



### **Diocesan Director's Newsletter - May 2017**

24th May 2017

Dear Colleague

I hope you are well.

We are very aware that the last part of the summer term is very busy with end of year events however we would encourage you to participate and engage with the range of diocesan events planned for our Church schools this term.

If these events are to be successful, we really need your help and support by encouraging as many of your school leaders and governors to attend. An early response indicating attendance helps us to plan especially for the Education Service on the 28th June.

Can I ask you to disseminate this newsletter to your senior leaders and encourage your governors to attend?

### **Heads & Chairs Briefings - 7th & 8th June**

This term's briefings will cover the following topics:

- new Diocesan guidance for Leadership appointments in Church schools
- an overview of our new Primary Schools Financial Toolkit, a self review tool for schools to use when reviewing their budgets and financial position
- an update on the timescales for the introduction of the new SIAMS inspection framework

- expectations around the new R.E. syllabus and materials

Please note that both sessions will be breakfast briefings starting at 8.30am at the following venues:

**Thursday 8th June - [St Benedict's Centre, West Malling](#) - 8.30am - 10.30am**

**Friday 9th June - Diocesan Offices, Rochester - 8.30am - 10.30am**

Please click on the link for the St Benedict's to find directions to the centre. The car park is accessed by a side access road off Swan Street before the Abbey's main entrance.

Please book your places before half-term by e-mailing Teresa Spearink at the Diocesan office in the normal way so we can cater for numbers.

### **Education Service & Garden Party - Wednesday 28th June 2017**

All schools have received an invitation to the education service asking you to name the members of staff who will be coming to the service and nominate any member of staff that you would like to acknowledge for their contribution to the Christian ethos of your school.

In order to ensure we can organise the service, we do need to receive your response forms from your school asap and no later than **Monday 5th June**.

A copy of the reply form is available [here](#).

### **Diocesan Governors Development Programme**

We are pleased to be able to launch the new Governors Development Programme for governors of all our Church schools.

Details of the programme has been sent by letter to all schools with the dates of the six sessions. The first session on vision and the strategic role of governors takes place on Monday 19th June at St Botolph's Chevening CofE Primary School in Sevenoaks.

The programme costs £375 (ex vat) per school and schools can send up to three governors to each session. To book onto the programme please return the response form to Teresa Spearink with a cheque asap

### **Religious Education – exciting times!**

Thank you for sending your RE subject leader to training for 'Understanding Christianity' over the past year and indeed for your own attendance and that of your clergy colleagues in some cases. There is a final day 2 of training for some of you on Thursday 13 July starting at 9-30am at the Diocesan office in Rochester and we look forward to seeing you there if that applies to you.

Please can we remind you that there is a **final training session for subject leaders** from 1-30pm to 3-30pm on Wednesday 7 June at Bore Place, Chiddingstone,

Edenbridge TN8 7AR. Please let Teresa know that your subject leader is attending [teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org) (Please note that, with regret and our apologies, **we have had to cancel the session on 8 June** because of the General Election as the venue is being used as a Polling Station).

Now that all our schools have attended training, the new RE syllabus for which Understanding Christianity forms the basis should be implemented in school from September 2017. Guidance and materials for this will be coming into school as they are finalised during term 6, the summer holidays and into next year as well. Please look out for all of this material and pass it on to your RE subject leader.

### **Understanding Christianity - Training sessions for governors**

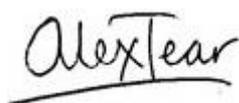
**We will be running some further training sessions on the new Understanding Christianity resources in the Autumn term specifically for governors on the following dates:**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 4.30 pm at the Diocesan Offices  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 4.30 pm at the Diocesan Offices.

The cost for this course is £30 plus VAT (£36) - please contact Teresa Spearink at the Diocesan offices to book places.

We look forward to seeing you, your Chair of Governors and your staff at these events after half-term.

With best wishes,



**Alex Tear**  
**Director of Education**

[Governors Development Programme - Response form](#)

[Governors Development Programme - Brochure & Dates](#)



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

*Copyright © 2017 Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, All rights reserved.*  
You are receiving this e-mail as a member of the Diocesan Board of Education or employee of 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](#)

*MailChimp.*