

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 31st Mar 2023

Events coming up after the Easter Break

Chairs Forum – Wed 3rd May 6-7.30pm on Teams

Writing Moderation Review meeting – Thu 4th May (involving colleagues who led the moderation. They have been invited)

Heads' Forum – Tue 16th May 9.30-11.00am – The focus will be follow up from the 'next steps' that emerged from the conference

Senior Leaders' Meeting – Wed 24th May 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Actions from this Bulletin

1. **Ask any colleague interested in a conversation about the Headship opportunity at Our Lady and St Joseph's to get in touch with Steve before the Easter break**
2. **Let Steve know if you have a data lead with interest in doing some trust wide work during the summer term.** Deadline – end of term
3. **Please share with Steve if you think you are likely to consider term dates which are different to those set by your local authority** – deadline Thus 6th April so that I can share the overall picture with all schools at the start of the summer term
4. **Please note the dates of the remaining Senior Leader Groups for this term** – Wed 24th May and Tue 4th July

New Updates (since last bulletin)

Headteacher conference follow up

Everyone who attended the conference should have received a copy of the slides and the other resources early in the week. Matt will be sharing summaries of everything you shared through Padlet next week, once these have been closed.

I will be doing some work over the Easter Break on the draft charter and also the action plans that came out of our time together. We will pick up this at our Heads' Forum.

Director of School Improvement

The closing date for further expressions of interest in this role is today.

I have had expressions of interest from strong candidates and will be meeting with those candidates next week. Directors and I then plan a final assessment shortly after the Easter break and so hope to be able to share information about appointment in early May.

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Diary Dates

Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield local authorities have published their planned term dates for 2023-24 and I have attached them with this bulletin.

Helpfully, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield dates are all the same and they fit with the Bishop's direction that Catholic schools should continue as close to Christmas and Easter as possible. Barnsley's dates align with the others apart from the Easter break, where Barnsley schools will be on holiday during Holy Week and Easter Week.

Term dates are set by local governors for schools in the Trust rather than centrally but my steer would be that the dates set by the local authorities look sensible. I would ask schools to share with me any thoughts you have if you are considering different dates to those set by your local authority and I open that to schools not yet in the Trust. I will then share the overall picture so that you have that information when setting dates with your governors. It would be helpful if you could share your immediate thoughts before next Thursday so that I have a picture to share early in the summer term.

On a related note, I will also be working over the Easter break on a draft calendar of Trust activity (Directors' meetings, Heads & Chairs forums, Senior Leaders' Meetings, Moderation and DSL networks) that I will share to inform your calendar planning.

Notices

Items from previous bulletins for reference

Data lead capacity

I am keen to explore what capacity and interest there may be from data leads within schools to do some work across the Trust in the remainder of this academic year.

There is a relatively small amount of work needed to support the production of some Trust wide reports. There may also be an opportunity to represent the Trust in some work with Learn Sheffield during the summer term. All of this work would be helping to inform the long-term plan for data support across the Trust next year and beyond.

At this stage, I am keen just to speak to colleagues across the trust who have an interest and could have some capacity to support with some work. This will help me to plan the scope of what we can do. I recognise that capacity is stretched everywhere, so I do want to note that there would likely be considerable overlap between some of the work needed and what colleagues will be doing already within their individual schools.

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If you have a colleague who may have interest and some capacity to help, please could you let me know before the end of term.

Headteacher secondment opportunity

I also want to remind you about the opportunity for a secondment to the role of Headteacher at Our Lady and St Joseph's school.

As I explained last week, the governors will be advertising for the permanent post and that advert will go out shortly. At the same time, they are also open to exploring the possibility of a secondment.

If you would be able to support that and you have a colleague who may be interested, please get in touch with me to discuss it. I need to hear about any potential secondment interest by the end of this term.

Local Academy Committee Spring Term Report to Trust Board

Just a reminder that your governors should share their spring term report with the Trust Board by Tue 25th April, which is the Tuesday after the Easter break. This report can just be an extract from the minutes where the questions for the report were discussed. Alternatively, it can be written as a separate brief report, again responding to the questions, but this report must have been agreed by the governors.

The Trust board will review these reports at their meeting on 16th May. The reports inform planning for the Trust and allow directors to be informed about life across the Trust which is essential to their role.

Senior Leaders' Group

Unfortunately, colleagues decided on Tuesday to defer the agenda for the senior leaders' group to the next meeting due to the very small turn out to that meeting. We had a significant number of apologies on the morning of the meeting.

Anita has put out a message to everyone on the contact list for the group, with a poll to check the remaining two dates for the summer term, so that if there are problems we can seek to rearrange in plenty of time. I also note the planned dates below so that you are aware and ask you to do all that you can to enable colleagues to attend the group if they wish to go. This is a network that senior leaders have consistently said that they value, but they are very busy and often find it difficult to leave and I am grateful for your support in helping the group to be able to function.

The remaining meetings this year will be on Wed 24th May and Tue 4th July, both meetings running from 1.30 – 3.30pm.



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