

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 28th March

Dates for the diary

- 23rd April – Leadership Development Session 8.30-12.30 @ Pastoral Centre
- 25th April – DSLs network 4.00-5.00pm on Teams
- 1st May – EYFS workshop – Home Visits (see attached action plan)
- 1st May – Senior Leaders' Meeting 1.30 – 3.00pm @ Pastoral Centre
- 7th May – Heads' Forum 8.30-12.30 @ Pastoral Centre
- 21st May – Governors and Heads Training 6-7.30pm @ Pastoral Centre

Actions from Bulletin

- Please see the proposed 2025-26 term dates from local authorities and send to Anita your thoughts about timing of the Easter break.
- Schools in the Trust, please also confirm with Anita your planned INSET dates for 2024-25
- Let Steve know if your school would be interested in the proposed singing showcase at the end of the summer term

New Updates (since last bulletin)

For everyone who is breaking up today, I hope that you have a really joyful Easter and a restorative break. Thank you for all of your work this term.

Today's briefing is just to highlight some things ready for when you come back. I will send a bulletin on 12th April, including reminders of everything below, so it is ready for those of you whose term restarts on 15th April.

Leadership development session – 23rd April 8.30-12.30 @ Pastoral Centre

This is open to Heads of schools who are part of the Trust and to associate members. We are asking you to bring another member of your leadership team with you.

The session will come back to work that we have done on compassionate leadership and vulnerable leadership and look at how we can ensure this has impact back in our schools. The reason for asking you to bring another member of your leadership team is to help you to take things back into school.

Arrivals are from 8.30 and the session will begin at 9.00am

Anita has sent a message asking for confirmation of who is coming from each school, so that we can plan logistics. Please do respond to this as soon as possible. We will make lunch available for anyone who can stay on after the development session.

Governor training – New date Tue 21st May 6.00-7.30pm

I have added to the dates above a new date for some governor training. This session is for schools already in the Trust and we are inviting the chair (or representative), the Head (or representative) and up to one additional governor from each of those schools. We hope that at least one person from each school will be able to attend.

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The training will cover the work that we have been doing to revise our standard LAC meeting agendas and the guidance for who does what outside of meetings to make the meetings work. This will connect into the way we are developing the standard Head Teachers' reports and other governance work across the Trust. We will also use this session to look at other aspects of governance work across the Trust, including governor visits, learning walks and the use of additional LAC meetings or working groups.

For now, please hold the date in your diaries.

Admissions meetings advance notice – Thus 13th June and Thus 11th July 9.30-11.30

This is advance notice of two meetings about admissions policies and practice, that will take place in the second half of the summer term. The majority of schools in the trust are coming up to the point where they will have to consult on their admissions policy and so we want to plan this together, so that we can look at any changes we want to make in common and also so that we can support each other with the consultation process.

These meetings will be for schools who are in the Trust and associate members will also be welcome to join. We will be inviting the member(s) of staff from each school who work most closely in managing admissions and informing governors about policy.

More information will follow in the summer term, but again, for now I just want people to be able to hold the date.

Summer term Headteacher Report (reporting on the spring term)

A reminder that the final submission date for this is Friday 24th May.

You should all have received the link to the spreadsheet of data to be populated. If not, can you please let Anita know. Let Anita know when this is completed, and send her your School Priorities document that contains your term 2 evaluation of progress against your school priorities **before** you run your final report.

MATPad is now allowing you to submit responses in the '**Question and Answer**' section to populate your report. I'd be grateful if you are able to hold off populating the sections relating to Lesson Observations, Governor Visits and Staff/Pupil voice for a couple of days as MATPad are just ironing out the data entry boxes for this section (they are not working quite as they should yet).

The '**Reports and Dashboards**' section of MATPad will now also allow you to run your actual report, although again there is a small amount of fine tuning that MATPad are doing over the next few days.

However, this shouldn't affect your ability to populate the 'Question and Answer' section.

A reminder too that the 'Reports and Dashboard' section of MATPad will also now allow you to be curious about your own and Trust-wide data.

Any questions at all (or if you need a quick demo to revisit using MATPad) please just let me know and I can do a quick Teams with you to help with any troubleshooting. Thanks John

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Items from previous bulletin for reference

Invitation to session with David Wells at All Saints on 26th June

Thanks to Sean who has highlighted that David Wells is booked to lead some professional development at All Saints on Wed 26th June. Sean is extending an invitation to other schools in the Trust and associate schools who wish to attend and/or to send other colleagues.

Please do get in touch with Sean directly if you and/or another colleague would like to attend, so that Sean has an idea of numbers.

Proposed singing showcase – summer term

Thanks to Rebecca Carr, a colleague from St Mary's, who is keen to establish a singing showcase or competition for choirs from all schools in the Trust and associate schools. She is keen to provide an opportunity for children to come together to sing and to showcase singing across our trust. We hope to link this into liturgical singing too, as a way to celebrate our distinctive Catholic nature.

We have not confirmed this event yet, or set a date, but we are planning something towards the end of the summer term. At this stage, I want to put this idea on your radar and I would welcome an indication of whether this is something that you would support. I would also welcome any offers of colleagues who may be willing to support us in getting the event up and running.

Teaching Personnel Partnership

The Trust is negotiating a partnership agreement with Teaching Personnel, a national company that supports with both recruitment and supply for schools.

The partnership is at no cost to the Trust and there is no obligation on Trust schools to use Teaching Personnel, but it does involve discounted rates for Trust schools. We are taking this approach to explore if such a relationship can help us to reduce agency costs, with at least the same quality of provision as schools currently access.

As part of this partnership, Teaching Personnel are able to offer some free trial supply so that our schools can have some experience of colleagues available through them. A contact from Teaching Personnel will be in touch with each school individually to discuss how you can take advantage of this offer. Anita is liaising with Teaching Personnel to arrange this contact.

The link below is to more information about the agreement, and in the 'Our Partnership' section you will see a list of key contacts for each school in the trust, so that you know who to expect contact from. Please share the name of the contact for your school with any colleague who is likely to answer the call from Teaching Personnel, so they don't filter it out as a sales call.

https://proposal.teachingpersonnel.com/cover.php?ProposalID=1EGgsxtrqwi2Gog5EDC-QIIMEMrUf3maMtuZftbMvW0&ContactID=M_PB2KFbagUOmpl63M4jvQ9kAX6UGdL7PexUB5ZuWzc

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Mathematical Reasoning Training at St Mary's

Change of date - St Mary's have booked Gareth Metcalf for training on Maths Reasoning for Friday 25th October (not 25th February). This will be open to other schools in the Trust, so please do let us know if you would like to send anyone.

Maths Hub Y5-8 Workgroups

The final follow-up in relation to Maths Hub support was a reminder about the potential of applying to the NCETM to run one or more funded Y5-8 work groups between groups of schools (facilitated by colleagues from within the Trust). Because we have Vicki, we would also be able to enhance the resource that goes into these workgroups. In order to move forward on this could I ask in the first instance that **secondary heads** ask their Maths Leads to identify aspects of the KS3 Maths curriculum where they feel that curriculum continuity is weak moving from the primary to the secondary phase. We will then share these with the respective feeder primaries (this seems to be the most sensible school grouping to explore) and if we can agree consensus on useful areas of development, we can make this the focus of one or more Y5-8 workgroups for schools that want to be involved.