



## BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

*“Supporting Catholic schools to provide excellent education where pupils flourish, and Christ is made known to all.”*

### Governor News – February 2021

This is a monthly summary to help governors keep up to date with key themes of national education policy, the local Diocesan context, research and good practice.

[Schools will not reopen before at least March 2021.](#)

DfE has published a [document to help schools review their remote learning offer](#). So that pupils and their parents know what to expect from their school, [schools were required to publish information about their remote education provision on their websites by 25 January 2021. Has your school done this?](#)

DfE have published [guidance on the use of rapid asymptomatic COVID 19 tests for staff in primary schools](#)

Headteacher wellbeing should continue to be a focus for governing bodies. [Headteacher Wellbeing – questions for governors](#) has some questions and good practice to consider

A reminder that the [new RSE curriculum was compulsory from September 2020](#); schools that were not ready or unable to meet the requirements by this date **must begin teaching by at least the start of the summer term 2021**. Your RSE policy should be in line with [model CSE documentation](#); the [Diocese of Brentwood has a useful model RSE policy](#). Governors need to monitor provision and this [Governor Audit for monitoring RSE](#) is a useful tool. Have all teachers in your school undertaken the [free recommended training?](#)

Don't forget to book your place on the [9 February webinar Governor monitoring during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (18:00-19:30).

**Induction – Being an Effective Governor in a Catholic School** has been rescheduled as a webinar on Monday 15 March 2021 (16:00-18:45). [Book your place](#)

A [new CMAT Newsletter](#) is being trialled to share information about MATs and academies across the Diocese of Brentwood

Please note that on 31 January 2021 the [School Admissions \(England\) \(Coronavirus\) \(Appeals Arrangements\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021 came into force](#) meaning that the amendments to admissions appeals arrangements due to coronavirus will now continue to have effect until 30 September 2021

Students who were due to sit exams this summer will receive grades determined by teachers; DfE recently [ran a consultation seeking views on how to award GCSE, AS and A level grades in 2021 consistently and fairly following the cancellation of exams](#)

[Research by the Office for the Children's Commissioner in England](#) indicates that although the pandemic has increased risk factors for vulnerable children, too many at-risk children are still invisible to social care

The latest report from The Sutton Trust [Remote Learning: The Digital Divide](#) shows how steep the challenge remains, particularly for the most deprived pupils

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