



Diocesan Director's Update - December Newsletter 2016

16th December 2016

Dear Colleague

As we come to the end of a long term, I wanted to write to you to acknowledge your hard work and commitment in leading your Church school.

Our Church schools and academies form an important part of the wider mission of the Diocese to serve children and young people, their families and our local communities.

This mission forms part of the Church of England's commitment in this country to serve the 'Common Good' of our nation - our schools are not 'faith schools for the faithful' - they are Church schools that serve our communities which include Christian families.

Thank you for your part in that service.

Diocesan Schools Leadership Conference - Friday 10th March 2017

This year our Leadership Conference will focus on looking at how we can use and embed the new Church of England vision for education: ['Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good'](#). We will be joined by a number of keynote speakers including:

Contender Charlie - 'Shakespeare & Leadership Lessons'

This organisation specialise in bringing the plays of Shakespeare and other mythological stories to life, drawing on some of Shakespeare's plays as the inspiration for improving our leadership in the educational context. See more here: [Contender Charlie Website](#)

'Early-Bird' Booking for the conference opens on 3rd January with delegate places available at a reduced price of £100 (ex vat) until 31st January. Places booked after this revert to the standard delegate fee of £150 (ex vat) per person.

New DFE Guidance on Multi-Academy Trusts

The Department of Education has just published new guidance for Multi-Academy Trusts(MATs) and schools thinking of joining MATs.

This is a very useful document which features examples of Diocesan MATs and Local Authorities who have decided to support their schools in becoming academies. Download the document here:

[Multi-academy trusts Good practice guidance and expectations for growth](#)

I will be writing to all Church school governing bodies in the New Year with an update on the Diocesan strategy and policy for academy conversions.

'Bringing the Vision Alive' - Church of England Education National Conference

This day conference takes place on Saturday 4th February between 10.30am and 3.30pm at Church House Westminster.

The conference is aimed at all Church School leaders and Dioceses across the whole country and will be a good opportunity to hear some national keynote speakers. You can find more details on the flyer at the bottom of the newsletter.

You can book tickets by visiting the Eventbrite website : <http://tinyurl.com/hp3r3lr>

Understanding Christianity - Update on training

We are very pleased to report that every Church school and academy in the diocese has now signed up to the training sessions for Understanding Christianity.

The Day 1 training has now been completed and there is some preparation to undertake in school (please see the separate RE Newsletter for details) before returning for the Day 2 training and the RE Subject Leader follow up on the following dates:

ROCHESTER

Day 2: Monday 13 March

Plus RE support meetings at Rochester for subject leaders only

Thursday 23 February

Thursday 8 June

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Day 2: Thursday 16 March

Plus RE support meetings at Bennett Memorial for subject leaders only

Wednesday 22 February

Wednesday 7 June

ST BOTOLPH'S

Day 2: Wednesday 29 March

Plus RE support meetings at Rochester or Tunbridge Wells for subject leaders only (see dates above)

Any queries or questions on the training, do contact Virginia Corbyn.

Religious Education Commission - Call for evidence

The National Society are compiling a response to the national call for evidence from the Commission on Religious Education (CORE). They have asked us to request that our Church schools respond to this survey with your views. A copy of the questions can be downloaded at the bottom of this newsletter.

RDBE Associates

The Diocese has a team of experienced [Associate Advisers](#) who work with us to help deliver the support we provide to our Church schools and academies including:

- Leadership Coaching & Mentoring
- Headteacher Appraisal and Review

- School Improvement Support
- Data Analysis and Monitoring
- Governance Reviews

All of our Associates are experienced, quality assured advisers who have proven track records of working with schools and are well known for the quality of their support.

If you would like more details and information see their [pen portraits and areas of expertise](#).

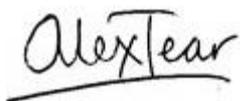
Heads & Chairs Briefings - 2nd & 3rd February 2017

The dates for next term's briefings are now confirmed as:

- **Thursday 2nd February, 8.30am - Holiday Inn, Wrotham, Sevenoaks**
- **Friday 3rd February, 1.30pm - Diocesan Offices, Rochester**

Please contact Teresa Spearink at the Diocesan Offices to book a place.

With warm wishes for a peaceful Christmas and New Year.



Alex Tear
Director of Education

[Religious Education Commission - Call for evidence](#)

[DFE Guidance on Multi-Academy Trusts](#)

[Bringing the Vision Alive - National CofE Education Conference](#)

[Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good - Vision for education](#)



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