

Diocese of Hallam - Schools Together

Newsletter—22nd January 2021

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of our Diocese of Hallam Schools Together newsletter brought to you by the MAT Development Group. We will be issuing this at least every fortnight to share with you an overview of where we are against key milestones, what's coming up next and how you can get involved. This is part of our wider engagement strategy which has already started with the first of our scheduled Family of Schools Cluster meetings. Our contact details are at the foot of the newsletter—please do get in touch at any point if you need more information.

Latest News

13.1.21 Regional Schools Commissioner met with Trustees and the MAT Development Group to establish a way forward in forming 2 large MATs. The clear message from the RSC is for us to go ahead and:

- ⇒ *Deliver at pace*
- ⇒ *Get structures, compliance and accountability right*
- ⇒ *Support all schools and academies on the journey*
- ⇒ *Learn lessons and draw on best practice nationally*

19.1.21 We held the first online Family Cluster meeting with Doncaster and Notts schools - thank you to Heads and Chairs of Governors there for sharing your experiences and hopes for the project. We are looking forward to meeting Heads and Chairs in the other four clusters very soon. A key message coming out of this first meeting is:

- ⇒ *Retaining and building on the distinctiveness of our Catholic Schools in the new MATs and ensuring that the new CEOs are Catholic*

You can be assured that this is our number one priority!

April 2021 We have been asked to put forward more detailed plans to the RSC about timing, phasing, resourcing and structures for your new MATs and we are now working on that framework. Which leads us to

Coming up next

We need to revisit the due diligence that you all supported last summer to give us a clearer picture of each of your schools and academies so that your road map into one of the new MATs is tailored and right for you. We will therefore be requesting a range of information from you including:

- ⇒ *Your current budgets and forecasts*
- ⇒ *Plans for capital projects*
- ⇒ *Pupils numbers*
- ⇒ *Details about the systems, services and contracts you use, and more*

We will send out an email request with full details about what is required and the deadlines before half term — please lookout for this. This process will be supported by 1-2-1 conversations with each Headteacher.

Getting involved

Thank you to all those who have offered their time—we will certainly be calling on you to support. You can get involved straight away by sharing your experiences directly as part of the 1-2-1 conversations with your project lead— you will be given an allocated project lead very shortly. Looking ahead we will be setting up theme groups across the Diocese and your skills and expertise will be vital in shaping how you move from our current SATs, MAT and maintained schools and align yourselves into the new MATs and how we ensure the distinctiveness of your Catholic Hallam MATs. You will hear more about the theme groups after the half term break.

Contact your MAT Project Leads

Phil Curtis:	pcurtis@hallam-diocese.com	0796 2015241
Neil Weightman:	nweightman@hallam-diocese.com	0798 1212526
Cecilia Emery:	cemery@hallam-diocese.com	0784 7271975

“The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients.” Pope Francis