

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 11th October

Upcoming Events

14 th Oct	SEND Network Meeting
16 th Oct	Maths Subject Immersion @ Holy Rood
17 th Oct	Trust Mass – 10am @ St Marie's Cathedral
24 th Oct	History Subject Immersion @ St Catherine's
7 th & 8 th Nov	Heads' Conference
14 th Nov	DSLs network
21 st Nov	Music Subject Immersion @ St Mary's
26 th Nov	Senior Leaders' Group 1.30 @ Pastoral Centre

Actions

New Updates (since last bulletin)

Trust Mass

I am very much looking forward to our Trust mass next Thursday.

I have attached with this bulletin a final summary of the arrangements for the mass. There is also a copy of a liturgy that you can use as it is or adapt if you wish to involve children who are back in school. The mass will also be streamed, with the link to follow.

In our final planning meeting this week, it was wonderful reading the work that you have done with your children reflecting on the Lord's prayer. It was a real reminder that God is good and He is with us always. Thank you for the time spent with your pupils on this and thank you too for the time working with pupils who will form our first ever Trust choir for the mass.

Maths Immersion Day

Next week also sees the first of our subject immersion days, hosted by Karen and her team at Holy Rood (S70 6JL) with a focus on Maths.

The day promises to be really stimulating, with lots of food for thought and encouragement for Maths subject leads who attend. I am also really excited by the opportunity these days offer to continue to build tangible networks and connections across our family of schools that support subject leaders to learn from and contribute to the best of what we do. I know that it requires some additional disruption and planning

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both to host a day and to release colleagues to attend, but Karen and her team, Jonathan, John and Fiona have worked hard to make sure it will be worth it. Thank you in advance to everyone.

There will be an opportunity to network, visit lessons and to engage with the evidence base around features of a high-quality Maths education.

The overall theme of the day will be the following two questions:

- What represents a 'solid foundation' in Maths?
- Why are you teaching this content, to those pupils, at this point?

In terms of logistics:

- Please arrive at Holy Rood from 9.15. Parking is in Horizon car park or on street (please be mindful of residents access).
- Please bring your lunch – tea and coffee will be available
- Please bring with you a selection of pupil Maths books from your school

CARE and CREATE Tools

Attached with this bulletin are two documents which Jes has shared following our session. They are tools that you can use around appraisal or other management conversations, linked to the high performance triangle and the 'worthy goals'.

Information from the Business Managers Briefing

Cyber Security & use of DFC grant:

You will be aware that as part of our internal audit programme, our audit partners reviewed the quality of cyber security across Trust schools. This audit highlighted areas of priority for work to enable all schools to meet the criteria for cyber essentials accreditation. For many schools that involves upgrades to hardware and IT infrastructure that Phil Woodcock has been leading on. Much progress has been made but work continues. As with last year, funding for this work is largely being covered by the DFC grant.

School Risk Registers:

We have asked Business Managers to review school based risk registers, to bring them into a common format and following a common approach.

We did some initial work on a common format last year and based on feedback from that work Adnan has simplified the format to be used at school. These risk registers will focus on day-to-day operational risks. For context, the Directors operate with risk register which focuses on strategic risks to be managed across all schools. The revised format will help to ensure this work is more easily joined up.

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Action on Child Poverty

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and CES have been engaging with the Government's new Child Poverty Taskforce, which is a current priority of the new Labour Government. They have been asked by officials for information on the impact of child poverty in the Catholic community and Catholic schools. To inform these conversations with Government the CES has produced a survey for schools:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/child-poverty-in-school>

Schools are encouraged to record their experiences. The survey is anonymous and is open until Friday 8th November.

The Department for Education has also requested examples of Catholic school engagement with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities.

The CES is keen to highlight the work of Catholic schools with these communities and share best practice. This builds upon earlier work completed in 2021 for Made in God's Image: Supporting Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils in Catholic Schools. If you have particular provision that you wish to share that has taken place in your school, please contact me via the email address above.

Hallam Bethlehem Ball

The Hallam Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust are running their annual Ball on 23rd November. Please see attached poster for more details and how to buy tickets. This is a black tie dinner and dance with live band 'The Grand Plan'.

If you can't attend the ball, you can still support the charity by purchasing raffle tickets from k.fox@st-patricks.sheffield.sch.uk

Items from previous bulletin for reference

Nursery planning

We will be picking up the work of our nursery planning group this half term. Those of you in schools who are looking at new or expanded nursery provision will have received an invitation to a meeting on Fri 18th October.

This meeting is to enable us to coordinate support for planning of these projects in their different stages and to share practice and experience across our schools. By the time of this meeting, we may have more details on the additional funding that the government have promised to make available to support the development of new and expanded nursery provision in our schools.

If you are already working on a project to add new or expanded nursery provision, or are considering this and you haven't had an invitation to the meeting, please let Anita know.

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Admissions consultation

Thank you to colleagues who have made sure that we have been able to launch consultation on admissions arrangements. The policies for consultation should now be available on your websites.

We have set up an MS form to gather from you a record of the people and organisations that you have notified of the consultation. We will combine this with records of the organisations that we have notified centrally and will keep it as a record of the consultation in case we need to track back to evidence of what we did in future years. We will also use this information to cross check to make sure we have not missed anyone that we should be notifying.

If you get any responses to the consultation, please do keep them collated together, acknowledge them and respond where it is meaningful to do so. Please get in touch via Lindsay Graham if you need any advice in relation to any responses. We will collate responses toward the end of the consultation period and will review these in our admissions meeting next half term to make sure that the consultation informs any changes to our proposed policies before they go to governors for approval in the Spring Term.

SCA funding update – how it will work this year

I have received questions from a couple of colleagues about how SCA funding will be deployed this year.

The 'bid' procedure used last year was an interim measure to make use of funding prior to having completed the condition improvement surveys.

Those surveys have highlighted some priority areas of work which will account for the majority of SCA funding over this year and the next two. We will reserve some funding for development projects and some other funding for emergency response.

We are in the process of developing a draft spending plan to address the priorities identified through the condition surveys which we will then publish for review and input by you and other colleagues in schools. We will then add to the plan agreed development projects.

Moving forward, we intend to work through a review process where, at two points during the year, we will seek information about any changes that you wish to propose for SCA spending plans in relation to your school which we will review in line with the SCA policy. The intention here is to ensure that you are clear at any given time what the longer term plan is for SCA funded projects that relate to your school and that you are able to have input into review of this plan.