

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 28th April

Events this week (week beginning 1st May)

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

Events coming up

SBMs', Heads' and Chairs' Meeting (Budget and SEF) – Wed 10th May 6pm Pastoral Centre

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

DSL Network Meetings – Tue 23rd May and Thu 15th June – both 3.30-4.30pm on Teams

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

School Improvement Capacity and SEF moderation – Tue 13th June 9.30-11am Pastoral Centre

Actions from this Bulletin

1. Schools in the Trust please send Steve copies of your letters about the strikes if you have not done so already
2. Respond to Anita if you plan to set 2024-25 term dates which are different to those of your local authority – please respond by Thu 4th May
3. Reminder to let us know if you and/or your SBM and/or your chair will be attending the meeting on Wed 10th May. – Deadline – Fri 5th May
4. DSLs to register for the network meetings and, if relevant, register to be involved in a trial of the peer safeguarding review this summer - via this [MS form](#) . Please complete the form by Thu 11th May
5. Let Steve know if anyone in your school is interested in the work on Artificial Intelligence with Learn Sheffield
6. Please note the advert for English Hub Literacy Specialists (attached and in the notices section below) – please contact Lucy McKerrow or Delia Evans if you have staff who are interested

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New Updates (since last bulletin)

DSL Network Meetings & volunteers to trial the peer review

When DSLs met in March, we agreed to meet remotely once per half term. The summer meetings will take place on Tue 23rd May and Thu 15th June. Both meetings will be on Teams, running from 3.30-4.30pm. We will send a link once DSLs have registered to join via the MS form (link in the actions above).

In the meeting on 23rd May will have a first look at the KCSIE updates (if published on time) and will look ahead to review of the Trust safeguarding policy. We will also look at shared safeguarding training checklists and resources and we will decide how and when we will pick up the other items that DSLs have raised for discussion including supervision and consistency in the use of CPOMs.

The meeting on 15th June will focus on agreeing the Trust Safeguarding Policy template and any related additions to training for the new year.

At the last meeting there was also strong support for running peer safeguarding reviews in triads. We said that we would run a trial of this process if there are schools interested in running peer reviews this summer. **There is space on the MS form for your DSL to register if you would be willing to be part of a peer review triad this summer.**

Meeting for SBMs, Heads and Chairs – Wed 10th May 6pm (Mass at 5.30pm)

This is a reminder about the meeting for SBMs, Heads and Chairs together at the Pastoral Centre where Adnan and I will run through how the budget setting and SEF process will work this summer. There will be time for school groups to look at what this looks like in practice together and to raise any issues or questions. This meeting will be immediately relevant for schools already in the Trust, but as always, colleagues from all schools are invited to attend.

This follows feedback about the extent to which information has been shared separately between these three key groups. It is also a good opportunity to be together in the same room to build relationships. With that in mind, Fr Chris is kindly offering to say mass at the Pastoral Centre at 5.30pm for anyone who is able to arrive early, so that we have a chance to give thanks for one another and root our work in prayer before we get to business.

To help logistical planning for the evening, just a reminder please to let Anita know who, if anyone, will be attending from your school.

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School Improvement Capacity & SEF moderation event – 13th June 9.30-11.00am at the Pastoral Centre

This is an early reminder of an event which will support self-evaluation and improvement planning, both for individual schools and in our work together as a Trust. I included plans for this in the proposals for school improvement work that I shared last term.

I will give an outline of this event at the SBMs, Heads and Chairs' meeting on 10th May and send further guidance and online forms in due course. In short, the meeting will be an opportunity for informal discussion with colleagues about your SEF process to support you, followed by a discussion about our combined evaluation of our school improvement capacity.

In advance of this meeting, anyone attending will need at least to have completed the summary page from the SEF and the School Improvement Capacity form. There will be an electronic form sent to collect this, but I have attached copies of the documents for reference.

If you wish to use the full SEF and School Improvement Plan format (also attached for convenience) then please do so. I would welcome feedback on these documents as we move toward a common approach. However, for the purposes of the meeting and our work together it will only be the summary SEF page and the school improvement capacity forms that need to be completed.

The meeting & completion of the related forms is directly relevant for schools in the Trust, though everyone is invited to attend and/or use the forms if it is helpful to you.

Executive Director of School Improvement – Update

As noted before the Easter Break, I did receive expressions of interest from colleagues in the Executive Director of School Improvement post. We will be interviewing next week and I hope to have an update as soon as possible following those interviews.

Strikes – reminder

Thanks to everyone who has sent me copies of their plans for the strike days (27th April and 2nd May). If your school is in the Trust and you haven't already sent me a copy of your plans (most sensibly a copy of the letter sent to parents) please could you do so as soon as possible.

The picture remains mixed across schools, with some closed to all classes and others almost completely open and everything in between. I have had a couple of conversations with colleagues regarding specific issues cropping up in their schools in relation to strikes. Please don't hesitate to email or call if a conversation would be helpful.

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Term Dates 2024-25

Sorry for the confusion I caused before Easter. In an effort to be helpful, I made everyone's life more complicated!

Whether or not you are in the Trust, it is for your governors to decide on your term dates for 2024-25, but it is sensible to do the same where possible and it is therefore helpful to know what everyone else is planning. So far, everyone who has responded about the 2024-25 dates plans to follow those proposed by their local authority, but I haven't had responses from everybody due to my confusing messages!

If you haven't responded, please do send a message to Anita by Thursday of next week **only if you plan to set dates which are different to those proposed by your local authority**. If you have not sent a response, I will assume that you plan to set dates in line with your local authority. I will then publish a combined picture of term dates across the family of schools in next week's bulletin.

Artificial Intelligence and Education

Learn Sheffield are looking for school staff who are interested in beginning some exploration of how Artificial Intelligence might impact education and, in particular, thinking about ways it might support our work. There is plenty in the news about issues related to exams and cheating, but there are also opportunities to make use of this developing technology in ways that can help.

If you have anyone in your school who would be interested in being part of a group discussing this and looking at potential trials, please let me know. You may have contacted Learn Sheffield directly which is fine, but it would be helpful for me to know if we have colleagues from our schools involved with this work.

Notices

English Hub seeking to expand the team of Literacy Specialists

St Wilfrid's English Hub is looking to expand our team of Literacy Specialists, to work on a flexible basis to deliver support in the leadership and teaching of phonics in other schools. Specialists are seconded from their home schools on a flexible basis, with options of being assigned to more intensive support with a partner school, requiring around 6 days of school support and some additional training and meeting time over the year, or a lighter touch support requiring just 1 or 2 days of support for a school, plus some training/meeting time.

This is a great opportunity for professional development for the individuals, and for their school to benefit from the training and increased expertise in supporting phonics teaching that they will receive. Schools will be paid to release the specialists at an SLE rate of £350 per day.

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Please see the attached advert for further details and feel free to get in touch with Lucy McKerrow (Hub Lead) or Delia Evans (Hub Strategic Lead) for any further information or if you have any questions.

We would be very grateful if you could pass this on to any colleagues in school who may be interested in applying for the role, and would have capacity to be released to carry it out.

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Delia Evans - d.evans@stwilfridssheffield.co.uk