

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 19th Jan

Dates for the diary

- 22nd Jan – School Improvement Capacity Self Categorisation deadline
- 24th Jan – Senior Leaders' Meeting – 1.30pm @ Pastoral Centre
- 30th Jan – Heads' Forum – 8-10.30am @ Pastoral Centre (Revised time)
- 31st Jan – Dyscalculia Work Group Session 1 – 1.30-4pm
- 7th Feb – Subject Leaders' Meetings – 3.45-4.45pm via Teams
- 8th Feb – F2/Y1/Y2 writing moderation 1-4pm
- **20th Feb – Additional Heads' meeting (EYFS and Maths support) 9.30-11.30**
- 22nd Feb – Y3/Y4 writing moderation 1-4pm
- 7th Mar – Y5/Y6 writing moderation 1-4pm

Actions from previous Bulletin

- **Dyscalculia work group** – respond to Anita's email asking for confirmation of staff attending and their contact details
- **Subject Leader Meetings (7th Feb)** – Primary schools – please make sure that all of your subject leaders have a copy of the information for the next set of virtual meetings
- **Writing moderation events** – Primary schools – please respond to the information sent out by Anita to confirm which staff will be attending the moderation events.

New Updates (since last bulletin)

Heads' Forum 30th Jan – Change to times

We have brought forward the finish time of the Heads' Forum on 30th January to 10.30am. This is to allow Heads to attend the Cynefin workshop which starts at 11am on that day, as we are aware that there are colleagues keen to go and I would certainly encourage attendance.

For those who don't know, Cynefin is a company who, among other things, have some really interesting things to say about hearing the voice of children, parents and the wider community. That is selling it short as this is a company that works with the Health Service, the government and several multinational organisations to help think about the way they get and use information to inform their planning. I attended a presentation from Dave Snowdon, the person who founded the company and it was one of the most thought provoking sessions I have ever attended. Cynefin are interested in doing some work with local schools and other organisations which is partly what is behind the workshop.

If you are interested in the workshop, you should have received an email from Learn Sheffield with a booking link. If you have not received this and are interested, let me know.

To accommodate the change of times, I am going to reduce the time I will spend on School Improvement Capacity. I will give a short summary of the information that you are sharing through the online forms, with some things to think about. We will then return to this in future meetings, particularly in work around budget and staffing planning later this term. This allows time for the main focus of the meeting to be on the SEND and Inclusion surveys and focus groups and what it is telling us about our next steps.

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 19th Jan

Subject Leader Meetings – 7th Feb

Anita has sent out the information, including the links for each of the virtual subject leader meetings, a document that gives details of times and what will be covered in the discussions and also a set of proposals for what we do in response to the things that were shared at the first set of network meetings earlier in the year.

Anita has sent these to Heads and also direct to subject leaders, where we have their contact details. Please do make sure that all your subject leaders have got the information, that you have a staff meeting planned on 7th Feb and that everyone is able to access the virtual meetings on the night.

Writing Moderation

Anita has also sent out details of the writing moderation which starts in the last week of this half term. She has sent out a summary of each moderation event, time and location, what will be covered during the moderation and what teachers need to bring.

Again, please do make sure that teachers have the information and please do all you can to enable your staff to take part. Anita has asked for confirmation of attendance, so please do let her know ASAP which staff will be attending each of the events from your school.

Notices

Request from University of Sheffield to trial resources for teaching children about rights and the law

We are looking for schools to work with us at the University of Sheffield on our research project FORTITUDE (<https://sites.google.com/sheffield.ac.uk/fortitude>) which focuses on children and young people's understanding of their rights and the law.

We have developed a game in collaboration with children and young people that can be used in educational settings to teach them about rights and responsibilities.

We are now looking to evaluate it formally in partnership with a wide range of schools across England. A flyer with more information can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3NVaD64> .

We will also be running some online information/Q&A sessions in January and February 2024.

If you would like to find out more or are interested in taking part, please email fortitude@sheffield.ac.uk or you can contact me, Professor Dawn Watkins, directly at d.watkins@sheffield.ac.uk (Tel. 0114 222 6827).

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 19th Jan

Items from previous bulletins for reference

SEND & Inclusion Theory of Change

Thank you to everyone who got their notes from their focus group discussions in by today's deadline (12th Jan). At the time of writing, we had some outstanding. If that is you and you have notes ready to share, please get them in to Anita as soon as possible.

Fiona has arranged time to look at the results of the surveys and the follow up focus group discussions with Nick Whittaker in time so that she can present some findings and proposals about the next steps for us to consider at the Heads' Forum on 30th January.

Related to this work, you will also have received an email from Fiona with dates for SEND reviews in each school. This will help us to build up our understanding of strengths, practice to share and also the priorities for work together as part of our Trust strategy.

Dyscalculia Work Group

Thank you to everyone who committed to sending staff to be part of the Dyscalculia work group proposed by Pete Sides at our Heads' Forum last term. Thanks also to everyone who responded to confirm that they were happy with the proposed dates. We have now set these.

Anita will be in touch with you shortly to confirm who will be attending the first session from your school. We will need the names and email addresses of the people who are attending, so that we can send information about the work and any follow up information to them directly.

Heads' Reports

Thanks to everyone who has already completed their Heads' Report using the new MatPad system. Thank you for coping with the challenges that come with anything new. We will all learn from our first go round.

John will be in touch shortly for anyone who has yet to complete their report and who needs some support.

School Condition Surveys

This is just to flag up the email that Anita sent to Heads and Business Managers this week regarding dates and arrangements for the School Condition Surveys. I hope that you have seen this. If not, please take a moment to look for it so you know the date that surveys are booked for your school and what arrangements are needed.

These are the surveys I highlighted earlier in the year, that will give us a baseline of the conditions of school buildings across the Trust. This will help us to develop a sensible longer term strategy for how we use our capital grant money.

You will see in the email that there is a request for copies of school plans and for someone to be available to accompany the surveyors round the site on the day that they come. There are also some notes about helpful preparations including thoughts about any aspects of the site where you would particularly like the

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 19th Jan

surveyors to look. The staff conducting surveys will need access cleared to any areas that they need to look at.

Authority to recruit form <https://forms.office.com/e/UZ6X2aD8tL>

Just a reminder that if you are planning any recruitment, even if it is a like for like replacement, we need you to complete the form at the link above.

Adnan, Alison and I will meet every Monday morning and review any of these requests that have come in over the previous week in order to authorise them as quickly as possible.

Just to remind you that this is an extra measure that we are putting in this year to make sure that we don't miss any opportunities to address staffing needs in a different way as we develop work across the Trust. This is part of our approach to tackle staff costs which are rising faster than grant income and also to help us to build up a Trust wide picture of recruitment to inform longer term strategy for how we can help.