

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 6th October

Dates for the diary

Subject Leaders' Network Meetings – Wed 11th Oct

Trust Mass – Thus 19th Oct

Early Years' Mini-Conference – Wed 1st Nov 9am-3pm @ St Catherine's

Heads' Conference – Thus & Fri 9th & 10th Nov

Writing Leads Mini-Conference – Thus 23rd Nov 9am-12pm @ Pastoral Centre

Actions from this Bulletin

Reminders from previous bulletins for things still outstanding (from some or all schools)

If you haven't responded and are struggling with anything, please drop us a line so that we can get in touch to work out how we can help:

- **Pass on the flyers about the writing and early years mini-conferences to your writing and early years' leads. We hope you can support them to book a place**
- **Timetable information from schools in the Trust** - Thanks to all those who have already responded. If you haven't got your information back to me it would be really helpful to have it early next week

New Updates (since last bulletin)

Subject Leaders' networks

We are really looking forward to virtually meeting with subject leaders next Wednesday (11th Oct). Thanks for your support in getting information back to us and for creating this time.

Just to remind you, the network meetings will run on Teams. Each network meeting will be repeated so that staff can join two different networks. The first meetings will run from 3.45 to 4.15pm and the second set will run from 4.15 to 4.45pm. Anita has sent links to the meetings to subject leaders with copies to Heads.

Mini-Conferences for Early Years and Writing Leads

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Thank you to all the schools who have already responded to book places on one or both of these conferences. I have re-attached the flyers for convenience in case you haven't looked at these yet.

Both events promise to be really good quality days with a real opportunity to support practitioners in really practical ways. Both events have also been planned in response to things that emerged in the writing moderation last spring and respond to areas of priority that have been highlighted in many school's improvement plans this year. They will also provide a great opportunity for Early Years staff and those leading writing to share their experience and to hear from others, which in turn will give us great information about how we might be able to support.

I would therefore really encourage you to enable colleagues to attend and to get in touch if you'd like your school to be represented at one or both event, but have a problem with releasing them on that date.

Trust Mass – Thus 19th Oct 10am

It is less than two weeks now until our first Trust Mass. Thank you again for all the responses. We have had a great response with all schools in the Trust represented and over 300 pupils plus staff, directors and governors coming together to give thanks for the gifts of pupils and staff across our family.

We will shortly be sharing the finalised template liturgy which you can choose to use or adapt in school if you wish. We also hope to be able to stream the mass, so that it will be possible for others to join remotely if that is something that would be helpful to you.

Timetable info

Thank you for the quick response from so many of you to my request for timetable information, which is needed as part of our work with our SMRA advisor. It will also form the first step in our development of Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning, as previously discussed.

If you haven't responded to my request yet, I would be grateful if you or someone in your school can gather the information early next week. If you can't find the template that I sent, please drop me an email.

Note that this request is only for schools currently in the Trust.

Notices

The Big Ambition Survey – Request from the Children's Commissioner

You may have seen the Children's Commissioner recently launched '[The Big Ambition](#)' to hear directly from children and young people across the country about what they need to make their lives better.

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This survey is for all children and young people aged 0 to 18. Children aged 6 to 18 can complete the survey themselves. For those who may need additional support or for children under six parents and other adults can complete the survey on their behalf.

We are asked to support pupils in our schools to take part in the survey, by promoting it in school and through social media and other channels. Where possible, it would be great if you are able to facilitate pupils completing the survey in school.

The survey can be completed here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

Through this link there is an easy read version and different questions based on the age of the child or young person. Please see '[The Big Ambition](#)' webpage for extra resources and overviews of the survey and lesson plans. To further assist teachers, my team have hosted a series of webinars explaining how to facilitate 'The Big Ambition' survey in a lesson, a recording of one of these webinars can be downloaded [here](#).

Notes from Previous Bulletins

Prayer and Liturgy Directory

You will have received from the schools' department an email with a copy of the Prayer and Liturgy Directory and a letter which includes a link where you can order printed copies should you wish.

There is also a link to some free training to support the new RE Directory highlighted on the letter. It is helpful for me to know if anyone is undertaking CPD so that we can draw on that expertise across the Trust, so if any school has a colleague who is interested in the training, please let me know.

You will note in the letter that there will be further support with the RE Directory and Prayer and Liturgy Directory. We will liaise with Alan and with St Francis to work out the best way of delivering and supporting this work together.

COVID Guidance

A couple of you have been in touch about guidance in relation to Covid, given that cases are currently rising.

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This is an area it is helpful having a Deputy Director for Healthcare as the chair of the Trust! Kev has kindly shared the following:

The Chief Medical Officer wrote out to schools earlier in the month with guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-school-leaders-on-mild-illness-and-school-attendance/letter-to-school-leaders-on-mild-illness-and-school-attendance>

I would share this with families and I think the same rules should apply for staff:

Schools are not health/ social care settings.

Cold/flu/ COVID symptoms shouldn't stop people coming to school. A raised temperature or severe symptoms are good reasons to stay home- as we would normally recommend.

Testing positive does not equate to being infectious and so I would be guided by symptoms rather than LFDs.

There is a rising level of COVID in the community so there will be more positive tests around.

Staff sickness absence should be managed in line with the normal policy with no different approach for days missed due to COVID.

Please note that the sickness absence policy already requires that absence triggers do not automatically lead to informal or formal action, but that each case should be considered on merit. This allows for reasonable judgement to be made where, for example, someone has had time off with covid or other flu like symptoms, so there does not need to be a different approach specific to Covid.