

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 12th April

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 – Focus on Home Visits
- 1st May – Senior Leaders' Meeting 1.30 – 3.00pm @ Pastoral Centre
- 7th May – Heads' Forum 8.30-12.30 @ Pastoral Centre
- 21st May – Governor Training Event 6.00-7.30pm @ Pastoral Centre
- 13th June - Admissions Meeting 9.30-11.30 @ Pastoral Centre
- 11th July - Admissions Meeting 9.30-11.30 @ Pastoral Centre

Actions from Bulletin

- [Confirm](#) with Anita who is attending the Leadership Development Session on 23rd April
- Let Steve know about systems and procedures to coordinate attendance approaches for families with children across primary and secondary schools in our family

New Updates (since last bulletin)

An Easter Prayer

You raised Lazarus from dead, saying

“Unbind him, let him go free.”

Unbind us so that we may also go free.

In sorrow we left you as the dead Jesus

and in wonder you returned to us as the Risen Christ.

Untied from the strips of linen, you offered us a new-found freedom.

But our human frailty sometimes prevents us from living in the love, joy and hope that your freedom brings

Release us from our fears and the things that hold us back

For the Lord has truly risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Happy Easter to you all. I hope that you have had a restorative break over the Easter period.

Good news

We are delighted to confirm that over the Easter period, Holy Trinity's transfer into St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust was confirmed. While Holy Trinity have always been part of the family, the in-between world we found ourselves in was difficult and it is great to be able to move forward now with confidence.

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Leadership development – Tue 23rd April

We have extended an invitation to Heads of all schools in the Trust and Associate member schools to join us at the leadership development session on Tue 23rd April, 8.30-12.30 at the Pastoral Centre. We are also recommending that another senior leader from each school attends.

Please do [confirm](#) with Anita as soon as possible who will be attending the event from your school. We will also arrange lunch for any colleagues who can stay on afterward for that 'off-agenda' time that is just as important.

We expect that this will be top class leadership development, led by Jes who some of you will remember from a Sheffield Catholic Heads' Conference some years ago. The focus will be on taking some of the things we have been looking at with Michael West and David Wells and taking them into the next practical steps back in our schools. The reason for inviting two leaders from each school is to help you to encourage and support one another in applying things back at school as well as to broaden the leadership development opportunity beyond heads.

Update on 2025-26 term dates

Thank you for the responses regarding 2025-26 term dates. As a Trust, we are recommending the pattern already sent (and attached again for convenience). It is clear that the majority of schools intend to set dates in line with those recommended.

For schools in the Trust, the setting of term dates is delegated to Local Governors. We ask that you inform governors of the recommended pattern to inform their decision making. If governors are setting dates on a different pattern for reasons specific to their school, please do let us know, via Anita. We will assume that schools are setting these dates unless notified otherwise. This will allow us to include term dates as part of our Trust calendar.

Attendance procedures across families of schools

For schools in the Trust, attendance policies and procedures are delegated to schools. This is to allow schools to take account of the different Local Authority and Locality practices in their approach, as this is helpful in not undermining or being undermined by differences that families seeing differences in the way their school is operating compared to others that they know of locally.

While it is up to each individual school to set attendance policy and procedure, it is important in that to consider families who have children in both primary and secondary schools within the family. It is clearly important to coordinate approaches that we are taking with children and families in this instance. To help ensure this practice is in place and also to help share good practice, I am asking you to share any systems or procedures you have in place to coordinate approaches round attendance where they involve families with children across primary and secondary schools in our family. Please just drop me an email. We can then pick this up in a future Forum as needed.

New Dates for the Diary

We have a couple of new dates for the diary during the summer term.

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First, we have added a **governor training evening on Tue 21st May, which will take place at the Pastoral Centre running from 6-7.30pm.**

We will be sending out more detail and invitations shortly, along with a brief Microsoft Form to complete to help us to tailor the event. Ideally, we would love it if the Head, Chair and one other governor could come from each school in the Trust. We are mindful, however, of the workload and commitments of all of those people so we can be flexible in how each school is represented. The training will look ahead to development of the governance schedule for next year, learning from everything we have done so far. We will look at guidance and templates for LAC meeting and also at governance work outside of meetings.

Later in the term, we will be running **meetings for staff responsible for admissions. These meetings will take place on Thus 13th June & Thus 11th July both 9.30-11.30 @ Pastoral Centre.** They will be for all schools in the Trust and open to associate members.

The majority of schools in our family are due to consult on their admissions policies next year whether or not they plan any changes. We will use these meetings to prepare for that consultation and also to take the opportunity to look together at our policies to see if there are any changes that it would be sensible for us to consider.

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.

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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-QllMEMrUf3maMtuZftbMvW0&ContactID=M_PB2KFbagUOmpl63M4jvQ9kAX6UGdL7PexUB5ZuWzc

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.