



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

AUTUMN 2015

Dear Colleagues

A warm welcome to you all, at the start of the new academic year. We are very much looking forward to working in partnership with you.

There are many changes of leadership, collaborations and groupings – too numerous to list here. I hope that the process of continuous improvement as Church schools is exciting and with appropriate pace. We believe it is vital not to separate the standards arena from the church arena – they are irrevocably linked in a Church school.

If you are taking up a new leadership role, I wish you every success. We are here to support you. Your link Diocesan Education Officer - Penny, Tatty or Richard, is at hand to support you. We hope that you will attend our Induction course for new Church School Leaders.

The details are:

Senior Leaders Induction Programme:

22nd September 2015

2nd February 2016

13th July 2016

Please contact Fran Bradley (01392 29491) for a place, if she hasn't contacted you first!

We are especially pleased to have a brand new Church of England School opening at the start of this term – St Matthew's Nursery and Primary Academy, Derriford, Plymouth, which opened on time with just under 80 children and which will grow rapidly to 620 over the next years. We wish Andrea Smith – Executive Headteacher of St Matthew's Academy, Plymouth (with St George's Academy, Stonehouse), governors and staff every best wish for this forthcoming school year.

We said farewell to several experienced and valued colleagues at the end of last term. We wish them well in their new ventures, whatever they might be. Farewell to two very long serving headteachers – Stuart Ruffe (Galmpton) and Nigel Tancock (Woodbury)

We were very saddened to learn of the tragic deaths of two students recently. One was a student at St Cuthbert Mayne Comprehensive, Torquay and the other of a former pupil at Webber's C of E Primary School. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, the schools and the local communities at this very sad time.

We were also very saddened to hear of the recent death of Sarah Sennett, formerly Headteacher of Plympton St. Mary's Infants School. She bore a serious illness with great faith, determination and character. We are thinking of her family at this time and holding them in their prayers.

DBE STAFFING:

We welcome Matthew Redwood as our Academies Conversion Consultant from the start of this term. Matt is replacing Janine Waring who has been the DBE's Commissioned Academies Officer, alongside her role as CEO of St Christopher's Primary MAT. The CEO role is growing rapidly and she needs to prioritise that work. Matt is very well known to many of you as a highly respected officer over many years, with his work in Devon and Torbay LA's. Matt can be contacted at 01392 294940.

Patricia Morris is taking over the SIAMS admin role. She replaces Jacque Ward, who filled in admirably last term. When you get the call, it will be Tricia who calls! Tricia is an experienced SIAMS inspector and former Church School Head, whom many of you in Devon will know. All SIAMS timescales are agreed between ourselves, the National Society and DfE, following the agreed protocols with the DfE. She can be contacted at:

SIAMS@exeter.anglican.org

PLANNING MULTI ACADEMY TRUSTS INVOLVING VA OR VC SCHOOLS

If you are thinking about forming a MAT, please talk to us **BEFORE** you set out to make detailed plans. There are complex issues to resolve, especially about church schools in a mixed MAT that could affect your potential partners. Please remember that in most all cases, the Diocesan Board of Finance is the trustee and needs to give consent and agreement so this means that there has to be a significant amount of work involved. However, in a few cases the trustees are long gone or difficult to find and this can take several months to sort out.

All proposed MATs will need to work with Premises and Governance officers (Richard Power and Christina Mabin) to ensure that the land and governance issues are rigorous and effective, prepare a business case to our School Organisation Group and will be supported through the academy process with diocesan and MAT lawyers.

The first point of call is Matt Redwood (01392 272686). Please work with us **BEFORE** submitting the online application to the DfE.

COLLABORATIONS AND AMALGAMATIONS – A TIME FOR REVIEW

A significant issue at present is that of small schools and their future viability. This term we have a series of Roadshows, held in each Archdeaconry area from mid -September to early October. You can attend any of these events, in or beyond your area. The details are below, but have been sent to schools via the admin address last term and this. Can I remind you that in DfE terms a small school is defined as being form 210 pupils or less. We have called these roadshows

Extending Collaborations and Partnerships (the next 5 years)

The venue details etc are included at the end of this letter.

This is the ideal opportunity to review existing groupings and collaborations and to seek new partnerships, along the principles of national Church policy and agreement, be they in academy or federation world. Again, please talk to us before setting in stone any arrangement.

If you are a small or larger school, please attend one of the sessions convenient to you. Clergy Chairs and School Leaders from each school are asked to attend.

Church School Improvement- proposed changes and focus:

We are currently reviewing our support for schools in the light of the changing schools' improvement agenda. We are in the world of showing our impact and this is our focus.

The principles will be:

1. To use the newly evolved vehicles for the identification of vulnerable schools for rapid improvement – i.e. local Authority revised monitoring and evaluation roles; local support networks e.g. Devon Schools Alliance, Teaching Schools, NLE's, SLE's (particularly those linked to church schools), known and trusted external consultants and groups.
2. Our focus on school improvement will be around the development and improvement of Church School Ethos and Development.
3. Therefore, we are focussing our attention on brokering and facilitating, rather than providing school improvement support.
4. However, as we are being held to account for the performance of our schools and academies, we will engage in monitoring and challenging schools in their improvement process.
5. That the revised SIAMS schedule gives a greater emphasis that high standards are essential for the health of the church school.
6. That this will be kept under review so that EDBE policy can be more swiftly adapted to any further system changes.

This will be the focus of work by Exeter Diocesan Board of Education at and before its next full Board meeting in November.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE BULLETIN

The National Church of England Education Office release a bulletin, fortnightly during term time, which contains a range of news, stories and event information for schools. Schools can subscribe by following this link <http://eepurl.com/3RQvr> or by emailing jemma.adams@churchofengland.org

SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Please could you ensure that we have all the up to date information and email contacts for Schools, Senior Leaders, Clerks and Chairs, please. Sarah Owen keeps our database up to date so please email her with any changes. Thanks. Her email address is:

Governance@exeter.anglican.org

Please remember that we are here to support you in any way we can. Please contact us at any time if you need support, a conversation or advice.

Best wishes
Philip Mantell



You are invited to attend the:

Extending Collaborations and Partnerships (the next 5 years) Roadshows

Hosted by the Exeter Diocesan Board of Education across the Diocese this Autumn.

These Roadshows are a chance to come and understand the various options open to all schools (even if you are already in a MAT or Federation) when looking to secure their future post 2015 General Election and how the DBE will help and support you. Doing nothing is NOT an option. The invitation is open to anyone with an interest in the future of their local church school: Staff, Governors and Clergy.

Roadshows are being held at the following venues:

15th September St Martin's Primary School, Cranbrook, Exeter

6th October St Matthew's Primary Academy, Plymouth

7th October Collaton St Mary Primary School, Paignton

8th October Pilton Bluecoat Academy, Barnstaple

All from 6.00-7.30pm

To book a place on this **FREE** event please contact Fran Bradley
educationevents@exeter.anglican.org or 01392 294921 titling your email "ECP Roadshows"

For more information about the Roadshows please contact Sarah Owen:
sarah.owen@exeter.anglican.org or 01392 294938