



Diocesan Director of Education - June Newsletter 2015

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we head towards the end of term. This is the last newsletter of this academic year so do take the time to read the various updates which will be important for all our Church schools and academies.

New Education and Adoption Bill

There has been much speculation about the content and implications of the new Education Bill particularly for schools currently judged by Ofsted as 'Requires Improvement' and 'Coasting Schools'. The latter definition has not yet been defined by the government and we anticipate that a short consultation on this category to take place before the bill gets passed in September.

The Diocesan Board of Education has recently completed an internal review of its strategic approach to Church School organisation in the light of the new national education policy following the General Election.

I will be writing to all Church schools in September setting out the new strategic direction of the Diocese and we will be giving further details at the Headteacher's briefings in the Autumn term.

SATs Data Collection 2015

In previous years, we have asked all our school to send us their progress and attainment data in September through the data collection return survey. This year we would like all our

primary schools to send us your headline SATs and progress data before the end of the summer term.

This will really help us to do an early analysis of the performance of our Church primary schools over the summer so we can plan our support for schools next academic year.

I will be sending a simple spreadsheet for all primary schools to complete and return to Caroline Crofts, our Lead Associate for School Improvement in the first two weeks of July once the provisional results have been released.

We would be really grateful if all primary schools could return their results by Monday 13th July.

Small Schools Workshops - Autumn Term

We will be running some workshops next term for Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of small and rural Church schools to look at how we can tackle some of the specific challenges going forward. Dates for these workshops will be confirmed in the next couple of weeks. I will be presenting the national CofE report 'Working Together' at the Kent Small Schools Conference on the 5th July.

Heads & Chairs Briefings - Autumn Term Dates

The Heads & Chairs briefings take place on Thursday 1st October (Breakfast briefing at the Holiday Inn Wrotham 8.30am start) and Friday 2nd October at the Diocesan Offices in Rochester 1.30pm start). Please book a place with Teresa Spearink so we can cater for numbers.

Foundation Governor Induction Training – Monday 5th October 2015

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.

Education Thanksgiving Service & Bishop's Garden Party

A reminder that all Headteachers and Chairs of Governors are invited to attend our annual service of thanksgiving at Rochester Cathedral at 5.30pm on 24th June. This is followed by a Garden Party hosted by Bishop James at Bishopscourt.

If you have not already confirmed your places for the service and Garden Party do contact Teresa Spearink as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you at the Education Service.

Best wishes,



Alex Tear
Director of Education

[Primary Schools Provisional SATs Results Return 2015](#)



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