



Board of Education



Diocesan Director - Summer Term Letter 2015

Welcome back to school and I hope that you managed to have a good break over the Easter holidays.

The arrival of the warm, sunny weather is a real reminder of the promise of new life and the story of the resurrection that we have been celebrating over the last few weeks.

Ofsted Inspections Update

Over the past year a number of our Church schools across the diocese have been inspected by Ofsted with many schools improving on their overall effectiveness grade from the last inspection.

I am pleased to report that at the start of this term, we now have only 12 schools out of 89 remaining on 'Requires Improvement' judgements with over 80% of our Church schools judged as 'Good' or better in their current inspection grade.

This is a significant improvement in the performance of our Church schools across the diocese and reflects the hard work and commitment of headteachers, staff and governors in our Church schools and academies.

The Diocesan Board of Education has recently set its strategic aims for the next three years and has identified a target of a minimum of 85% of its schools judged as 'Good' or better at their next Ofsted and SIAMS inspection by 2017.

Given the changes to the Ofsted framework planned in September, this is a challenging target going forward however we are encouraged with the upward trend in inspection outcomes of our Church schools going forward and will continue to monitor the performance and provide help to those schools who need support.

General Election and National Education policy

We are fast approaching the General Election and at the moment, it is difficult to predict the outcome of the election and the implications for education policy.

There has been very little discussion about the shape and structure of education in the election coverage so far with the main references linked to the size of the education budget outlined by the main parties.

If you are asked about the contribution of Church schools, you may want to refer people to this helpful [summary](#) leaflet provided by the National Society which provides a broad overview of our contribution to the national system.

Service Level Agreement 2015-16

This week all schools and academies will receive a copy of our new Service Level Agreement brochure for 2015-16. The brochure sets out exactly what type and level of support you will receive by subscribing to the SLA. The brochure and reply form can be downloaded at the bottom of this newsletter.

Schools that subscribe to the SLA are able to access to our growing team of Diocesan Associate Consultants who can provide support and expertise in a range of areas including school improvement, leadership coaching and headteacher appraisal.

All schools will also receive an e-mail reminder asking you to subscribe by the deadline of Friday 22nd May. More details on costs and services offered are in the packs sent in the post.

Education Service of Thanksgiving & Bishop's Garden Party - 24th June

Once again, we will be holding a service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for all Church schools and academies within the diocese at Rochester Cathedral on Wednesday 24th June starting at 5pm followed by a Garden Party at Bishopscourt hosted by Bishop James.

All Headteachers and Chairs of Governors are invited to this event and are warmly welcome to attend. An invitation will be sent by e-mail from the Diocesan Office and we ask you to confirm your attendance to Teresa Spearink in the normal way.

Heads & Chairs Network Briefings - 7th & 8th May

This term's Heads & Chairs briefings take place on Thursday 7th May at The Holiday Inn Hotel, Wrotham, Sevenoaks starting at 8.30am with the afternoon session at the Diocesan Offices, Rochester at 1.30pm on Friday 8th May.

Please let Teresa Spearink know if you intend to come so we can make sure there are enough refreshments.

New Foundation Governor Induction Training – Monday 18th May 4.30pm

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.

Governing Body re-constitution

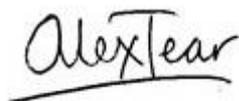
A reminder that all Governing Bodies are required under the Governance Regulations 2012 to have re-constituted by the end of this academic year.

Many Church schools have now completed this process however there are still a number who have not engaged in this process and time is running out.

If you need help or advice with re-constitution, do contact John Constanti who will be happy to advise you and your Chair: john.constanti@rochester.anglican.org

We look forward to seeing you at the Heads & Chairs events later this term and the Service of Thanksgiving and Garden Party on the 24th June.

Best wishes,



Alex Tear
Director of Education

[Church of England National Society Election Leaflet](#)

[Service Level Agreement \(SLA\) Brochure 2015-16](#)

[Service Level Agreement \(SLA\) Response Form](#)



[Twitter](#) [Website](#)

Copyright © 2015 Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this e-mail as a senior leader of one of our Church schools in the Diocese of Rochester

Our mailing address is:

Rochester Diocesan Board of Education

Diocesan Office

St Nicholas Church

Rochester, Medway ME1 1SL

United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

