

ST FRANCIS CMAT MAY BULLETIN

CEO Message

Welcome back from Easter. Hoping SATs, Tables and all assessments/tests/exams go well. Looking forward to the May Bank Holiday weekend too. Wishing you lots of sunshine and quality time.

Thank you to all who are engaging in the next stage of the CMAT journey. Phase 1 schools which resolved to join are confirming their resolutions ahead of Advisory Board. HSPAT Board will meet again to deliberate their next steps on 10 May and St Francis Board 18 May. We have welcomed three new experienced members to the Trust Board, bringing welcome additional skills in MATs and finance among other things. Also delighted to have announced the first Chairs' forum, which will be an opportunity for Local Governing Body Chairs to get to know the Trust Board, and each other, to ask questions and raise concerns and get answers: 6pm, Tuesday 10th May.

Meanwhile, the stakeholder consultation period for Phase 2, and for Phase 1 schools (those which had requested more time), launched on 25 April. School-led consultations continue to 11 May to assist decision making. We anticipate resolutions to join – or not, by 17 May, updating the letters of consent originally signed for the May Advisory Board. We anticipate St Francis will be on the agenda for the 15 June Advisory Board, working with St Clare towards a September launch. Reflecting on feedback from round 1 we have de-coupled TUPE consultations, these will be after the resolutions and aligned to the issue of Academy Orders from the Secretary of State.

In readiness for the Advisory Board we are reviewing progress on the legal work associated with transfer and conversions. We are also having regular meetings with our stakeholders – including weekly meeting with DfE and the Diocese. We are preparing our DfE School Improvement paper which needs to issue alongside our application. Thanks to those who contributed to our joint consultation with St Clare's in March, and those booking 1:1s to help to inform that.

While the recent focus has been on preparing for consultation, I have had the opportunity to get out and visit schools and attend a number of Governing Body and Board meetings. I have enjoyed my visit to Mount St Carmel on 26 April, and St Peter's Doncaster before the Easter break.

Grant Updates

I am very pleased we have received our Grant Offer letter for £50k of funding to help with CMAT set up costs last year, and confirmation of a further grant of £9k. From May, Kev and I will be completing a new DfE funded TCAF bid to assist with set up costs this financial year, and help reduce school transfer costs. We anticipate making a bid in the region of £300k, for decision in July.

Charitable Funding

St Francis CMAT has been notified of new grant funded opportunities available. The first focused on secondary schools, so shared via Bob Sawyer, but in case you missed it, The Jerusalem Trust do work with Primary schools RE too. Do take a look: <https://www.regrants.org.uk/>

The second grant funding body is The Albert Gubay Trust where the Diocese via Caritas are in negotiation for a possible grant of £60k to alleviate food poverty. In essence small grants can be made to families in distress (circa £100.00 last year), for food or in some cases food vouchers or parcels were preferred. Please note Mrs Gubay, the Chair of the trustees, strictly said no alcohol.

Third, we understand that Hallam SVP is having a drive, at some point this year, on school uniform poverty. [About Us | St Vincent de Paul Society \(svp.org.uk\)](http://www.svp.org.uk) They may have funds available to help parents. We will keep you posted if we hear anything additional.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Really keen to hear more about your school plans for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June celebrating her 70 year reign. We understand that National Lottery Funding is available to support communities. More than £22 million of National Lottery funding has been earmarked to help communities across the country come together to celebrate.

- More information on the different funds available is on [the National Lottery Community Fund website](#)

The Platinum Jubilee Emblem

The official Platinum Jubilee Emblem is available for use for all activities associated with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, including community and national events. It is free to download from the Royal website, where detailed guidance on how to use it can also be found.

- [Download the emblem](#)

The Queen's Green Canopy

Everyone from individuals to community groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporations are encouraged to plant a tree for the Jubilee. The initiative runs from October 2021, when the tree planting season began, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

- More details are on [the Queen's Green Canopy website](#).

Department for Education (DfE) Climate Change Strategy policy paper

The Government continues their drive to Net Zero and work on the 25 year Environmental Plan. The DfE launched their [strategy on sustainability and climate change for education and children's services systems](#) on 21 April 2022.

The strategy is focused on achieving the Government's aim for the UK to be a world-leading education sector in sustainability and climate change by 2030. Highlights include a new Natural History GCSE and carbon literacy training for at least one sustainability lead in every education settings by 2025 to support a Climate Action Plan. If you have a sustainability champion who may be interested in the paper or perhaps undertaking training in due course, do please share.

The policy paper also emphasises Learning from and connecting with nature, building on the [Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review](#) which states that 'connection with nature declines in childhood to an overall low in the mid-teens.

We know that creating an environment from an early age where we are able to connect to nature is essential for self-enforcement in protecting and valuing nature'. DfE commits to 'increase opportunities for all children and young people to:

- spend time in nature and learn more about it
- become actively involved in the improvement of their local environment'.

We know that regular contact with green spaces can have a beneficial impact on children's physical and mental health. However, access to green space is not equal and we must do more to ensure that all children have opportunities to benefit from access to green space and build connections with nature.'

*Your **Feedback** and suggestions for topics for the next Bulletin are appreciated. Thank you!*