

Diocese of Hallam - Schools Together

Newsletter—5th February 2021



Thank You!

This edition needs no introduction other than to say a huge thank you to Heads and School Business Managers who have made time to collate due diligence information. We are grateful for the many responses already received well ahead of the date requested.

To everyone who we have met so far either in group meetings or individually - thank you for your openness and honesty in sharing. We are grateful for the insights you have given about how the project has impacted on you historically and how you want to work differently as we move forward.

We have heard many voices across the Diocese and we are listening. Many questions have been raised so far and we are collating these into a single FAQ document to be issued w/c 22nd February. We have the remaining family of school meeting (St Bernard's) this week and points raised in that meeting will be added. The headlines coming out of discussions so far are that:

- ⇒ *there is support for the Bishop's vision to establish two MATs and that this is in the best interests of all schools across the Diocese;*
- ⇒ *the new MATs need to be distinctively Catholic and "Hallam Diocese" with a Catholic CEO, inclusive of our joint Church schools;*
- ⇒ *the current family of school groupings should be preserved in the new MATs;*
- ⇒ *clarity about timing and process is essential for forward planning;*
- ⇒ *stakeholder involvement in shaping the new MATs is a priority;*
- ⇒ *the inclusion of educationalists on the MAT Steering Group would increase Headteacher and Chair of Governor confidence in the project; and*
- ⇒ *we need to prioritise staff well-being.*

The MAT Steering Group will meet on 22nd February to review the FAQ document and to agree actions in support of the above headlines.

Latest News

25.1.21 Regional Schools Commissioner and ESFA desk officers met with the MAT Development Group. The focus of this meeting was agreement that:

- ⇒ *No school would be left behind in the project*
- ⇒ *ESFA will work with the Diocese to co-ordinate support for schools where this is necessary and to resolve any remaining issues*

26.1.21 Meeting with St Pius and Holy Trinity Family

28.1.21 Meeting with Chesterfield Family

28.1.21 Meeting with Clergy

29.1.21 Request sent out for due diligence

4.2.21 Meeting with Sheffield Family

5.2.21 Meeting with HSPAT Board of Directors where it was agreed that HSPAT would be fully part of the MAT Development Project with actions being co-ordinated through the HSPAT Board.

5.2.21 Anglican Diocese and Local Authority partners invited to meet

Coming up next

- ⇒ *121 meetings with each Headteacher to discuss how we work together on the individual road maps. This is the first round of regular 121 meetings. Please look out for an email.*

w/c 22nd February

- ⇒ *MAT Steering Group response to headlines, FAQ document*
- ⇒ *Expertise within the Diocese—call for pen portraits*
- ⇒ *Introduction to theme groups*

Getting involved and building your MATs

Thank you to those who've added their names since the last newsletter, offering time and expertise. During w/c 22nd February we will be introducing the first set of theme groups, the topic areas, remits and how to be involved. The outcomes from these groups will feed directly into the MAT Steering Group's decision making regarding the ethos, ways of working, and priorities for the MATs—in essence you will be developing the blueprint to hand over to the new CEOs and Boards of Directors of the new MATs.

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

We are available to support outside of meetings and in addition to the scheduled 121s. Please get in touch whenever you need to.

"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