

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 25th October

Upcoming Events

7 th & 8 th Nov	Heads' Conference
14 th Nov	DSLs network 12.30-3.30m@ Pastoral Centre
21 st Nov	Music Subject Immersion @ St Mary's
26 th Nov	Senior Leaders' Group 1.30 @ Pastoral Centre
4 th Dec	Computing Subject Immersion @ St Wilfrid's
9 th Dec	SEND Network meeting

New Updates (since last bulletin)

I hope that everyone is able to have a good rest over the half term break. Thank you as always to you and your teams for all you do, especially those tasks that are thankless. Thank you too for your continued support and engagement with work together as a Trust. The Immersion Days and Trust Mass have been particular highlights for me this half term – really wonderful expressions of our wider family.

Today's bulletin highlights some things that will be coming up after the half term break.

Heads' Conference – Thus & Fri 7th & 8th Nov

On the Thursday and Friday after the half term break it will be our Heads' Conference. I am delighted that this year will see the most schools in our wider family represented.

Everyone who is attending the conference will have received a summary of what to expect with some practical instructions. If you don't think you have had a copy, please let Anita know.

Team Teach Training – 13th Nov @ St Alban's

St Alban's have arranged Team Teach Level 1 and Level 2 training through Positive Regard. The training will take place on 13th November 2024 at St Alban's at a cost of £124 per delegate. **If you have any colleagues that you would like to send on this training, please let Lindsey know by close of play on 4th Nov.**

Immersion Days

Following good feedback from the Maths Immersion day at Holy Rood, my thanks to everyone who planned, led and attended the History Immersion Day at St Catherine's yesterday.

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We have had a really positive start to this new Immersion programme and I look forward to the next set of days in the second half of the term. Further details will follow in future bulletins.

Expansion of Centralised Contracting

We will be working to centralise a number of service/support contracts during the second half of the autumn term. Our focus will be on the following areas:

- Waste Management; General Waste, Mixed Recycling and Food Waste
- Fire; Extinguishers, Shutters, Sprinklers/Dampers and Fire Door Repair and Servicing. *Please note we will not be covering fire alarm servicing on this occasion.*
- Legionella Testing and Compliance Work
- PAT Testing

Some of the work identified above has already commenced and initial indications suggest that we can expect savings. Further details and guidance will be provided to schools via the SBM fortnightly briefing sessions, so please do check in with your Business Managers.

Decarbonisation grants

Some of you have received an email from Adnan this week related to Decarbonisation grants. This is one of those areas where some possible funding has been made available, but where the timescales are very tight.

As a consequence, Adnan and colleagues have made a quick assessment of where we may most likely be able to be successful with bids. If you are one of the schools who Adnan has contacted our ask is that you provide a point of contact so that we can organise on site visits with contractors who can carry out the necessary technical assessments to prepare a bid. Thanks to everyone who has already responded so quickly.

If you have not had a message that doesn't mean that nothing will happen in the future. It is likely that there will be further opportunities as part of the governments decarbonisation programme, and we will continue to look for opportunities to engage where we are likely to be successful.

Spiritual Listening

Please find attached with this Bulletin two leaflets shared by the Diocese of Hallam formation team. They provide information about a new programme on Spiritual Listening and Accompaniment. Please do take a look yourself and also share with colleagues at school. Please note the first part of the programme is a week of guided prayer in early December.

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Hallam Bethlehem Ball

The Hallam Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust are running their annual Ball on 23rd November. This is a black-tie dinner and dance with live band '[The Grand Plan](#)'. Please see the website for more information about the charity and for a link with information about the Bethlehem Ball. [Hospice Charity - Bethlehem Care & Hospice Trust](#)

A number of you have been long time supporters of this great charity both personally and through our schools. Please do promote the event with staff and parents. I hope to see some of you there.

Items from previous bulletin for reference

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.

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.

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.

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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.