

## Head Teachers' Bulletin 20<sup>th</sup> March - 2026

### Upcoming Events

26<sup>th</sup> Mar – ASCETS Training in Autism

27<sup>th</sup> Mar – RWI Storybook face-to-face @St Catherine's

23<sup>rd</sup> April – DSL Network meeting 4-5pm online

29<sup>th</sup> April – Senior Leader Network meeting 1.30pm online

### Actions from this bulletin

#### Actions from previous bulletin

Let Anita know the number of children who will attend the Trust Prayer and Liturgy activity.

### New Updates (since last bulletin)

#### Heads' Forum – 17<sup>th</sup> March 8-12 @ Pastoral Centre

Thank you for your engagement with the Heads' Forum this week and thanks to our Shared Services leaders for their presentations. Headteachers will find attached with this bulletin a summary of the proposals that we are taking to the board next week, which I outlined in the meeting. These proposals are focused on ensuring we have capacity for whole Trust work we are committed to at the same time as having time for the 'important but not urgent' - planning longer term development and strategy. If you have any comments or questions on the proposals, please give Steve an email or a call.

#### SEND Network Meeting

The SEND Network meeting scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> March has been cancelled. The next meeting is 7<sup>th</sup> May.

#### Safeguarding Updates

Thank you to everyone for feedback in relation to various developments.

- **Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Agreements**

This policy is currently approved at individual LAC level, and was identified on our peer reviews as something that could be strengthened. To support schools, we have produced a model policy that you can adopt if you wish to do so. We have constructed this in the usual way, with school specific information captured in the various appendices.

This model policy is saved within the DSL sharepoint folder.

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- **Online Single Central Record**

Thank you to colleagues who attended the demonstrations from the different platforms we were considering and who gave feedback. We have made a decision to purchase a Trust wide licence with OnlineSCR – this was the second of the demonstrations that we received, and is also already being used successfully by one school within the Trust. We have an implementation meeting with Online SCR booked in, and will be sharing more information with School Business Managers and DSLs shortly.

- **Chairs and Safeguarding Governor Forum**

The slides and pro-formas shared at Wednesday's Chairs and Safeguarding Forum are stored within the 'Governor Safeguarding Visit' folder in the DSL sharepoint folder.

### English Hub Opportunities

The English Hub are looking to increase their team of Literacy Specialists (KS1 phonics and KS2 reading), and Early Years Language and Literacy Specialists from September 2026. The role would involve being released from school for around 1 day a week to support other schools on developing their reading and/or early language provision. [Please use the link here](#) to access an expression of interest form for more information and to request an application pack.

Applications will need to be submitted by Wednesday 1st April, for shortlisting for interviews and school visits after the Easter holidays.

### Maths Hub role

Attached with this bulletin is information about the Maths Hub Operations & Partnerships Manager role. Please share this with anyone you think may be interested. [The application details are here.](#)

### Trust Prayer and Liturgy Activity Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May

Following the Good Shepherd Celebration, we will have use of the Victoria Hall in Sheffield. Pupils from across our trust (schools currently in the Trust and those still to join) will gather in fellowship and prayer to collaboratively prepare and lead a Pentecost Celebration of the Word, which they will then return to share with their school communities after the summer half term.

To support the planning of this, please could all schools also ensure completion of THIS OFFICE FORM by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March so that we have information about numbers and ages of children that Trust and Associate Trust schools are intending to bring to the Good Shepherd Celebration event which takes place at 10am, Tues 19<sup>th</sup> May at St Maries Cathedral.

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### Keynote talk by Laura Bates

All Saints have arranged for Laura to speak with students, school leaders, PSHE leads and leaders from across the MAT as part of our ongoing work to **help tackle violence against women and girls** and to support schools in addressing issues such as everyday sexism and misogyny.

Laura Bates is a writer, campaigner and the founder of the Everyday Sexism Project, a global initiative that has gathered testimonies from women and girls about gender inequality and harassment in everyday life. Her work has increasingly focused on **the rise of online misogyny**, the influence of the so-called **"manosphere"**, and the ways in which emerging technologies – including AI – are being used to target and abuse women and girls online. She is also the author of several influential books exploring misogyny, online radicalisation, and the impact of emerging technologies on gender-based harm.

These issues have been widely reported in the news in recent months, and many schools are seeing their impact in the attitudes, language and online experiences of young people. Laura's keynote will explore these challenges, helping schools better understand the cultural and digital environments students are navigating, and how education can play a key role in promoting respectful relationships and critical digital awareness. The event is designed to support school students, leaders, PSHE staff and MAT leaders in understanding the challenges students, staff and parents are encountering in day to day life and digital spaces, and to equip schools with insight to help foster respectful relationships and critical digital awareness.

Event details - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April at All Saints Catholic High School, Granville Road, Sheffield, S2 2RJ

Session 1 - 10am-11am (please arrive no later than 9:45am to allow us adequate time to seat guests) OR

Session 2 - 11:15am-12:15pm (please arrive no later than 11 am, again, to ensure that we can seat guests)

If staff would like to attend the event, they can do so by emailing Kay Scahill -PSHE/RSE Lead at

[k.scahill@allsaints.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:k.scahill@allsaints.sheffield.sch.uk)

### **Items from previous bulletin**

#### Storybook Read Write Inc Training

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Storybook RWI face-face training. **There are spaces available for our other schools.**

This training is for staff members in your school who have not been on face-face storybook training. This is being covered by the trust centrally. Venue - St Catherine's Primary School Time - 9-3pm Please bring your own lunch.

#### ASCETS – Making sense of Autism 26<sup>th</sup> March 3.45 – 5.45

Please note, this is a repeat of the session that ran in October. This module is for anyone working in a school environment and is an awareness-raising module that introduces autism and the areas of difference, which can include: Social Understanding and Communication, Flexibility, Information Processing and Understanding and Sensory Processing and Integration, among other things. We explore areas of difference in terms of strengths and support needs and identify some initial reasonable adjustments that need to be considered when supporting neurodivergent pupils. Venue = Hallam Pastoral Centre. This Training is Free.

#### SEND Enquiry Documents

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The SEND Network has prepared the attached SEND Enquiry Documentation, these have been sent out across the Network for comments and these have now been incorporated. It is our intention to set up the first enquiries in the Summer Term. If heads have any comments or alteration on the attached please email Fiona by Friday 20th March.

### Training Spaces

The English Hub is looking for space to run training over the next academic year. If any schools have a space that could be available for half-day training sessions, and would accommodate 30 - 40 people, please could you get in touch with Delia at St Wilfrid's (d.evans@stwilfridssheffield.co.uk)? There is funding available to pay for hire.

### Financial Planning Assumptions

With last week's bulletin we shared our Financial Planning Assumption 2026-27 briefing document. Further updates will be shared as and when received, a final updated version of the briefing document will be made available late April.

As per the prior year budget process shared service financial colleagues will update the IMP Planner for the financial planning assumptions as well as unloading details of your core GAG-funding, this information is currently being updated and released by the DfE.

We are contacting schools to set up initial budget planning and ICFP implementation meetings from early next week.

### Registration and Login to EduPay

Unfortunately, it appears that we still have a material number of colleagues who have yet to complete their registration and login to EduPay. We implemented and transitioned to EduPay in November 2025.

Payroll colleagues will be contacting schools directly (SBMs) highlighting those colleagues who haven't validated their user account and logged into the system. We would be grateful for your support and if you could raise the issue at staff briefings -all staff need to validate and log in to the system as soon as possible.

Anyone requiring support should contact the payroll team: [payroll@stclarecmat.org.uk](mailto:payroll@stclarecmat.org.uk)

### EduPay Staff Expenses and Timesheets (Overtime/Casual Hours)

We are looking to formally roll-out the staff expense and timesheets function in the next couple of weeks, with full adoption expected to be in place by the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. Payroll colleagues will shortly look to confirm the approval pathways established for your school in regard to these two functions.

We have not identified any issues in regard to the small-scale release of this functionality. We hope all schools will find this new approach to staff expenses and timesheets to be more effective and efficient for all stakeholder.

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We would be grateful if you could flag this issue with teaching colleagues during your next staff briefing or via any other method you feel is appropriate.

Further details regarding MPO are available from our payroll team: [payroll@stclarecmat.org.uk](mailto:payroll@stclarecmat.org.uk)

### Teacher Pensions and My Pension Online

Teachers Pensions will be transitioning from Capita to Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) this academic year. We will be making arrangements with Capita and TCS regarding the transition, these will largely relate to back-office administration matters, therefore, unlikely to have any direct impact on teaching colleagues.

However, we would recommend that teaching colleagues set up their TP My Pension Online (MPO) user account as well as reviewing their service history to ensure there are no gaps or omissions. We currently receive details of colleagues who have not registered for MPO but are unclear if this information will be made available post transition to TCS.

### Invitation to Primary Schools -Our Lady of Guadalupe Relic – Hallam 2026

Please see information below from Rachel Wood.

In 1531, Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in Mexico as the Mother of God to a humble peasant named Juan Diego. A miraculous image of her appearance was left on his cloak, which can be seen in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

Following his visit to Mexico in 1979, Saint John Paul II authorised the creation of 220 digital replicas of this original image for worldwide distribution.

One of these is preserved in the Church of the Holy Child and Saint Joseph in Bedford, and on Friday, 5th of June it is coming to: Mother of God Church, Abbeydale Road.

Commencing at 10am with Holy Mass (optional) and Marian consecration prayer, it will be followed at 11am by an age-appropriate presentation of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St Juan Deigo led by the Guardians of the image.

If the one class from each primary schools would like to attend this event, please would they be so kind as to let me know by email [rachel.wood33@outlook.com](mailto:rachel.wood33@outlook.com)