



January 2020

Dear chair

This twice-termly chairs mailing is part of our commitment to support you and keep you up-to-date with educational developments and good practice, both locally and nationally. I hope you will find it a useful summary.

### **Diocese of Brentwood News**

#### *Commissioning of Foundation Governors by Bishop Alan*

I really enjoyed meeting some of you at the special commissioning event in Dagenham to recognise the contribution made by Foundation Governors in support of Catholic education across the Diocese of Brentwood. Foundation Governors were commissioned directly by Bishop Alan, who they represent on governing bodies of Catholic schools. They will also receive a certificate commemorating their commissioning.

These unique events bring together all Foundation Governors currently in post, and it is the expectation is that all Foundation Governors will attend a commissioning event. For those who were unable to attend the Dagenham event, places are available on:

Tuesday 28 January 2020	Brentwood Cathedral, Brentwood CM15 8AT
18:30-19:45	

[Please use this link to book](#) so we know how many governors are planning to attend.

A final commissioning event for Foundation Governors who have been unable to attend an event in January, MAT Trustees and other governors who serve in our Catholic schools is being organised for the summer term (likely to be in May) so please spread the word about this. Booking details will follow soon. **Please note that Bishop Alan wants to meet and commission all Foundation Governors who are currently in post.**

#### *National Framework for Catholic School Inspection - Update*

The Bishops' Conference approved the introduction of the National Framework for Inspection of all Catholic schools, colleges and academies.

The National Framework for Inspection will be approved and revised from time to time by the Department for Education and Formation. This will include national recruitment, training and accreditation of inspectors.

Training and accreditation of existing inspectors will begin in 2020 and the National Framework will have replaced existing diocesan frameworks in all dioceses by September 2021.

### *Academisation*

Congratulations to the following school who recently became an academy in a Diocesan Catholic Multi Academy Trust:

#### **The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust**

St Teresa Catholic Primary School, Dagenham (Dec 2019)

### *Governor Development*

The Diocese expects that all those involved in governance, especially those new to the role, make the most of the training available to develop their knowledge and skills. Ofsted will consider the commitment of governors/trustees to their own development as part of the judgement on the effectiveness of leadership and management.

In order to support you, we have been busy updating our training offer to governing bodies:

### *Diocesan Governance Development Programme*

New workshops and dates have been added to the [Diocesan Governance Training Programme](#), including workshops on special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), Relationships and Sex Education and Headteacher Performance Management.

The revised programme is attached. Please ensure that members of your governing body are aware of the opportunities available for development.

### *Diocesan Conference for Governors – save the date!*

I am delighted to announce that our first Governors' Conference will be on **Friday 9 October 2020** (9:30-16:00), so please keep this date free in your diaries. This will be an exciting opportunity to network and learn with other governors and trustees across the Diocese.

This full day Conference will be held at de Rougemont Manor in Warley and include a mix of speakers and workshops as well as a buffet lunch. We have been keen to keep the cost as low as possible so there is a very competitive charge of £50 per governor. Further details will follow soon.

### *Companies Day*

Our inaugural Companies Day is taking place on **Wednesday 29 January 2020** (9:30-14:00) at Mulberry House Hotel, High Ongar CM5 9LY. This event is being promoted by the Diocese to offer value for money in relation to school running costs.

Places are open to the Headteacher, Business Manager and a Finance Governor and all schools will have two free places. Should you require additional places please contact [sophierussell@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:sophierussell@dioceseofbrentwood.org) where you will be placed on a waiting list. [Please see the flyer for details of the companies presenting.](#)

[To book please use this link](#)

### *Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference*

This is taking place on **Thursday 6 February 2020 (9:30-15:00)** at Mulberry House Hotel, High Ongar CM5 9LY. Places are open to the Mental Health and Well-Being

Lead, Senior Leaders and governors - all schools will have two free places. [Please see the flyer for further details.](#)

[To book please use this link](#)

### *Online Learning*

As you know, we have been working hard on a new APP that will allow access to training for governors of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Brentwood.

The training is Governor Internet Foundation Training in Education and we have named it "Gift-ED". Each school will be given 5 Licences this academic year and 5 licences in the next academic year to enable good quality, easily accessible training for our governors. These will be free of charge.

Initially available to foundation governors via the chair of governors the new APP is now ready for launch. We will be in touch soon to arrange access for 5 of your foundation governors.

### *Chairs' Network*

The next Chairs' network meeting will focus on Admissions and be led by Theresa Kerr from Winckworth Sherwood Law. Dates are currently being finalised.

This is a valuable opportunity to meet once a term, networking with other chairs and sharing good practice whilst discussing a range of relevant issues with presenting professionals. I look forward to seeing you there.

### *Governor Recruitment*

If you need help in filling a foundation governor vacancy [do get in touch](#). The Diocesan Education team is planning a further Recruitment Event at the end of March and it is helpful to know which schools need support in filling foundation vacancies.

### *Support for Clerks*

We recognise that [high quality clerking](#) is crucial to governing board effectiveness, providing an invaluable contribution to the efficiency and compliance of the governing board. Please note that a half-day workshop for clerks on clerking specialist committees such as exclusions, disciplinary and complaints is included in the revised [Diocesan Governance Development Programme](#).

Clerks are also encouraged to book onto the Annual Clerks' Conference which will be held on **Tuesday 12 May 2020** at the JobServe Community Stadium (formerly Weston Homes), Colchester. This is being run by the Essex Clerks' Association, a voluntary group providing support for clerks. Workshop details are not yet available but places can be reserved on [bookings@essexclerks.org](mailto:bookings@essexclerks.org)

### **Safeguarding Update**

*Safer Internet Day 2020 - Tuesday 11th February 2020*

Safer Internet Day is designed to empower young people to take control of their digital lives. For 2020 the [UK Safer Internet Centre have focused on online identity and asking young people to consider whether they and their peers are truly free to be themselves online](#). How does your school tackle this issue?

## **Ofsted News**

### *Teacher well-being at work*

Ofsted have published information that forms [part of their research report into teacher well-being at work in schools and further education providers](#). The report indicates that although most teachers enjoy teaching, they are suffering from high workloads, lack of work–life balance, a perceived lack of resources and, in some cases, a perceived lack of support from senior managers, especially in managing pupils' behaviour.

### *Outstanding Schools*

A [consultation has been launched to bring all Outstanding schools back into a regular inspection cycle](#), with Ofsted visiting every 4 to 5 years. This change will mean schools currently rated as Outstanding will no longer be exempt from routine inspection from September 2020. The consultation closes on 24 February 2020.

## **Academy News**

### *Leadership/MAT Development*

This is advanced notice that planning is underway for a conference on **30 April 2020** at Mulberry House Hotel, High Ongar CM5 9LY. Two places will be available to each school with places open to the Headteacher, business manager and chair of governors. Further details will be published soon.

## **DfE News**

### *Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education*

RSE and health education will be compulsory in schools from September 2020. The DfE have produced a [guide for parents with children in primary schools](#) and a [guide for parents with children in secondary school](#)

RSE is part of the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole person. It should be carried out as part of the holistic education, which seeks to form as well as inform young people in preparation for adult life. There are useful resources on the [Catholic Education Service website](#) (look under 'Lesson Resources'), including a model policy for relationships and sex education and a Catholic RSE curriculum for secondary and primary schools

### *French and German GCSE – Review of grading*

[Ofqual have announced that French and German GCSE exams will be marked less severely from 2020](#) in England, after a review of grading, bringing the grading standards of these two languages into line with GCSE Spanish

### *Character Education Framework*

DfE has published [non-statutory guidance to schools on character development for pupils](#)

This includes six character benchmarks which summarise the most important features of good provision for character education.

### *Primary School Performance Tables 2019*

DfE have published the [2019 primary school performance tables](#), showing the achievements of pupils in each state-funded primary school in England. How did your school do?

### *DfE governance research project*

DfE has commissioned National Foundation for Educational Research (NfER) to conduct a research project to look in greater depth at governance practice and the challenges faced in the school governance sector. This is the first survey they have undertaken looking at governance for a number of years and a representative sample of 5,000 schools has been selected by NfER to take part.

### *Career guidance for young people*

Governing bodies at secondary schools have a responsibility to provide clear advice and guidance to help schools meet their [statutory requirements on providing career guidance](#). See the [Careers and Enterprise Company's guide for secondary school governors](#) for more information.

### *Music Hubs*

DfE have announced a further £80 million investment in music hubs as well as an additional £4million boost to cultural education [as part of their commitment to allow young people to learn creative skills and widen their horizons](#).

## **Latest Research**

### *Annual Bullying Survey 2019*

A fifth of young people in the UK have been bullied in the past 12 months, according to the [annual bullying survey by the charity Ditch the Label](#). Three out of four people who were bullied said it affected their mental health and nearly half became depressed as a result, according to the study. These figures were almost identical to those from last year's survey.

More than 2,000 young people aged between 12 and 20 provided responses for the survey about their experiences of bullying and the impact it has had on their lives in the past year. The seventh annual survey found:

- The most common type of bullying was verbal, with cyberbullying the least common
- Of those bullied, 33% said they had suicidal thoughts, while 41% were left feeling anxious
- 62% were bullied by a classmate and 37% by someone at school they did not know
- 59% believed attitudes towards their appearance were the likely cause of bullying

### *Annual Teacher Wellbeing Index*

The [annual Teacher Wellbeing Index](#), surveying over 3,000 education professions across all areas of the sector, was carried out by the charity Education Support in partnership with YouGov. Seventy three percent of school teachers reported being stressed – up from 64 per cent last year, with senior leaders reporting the highest levels of stress. In addition, respondents revealed that fifty seven per cent have considered leaving the sector in the last two years due to health and wellbeing pressures, with workload (71 per cent) and not feeling valued (65 per cent) cited as the two main reasons.

*Active Lives Children and Young People Survey 2017/18*

A [report by Sport England](#) has found that one in three children in England does fewer than 30 minutes of physical activity a day - half the amount recommended by government guidelines – with the gap between girls' and boys' activity levels widening from the end of primary school. Girls are less likely to be as active as boys, with 13 to 16-year-olds the least active age group. The online survey of 130,000 five to 16-year-olds also found evidence that ethnic background and family earnings have an impact on activity levels.

Sport England will be releasing a second report, due in March 2019, highlighting children's attitudes to sport and physical activity.

*Pisa Test Results*

The UK has made positive progress in international school rankings, based on the latest [Pisa test results](#) but had some of the lowest scores in any country for 'life satisfaction'

*School-Day breakfast consumption and academic performance*

Researchers from the University of Leeds have found that GCSE students who said they rarely ate breakfast achieved nearly two grades lower than those who rarely missed their morning meal

I wish you the very best for the new term. Thank you for all that you do for your school.



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