Diocese of Shrewsbury

Department of Education

NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2023 No.1

Dear Colleague

1. INTRODUCTION

I hope you had a happy and blessed Easter. I am conscious that the holiday period this year has perhaps been more disparate than in previous years and so I hope that as families there was sufficient time to find shared relaxation. I hope that the new term will bring rich rewards.

2. CHANGES OF HEADTEACHER

Damian Arthur has been appointed as Headteacher of St Joseph's Sale with effect from the start of this term.

Craig Burns commences as Headteacher at St Nicholas Catholic High School from the start of term.

Lucy Ward has been appointed as Headteacher of St Clare's Chester with immediate effect.

Elizabeth Simmonds has been appointed as Headteacher at St Elizabeth's with immediate effect.

Clare Hogg has been appointed as Headteacher at Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College with effect from 1st September 2023

Michael Glynn has been appointed as Headteacher at St Ambrose Stockport with effect from 1st September 2023.

We wish these colleagues every success in their new positions.

Gus Diamond left his position as Headteacher at All Saints Catholic College, Dukinfield at the end of term. We wish Gus every success in his new position. Natalie Glynn will be Acting Headteacher for the Summer Term.

3. CHANGE TO DIOCESAN SCHOOL'S SUPPORT OFFICERS – SUMMER TERM

There have been some slight changes to schools' officers and an updated list can be found by following the link below:

Schools Officers 2022-23

4. 'FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD': A LITURGICAL PRAYER FOR LENT

Thank you once again to the pupils, students, and staff in our schools for your wonderful contributions to our liturgical prayer for Lent. Thank you to St Mary's, Wallasey, St Thomas More, Crewe, St Patrick's, Wellington, St Nicholas's, Hartford, St Luke's, Trench, St Winefride's, Neston, St Ambrose Prep, Hale Barns, Ss John Fisher and Thomas More, Wythenshawe, St Bede's, Weaverham, The Holy Spirit, Runcorn, St Paul's, Wythenshawe, All Saints, Dukinfield and Our Lady's, Edgeley, for sharing your gifts and talents with our whole diocesan family.

We will look to review how we support schools during Advent and Lent through discussions with DAPH and DASH later this term.

5. SPIRITUAL PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR SENIOR LEADERS

At the request of Heads at the most recent CPDF review, along with our diocesan liturgical prayers and Academic Mass, we will be offering an opportunity for senior leaders in schools to join us for a short time of prayer and reflection to provide you with a moment of spiritual calm in what can often be 'stormy seas'. Whenever we gather in prayer, Jesus is present with us. We can call on the Lord to support us in our mission as leaders in Catholic education and strengthen and nourish us in our daily endeavours.

The next of these is on **25th May 4.00-4.30pm**. A Zoom link will be shared nearer the time. Please join us if you can, to spend some time together with the Lord.

6. RECORDINGS OF DEPARTMENTAL TRAINING AND EVENTS

A reminder that the department has its own YouTube channel where key events are placed for schools to view. As the channel is private you will need to request a link to specific recorded events. This can be done by going to our website where there is a list of available recordings.

https://educationshrewsbury.org/formation-development/

Please scroll down the page to see the list of recordings.

7. SENIOR APPOINTMENTS IN SCHOOL

A reminder that for all Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher (and Assistant Headteacher if appointing a practising Catholic) posts the Diocese must be involved in the appointment. Schools should also discuss **any temporary or internal appointments at senior level, as well as RE Subject Leaders and Chaplains, with their Diocesan officer**. Schools should also remember when looking at any re-structuring process that there should be a clearly defined 2nd in command post, in the vast majority of cases the Deputy Headteacher, and the person appointed to this post **must** be a practising Catholic to comply with the Bishops' Memorandum.

8. FAITH REFERENCES

Having made a significant number of senior appointments last term it is timely to remind all colleagues of the Diocesan definition of a practising Catholic. When requesting a faith reference the priest is asked to confirm that the candidate attends weekly Sunday Mass and lives their life in accordance with the teachings of the Church. The priest will be asked to confirm practice for at least twelve months, and this will also apply to those who have recently been received into the Church. Guidance on obtaining a faith reference can be found using the link below:

Faith References Request Form

Guidance on obtaining a Faith Reference

9. ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Thank you to everyone for your support and co-operation regarding 2024-25 admissions policies. There are still a number of schools who have not published the policy on their website or sent a copy to the Diocese. We will be writing to those schools to advise them accordingly.

10. EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

The first meeting of the Education Advisory Board was on Wednesday 22nd March at Shrewsbury Cathedral, and it was a very productive meeting.

Academy Programme

The group discussed how schools could have more information on the Diocesan Academy Programme and a planning group is to be established made up of Education Staff, CEOs, Headteachers and Governors with an initial planning meeting on Tuesday 25th April.

It was agreed to hold three Diocesan wide events, one for each MAT, to which all Heads, Chairs of Governors and Clergy would be invited. The events will take place at the Park Royal, Warrington, and there will be a cost of £50 per delegate. Places can be booked by following the links below:

Monday 26th June – Heads, Chairs of Governors and Clergy for schools assigned to the Corpus Christi MAT Booking Form

Tuesday 27th June - Heads, Chairs of Governors and Clergy for schools assigned to the Holy Family MAT Booking Form

Thursday 29th June - Heads, Chairs of Governors and Clergy for schools assigned to the Our Lady Help of Christians MAT Booking Form

11. INTRODUCING THE RED (Religious Education Directory)

Primary

Following the online briefing for Headteachers and RE Coordinators, schools are invited to join a pilot to introduce *The Vine and The Branches* to Year 1 and Year 3 from September 2023. Julia Cunningham will work with these schools this term and over the next year to support them with implementation.
For those schools considering joining the pilot group, please read carefully the proposal for pilot schools noting the dates of scheduled meetings this summer term. Proposal

If you wish your school to be part of the pilot, please sign up using this link.

A reminder that the scheduled RE Coordinator meeting on **Wednesday 28th June, 9.30-3.30**, at St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, is open to Headteachers and RE Coordinators. The morning will be led by representatives from CAFOD and will focus on CST (Catholic Social Teaching) and other CAFOD resources that can support schools. The afternoon will be given over to the RED offering Headteachers and RE Coordinators more opportunity to engage with the new directory, its significance, structural elements and the model curriculum.
To book onto the day, please click here. It may be that Headteachers wish to join for the afternoon session only. Please indicate this on the booking form.

Secondary

The RED Working Party met online for the inaugural meeting on Wednesday 29th March. It was agreed that for the next meeting schools would look to sequence lessons from September to December i.e., Branches 1 and 2, to share with the group for discussion. This next meeting is set for **Thursday 11th May at 3.45pm** and will be online.

The fruits of these working party meetings will be shared with colleagues at SHORE meetings. The next SHORE meeting is scheduled for **5th July, 9.30-3.30** at All Saints, Dukinfield.

12. EXTERNAL SPEAKERS IN SCHOOLS

The CES (Catholic Education Service) has updated its proforma, which should be used when planning to invite external speakers into schools to talk about RSHE, but also with any aspect of the curriculum.

The CES states, *'As an integral part of its educational vision for the holistic formation of children and young people, the Catholic Church expects Catholic schools to promote and uphold high standards throughout their activities and this includes visits from external speakers.*

All external speakers invited to schools should be of the highest quality and school leaders are responsible for ensuring that they have enough information about the content to be delivered by any external speaker to enable them to determine whether the content will be pitched at the right level for the age and level of maturity of the children and young people to whom the external speakers will present. All schools should have clear policies for the booking of external speakers which includes sign-off of the booking at an appropriately senior level and compliance with safeguarding checks.'

The proforma has been updated to reflect updated guidance from the DfE on political impartiality and acts as a reminder that any external visitor and their resources should be respectful towards Catholic teachings and not be prejudicial or detrimental to the Catholic character of the school.

The proforma is a checklist that encourages schools to amongst other things, to review other resources produced by the planned speaker (and by any organisation the speaker represents) even if they will not form part of the speaker's activities at the school. The CES proforma also requests that schools conduct a general internet search using the speaker's name (e.g. a google search) so that if parents or children and young people conduct a similar search no concerns are likely to arise.

Schools should have a clear procedure for all external speakers that are invited into schools and the CES proforma should be completed at the planning stage and signed off by a named person at senior leadership level.

You can access the updated proforma here

13. OFSTED AND DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTIONS.

I have been asked to clarify the position in relation to the possible eventuality of both a Denominational Inspection and Ofsted been conducted concurrently. I have received the following response form Ofsted:

As both section 48 and section 5 inspections are statutory, neither one takes precedence over the other.

*In the events that you described; a school is **entitled to request a deferral,** but deferrals of this nature will be judged **on a case by case basis**. Please see the relevant paragraphs in the school inspection handbook:*

78. A school may request a deferral of its inspection. It may make a request to the inspection support administrator during the initial notification phone call, or to the lead inspector on the day it is notified of the inspection. We will not normally consider requests for deferral if we receive them after 4.30pm on the day the school is notified. The inspection support administrator or lead inspector must immediately contact the regional duty desk. We will decide whether to grant a deferral in accordance with our deferral policy.

79. Normally, if the school is providing education to pupils, an inspection will go ahead. In exceptional circumstances, however, an inspection might be cancelled or deferred after the school has been notified, following a request made by the school. We will aim to let the school know whether a request is granted on the same day it is made, but in some cases, particularly when the request for deferral comes later, this may happen by 8am the next morning.

Please see the link to our deferral policy:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferring-ofsted-inspections

Also, you are right that both inspections could happen concurrently. Please see the following paragraph from the school inspection handbook:

130. If a section 48 inspection (or equivalent inspection of an academy) happens at the same time as an Ofsted graded inspection, inspectors will mention this in the 'information about this school' section.

In a similar way a school could request the deferral of a Denominational Inspection if they had been notified of an Ofsted Inspection at the same time as a scheduled Denominational Inspection. Again, it would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

14. CPDF PROGRAMME

It is planned that courses this term will be a blend of virtual and face to face sessions and these are bookable through the Diocesan website by following the link below:

28th April	School Support for CSI
2nd May	Induction for New Foundation Governors
3rd May	Induction for New Foundation Governors
4th May	Year 1 ECTs, Primary Phase: Catholic Life & Mission
5th May	COAST Summer Retreat
10th May	Headteacher Briefing
11th May	Headteacher Briefing
16th May	New Headteachers Induction
16th May	RE Co-ordinator Briefing
16th May	Governors Briefing
17th May	Governors Briefing
18th May	Primary, Deputy and Assistant Headteacher Forum
18th May	Governors Briefing

12th June	Secondary DADAH Catholic Life and Mission
13th June	Primary Curriculum Working Party
14th June	Year 2 ECTs, Primary Phase: Catholic Social Teaching
22nd June	New Headteachers Induction
22nd June	Secondary DADAH Quality of Education
26th June	Secondary DADAH Personal Development & Behaviour
27th June	Secondary RSE Lead Meeting
28th June	RE Co-ordinator Meeting
5th July	SHORE Meeting

https://educationshrewsbury.org/formation-development/ed-cpdf-opportunities/book-a-cpdf-course/

15. GOVERNOR TRAINING

INDUCTION TRAINING FOR NEW FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

I would like to remind those of you who have recently been appointed to the role of Foundation Governor that it is a requirement of the role to attend a Foundation Governor induction training session. The Summer term induction training sessions are being held virtually as follows:

Tuesday 2nd May from 6.00 - 7.30 pm

Wednesday 3rd May from 2.00 - 3.30 pm

If you are able to attend one of these sessions and haven't yet booked a place, could I ask you to click on the link below which will take you to the list of courses on our website. If you then click on the relevant Induction for New Governors link, this will take you to a booking form to complete and submit. Please scroll down the page to see all dates.

https://educationshrewsbury.org/formation-development/ed-cpdf-opportunities/book-a-cpdf-course/

Although the induction training is targeted at Foundation Governors, other Governors may find it useful and are welcome to attend. We would also encourage those Foundation Governors who have recently been reappointed to the role to attend the training, both as a refresher and to find out about any new developments. If you can attend any of the training sessions, please book a place using the link above. We will then send you a virtual meeting link in advance of the session. Please make sure you are using school email address to book the governor training.

TERMLY GOVERNOR BRIEFINGS

The termly Governor briefings will be held virtually as follows:

Tuesday 16th May from 6.00 - 7.30 pm

Wednesday 17th May from 2.00 - 3.30 pm

Thursday 18th May from 6.00 - 7.30 pm

We ask that each governing body sends at least one representative to the briefing and that there is a standing item on each governing body's termly full board meeting, where feedback is given from the previous briefing and a representative nominated to attend the next briefing.

CES GOVERNOR TRAINING – FORMATIO

This free online training resource for all governors of your Catholic school, designed by the Catholic Education Service, is now available. The governance training is for all those involved in governance in schools and academies of all abilities and experience. This includes governors, local governors, and directors of Catholic Multi Academy Trust Companies. You can access the training at:

http://formatio-ces.org/moodle/login/index.php

The training consists of five modules to support you in your role as governor of a Catholic school:

- An introduction to Catholic Education
- The environment of a Catholic school
- Strategic Leadership
- Accountability
- Financial Performance

16. CCRS

CCRS Summer Term: Thursday morning CCRS classes will be held in-person at St Anthony's Parish Centre, Wythenshawe, M22 0WR

Modules for this term are: *Catholic Schools: Mission and Ethos* and *Catechetics,* taught over three classes on Thursdays 27 April, 4 and 25 May 2023.

Students can begin CCRS at the start of any module; the Certificate is comprised of eight modules (Old and New Testament, Sacraments, the Church, Morals, Christology, Specialist 1 – Catholic Schools: Mission & Ethos or Catechetics and Specialist 2: RE in the Classroom or Liturgy) which can be taken over a maximum of five years.

For sign-up and further details please contact ccrs@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

or see https://educationshrewsbury.org/formation-development/ccrs/

17. FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Foundation Governor vacancies are listed on the Diocesan website and can be found via the link below:

https://educationshrewsbury.org/governance/

Please scroll down the page to see Current Foundation Governor Vacancies.

We would ask all schools to check that their websites are fully up to date in relation to Governance, particularly in relation to details of Chair and Vice Chair and any associated interests Governors may have.

Those Foundation Governors whose terms of office expire this August will be receiving letters in May asking them if they wish to continue. If there have been any changes of address for any of your Governors, could you please let us know on Governance@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

18. SCHOOLS' NEWS

We would very much like to promote the positive work that schools do and do have a page on our website dedicated to this. If schools have news stories and pictures, if they forward the details to Maggie Kowalska on Malgorzata.Kowalska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org we can put them on our website.

Best wishes for the coming term.

Damian