

Diocese of Hallam - Schools Together

Newsletter—26th February 2021

"Its not the beauty of a building you should look at; it's the construction of the foundation that will stand the test of time"

We are now in the build phase of the project with the launch last week of theme groups looking at School Improvement and Wellbeing. Catholic Life & Ethos theme group will be set up shortly and the work of these three groups will form the foundations of our Catholic MATs. Details of membership and how to get involved in each can be found in the Terms of Reference for those groups. You have also received since half term responses to the questions raised in your family groups together with a re-statement of the vision - we hope you found these helpful.

Due diligence responses, offers of support and expertise from Headteachers, governors and business managers together with arrangements for 121 meetings with Headteachers have filled our email boxes last week. Thank you again to those who we have already met individually for your positive and constructive engagement - we look forward to catching up with more of you over the coming weeks.

Latest News

9.2.21 Meeting with St Bernard's Family

16.2.21 Meeting with John Brady, Founder and MD of SAS, to discuss Wellbeing theme group. John is giving his time freely to facilitate the work and the staff survey and governor training module are also being offered free of charge across the Diocese.

17.2.21 Schools Dept/MAT Devt group meeting with Sheffield LA to share latest developments.

18.2.21 Discussions with Anglican Dioceses regarding our joint faith schools.

18.2.21 Discussions with Catholic Education Service regarding governance arrangements for our Catholic MATs.

22.2.21 Schools Dept/MAT Devt Group catch up meeting with RSC.

22.2.21 MAT Steering Group met to review questions and responses for the FAQ, to clear the Terms of Reference for the theme groups and to finalise the update document.

24.2.21 MAT Development Group met with DfE desk officers to discuss project timelines, support for schools and resourcing.

Coming up next

- ⇒ *121 meetings continue with each Headteacher to discuss how we work together on the individual road maps. Please book your appointment if you have not already done so.*
 - ⇒ *Phil Curtis is working through the due diligence and will be reporting back to Headteachers the results of the Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning this term.*
 - ⇒ *Draft proposals for timing and phasing of the MATs, looking at individual road maps.*
 - ⇒ *Later this term we will be calling on Business Managers to support the operational theme groups.*
 - ⇒ *Recruitment for the new CEOs, CFOs and Directors for the MAT Boards - we will share news about the arrangements and timescales shortly.*
 - ⇒ *Names for the new Catholic MATs - more news about this will follow by email.*
 - ⇒ *Support for budget setting.*
- w/c 1st March**
- ⇒ *Headteachers: you are all invited to a Wellbeing meeting to hear about the staff survey - Monday 1st March 3pm.*
 - ⇒ *Chairs of Governors: you are all invited to a Wellbeing meeting to learn about the governor training module - Tuesday 2nd March 5.45pm.*
 - ⇒ *Launch of Catholic Life & Ethos Theme Group - prepare to send in your expression of interest.*
 - ⇒ *Confirmation of meeting arrangements for the School Improvement Strategy Group.*

*****Request***: Please email a copy of your Funding Statement over to Phil Curtis as soon as you receive it so that we can make accurate financial forecasts.**

Getting involved and building your MATs

Please get involved where you have the skills, experience and enthusiasm to make a difference. Those on the groups will be seeking your views and feedback. 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.

Watch out for the email about naming the MATs - you will have a say!

We are now on the way to developing the blueprint to hand over to the new CEOs and Boards of Directors of the new MATs.

Contact your MAT Project Leads

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

The next newsletter will be sent out Monday 15th March 2021.