



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of
Rochester

Board of Education

Bishop's Officer & Director of Education

Mr. Alex Tear MA(Ed) (Hons)

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Our Ref:

Your Ref:

4th January 2012

Dear Colleague

Letter from the Director

On behalf of the Education Team, welcome back and a very happy New Year to you and your staff.

In education terms, the last twelve months have been rather eventful and characterised by a significant amount of change for schools, Local Authorities and Diocesan Boards of Education.

Some of the outcomes of that change are now becoming a bit clearer and we are beginning to see the new educational landscape evolve and take shape.

To support our Church schools and academies with some of the implications of the changes, we have introduced some new initiatives of our own including termly Heads and Chairs briefings around the Diocese to keep you informed, a new Service Level Agreement and most importantly, launched the Rochester Diocesan Family of Schools (RDFS) of which all our Church schools and academies are a part.

We hope that you have welcomed these new developments and that they have strengthened the relationship that we have with you as a Church school within the Diocese.

This year, we are introducing some further initiatives including an inaugural **Leadership Conference for School Leaders and Governors on the 29th February** and a new training Diocesan Training Directory with details of all our new courses and Inset opportunities for schools which will be ready in the summer term.

As part of our own process of review and consultation with you, we will be inviting all our Church schools and academies to take part in an online survey to help us revise the Service Level Agreement for 2012 and you will receive an e-mail inviting you to take part in the next fortnight. The deadline for responses is Monday 23rd January so we would be really grateful if you could complete the survey and share your ideas with us before then.

The Diocesan Schools' Forum has now met twice since its inception in November and the Chair of the group, Ian Collins, will be writing to you shortly with details of the first project commissioned by the Forum, a 'Strengths and Needs' audit on behalf of all the Diocesan Schools and Academies. We are hoping that if this is successful, we will be able to look at running other Diocesan projects in response to this audit.

In addition to these developments, John Constanti in his new role as Deputy Director, will be offering all school an opportunity for a strategic review including buildings, finance and legal issues and Virginia Corbyn, Assistant Director for Schools, will be writing to all schools about our plans to support schools improve and enhance Collective Worship.

No doubt there will be further changes to come, including a new Ofsted framework, changes to funding and capital allocations for building work and a new Admissions Code to name just a few.

We look forward to working with you and your school on these and other challenges in the year ahead.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Alex Tear
Diocesan Director of Education

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