

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 5th May

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

The following actions are carried over from last week's bulletin

1. **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
2. **Let Steve know if anyone in your school is interested in the work on Artificial Intelligence with Learn Sheffield**
3. **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

New Updates (since last bulletin)

Term Dates 2024-25

Thank you for your responses on Term Dates for 2024-25. We have had no responses from any school to say that they plan to set dates which are different from their local authority. This means we can expect that schools in Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield local authorities will all be following the same pattern as one another and that this pattern is in line with the Bishop's direction around Holy Week and Christmas.

You can share this information with governors when confirming term dates if it is helpful to do so.

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Financial Planning Assumptions Paper

Please find attached a copy of the Financial Planning Assumptions paper that Adnan went through with Business Managers on Wednesday. He will be sending a copy directly to them. This is for information. The paper sets out the key information and assumptions that should be used in setting budgets for schools in the Trust, so that we are working to a consistent basis. For schools not in the Trust, you can of course feel free to make use of the information and guidance in here if it is helpful to you.

Notices

Honours and Awards nominations

As we head into the coronation bank holiday weekend, I just wanted to flag up a note that was in the most recent circular from the ESFA. They highlighted that nominations are being sought for honours and awards for people who have made life better for other people or been outstanding at what they do across the education and childcare sectors. Nominations are particularly being sought for:

1. early years, further education, and children's social care
2. innovation in education
3. nominations for outstanding achievement in hands on services to the community, for example, nursery assistants, lecturers, lab assistants, teachers, teaching assistants, nursery cooks, meal-time assistants, estates managers, caretakers, and crossing patrol officers.

Anyone can nominate someone, and anyone can receive an award. The [nomination form and additional information](#) are available online.

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.

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.

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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.

Lucy McKerrow - l.mckerrow@stwenglishhub.co.uk

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

Items from last week's bulletin for reference

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

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who is able to arrive early, so that we a chance to give thanks for one another and root our work in prayer before we get to business.

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.

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.