



March 2019

Dear chair

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

Support with the recruitment of foundation governors

Following our recruitment drive in December, we still have applications from a number of skilled applicants whom we are yet to place as foundation governors:

Area seeking	Key Skills
Romford	Senior manager in charity sector, project management, trustee experience, mentor for secondary aged children
Romford	Accountancy, finance, business development
Romford, Upminster	Team Manager in a Frontline Social Work Team in East London and in social work for over 10 years. Has worked with teenagers with special educational needs – good understanding of child development, law and safeguarding
Hornchurch	Worked in family courts for 15 years
Hornchurch	Sustainability/environmental planning consultant working with academies on school expansions, refurbishments and energy.
Hornchurch	Construction, health and safety, project and quality management
Upminster	Former teacher governor at St John Payne, now working at St Bonaventures
Upminster	Magistrate in East London for 20 years, acting as whole bench chair and youth court chair. Director of Shipbrokers in London 90/97 and then ran own consultancy from home for 15 years-commercial experience
Chadwell Heath or nearby	Former Senior Military Officer, trained Logistician, skills in facilities management, financial management and health and safety
Chelmsford	Retired primary schoolteacher with previous experience as a school governor

Please remember - although you may not currently have any foundation governor vacancies, succession planning arrangements should be in place to ensure your governing board is an effective team. Were any skills and knowledge gaps identified as part of your last review?

[If you are interested in any of the above applicants or would like support in recruiting foundation governors at your school, please get in touch.](#)

Governor Development

Governor Training

As you know, I have been working with the Director of Education to develop a coherent governor development programme across the Diocese. As we finalise the programme, we are keen to run the workshops across the Diocese as well as at Cathedral House in Brentwood.

[If you would like to offer your school as a venue for Diocesan governor training, please get in touch.](#)

Being an effective governor in a Catholic school is [now available for booking](#) (23 March 2019, 10.00-13.00 at Cathedral House, Brentwood CM15 8AT). This workshop is especially suitable for new governors, but is also a useful refresher for all governors.

NB It is important for delegates to book so we can prepare enough materials for delegates.

Chairs' Network

Being a chair of governors, whether at a maintained school or on a local governing board, is a key leadership role and it can be a challenging one.

The new Diocesan Chairs' Network, open to all chairs, is an opportunity to meet once a term, networking with other chairs and sharing good practice whilst discussing a range of relevant issues with presenting professionals.

The first meeting of the Chairs' Network will take place in the summer term and focus on headteacher performance management. Further details will be sent to you soon.

Safeguarding Update

Online Safety

As you will have seen, there has been a lot in the media recently about online safety, and in particular MOMO.

MOMO is a hoax. There is no evidence to say that any of the claims are true. Schools should always ensure that they use the best quality advice from organisations who have been involved in online safety for many years. Kent County Council's [Online Safety Alerts - Think Before you Scare](#) has useful guidance.

Diocese of Brentwood News

Academisation- Frequently Asked Questions

As the Diocese works in support of schools moving towards academisation, a useful [summary of Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) has been published on the Diocesan website.

Senior School Appointments

Please remember that the Diocese **must** be involved at all stages of the appointment of an executive headteacher, headteacher, deputy headteacher and RE lead. Your key contacts are shown below:

Primary Schools	Secondary Schools
Maria Shepherd mariashepherd@dioceseofbrentwood.org or Sister Jude Groden jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org	Catherine McKenna catherinemckenna@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Ofsted News

As you know, Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman has [announced details of planned changes to the way Ofsted inspects schools from September 2019](#). The [consultation on the new education inspection framework](#) is now available and runs until 5 April 2019.

DfE News

Relationships, Health and Sex Education

[DfE has published draft statutory guidance on what primary and secondary schools will be expected to teach about relationships, health and sex education from September 2020.](#)

Paul Barber of the Catholic Education Service welcomed the government's announcement 'Catholic education is centred on the formation of the whole child and age-appropriate RSE is an essential part of this...it is essential in creating well-rounded young people, for equipping students to make good life choices and for keeping our children safe'

All schools are required to have in place an up-to-date written policy for Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and must consult parents in developing and reviewing their policy. This should be published on the school's website.

School Complaints

DfE has published revised [best practice statutory guidance and model policies for handling school complaints](#), including handling serial and unreasonable complaints

Deals for Schools

DfE has updated information on the national [deals for schools](#) available to help save money on some of the things schools buy regularly. This includes the [launch of a new online tool to give transparency to the fees charged by agencies for supply teachers](#), to help schools use their resources as effectively as possible.

As part of their [Buying for Schools](#) toolkit, DfE has also added guidance on [best practice for construction projects](#)

Career Related Learning in Primary School

Around 96% of primary schools already offer some careers-related activities, and the Education Secretary has revealed that the [DfE are working with Industry experts to produce support for primary schools in this important area.](#)

Latest Research

Staff Wellbeing

The Anna Freud Centre has published a resource [ten steps towards staff wellbeing](#) to promote staff wellbeing in schools

Careers Education

[Nearly three in five young people believe UK education fails to equip them for the job market](#) according to a recent IPSOS poll. The research concluded there was 'considerable scope for improvement in the way national education systems prepare young people for the job market'. Did you know that [secondary school governors now have a statutory duty to monitor careers guidance from year 8 to 13?](#) It is recommended that you appoint a governor as a careers link to support and monitor careers guidance in your school

STEM Subjects

[New data published by the Department of Education shows girls in England are substantially less likely than boys to consider taking STEM subjects at A Level](#) than boys. There is growing demand for STEM skills and [School Standards Minister Nick Gibb has called on teachers, parents and society in general to challenge and dispel misconceptions some girls have about Science, technology, engineering and mathematics \(STEM\) subjects](#)

Music Education

Music education needs to keep up with technology to reflect the reality of how young people engage with music, according to a report from the Music Commission [Retuning our Ambition for Music Learning – Every Child Taking Music Further](#)

Foreign Languages

[Learning a foreign language at GCSE and A level is at its lowest level in UK secondary schools since the turn of the millennium, according to BBC analysis](#), with the [British Council's 2018 language trend survey](#) revealing that over a third of state schools now allow students to opt out of studying a foreign language in Year 9.

However, although German and French are falling the most at GCSE level, Spanish and Mandarin have become more popular.

Just get in touch if you need further support.



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This is an optional service, sent twice a term. If you prefer NOT to receive this chairs mailing please e-mail sophierussell@dioceseofbrentwood.org with the subject heading UNSUBSCRIBE; please include your name and school.