



Diocesan Director's Newsletter - Autumn Term 2016

7th September 2016

Dear Colleague

A warm welcome back to the start of term and another academic year. We hope you managed to enjoy some sunshine and enjoyed some time with family and friends.

The start of term is always a busy time as schools begin the process of induction for new pupils and staff however we hope you can find some time to read this first newsletter of term which has some really important updates for you and your Church school.

Sir David Carter - National Schools Commissioner - Friday 21st October 2pm

We are delighted to announce that Sir David Carter, the National Schools Commissioner has agreed to come and speak to our Church schools on the afternoon of Friday 21st October at 2pm the Great Danes Hotel in Maidstone.

Sir David will be talking about the changes ahead for all schools as the educational landscape continues to develop and addressing the following questions:

- Should Church schools become academies?
- What are the benefits for Church schools joining Multi-Academy Trusts?

- How can Governing Bodies make good strategic decisions to ensure the future of their school?
- What are the options for small village schools?
- What should Headteachers do now to prepare for the future?

This session is open to all Headteachers, Chairs of Governors, Senior leaders and clergy across the diocese for a small charge to cover the costs of the venue and refreshments.

We are expecting this event to be popular so have put a limit of three places for every school in the diocese. To book places please contact Teresa Spearink at the Diocesan Office.

Understanding Christianity - Training Dates

These new national resources have been launched by the Church of England to support the high quality teaching of Christianity as part of Religious Education (R.E). These materials provide an excellent opportunity to re-vitalise R.E. in our schools at a time when there is a real need to update the R.E. syllabus.

The materials can only be accessed by schools through attending 15 hours of training from an accredited trainer (Virginia Corbyn) so we have organised training days in two venues in the diocese to meet these requirements on the following dates:

Rochester – Diocesan offices ME1 1SL

Thursday 10 November 2016 - 9-30am to 4pm

Monday 13 March 2017 - 9-30am to 4pm

followed by attendance at the RE support group meetings from

1-30pm to 3-30pm on Thursdays:

3 November 2016, 23 Feb 2017, 8 June 2017

At the Rochester Diocesan Offices.

Tunbridge Wells – Southborough CEP Sch TN4 0JY

Monday 14 November 2016 - 9-30am to 4pm

Thursday 16 March 2017 - 9-30am to 4pm

followed by attendance at the RE support group meetings from

1-30pm to 3-30pm on Wednesdays:

2 November 2016, 22 Feb 2017, 7 June 2017

At Bennett Memorial Diocesan School TN4 9SH

For more information and to book places on these training days please contact Teresa Spearink at the Diocesan Office.

Church School Governors Development Programme

This new development programme designed specifically for all Church School Governors starts this term. The programme is based on six modules (one per term) focusing on the key aspects and roles and responsibilities of governors of Church schools which include:

- Session 1 - Setting the strategic direction - Vision, values and ethos
- Session 2 - Self-Evaluation - Christian Distinctiveness (Part 1)
- Session 3 - Self-Evaluation - School Effectiveness (Part 2)
- Session 4 - Monitoring - the role of governors in monitoring
- Session 5 - Governance & Admissions - the responsibility of governors for admissions
- Session 6 - Headteacher appraisal, recruitment and succession planning

Schools can choose to send up to three governors to each module depending on their training needs. The programme will be delivered at the Diocesan office and can also be delivered locally to governors from a group of schools that wish to work together. More details can be found by downloading the brochure below.

The Church of England Professional Qualification for Headship (CEPQH)

This is a new national leadership programme currently being piloted in the South-East specifically for aspiring senior leaders of Church schools which is being developed by the Church of England Foundation of Educational Leadership (CEFEL) and delivered by experienced leadership facilitators. The first cohort will begin in this term and the deadline for applications is 16th September.

The cost of places are subsidised and small schools are also eligible for a reduction in the full costs. More information and details of the programme can be downloaded at the bottom of this newsletter.

Regional Leadership Conference - 'Finding Strength for Sustainable Leadership'

All Church of England schools in the south-east region are invited to this regional conference which takes place on Wednesday 30th November organised by the three

dioceses of Rochester, Canterbury and Chichester. The conference will be held at the Salomons Conference Centre in Tunbridge Wells and will feature keynote speakers and networking opportunities.

Data Collection Return 2016-17

We will be shortly sending out a short online data collection return for your school to complete to ensure that we have the up to date information and contact details for your school. The form takes less than 10 minutes to complete and helps us to communicate effectively with all our Church schools. Please ensure that you complete the survey return by the deadline of Friday 23rd September.

Heads & Chairs briefings - 7th & 13th October

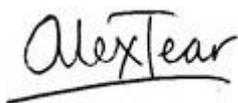
We will be running our normal Heads & Chairs briefings this term at the following dates and venues:

Friday 7th October - Diocesan Office, Rochester - 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Thursday 13th October - The Holiday Inn, Wrotham - 8.30am - 10.30am

The focus of these meetings will be looking at the 'Understanding Christianity' resources with updates from the Education team on national, regional and diocesan developments. We look forward to seeing you at these events.

With best wishes for the term ahead,



Alex Tear

Diocesan Director of Education

[The Church of England Professional Qualification for Headship](#)

[Understanding Christianity Resources - Link to website](#)

[Diocesan Governors Development Programme - Brochure](#)

[Diocesan Governors Development Programme - Booking form](#)



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