

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 18th October

Upcoming Events

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

Share the History Subject Immersion day information with the colleague who will be attending from your school. Remind them to bring books.

New Updates (since last bulletin)

Trust Mass

Thank you so much everyone who enabled yesterday's mass to happen. It was wonderful to see everyone there and to hear our first Trust Choir sing.

I really appreciate the work done by colleagues in school to prepare children for mass and for the organisation that gets everyone there safely. A big thanks also to the colleagues who led our music.

I must also thank Bernie Twomey, Bernie Healy, Suzanne Gomes and Rebecca Carr who have given so generously of their time to plan and prepare our mass. It has been such a joy to work with them.

Immersion Days

More thanks to Karen and her team at Holy Rood and all colleagues involved in organising Wednesday's Maths Immersion Day. I have heard really positive feedback of a day that has started this new programme really well.

Our next Immersion Day is the History Subject Immersion Day, Thursday 24th October – St Catherine's Primary School, 9.30-2.30

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

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

- What is it that gets better when someone 'gets better' at a discipline or subject?

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- *How is this subject developing creativity and critical thinking, communication and collaboration, problem solving and learning how to learn?*

In terms of logistics:

- Please arrive at St Catherine's from 9.15am. Parking is on street.
- Please bring your lunch – tea and coffee will be available
- **Please bring with you a selection of pupil History books from your school**

SEND Network

A final thanks to everyone who attended the first SEND network meeting on Monday. It was great to see such great attendance and commitment to work together on a challenge that is right at the top of the agenda for every school and Trust in the country.

As I said at the meeting, I don't take lightly what it takes to get out of school but I really believe firmly in the power of getting our minds together on these sorts of problems. I also believe in the power of knowing that we're not alone when dealing with some of the day to day challenges.

A DRAFT SEND Action Plan will be with all SENCOs by half term.

We also made decisions about SEND Training:

We have organised a half day training on ADHD and two half day sessions for Teaching Assistants.

There will be a day of SEND Training on **Monday 24th February (the morning will be TA Training, and the afternoon will be ADHA Training for SENCOs, Teachers and TAs.** Venue TBC

The second date for the **TA training is Monday 24th March pm**

More information on training to follow.

Year 4 Skipping Project

John Fernandes shared the information below.

Chris Corcoran, Director of Skipping School, together with Kim Horton (LINKS/currently at All Saints), have developed a fantastic skipping project aimed at our Year 4 children. It's a 6-month programme focused on building skipping skills. St Marie's have worked with the company for several years and are confident it will have a positive knock-on effect across other year groups too.

Attached with this bulletin is an A4 flyer which outlines everything you need to know about the project and what you get for the cost. Contact details are on the flyer.

John says it would be great to join forces for a Catholic schools' skipping festival next year, possibly at All Saints and/or Notre Dame (venues still to be confirmed).

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Items from previous bulletin for reference

CARE and CREATE Tools

We attached to last week's bulletin 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'. If you can't find your copy, please drop a line to Anita.

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.

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.

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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 [here](#).