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Bishop's Officer
& Director of Education



BOARD OF EDUCATION

To: All Headteachers, Chair of Governors and
Incumbents

1ST May 2014

Dear Colleague

Director's Letter – Summer Term 2014

On behalf of the Education Team, welcome back and I hope that you managed to re-charge your batteries over the Easter break and enjoyed some time with family and friends.

Diocesan Board of Education for the Future

Last term, members of our own Diocesan Board of Education came together to look at the Archbishop's Council latest national report '*A Diocesan Board of Education for the Future*'. The report focuses on re-imagining the structures and approaches of Diocesan Boards of Education in order that their operation is fit for purpose and able to respond effectively to the challenges of the new educational landscape.

You can download a summary of the report here: <http://www.rdbe.org.uk/about-us/dbe-future-report>

At the heart of the report is a recommendation that all Diocesan Boards of Education complete a self-evaluation framework (in a similar way to a school) to gain a comprehensive and evidence based view of its effectiveness and impact in supporting our Church schools and academies. The report is demanding and ambitious and outlines 'Ten Marks of a High Performing Diocesan Board of Education' which include an aspiration for 90% of all diocesan schools to be rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by both Ofsted and SIAMS.

The report also highlights the role that Diocesan Boards of Education can play in facilitating effective collaboration between Church schools, Community Schools, Local Authorities, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) and Teaching School Alliances so that no Church school is left vulnerable and isolated from its peers or unable to benefit from the advantages that collaboration and partnership can bring.

You will know from my previous letters and headteacher briefings, that I have stressed the importance of every Church school within our own diocese being part of a cluster, partnership or



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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THE CHURCH
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network and I am pleased to report that the Diocese is already helping to facilitate a number of different collaborative arrangements including the development of a Local Collaborative Trust (LCT) for Church and Community schools in Tunbridge Wells as well as continuing to develop the Rochester Diocesan Academy Trust (RDAT), our own Multi-Academy Trust, which is able to sponsor our Church schools so they can become academies and benefit from being part of a Church based Trust.

For more details and information on the Diocesan Academy Trust, visit www.rdat.org.uk or contact Ayub Khan, the Chief Executive Officer at ayub.khan@rochester.anglican.org who will arrange a visit to your school.

'The Big Diocesan Education Conversation'

As part of our own Diocesan Board of Education's self-evaluation, we will be launching a series of Diocesan wide conversations with all those involved in delivering education across the diocese.

As part of this we will be talking to and seeking the views of:

- Our Church Schools and Academies
- Diocesan Schools Forum and Partnership Group
- Local Authorities and other partners
- Bishop's Council and Diocesan Senior Staff
- Diocesan and Deanery Synods
- Parishes and Clergy
- Church of England based Multi-Academy Trusts
- Diocesan Board of Education

The consultation will take the form of a series of briefings and workshops in the Autumn Term which all our Church schools and academies will be invited to as well as online survey which can be completed by individuals and groups. Once we have collated the views and responses of stakeholders, we will be publishing a summary of the findings and the Diocesan Board of Education's response in the Spring Term.

Teaching Leaders – NPQML

I am delighted to announce that we have formed a new partnership with 'Teaching Leaders', an educational charity set up to specifically focus on developing middle leaders. As part of this partnership, we will be running two cohorts of the National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership (NPQML) in the Autumn Term, targeted at developing the middle leaders of our Church schools within the Diocese. Details of the programme, dates and booking arrangements will be sent out shortly and you can find further information on the programmes at the Teaching Leaders website: <http://www.teachingleaders.org.uk>

Recruitment and Advertising for Church School Leadership and Staff

A reminder that all our Church schools are entitled to advertise their leadership vacancies free of charge through our dedicated Leadership Recruitment Micro-site sponsored by Emmaus Leadership. If you are using the Kent Teach website or your own micro-site do link your advert

directly to the Diocesan website using the URL address: <http://emmausleadership.me/diocese-of-rochester> We are pleased to announce a new partnership with TES who now offer a 5% discount to all our Church schools who use TES to advertise their leadership and class teacher positions. To take advantage of the discount, contact Nick Fry by e-mail at Nick.Fry@tes.co.uk with the details and copy of your advert, who will then apply the discount to your school invoice generated by TES.

Leadership Development and Governor Training and Reviews

We are continuing to focus the expertise and resources of our School Improvement team on building long term leadership capacity through coaching and mentoring of our Church school Headteachers and Senior Leaders. The Diocese also offers governor training and reviews of governance on request. If you think that you would benefit from some leadership coaching or would like some support for your senior leadership team, contact Caroline Crofts, Diocesan Lead Associate for School Improvement who will discuss your needs and arrange a visit to your school. Her e-mail address is: caroline.crofts@rdbbe.org.uk

SIAMS Mid-Term Monitoring Review

Following the change in the SIAMS inspection arrangements and schedules, many schools have requested the opportunity to have a 'Mid-Term' review which would provide an external view of the school and its current position in relation to the four key areas of the SIAMS framework. We have now developed a bespoke package which can be tailored to the needs of your school to help you review and monitor the progress of your school in this area. For more details contact Virginia Corbyn at virginia.corbyn@rochester.anglican.org

Priority Schools Building Programme 2

The Department of Education have just announced a second phase of capital funding for schools through the Priority Schools Building Programme 2 (PSBP2). Details of the programme which is open to all schools can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-school-building-programme-2-psbp2>

If you think that your school might benefit from submitting an application, do contact John Constanti, Deputy Director of Education at john.constanti@rochester.anglican.org who will be pleased to discuss this with you and advise you on submitting your application.

With best wishes,



Alex Tear