

Diocesan SBM Meeting April 2019 Updates:

General Updates:

ALL SCHOOLS GENERAL

- **SBM Conference** - an electronic link to the days agenda, presentations and workshops is below: <https://www.bdes.org.uk/sbm-conference-2019.html>
- **SBM conference** follow up – please do complete your feedback forms which will assist with planning next year’s conference.
- **Introduction to the Finance & Buildings team** (new member AM)
- **Statutory Testing & Maintenance Returns – Spring 2019**
JH has issued the Statutory Testing and maintenance spreadsheet and guide to all schools. *The submission deadline is Friday 10th May 2019.*
- **Reminder to all schools please to use the landlord approval form** which can be found on the BDES website to seek approval prior to commencing any building works on their school site. An electronic link to the form is below: https://www.bdes.org.uk/uploads/7/2/8/5/72851667/copy_of_des_landlord_approval_application_1.xlsx
- **The Department for Education (DfE)** has published information about sources of training and support for school business professionals in schools, trusts and other organisations. This includes the following (*source: DfE*):
 - A suite of professional standards from the Institute of School Business Leadership (ISBL).
 - A range of qualifications available from different providers.
 - Sector organisations which provide training and support.An electronic link to the site is below

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-resource-management-training-and-support>

- **The DfE** has published updated guidance on playing fields. The DfE is currently in the process of updating its guidance on disposing or changing the use of playing fields and school land. This update will reflect the latest policy position and provide information on a new application portal, ending the current multiple application form process.

In the interim period, DfE now requires applicants to provide further details about their proposal. This will allow DfE to consider existing and future change of use applications in a way consistent with current policy.

The change of use application form (SATPF2) has been updated to provide clearer guidance and information required for future applications.

Existing applicants do not need to reapply.

ACADEMIES GENERAL

- **MAC financial monitoring meetings are on-going.** The DES is approximately half way through the monitoring meetings now. The ESFA are also carrying out a number of monitoring meetings across the region.
- **The new reporting system for Related Party Transactions was launched yesterday by the DfE.** The online form is now live, and guidance has been published on GOV.UK. The summary guidance describes the scope of the new reporting arrangements and includes a link to where the on-line form can be completed. It can be accessed through the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/related-party-transactions-information-for-academy-trusts/declare-or-seek-approval-for-related-party-transactions-summary-guidance>

More detailed guidance has also been published, which can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/related-party-transactions-information-for-academy-trusts>

As you will see, this includes guidance which is specific to church schools. The church schools guidance includes reference to the ongoing work that is taking place with the ESFA and the DfE as certain sections of the form do not currently work for our sector when reporting a diocesan contribution/levy.

- **ESFA Updated guidance: School and academy financial management and assurance**
[Academies: funding, payments and compliance](#)
Information to help open academies and academy trusts comply with their funding agreement and understand their funding and payments.

- The ESFA have produced an update on RPA, how to join and what is covered. An electronic link is provided below:

[Risk protection arrangement for academies: join and get support](#)

- **letter from Eileen Milner (CE of ESFA) to academy trusts**
ESFA chief executive, Eileen Milner, has written a [letter to academy trusts](#). The letter outlines arrangements for academy trust financial returns until the end of 2019.
- The ESFA has also published information about our [academies better financial reporting programme](#). This seeks to improve the existing end-to-end process for financial reporting by academy trusts.

VA SCHOOLS GENERAL

- We are still awaiting LCVAP announcements for each LA from the DfE which is expected imminently. We will be in touch with all VA schools to inform the outcome of bids in due course.

FUNDING/GRANT UPDATES

- **Woodland Trust – Free Trees for Community Groups and Schools**

The Woodland Trust has announced that it has thousands of free tree packs available to community groups and schools across the UK, plus nurseries, colleges, universities, and outdoor learning centres. The trees are available for planting on an area that is accessible to the public so that it can be used and enjoyed by others. If applying as a school, trees should be planted on either the schools grounds, land the school has arranged regular access to, or in an area that is publicly accessible.

Applications for a tree pack for a community group need to:

- State that the land is accessible to the public
- Make sure the local community is aware of the plans to plant and is happy for the project to go ahead
- Be applying for up to 420 trees in each application cycle or season.

There are two delivery periods per year, in November and March, where the trees are dormant and perfect for planting.

Applications are currently being accepted for trees to be delivered in November 2019.

For more information visit: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/free-trees/>

- **Greggs Foundation Breakfast Club Funding**

The Greggs Foundation currently supports over 465 breakfast clubs across Britain, providing a nutritious breakfast to over 30,000 school children each day. Every school is provided with fresh bread from their nearest Greggs store, and a grant to support start-up and ongoing costs. The average club costs just £2,000 to set up and run for a year.

If you are a primary school interested in applying to establish a breakfast club supported by the Greggs Foundation, please see the qualifying criteria below:

- The applicant organisation must be a primary school in Britain or Belfast
- At least 40% of the pupils at your school should be eligible to claim free school meals
- The school should demonstrate a commitment to engaging parents or other volunteers in the running of the breakfast club

- The breakfast club must be free to ensure that all pupils can attend.

To apply, simply fill in the online form on the website link below.

For more information visit: <https://www.greggsfoundation.org.uk/breakfast-clubs>

- **Ashden Trust** – An energy efficiency programme available to all schools.

The LESS CO2 sustainable schools programme is a free energy efficiency programme available to any UK school including council run, academy or independent schools. Funded via the Ashden Trust, the programme consists of a series of half day workshops spread through the year, peer mentoring, expert advice and resources. <http://www.lessco2.org.uk/>

- **SALIX** Funding for school energy efficiency measures.
Contact Matt Fulford, LSI Energy . T: 07971 787363 E: matt@lsienergy.com