



SBM Meeting June 2021 Updates

General Diocesan Updates:

ALL SCHOOLS GENERAL

- There will be a number of staff changes in coming months at the DES, John Dwyer the DD for school Organisation is retiring at the end of this academic year. It is also with great sadness that I share with you our very own Sharon Leahy will also be leaving the diocese at the end of the academic year. Sharon has worked for the diocese for over 20 years and will be greatly missed by us all.
- Save the date: Leadership conference – 18th June at ICC in Birmingham.
- DES future training programmes for the new academic year; marketing and developing a marketing and communication strategy for your school; basic school budgets & finance for governors and new HT's; effectively managing your school estate for governors and directors which will include H&S. We welcome and further suggestions and topics.
- Statutory testing and compliance reminder only a handful of schools have submitted their returns. Deadline for submission to Jane Hatton is end of summer term. Jane.hatton@bdes.org.uk
- Planning for your school estate guidance will be issued by DES in the new academic year.
- National Condition Data Collection surveys commissioned by the DfE are on-going for all schools nationally. You will be contacted directly by the DfE to arrange for your survey to be carried out.
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/condition-data-collection-2-cdc2-programme>
- Environmental awards. The Church Times, in collaboration with members of both the Church of England and Roman Catholic environmental working groups, has recently launched The Green Church Showcase

- — a hunt for inspiring initiatives to protect and preserve the planet. see <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/green-church-showcase>
- Ten:Ten provide resources for Catholic primary schools through their two education programmes for Catholic primary schools, Life to the Full and Collective Worship, and are offering a 5% discount to schools that sign up and pay by card: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/subscribe/>
- The Diocesan academy strategy continues to progress; On the 1st June 2021 there were 137 academies within the Archdiocese of Birmingham operating within 17 Multi-Academy Companies (MACs). Our most recently formed brand new MAC consisting of 13 schools – Our Lady and All Saints was formed on 1st April. In addition, we continue to have Bishop Challoner and John Henry Newman operating as academies from pre-MAC model arrangements. More information about the academy strategy can be found on the BDES website <https://www.bdes.org.uk/academies.html>
- Entrust Financial Services offer a range of financial services including payroll to schools and academies. We have electronic copies of brochures if anyone would like to receive a copy.
- A reminder to complete a trustee Approval form and that a consultant should be used to manage the project which can be accessed via the link below: https://www.bdes.org.uk/uploads/7/2/8/5/72851667/copy_of_des_landlord_approval_application_1.xlsx
- Getting to Carbon Net Zero - Alex Green, Programme Manager, Ashden
For further information and to sign up your school please visit:

www.letsgozer.org

<https://ashden.org/>
- CAFOD – Live Simply Campaign is an opportunity for Catholic communities including schools, to respond to Pope Francis’ invitation in Laudato Si’ to “work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us”. <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award>

DfE Updates:

- the DfE offer free webinars for schools and academies: <https://www.schoolresourcemanagement.co.uk/>

- The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme has been allocated additional funds and been extended to help more young people to access volunteering and extra-curricular learning. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/34-million-to-expand-the-duke-of-edinburghs-award-in-schools>

ACADEMIES GENERAL

- UHY Academy benchmarking report for 2021 was published in April, link to the report here : <https://www.uhy-uk.com/sites/default/files/2021-04/UHY%20Benchmarking%20Report%202021.pdf>
- Updated Academies Financial Handbook is now available: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academies-financial-handbook/academy-trust-handbook-2021>
- In recent news it was reported an academy trust has identified a different approach to central services; outsourcing, Transforming Futures Trust (TFT) had signed a £1 million deal to outsource most of its central staff and services and take shares on the for-profit organisation. The deal was blocked by the ESFA. electronic link below for information:

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/academy-trust-outsourcing-shareholding-joint-venture-blocked/>

- MAC monitoring meetings have recently been completed by the diocese. Feedback letters if not already issued will be sent shortly.

VA SCHOOLS GENERAL

- VASCA funding announcement has recently been made. The diocese as the responsible body was allocated just over £6 million at 90% for capital projects at VA schools.

Based on the DfE selection criteria of keeping school buildings safe and in good working order, tackling poor building condition, building compliance, (statutory testing & maintenance) energy efficiency and addressing health & safety issues; a total of 51 projects with a value of £6,240,541 million can proceed in this financial year.

- PE & sports premium. The DfE has recently announced a further relaxation of ring-fencing arrangements for the PE and sport premium. This will allow any unspent grant to be carried forward into the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

Any under-spends carried forward from the 2019 to 2020 academic year, and the 2020 to 2021 academic year, will need to be spent in full by 31 July 2022.

Schools should factor this into PE and sport premium spending plans. The 2020 to 2021 conditions of grant documents have been updated to reflect this.

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