

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 17th January

Upcoming Events

- 21st Jan Senior Leaders' Development day @Pastoral Centre
- 23rd Jan DSL Network online
- 28th Jan Heads' Forum 8am-12pm @ Pastoral Centre
- 28th Jan Governors Monitoring Catholic Life and Religious Education 6.30pm
- 31st Jan Science Subject Immersion @ St John Fisher
- ~~4th Feb~~ MFL immersion day → rescheduled to 14th March
- 10th Feb SEND Network meeting

Actions from this bulletin

31st January Science Subject Immersion day – Please let us know who will be attending at this [link](#)

Secondary Phase Attendance Network – Secondary Heads to ask Strategic Attendance Leads to respond to meeting date form

Please spend 5 minutes registering defibrillator(s), - as per the request outlined in the bulletin

Actions from previous bulletin

Heads Check in form – Head Teachers please take 5 mins to complete the check in form at this [link](#)

HR Service Briefing Feedback – Please share questions and feedback on the form at this [link](#)

24th Feb INSET Day – Please complete the form to request bookings for the SEND training on 24th Feb. Please also indicate any training you are running that day that could be made available to other schools.

Senior Leaders' Day – Please pass these links on to relevant colleagues to let us know if they are coming to the Senior Leaders' Day on Tue 21st Jan.

Form for Senior Leaders

Form for members of the SEND network who are invited to the afternoon

School Improvement visit 2 – Please book dates here

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Writing Moderation – If you haven't completed the form to let us know who is coming from your school, please do so as soon as possible at this link

New Updates (since last bulletin)

Senior Leaders' Development Day

We look forward to our day with Senior Leaders on Tuesday 21st at the Pastoral Centre. It will be a full day, beginning at 9.30. Jonathan Lear will lead a session on Curriculum and Immersion days in the morning and how we best work together to deliver an ambitious curriculum for all our children. Nick Whittaker is leading the afternoon session 'Exploring a Balanced System and a robust Graduated Response.' The SEND network group have been invited to join Nick's session at 1.30pm.

DSL network

Our DSL network will meet online on Thrus 23rd Jan from 4pm until 5pm. We sent an agenda to network members before the Christmas break, with a link to the meeting on the agenda.

The meeting will mainly be a chance to look back at the priorities we set for the year to review progress and set out the focus of the group for the remainder of the year.

Defibrillators

Please spend 5 minutes registering your defibrillator, this will ensure emergency services can locate it quickly.

Public Sector Worker Survey

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are conducting a study on how public sector workers, including school staff, spend their time.

Participants will complete an online diary of activities over two working days between Wednesday 12 March and Thursday 20 March 2025, with some flexibility if needed.

This study will provide valuable insights into the daily activities of the school workforce and support action to improve workload which is a high priority for the government.

We invite all school staff to take part, the deadline to express interest is Friday 21 February 2025, using the code 50005. A small sample will be selected and contacted by ONS after this date.

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Science Subject Immersion Day

The Science Subject Immersion day is at St John Fisher School (S12 4HJ) on Friday 31st January 9.15-2.30. It would be helpful for the school to know expected numbers, so please let us know [here](#) who will attend from your school.

Secondary Phase Attendance Network (AS, HT, ND)

We want to explore how working together might support us all with our current priorities around improving attendance in the secondary phase.

In the first instance we want to arrange an initial one-hour online meeting for the senior attendance champions/strategic attendance leads.

The agenda will be

1. Introductions, current successes and challenges
2. Reflection on the 'Good Practice in the Improvement of Pupils' Attendance in Sheffield Settings' report
 - a. Good practice and successes to share from our own context
3. Exploration of what further collaborative work might support improving attendance

Please could you forward this to your Strategic Attendance Lead and ask them to respond to the office form [here](#) with their availability (by Weds 22nd January)

A Sense of Belonging: What does it mean for schools?

Huntington Research School in York are running a conference on 24th March with a theme 'A sense of Belonging: What does it mean for schools?'

They are interested in hearing from anyone who would be willing and able to contribute to the conference by facilitating a session and/or sharing practice from their organisation.

If this is of interest to anyone, please can you get in touch with John Coats in the first instance.

Learn Sheffield 11 Day Trauma Informed Diploma Training

The costs for the 11 day training is £1495 per place but a subsidy of £500 is available. Request this from Evelyn Priestley via enquiries@learnsheffield.co.uk

Cohort 9 dates – 9.30 – 4.00pm

21st & 22nd Jan 25

4th & 5th Mar 25

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15th & 16th April 25

13th & 14th May 25

10th & 11st Jun 25

8th Jul 25

Booking link

Schools' Department Courses

Attached for your convenience are the booking form, flyers and newsletters distributed by Schools' Department at the beginning of the week.

Just to clarify that the Prayer and Liturgy Conference is only free of charge for Parish Priests. School staff/governors should book places on the booking form and schools should send this to abramall@hallam-diocese.com who will arrange for school to be invoiced for £70 per place.

Items from previous bulletin for reference

24th February INSET Day & SEND Training

The majority of schools in the St Clare family will have an INSET day on Monday 24th February.

We are running SEND training on that day

- In the morning is 'SEND and the Role of the TA' - this is a 2-part course (the second part is 24th **March** pm) led by Fusion. **This is for primary and secondary TAs.**
- In the afternoon is ADHD training by Headstuff ADHD Therapy. This is **predominantly for SENCOs**, but open to TAs and teachers subject to space in the afternoon. There is a link to a form in the 'actions' section above where you can request places on this training.

On the same form, please let us know if you have an INSET that day and are running training that could be made available to colleagues from other schools (E.g. First Aid, Safeguarding, etc). We will then share this with all schools and can support with coordination of booking.

HR Briefing

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the briefing on the development of the HR service. We have included with this bulletin a copy of the presentation, a link to a recording of the presentation and a link to the feedback form.

Please take a few minutes to add any questions or other feedback on the form. Please also pass the link to the form onto Business Managers or any other colleague in school who may have questions or feedback to

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share. We will come back with answers to questions at the Heads' Forum (if not before) and we will use your feedback to inform the priorities for development this year.

Senior Leaders' Development Day

The Senior Leader Session on Tuesday 21st will be a full day. Jonathan Lear will lead a session on Curriculum and Immersion days in the morning; the key questions the Trust is focusing on in our Immersion days and what an ambitious curriculum might look like. Nick Whittaker is leading the afternoon session 'Exploring a Balanced System and a robust Graduated Response.' The SEND network group have been invited to join Nick's session at 1.30pm.

This is a day for Deputies and other senior leaders. To help planning of logistics, please do ask colleagues in school to let us know if they are coming via the relevant form (link in this bulletin). Anita will also email senior leaders and members of the SEND network directly with a reminder about the day and a request to complete the form.

Maths Hub opportunities

Within the Trust we are building on and benefitting from a wealth of experience through the South Yorkshire Maths Hub. This is through schools actively engaging with the DFE funded professional development opportunities that the Maths Hub provides.

Within our Trust, we have colleagues who deliver professional development for the Maths Hub across South Yorkshire. Aside from Vicki John Lewis who is the Maths Hub Lead, Tom McInerney (Holy Rood) and Lysie Tuplin (Sacred Heart) are both nationally trained Teaching for Mastery Specialists for the primary phase and Joe Quarterman (Notre Dame) is currently taking part in national training to become a Mastery Specialist for the secondary phase. Edith Pearce (Holy Rood) is a Work Group Lead.

Opportunities to train as a Mastery Specialist or Work Group Lead are open to all colleagues across South Yorkshire on the understanding that they will support and develop other schools within the region. The training is funded, and further information about the next round of recruitment can be found in the attached posters. We expect a high level of interest – there will therefore be an application and interview process.

If you have any further questions around this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Vicki. vjohnlewis@symathshub.org.uk

Writing Moderation

A reminder that we will have our writing moderation days later this term. These are scheduled as follows:

F2/Y1/Y2 - Thus 13th February

Y3/Y4 – Thus 27th February

Y5/Y6 – Thus 13th March

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This year we will host all the moderation days at the Pastoral Centre. All events will run from 2.30 – 4.00pm. Jonathan Lear will be running the first two days, and this will be part of the writing fundamentals development. Claire Round will run the Y5/Y6 event.

Thanks to everyone who has already completed the quick form (link below and in the actions) to indicate who you expect to send to moderation this year. If you haven't done so, please do get on and respond this week. This will help us to plan logistics.

School Improvement Visit 2

John and Fiona will be booking the second of the two school improvement visits with each school.

The purpose of the visit is to:

1. Better know and understand your school.
2. Ensure that the Trust is in a better position to identify any emerging areas in order to inform plans for 2025/26 Trust activity.
3. Better understand the impact of collaborative work and coordinated Trust activity on the school.
4. Provide support with monitoring and evaluating progress against the School Improvement Priorities.

During the visit we will want to:

- Review the current school improvement documentation – in particular asking you to reflect on those areas where you are most confident of the impact of school improvement work, and also those areas where you might have least evidence of impact
- See the current version of your SEF (in whatever state it is currently in)

Depending on the timing of the visit, you may also find it helpful to build in an activity whereby we can support you (or a colleague) in supporting with the evaluation of the impact of a particular piece of school improvement work.

Visits should last approximately 2 hours – and need to be booked in between Monday 3rd Feb and Weds 16th April. Please select a meeting date [at this link](#). There should be enough options to enable everyone to pick a time that suits. Morning visits will default to 9.30-11.30 unless a different time works better for you, and afternoon 1.30-3.30 (again, unless a slightly different time works better).