

Diocese of Hallam - Schools Together

Newsletter 21st May 2021

Hallam Schools Together



Development of
Catholic Multi Academy Trusts

MORE GOOD NEWS FOR HALLAM!

Trustees are delighted to announce that Hallam Schools Together CMAT project has been included in the DfE Diocesan MAT Formation Pilot and awarded a grant of £100,000 towards the costs of implementing the two new Catholic Multi Academy Trusts

Thank you for your many messages of support and encouragement, your willingness to give time to the recruitment processes, your votes and for your prompt attention to requests for information and letters to be signed.

Since the last newsletter we have been ...

1. Arranging recruitment of **Foundation Directors** with MAT Steering Group interviewing candidates this week.
2. Planning the next stage in the **CEO recruitment process**. Applications close on 3rd June. Selection procedures will commence on 7th June with final panels taking place on 21st and 22nd June. Headteachers and Chairs of Governors are asked to contact Neil Weightman by 28th May if they want to be part of those final procedures.
3. Counting your votes for **names of the new CMATs** - an announcement is imminent!
4. Collating the many **letters of intent** already received.
5. Meeting with DfE to receive feedback from the Headteacher Board.
6. Exploring **grant funding** for the next stage of the project. We have been successful in securing DfE Diocesan Formation Pilot Funding and we have applications for further funding in progress - every little helps!

Coming up ...

1. Catholic Life and Ethos Theme Group meetings taking place this week led by Alan Dewhurst.
2. Requests for: school budget information, contract registers, land and property questionnaires, asset registers. Full details will be sent out via email this week with deadlines for each item.
3. Announcement of the names of the new CMATs.
4. MAT Steering Group meets on 25th May and phasing plans for the new CMATs and key dates are on the agenda - these will be shared this week.
5. Details of briefing events for Headteachers and Chairs of Governors where phasing plans and next steps will be presented with opportunities for feedback.
6. **School Improvement Theme Group**: The group is making good progress on the School Improvement Strategy for the CMATs and would like to invite Diocesan headteachers to a short virtual presentation on Wednesday, 9th June 2021 from 5pm-6pm. Following the presentation, there will be a mechanism to provide feedback, which will be considered by the group. Access will be via a Zoom link which will be sent out this week.

News from the Department for Education

“... the golden thread running through academisation is that we must constantly advance education, improving outcomes for children and levelling up communities. ... multi academy trusts are the best structure for improvement, and we want a system that’s the best at getting better.” - Gavin Williamson April 2021

Gavin Williamson set out the direction of travel for schools as part of MATs in his recent speech to the Confederation of School Trusts. This has been hailed as the most significant development in the academy landscape since 2016. The draft script can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-speech-to-the-confederation-of-school-trusts>

Click on the link below for a useful summary prepared by Browne Jacobson:

<https://www.brownejacobson.com/education/training-and-resources/legal-updates/2021/05/gavin-williamson-provides-clear-indication-of-the-governments-vision-for-a-fully-academised-state-school-system>

We are factoring in to our plans this latest announcement to ensure that we maximise benefits for Hallam Diocese schools.

REQUESTS and REMINDERS

Support Needed: a primary school in Sheffield is in need of support with financial management - are there any business managers with FMS experience who could offer time? Please contact Cecilia Emery if you could help.

Letters of intent: if you have not already done so please arrange for the letter to be signed by the Chair of Governors and returned by 4th June.

Statement for parents: all schools should by now have issued the statement.

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR STAFF AND GOVERNORS

The next newsletter will be sent out on Monday 14th June 2021

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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