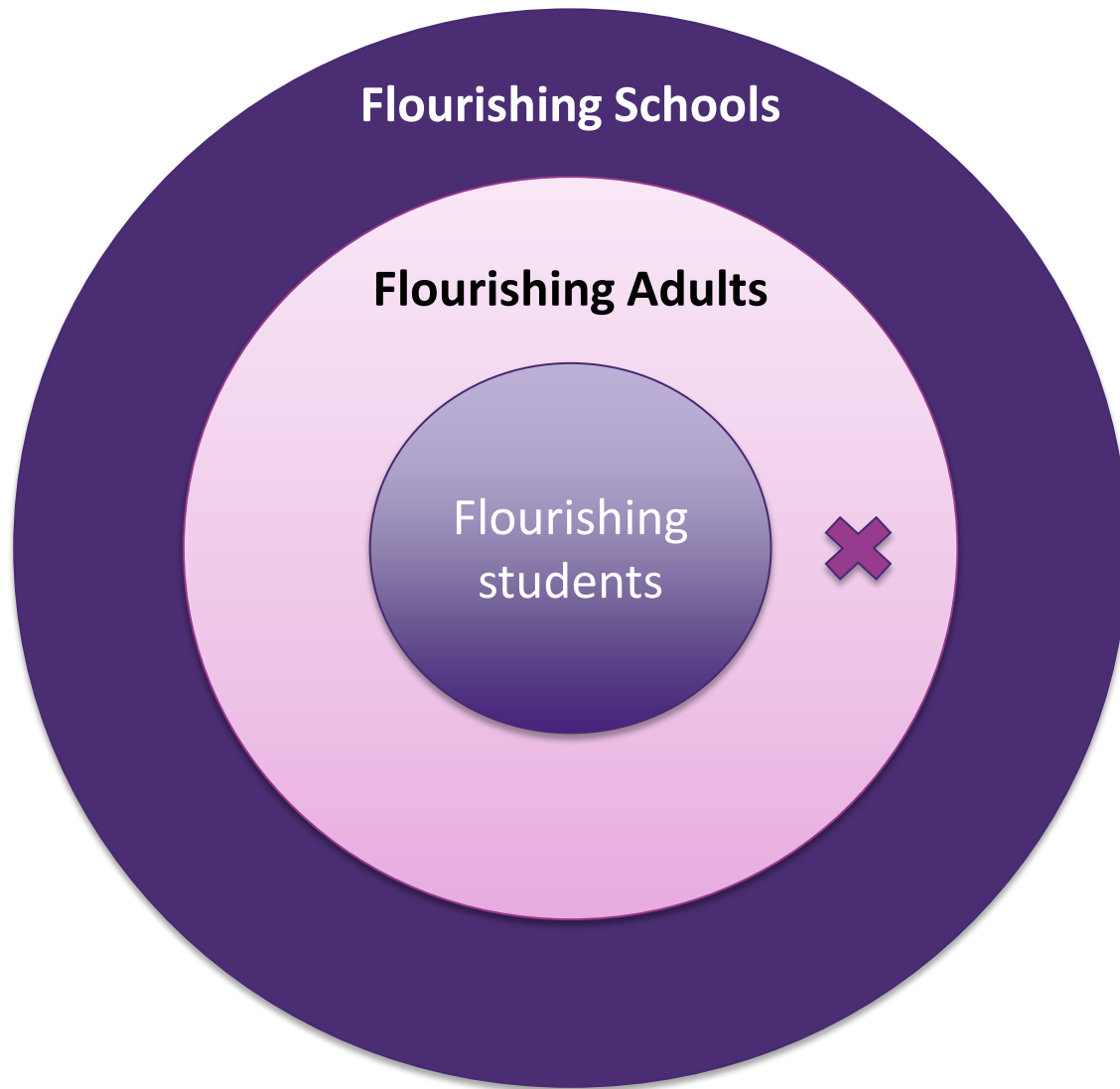
What small things have you noticed during this time? What has this season shown you about what *really* matters to you – as a leader & as a school?

Teams with sustained vision can see where they are going in the dark times, and they grow through the difficulties they face together.

(CCC Sustaining Vision p24)



How do you sustain your vision in your school?



Everybody needs you, but  
you need you first.  
Don't help everyone else  
and neglect yourself.  
Love your neighbor as  
you love yourself, not  
instead of yourself.  
@TonyGaskins

Self-care is never a  
selfish act - it is simply  
good stewardship of  
the only gift I have,  
the gift I was put on  
earth to offer others.

*Parker J Palmer*





Just as physical exercise is vital for the body, particularly for the athlete, spiritual exercise is vital for the soul, particularly for the leader.

### **Sharpening the saw**

The lifestyle guru Stephen Covey tells the instructive story of two men sawing wood. One person works solidly through the day. The other takes a break for ten minutes every hour. At the end of the day the person who has taken the breaks has cut considerably more wood.

'How can this be?' asks the other man.

'Every time I took a break,' comes the reply, 'I sharpened my saw.'

Rest and contemplation have several interrelated benefits for all work and especially for leadership. They

- put us back in touch with the big picture;
- put us back in touch with first love;
- help us reset the compass;
- provide much-needed balance;
- provide physical rest and opportunity for recreation;
- and as this story illustrates, provide opportunity for training and retraining, thus improving efficiency and output.

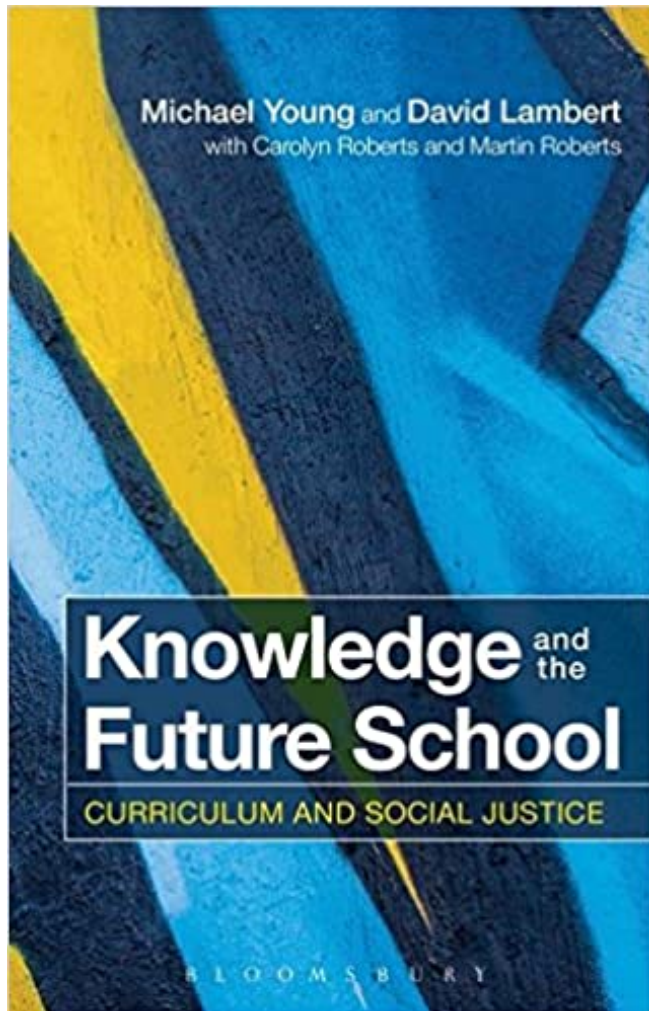
# How do you 'sharpen your saw'?



If I only had an hour  
to chop down a tree,  
I would spend the  
first 45 minutes  
sharpening my axe.

*Abraham Lincoln*





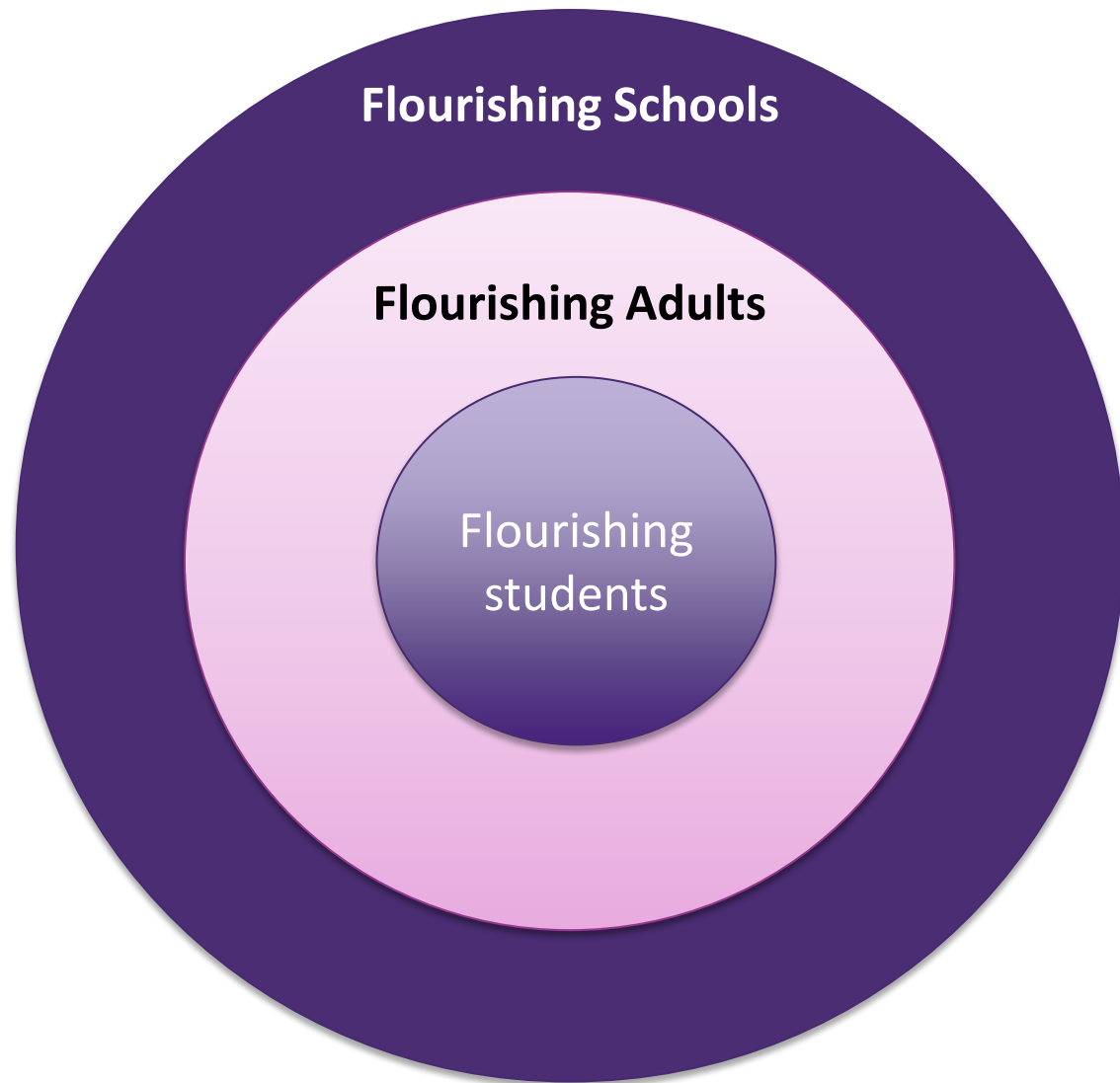
Teachers are 'society's educational experts'... they need to have 'a more confident sense of their own expertise.'

Pedagogy 'refers to the *relationship between teachers and pupils* that are involved in development of their knowledge. It is why technology ... will never replace teachers and schools.'

'Acquiring knowledge involves a human relationship with teachers who are specialists in pedagogy.'

What are the implications of Young's words for our current situation?





## What do our children need to be able to flourish?

- Children and young people have found the inability to make their own choices particularly hard in lockdown
- Anticipated negative effects on CYP's education
- CYP found coping strategies for self care, particularly connecting with others and creativity
- Generally CYP remain happy with their families; during lockdown some have preferred being at home to being at school
- In comparison, CYP's satisfaction with friends and school work is decreasing
- 'Fear of failure' is a significant issue for CYP (Children's Society 2020)

Leading  
with  
vision –  
knowing  
your why

