



Birmingham Diocesan Education Service Newsletter January 2019

Welcome Back

Loving Father

Grant us a new year filled with peace and joy.

Bestow upon all of us, and the schools we work with, countless blessings.

Let us always remember that all the work we undertake we do so in your name.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We hope that you have all managed to enjoy a restful, happy and Holy Christmas holiday.

This is a very busy time of year for both schools and the DES as we prepare for the appointment of senior leaders in our schools. If your school may be needing to appoint this year, please contact Sam Shepherd at our office as soon as possible so that dates can be arranged well in advance to ensure that a DES officer is able to attend.

We bid a fond farewell to Dan Vince our secondary RE adviser who will be leaving the DES later this term to take up a new post as Vice Principal at Blessed William Howard Catholic High School in Stafford. We thank him for his outstanding service over the past three years, which has seen the quality of support and provision for our secondary schools go from strength to strength. He will be greatly missed.

It is our intention to advertise this post at the DES very soon – please watch our website for the advert.

We welcome Amy Majhu who has been appointed as our new school business and finance adviser. She will be working closely with Toni Guest in supporting, assisting and advising all our schools in terms of finance and business operations. I am sure that she will quickly prove to be a great help to both schools and academies alike. She will be joining us in March.

Education continues to constantly change, and the DES will continue to evolve to reflect these changes in order to meet the needs of our schools. We will keep you updated on changes to our staff and services as and when they happen.

God bless
Adam Hardy
Director of Education

Primary News

CSSP (Catholic Schools Pupil Profile): This half terms virtues are ***Eloquent and Truthful***. The resource sheet is on RE-live.

NQT Courses: The Diocese held the first of three NQT courses during the Autumn Term. Please ensure NQT's are booked onto the other two days by following <https://www.bdes.org.uk/training-primary-re.html>

Age Related Standards: The new National Age-Related Standards were discussed during Autumn cluster meetings. For those subject leaders who may have missed their cluster meeting, we will be holding a final catch-up session at Don Bosco House on Thursday 24th January 2019.

Please attend one session:

Session 1 - 9.30-11.30

Session 2 - 1.30-3.30

If you wish to attend then please confirm by emailing either d.harris@bdes.org.uk or m.duggan@bdes.org.uk

Advent Classroom Prayer Focus Competition: Thank you to all those schools who entered our first Primary Diocesan competition! It was wonderful to see the different ways schools are bringing their prayer focus' alive. Please see RE-live for a sample of entries.

Congratulations to Reception at St. Osburg's Coventry who thought about how they were going to get their heart ready for Jesus. Your prize is on its way to you!

Secondary News

Pupil A Level Conference - 15th January 2019: We are delighted that the first ever Diocesan Pupil A level conference has taken place this term at the University of Birmingham with over 500 students attending from our Diocesan schools. It promised to be an excellent day full of high-class input to encourage, enthuse and inspire our sixth form students as they tackle the new RE A Level – and nobody was disappointed! Archbishop Bernard attended the event and was suitably impressed by the numbers of young people in attendance and described it as a very successful event. Many thanks to all schools who will be represented at this event.

PICCLS Partnership Meetings: Following on from the success of the PICCLS conference last term, we will be hosting the PICCLS partnership meetings at Don Bosco House. These meetings aim to provide practical ways for schools to continue to develop the Catholic life whilst providing an opportunity to share best practice between schools. Please do ensure your school is represented.

26/02/19 - PICCLS Partnership at DBH, Coleshill (Oxford & Birmingham)

07/03/19 - PICCLS Partnership at DBH, Coleshill (Stafford & South Diocese)

18/03/19 - PICCLS Partnership at DBH, Coleshill (Black Country & Coventry)

RE Conference: We were delighted with the fantastic turn out for the first Heads of RE conference last term. We were joined by each of the three RE exam boards to ensure the best possible feedback on the summer exams. A word of thanks to Sandra Mallon from Cardinal Newman, who led a very inspiring session on providing the best provision for less able students ensuring the excellent outcomes. Our next Head of RE conference will be on 28th March 2019. Please book your place via: <http://w.pfrms.co/ab4y3>

In School INSET: The Secondary team have been delighted to provide in school Catholic life INSET to many of our secondary schools and MACs. Regular Catholic life INSET is a hallmark of a good Catholic school, therefore please do contact the Diocesan for advice, guidance and support if you are planning to host a Catholic life INSET day.

Alpha: We are delighted that following the DES Alpha for school leaders, several schools, groups of schools and MACs have established a provision for Alpha within their community. If you are interested in running an Alpha or want to know more information, please do contact the DES.

Important Information

There is a certain amount of sharing of personal data between schools and the Diocese. Schools need to make sure that their privacy notice covers this. There will also need to be a formal arrangement in place between the Diocese and each school (if VA) or MAC (if an academy). This will be explained further at the Head Teacher Briefings.

Please can all schools check that their websites are compliant with DFE expectations as it has been brought to our attention that several schools have not recently checked, and this can cause problems when Ofsted visit.

Further assistance can be obtained from Caroline Bletso at the Diocesan communications team ON 0121 230 6286 caroline.bletso@rc-birmingham.org

School Effectiveness and School Organisation

The Diocesan Academy Strategy continues to progress across all Schools in the Archdiocese. To date 102 schools (in 17 Multi Academy Companies – MACs) are within a MAC structure, which amounts to 45% of our Schools. It is anticipated that within 12 months two thirds of our schools will be within a MAC structure.

There is a momentum towards Schools understanding and accepting what the Strategy means in their local area and the recent clarification of expected timescales has positively supported this.

To re-cap, in the September newsletter clear direction was given to all Schools, be working in groupings by September 2019 and have converted or be ready to convert by September 2020.

Other key developments associated with the Academy Strategy include the growing clarity and engagement in the role of the Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL) <http://www.bdes.org.uk/mac-executive-leadership.html> and the movement of our 'smaller' MACs in coming together to form 'bigger' more sustainable MAC structures moving forward.

The Diocesan team continue to work with all Governing Bodies and Schools to support their progress towards becoming an academy and joining their local family of schools in a MAC. This will achieve our aim to secure, protect and improve our Schools, by bringing Catholic Education (3 – 19) into coherent and sustainable school improvement structures in their local areas.

School Complaints Policies

All schools should, by now, have adopted the revised model complaints policy that is available on our website at <https://www.bdes.org.uk/hr--employment-documentation.html> Please note that the Diocese will no longer undertake "Stage 3" complaint investigations and no parent should be advised to refer their complaint to the Diocese for further investigation. If your school has not yet adopted the above policy, this will need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

School Leadership and School Improvement

School Leadership is faced with new and exciting challenges with the growth in different leadership models and the organic growth of the CSEL role within Multi Academy Companies. The DES continues to be at the forefront of change in leadership developments and is presently preparing, with external support, a bespoke training programme for those aspiring to be executive head teachers. This programme will be available in the summer term. The DES is also facilitating termly meetings for CSELS across the Archdiocese and is encouraging all CSELS to join a regional network of CEOs as well as availing of external training opportunities. The DES continues to support existing and aspiring school leaders and offers the following over the next 2 terms

Funding arrangements for School Improvement work have recently changed. These changes will be outlined at Head Teacher briefings .

Head Teacher Briefings: These are scheduled for Thursday 7th, Friday 8th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th February 2019. All briefings start promptly at 9.15am and take place at Don Bosco House, Coleshill.

If you have not already registered your intention to attend, please follow this link to do so. <http://w.pfrms.co/ab4y3>
There are no briefing sessions in the summer term.

Aspiring Leaders Day for practising Catholics working outside of the Catholic Sector and wishing to apply to work in Catholic schools – Saturday 19th January 2019. Please follow this link to apply to attend <http://w.pfrms.co/2ltp>

The DES's Annual Leadership Conference: This is scheduled to take place on Friday 21st June at the ICC in Birmingham. Free places are available to the headteacher and Chair of Governors of each school, to CSELS and the Chair of the Board of Directors of each MAC. A booking pro-form will be sent to all head teachers, CSELS and Chairs next week and should be returned by the 16th February 2019 at the latest. Any remaining places after that date will be released to schools wanting additional places at a cost of £100.00 per place.

Newly Appointed Head Teacher Induction Days: The remaining Induction Days are scheduled for Wednesday 16th January, Wednesday 27th March, 1st May and 26th June 2019.

Newly Appointed Deputy Induction Days : The remaining induction days are scheduled for Friday 25th January, Monday 1st April, Friday 3rd May, and Wednesday 3rd July 2019. Please follow the link to register attendance at these sessions <http://w.pfrms.co/ab4y3> if relevant to you .

A Reminder

Schools were asked in the Autumn term to submit the names of potential Middle and Senior Leaders, presently working in their schools. Thank you to those head teachers and principals that did this so conscientiously and allowed their staff to attend BDES Aspiring Leader courses. Those schools who have not yet identified future leaders from amongst their staff will be emailed shortly to ask for names via a pro-form.

Section 48 Inspections

The current schedule for section 48 inspections and monitoring visits is as follows:

| Previous S48 Judgement | Monitoring Visit | Full Inspection |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Good or Outstanding | Three years and one term after the previous inspection | Five years after the previous inspection |
| Less than Good | One year and a term after the previous inspection | Three years after the previous inspection |

All inspections take place over two days and most are conducted by two inspectors.

Training to support schools with Section 48 inspection preparation is available on the following dates:

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Senior leader and RE subject leader S48 Training | 18 th January 9.30am-2.30pm | 24 th May 9.30am-2.30pm |
| Governor S48 Training | 22 nd January 9.30am-2.30pm | 21 st May 6pm-8pm |

Please apply for this training through the BDES website <https://www.bdes.org.uk/training-and-events.html>

All training takes place at Don Bosco House. To gain the most from this training senior leaders and RE subject leaders should, where possible, attend together.

All documentation to support Section 48 Inspections is available at <https://www.bdes.org.uk/section-48.html>

Chaplaincy

We are now half way through our Liturgy and Collective Worship Certificate Course! Our next INSET day is Tuesday March 26th, and this will be from 8.45am-3.15pm at Don Bosco House.

We are delighted to be welcoming Jimmy Mitchel back to the UK as a follow up to our SYNOD work last March. He will be with us for one week only in April and is hoping to visit as many schools as possible!

If you would like a visit to discuss Lay Chaplaincy in your school, please contact b.roseman@bdes.org.uk .

Buildings and Finance

A newly appointed Finance Advisor for Schools will be joining the DES team in March to add further financial expertise to the team.

The first Diocesan School Business Manager conference is planned for 7th March 2019 at the National Conference Centre located at the Motorcycle Museum in Solihull. Details of how to book places for your school finance staff will be published shortly.

Statutory testing and maintenance returns will be emailed to all schools to complete and return this term. The Asbestos Management Assurance Process or AMAP deadline for submission to the DfE is imminent. All schools should have received their on-line portal login details in order to submit their return by 15th February.

VA school's capital update; the last LCVAP programme to be coordinated by Local Authorities will be agreed during the next two months with the outcomes communicated to schools. All bids for funding should have been submitted prior to the Christmas break. Details of how funding will be allocated and managed from 2020 onwards will be available later this academic year.



“Grace is not part of consciousness; it is the amount of light in our souls, not knowledge nor reason.” Pope Francis.