



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

To Chairs of Directors, Governors, Parish Priests and Head Teachers

Changes at Diocesan Education Service

Adam Hardy, after six years as Director of Education has decided to retire at the end of the calendar year. With the diocesan academy strategy well established and the diocesan plan now in place, Adam felt the time was right for the diocese to appoint a new director to lead the Diocesan Education Service (DES) on the next stage of its journey. Please find attached a personal letter from Adam.

Over the course of the next half term, we will be seeking the views of a representative number of Catholic Senior Executive Leaders (CSEL's), Head Teachers, Directors and Governors to help inform the selection process.

The trustees have decided that to further align the activities of the DES with the Diocesan Plan, the new director of education when appointed will report to the Chief Operating Officer, Eric Kirwan. The importance of young people and families to the diocesan plan, the desire for greater co responsibility between schools and parishes and an increased focus on how we utilise the skills, talents and resources within our school communities will we believe be better served by this arrangement.

The transition to the new structure will see the Deputy Directors at the DES reporting to Eric from January 2022 until a new Director is appointed. During the same period, Adam has agreed to support Eric and the DES by helping to manage relationships with external agencies and stakeholders until such times as the new Director is appointed.

In parallel, a review of the Education Sub Committee is taking place following the retirement in the summer of Bishop David McGough. The diocese will appoint a new Chair for this sub-committee and look to recruit members with specific experience and knowledge of: the primary and secondary sectors, the academy structure and process, and governance. Our aim is to have a committee which can fulfil a similar function to that of a board of directors or governors and act as the 'critical friend' to the new Director and DES leadership team.

We are excited at the opportunities in front of us as we make these changes and focus on our two priorities of completing the academisation of all our schools and implementing the diocesan plan.

I am sure you will all join me in thanking Adam for all he has contributed during his time with the diocese and his career in education and to wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Canon Jonathan Veasey
Lead Trustee for Education
21st October 2021