

PLYMOUTH CAST NEWSLETTER – 3rd May 2017

Dear Heads, Governors, Staff and Volunteers,

Welcome to the Plymouth CAST fortnightly newsletter. In this edition the focus will be

1. Message from Kate Griffin, Interim CEO
2. School Support
3. Safeguarding Update
4. Regional Budget Seminars
5. CAST Functional Reviews
6. Event Dates
7. Request for Audit & Risk Committee Members
8. Torbay Tech Jam – Open invitation to CAST Schools
9. Ask the Board (Mat Notice No. 1702)
10. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)
11. Take Ten Toolkit (MHFA)
12. Date of Next Newsletter: 17th May 2017

1. **Message from Kate Griffin**

Thank you for your contributions to the budget setting meetings last week. I am well aware of the financial difficulties that all schools are facing at present, but I hope that by working together we shall convince the EFA who are conducting a review of CAST finances that we are providing good value for money. I know that when you joined CAST you did so on the understanding that as much responsibility as possible would be delegated to schools; that was exactly the same in DoWAT (Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust) in 2012 when they were established, but by 2013 when I became a director it was clear that some things had to change for the good of all. I freely admit that there were some bumpy meetings of the board which by then I chaired; but the pain has been worth it. We were in Sir Michael Wilshaw's list of seven successful multi-academy trusts having achieved excellent results all round. I am sure that CAST can become equally successful as it is very clear that there is a huge amount of talent in our schools, but that can only happen by working more collaboratively.

2. **School Support**

You will remember that I asked in my letter dated 3rd March 2017 that anyone interested in offering support to other schools should contact me. I am grateful to those who did and to those who are already helping schools in difficulty. I believe that CAST should and can become an organisation which supports and develops the talents of all within its reach. To provide further support from within CAST the Board has agreed that a Head of School Improvement should be appointed. The advertisement will go live on May 12th so please do have a look if you are interested in this opportunity.

3. **Safeguarding Update**

I would also like to update you on Safeguarding. At our last Board meeting it was agreed that Maria Edwards would continue to be the Board's Safeguarding representative but that this would be a non - executive position. Neil Maslen under the guidance of the interim CEO will take on the executive responsibility for producing a CAST wide safeguarding strategy which will include monitoring and reporting elements to ensure the Board is kept fully informed in order to fulfil its statutory duty. You will hear more from Neil in due course. The Board were very appreciative of the tremendous amount of work that Maria has done in this area and that she will continue to ensure that this is a priority at Board level.

4. **Regional Budget Seminars**

Regional budget seminars took place across the Trust on 25, 26 and 27 April to start the process of setting school budgets for the 2017/18 academic year.

These will be reviewed by the Finance committee and then the CAST Board before being submitted to the Educational and Skills Funding agency in July. A new requirement is upon us this year to submit a forecast of 'out turn' or in other words our forecast balances for this year on 19 May. Many thanks to all involved for their hard work and commitment.



5. **CAST Functional Reviews**

In October 2016 the Regional School Commissioner directed the Trust to conduct a series of reviews which are almost complete. These included Safeguarding, Pupil Premium, Leadership and Governance and, Financial Management. The first three are now complete and the Review into Financial Management is now underway to complete by 15 June 17. Bishop Fleming LLP will conduct the review and we have selected the ten schools below for a skills audit and consultation focusing on financial management. This will mostly involve the schools Senior Management Team and Governors by means of an online questionnaire. Contact will be made directly by Bishop Fleming who must conduct the review independently. Your help and support is much appreciated. We have made the auditors aware of SATS week and also half term dates. Any issues, questions or concerns to marcus.taylor@plymouthcast.org.uk It is important to note this is not a look into individual schools, it is designed to provide all round assurance of the Trust's overall financial management which cannot be established without consulting with our schools.

St Mary's Penzance
St Boniface's College
St Joseph's Devonport
Our Lady of the Angels (formerly known as Queensway)
Our Lady's Barnstaple
St Joseph's Newton Abbot
St Mary's Buckfast
St Augustine's Weymouth
St Catherine's Bridport
St Mary's Swanage

6. **Event Dates**

Governor Support Programme:

Health & Safety (4.30pm to 8pm)

West Area - Tuesday 16th May at Lanhydrock, Bodmin
Central Area - Wednesday 17th May at Exeter Racecourse
East Area - Thursday 18th May at Kingston Maurward

Safer Recruitment Twilight Sessions x 2 (4.30pm to 7pm)

On 11th and 18th May at St Boniface House, Ashburton. Follow up to the Safeguarding training – some spaces still available.

Admin Network Meetings:

Central Area - Tuesday 6th June at St Boniface House, Ashburton
East Area - Thursday 8th June at Sir John Colefox Academy
West Area - Tuesday 27th June at Lanhydrock, Bodmin

If you are interested in attending any of the above, please contact Debbie Beech on events@plymouthcast.org.uk

SATS Week - Monday 8th to Friday 12th May 2017

CAST Board Meeting - Wednesday 17th May 2017

7. **Audit & Risk Committee Members**

We are seeking a Headteacher or SLT member from a Plymouth CAST school to join the Audit and Risk Committee. The Committee meets a week or two before each Board meeting to consider the potential risks we face as an organisation and to ensure we minimise those risks. It would be very useful to have a school leadership perspective alongside those of the other current members and attendees who are drawn from the Plymouth CAST central team and school governing boards. If you are interested in finding out more please contact the Chair, Dan Rogerson rogersondan@yahoo.uk"

8. **Torbay Tech Jam – Open Invitation to CAST Schools**

The main aim of these events is to inspire children and young people to code and make things with devices such as Raspberry Pi, Arduino etc. Hopefully they will then develop a strong interest in STEM subjects. It hoped that these events can complement what is taught in schools.

More information is available on their website:

<https://torbaytechjam.org.uk>





The next events are all being held at Paignton Library from 12.30 to 3.30pm on May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9

There is also a Code Club information event on the 13th May at Paignton Library for anyone who is interested in running a code club at their school.

9. **Ask the Board** (MAT Notice No. 1702)

Further to the MAT Notice issued in February, we would like to remind you of the email account called 'asktheboard@plymouthcast.org.uk'.

All MAT Notices can be found on the CAST website, under About Us, Policies tab.

10. **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)**

From Easter 2017 MHFA England will be offering secondary school staff the opportunity to attend a one day, Youth MHFA Schools course, at no cost! The Youth MHFA in Schools programme will be fully funded by the Department of Health with a value of £200 per person. This is the first year of the programme and the aim is to train at least one member of staff in over 1000 secondary schools, to become a Youth MHFA Champion.

Schools can apply to host one of the first 100 training courses and in return they will be offered up to four additional places per course. Schools should register their interest by emailing schools@mhfaengland.org, stating where in England you are located.

The training is well-received by teachers who have found it a very effective approach to supporting young people in their schools. In addition to the training courses, the MHFA website has a range of resources that you can download.

Further Information: <https://mhfaengland.org/youth-mhfa-schools-colleges/>

11. **Take Ten Toolkit (MHFA)**

MHFA England have posters and leaflets on their website including ones aimed at schools. One poster gives tips and guidance on how to have a meaningful 10 minute conversation with a young person about their mental health. You can download it here: https://mhfaengland.org/take-10-together-toolkit/Take_10_Together_at_School_print.pdf

Further Information: <https://mhfaengland.org/take-10-together-toolkit/>

12. **Date of Next Newsletter:** 17th May 2017

Kate Griffin
Interim Chief Executive Officers

Distribution List

CAST Board Members
Chairs of the Local Governing Bodies (via Clerks)
Head Teachers
Clerks to Local Governing Bodies
CAST Senior Management Team
All CAST Support Staff including Area Advisers
Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) Members

Ofsted Inspections since October 2016

East

St Catherine's, Bridport	Requires Improvement
St Joseph's, Poole	Good
St Mary's, Dorchester	Good
St Augustine's, Weymouth	Good
St Mary's, Poole	Requires Improvement
St Mary's Marnhull	Good
St Mary's Axminster	Requires Improvement

Central

Our Lady & St Patrick's, Teignmouth	Good
St Mary's, Buckfast	Good
St Joseph's, Exmouth	Requires Improvement
Priory, Torquay	Special Measures
Queensway, Torquay	Special Measures
Our Lady's, Barnstaple	Requires Improvement
St Margaret Clitherow, Brixham	Special Measures
Sacred Heart, Paignton	Good
St John's, Tiverton	Requires Improvement
St John's, Dartmouth	Good

West

Notre Dame, Plymouth	Requires Improvement
St Joseph's, Plymouth	Good
St John's, Camborne	Good
Keyham Barton, Plymouth	Requires Improvement
St Mary's, Penzance	Special Measures
St Mary's, Bodmin	Requires Improvement
St Peter's, Plymouth	Good
Cathedral, Plymouth	Good
St Paul's, Plymouth	Good