



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of
Rochester

Board of Education

Bishop's Officer & Director of Education
Mr. Alex Tear MA(Ed) (Hons)

Email: alex.tear@rochester.anglican.org

Our Ref: AT/TS

Your Ref:

To: All Headteachers, Chair of Governors and Incumbents,

7th January 2014

Dear Colleague

Directors Letter – Spring Term 2014

Welcome back and on behalf of the Diocesan Education Team, a very happy New Year to you and all your staff in school.

The beginning of a new year always provides time for reflection of what has passed and what faces us in the year ahead. In December 2013, Nelson Mandela passed away leaving behind a huge legacy which in a number of ways, has changed the world.

Mandela was a great leader and provides an inspirational example of what it meant to be a true 'Servant Leader' something which we can strive to model in our context of leading our Church schools and academies.

Mandela said,

"A leader is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind."

As you continue on your own leadership journey this new term, do allow yourself time to reflect on your own leadership and how you can provide what other require of you, whilst you tackle the many challenges ahead.

We are delighted to welcome Ayub Khan, the new Chief Executive Officer for the Rochester Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust (RDAT), and we will be introducing him to you at the Heads & Chairs briefings taking place in January.

Ayub's role will be to lead the development and growth of the RDAT as it begins to sponsor our Church schools who are seeking to become an academy sponsored by the Diocese. He comes to Rochester from the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames where he was an experienced commissioner of services for six Local Authorities. Ayub will also be securing new services and contracts on behalf of all our Church schools and academies. He can be contacted at:

ayub.khan@rochester.anglican.org

Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, St Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester, Kent ME1 1SL
Telephone 01634 560000 • Direct Dial 01634 560019 • Fax 01634 408942

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"Proclaiming the Word and Work of God"

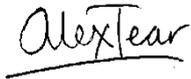
Many of you know that Caroline Crofts, has now joined the Diocesan Team as our Lead Associate Consultant for School Improvement. Caroline was a former School Improvement Consultant for Kent County Council and Adviser for the national Primary Strategy. She has already started to visit schools and provide support so if you would like a visit from her (paid from the school budget) you can contact her at: caroline.crofts@rdbbe.org.uk

If you would like one of the Education Team to visit your school, for an informal conversation or for a specific event, do contact Teresa Spearink, PA to the RDBE, who will arrange a time for us to come and see you.

Some schools have requested a Diocesan Officer at their feedback from Ofsted inspection. Although we do get informed of your inspection, it helps us to plan if you let us know at the beginning of the inspection when the feedback is likely to take place. We will always endeavour to join you at the school to support you if we can.

We are looking forward to supporting and working with you and your school in the year ahead.

Best wishes,



Alex Tear – Director of Education

Below are some reminders of the key events taking place this year for your diaries:

Diocesan Events, Courses and Programmes – 2014

Heads & Chairs Network Briefings

These take place week commencing 27th January on the following dates:

- Wednesday 29th January – 1.30pm – 4pm – Chevening (St. Botolph's) CE (Aided) Primary School Chevening Road Chipstead TN13 2SA
- Thursday 30th January – 1.30pm – 4pm – Bromley & Bexley – Holiday Inn Wrotham TN15 7RS
- Friday 31st January – 1.30pm – 4pm – Diocesan Office, Boley Hill Rochester ME1 1SL

Please book with Teresa Spearink, email teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org

These briefings are free to schools and academies subscribing to the Diocesan SLA. £75 to non-subscribers.

Leadership Conference - Friday 7th March (Maidstone)

Our annual conference takes place at the Great Danes Mercure Hotel. Keynote speakers include Roger Black MBE, Olympic Athlete and Team GB Ambassador, Dr Elizabeth Sidwell, former

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Schools Commissioner for England and Canon Ann Holt, Chair of the Bristol DBE and Bible Society Trustee. Includes sit down lunch.

Places are limited and cost £100 ex VAT for bookings received before 31st January. £150 ex VAT after this date.

Guided Learning Course – Effective Practice Consultancy – Tuesday 4th February (Rochester Diocesan Office)

A new day course designed for Primary Class teachers looking to improve their teaching from ‘Good’ to ‘Outstanding’. Based on successful pilot run by the Department of Education in primary schools.

Limited to 10 places. Cost £125 ex VAT. Include buffet lunch.

Foundation Governor Induction Training – 3rd February (Rochester Diocesan Office) 4.30 to 6.30pm

Twilight session for all new Foundation Governors of our Church schools.

Free to all Church school Foundation Governors. Please book in advance with Teresa Spearink.

SIAMS Development & Self-Evaluation – Focus: ‘Distinctive Christian Character’ – Tuesday 11th February

Two sessions, one in the morning (9.30am start until 12 noon) and one in the afternoon (1.30pm start until 4pm). These sessions are designed to help and support school evaluation of the four areas of the new SIAMS framework. Please book in advance with Teresa Spearink.

RE Subject Leaders Network Meetings – 25th/26th/27th February

- Rochester RE Support Group 1.30 pm - All Saints CEP Wouldham ME1 3TS
- Tunbridge Well RE support group 1.30 pm - Bennett Memorial School TN4 9SH
- Wrotham RE support group 1.30 pm Wrotham Church TN15 7AH

Free to all schools and academies subscribing to the Diocesan SLA.

SIAMS Development & Self-Evaluation – Focus: ‘Leadership and Management’ – Tuesday 20th May

Two sessions, one in the morning (9.30am start until 12 noon) and one in the afternoon (1.30pm start until 4pm). These sessions are designed to help and support school evaluation of the four areas of the new SIAMS framework. Please contact Teresa Spearink to book a place.

Headteachers Residential Retreat – Canterbury Cathedral Lodge – 22nd & 23rd May

A 2 day residential retreat in the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral which provides some time to reflect on your leadership of a Church school. Please contact Teresa Spearink to reserve a place.

Details and further information on all these events can be found at our website: www.rdbe.org.uk

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