

## Diocesan Director of Education - January 2015 Newsletter

A warm welcome back to the start of a new term and a happy New Year to you and your school staff. We hope you managed a good break and had a chance to rest and enjoy the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

### 'Assessment without Levels' Conference

This event run by Medway Teaching Schools Alliance (MTSA) is open to all our Church schools and academies and will combine national speakers including Tim Oates, Group Director of Assessment Research and Development at Cambridge Assessment; Julie Lilly, Project Coordinator of Wroxham Alliance and Ofsted with a series of focussed workshops to explore key issues such as Key Stage 2 to 4 progression. For more information and to book a place visit [www.mtsa.co.uk](http://www.mtsa.co.uk)

### Service Level Agreement 2015-16

We will be consulting with all our schools and academies on the arrangements for our Service Level Agreement for 2015-16 which will start at the end of March. As part of this consultation, we will be sending you a short online survey to complete in the next few weeks asking for your views on the SLA for 2014-15.

### Rochester Diocesan Academy Trust Update

Some of you will have met and spoken with Ayub Khan, the Chief Executive of the Diocesan Academy Trust. With mutual agreement, Ayub has decided to move on from his role with the Trust and we wish him well for the future.

In the interim period, we are pleased to welcome Pam Kemp, an experienced educationalist, who will work with the Diocese on developing the Academy Trust and supporting our academies who have already joined the Trust. We will be introducing Pam to you as part of the January Heads and Chairs briefings.

### Diocesan Leadership Conference - Friday 13th March 2015

Early-bird booking is now open for our annual leadership conference held at the Great Danes Mercure Hotel Maidstone. Delegate prices are £100 (ex vat) if booked before Friday 30th January. Keynote speakers include Professor John West-Burnham, Professor Trevor Cooling and Dr John Hall, the Dean of Westminster. To book a place download a [booking](#)



## Board of Education

[form](#) and return to Teresa Spearink.

### **Foundation Governor Induction Training – Monday 26th January 2015 4pm**

This twilight session takes place at the Diocesan Offices in Rochester and is designed for all recently appointed Foundation Governors. The session will include inputs on SIAMS, School Effectiveness, Finance and Buildings. Please book a place by contacting Teresa Spearink on 01634 560025.

### **CPD Training Course - 'What is distinctive about SMSC in a Church School?'**

This half-day training course designed for class teachers, senior leaders and RE subject leaders will be held on Tuesday 3rd March at the Diocesan Offices in Rochester. There are two sessions available, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Contact Teresa Spearink to book a place.

### **Heads & Chairs Network Briefings - 29th & 30th January 2015**

We are offering two briefings, a 'Breakfast Briefing' starting with coffee and croissants at 8am at The Holiday Inn Hotel, Wrotham, Sevenoaks on the 29th January.

An afternoon session will take place at the Diocesan Offices, Rochester at 1.30pm on Friday 30th January. Please let Teresa Spearink know if you intend to come so we can make sure there are enough refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you at the Heads & Chairs events later this term.

Best wishes,

**Alex Tear**  
**Director of Education**