

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 8th December

Dates for the diary

Key dates for next term:

- 8th Jan – School Improvement Capacity Self Categorisation forms sent
- 22nd Jan – School Improvement Capacity Self Categorisation deadline
- 30th Jan – Heads' Forum – SEND + School Improvement Capacity
- 7th Feb – Subject Leaders' Meetings
- 8th Feb – F2/Y1/Y2 writing moderation
- 22nd Feb – Y3/Y4 writing moderation
- 7th Mar – Y5/Y6 writing moderation

Actions from this Bulletin

- Let Steve know if/who you can release to be involved in the Dyscalculia working group **by the end of the day Monday 11th Dec.**
- Complete your focus group meetings to follow up the SEND and Inclusion surveys **by Monday 12th Jan**

New Updates (since last bulletin)

Advent Reflection

Here is the link to the week 2 Advent reflection, which I hope will help you to find time to pause and pray.

[Arts & Faith: Advent—Second Sunday Imaginative Prayer Exercise \(Cycle B\) - Ignatian Spirituality](#)

As with last week, there is a 3 minute video and then a short reflection and prayer.

Heads' Forum

I have noted below the main actions and information following from our additional Heads' Forum this week.

SEND Theory of Change:

Anita has been sending out the results from the surveys so that you can use them to identify focus groups for the next stage. As I write, she has already sent out the pupil and parent results and is just finishing the staff results.

We agreed that we would complete our focus group discussions by the end of the first week back in January (so by 12th Jan) so that Fiona and Nick have time to look at the outcome of those discussions before our Heads' Forum.

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Dyscalculia Working Group:

Pete Sides presented to us a proposed working group to look at the research around dyscalculia and some potential steps we can in schools. The sense in the room was that we would like to put a group together to work with Pete on this. The ask is for 4 half day sessions over the next two terms. It would be ideal if we had more than one person from each school involved (where possible), though if you are sending more than one they don't all have to come to every session. We also agreed that it would be helpful to have a range of roles represented between us (Maths lead, SENDCO, TA, etc). **We agreed that you would get back to me with a quick response (by the end of Monday 11th Dec please) to the following:**

- Will you be able to release one or more members of staff to be part of this work group?
- If yes, please tell me the role(s) of the member(s) of staff that you would expect to involve

Pete has shared the following link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02MB3zl5iNI>) to some information regarding Dyscalculia and, as promised, shared the poem that he referred to which is included at the end of the bulletin.

Headteacher Report and MATPad:

Thank you for your input on these at the Heads forum this week. Further to our discussion please find attached the WAGOLL Headteacher report that we reviewed at the forum, and also a copy of the spreadsheet that you will need to complete with the non-MIS data for your school.

Having met again with MATPad, I can confirm the following timelines. Hopefully this will help with your planning.

During the week beginning 11th December Anita will circulate a link to your school's live version of the data capture spreadsheet that you can start populating when you are ready to do so (although remember that the data should capture the entirety of the autumn term). This link can be shared more widely. This means that you can delegate completion of parts of the spreadsheet to other members of your team. It is important that when Anita sends you this link that you don't try to do anything like rename the file/move or save it elsewhere, as this will prevent MATPad being able to read it.

Once you have populated the spreadsheet, please let Anita know. Anita will then alert MATPad. Unlike your MIS data which will be read 'live' by MATPad, please allow 48 hours for the information in the spreadsheet to be read across to MATPad. This can be done anytime from 20th December (any earlier and the data is unlikely to be capturing the entirety of the autumn term). Hopefully this time frame allays any concerns about time to complete different aspects.

We will ensure you have a link to the MATPad platform before you return to school on the 8th Jan in order that you can complete the commentary sections. There will also be a video recording available by the same date showing how to access the commentary sections within MATPad, also by the 8th January.

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It is possible that MATPad will need to contact schools during w/b 11th Dec or w/b 18th Dec to ask you to update Wonde settings. This is apparently a 30 second job, but if you need any assistance with this, Steve Bunting is able to support.

Many thanks for your ongoing support with this.

Link to new form to use when requesting recruitment:

As noted during the Forum, we have a new form to use to request approval for recruitment. This is to try to avoid back and forth email discussions by making sure we have the information needed. The form is available through the link below. Please use this for any requests from Monday 11th Dec.

As noted, this measure is in place for the moment, to help Adnan, Alison and I to get a picture of recruitment across the Trust and also to give us the opportunity to highlight opportunities to cover roles differently through our work together.

<https://forms.office.com/e/UZ6X2aD8tL>

Items from previous bulletins for reference

School Experiences and Internships

Our SCITT has asked us to help their ongoing recruitment by sharing the Twitter link below which invites people to arrange a school experience day at Notre Dame or St Catherine's before Christmas. It also has details about how to apply for the paid internships this summer for maths, physics, chemistry, MFL and computer science (£900 for 3 weeks experience in one of our partner schools this June/July)

<https://x.com/SheffieldSCITT/status/1722266622533284225?s=20>


Writing Conference

Thank you for enabling your English leads to attend our half day conference on writing. On everyone's behalf, I really want to thank Claire Round, Lauren McKay and Jonathan Lear for planning and running the conference.

This was done in response to requests and questions that emerged from last year's writing moderation and I thought the quality of the input and the conversation it provoked was excellent. We have asked participants to respond to evaluation, which includes thinking about next steps as there were some themes that we can definitely do more on together. Themes that emerged included a need to be more accurate further down school in assessment of Greater depth, and work we could do collectively to help support that. There was also really good conversation about what really matters most at each stage in the writing curriculum and the potential for us to work more closely on this.

Please do talk with your English leads about what they got from the conference and about the next steps that they would find helpful in supporting them in their work.

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Dyscalculia - An open letter to teachers

Please do not get cross with me
Not knowing two and one is three,
I know I knew it yesterday
But can't remember it today.

With just a glance, you subitise-
I must count what's before my eyes.
And even then, I can't be sure...
Were there five, or two, or four?

Your maths class brings out stress in me
That impacts on my memory.
I try so hard, but don't succeed
So, I'm labelled with a 'special need'.

I don't feel special, that's for sure
As I force myself through your classroom door
Maths heightens my anxieties
Prepares me for fight, or flight, or freeze.

And once inside and in my place,
There is no time, there is no space
To think; for that is what I need
For me to possibly succeed.

You need to find a different way
To teach what I must learn today.
Go back to where it last made sense,
Rebuild my shattered confidence.

Please make maths multisensory-
It helps when I can hear, and see,
And talk, and touch, and feel, and play,
I need this EVERY SINGLE DAY.

Please do not get cross with me
Not knowing two and one is three,
I know I knew it yesterday
But now, it seems, it's gone away.

Sarah Jones 2023

