

PLYMOUTH CAST NEWSLETTER – 19 April 2017

Dear Heads, Governors, Staff and Volunteers,

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

1. Government Data - Pupil Absence Data 2016/17
2. Free Safeguarding Training
3. Website Update
4. Event Dates
5. Group Deals.
6. EFA Condition Survey
7. Date of Next Newsletter: 3rd May 2017

1. **Government Data - Pupil Absence Data 2016/17**

Latest pupil absence data shows that the overall absence rate across state funded primary, secondary and special schools has remained at the same rate of 4.6% in 2015/16 as in the previous year. The overall absence rate has remained broadly stable since 2013/14. Illness remains the most common reason for absence, accounting for 57.3 per cent of all absences.

In 2015/16, persistent absentees accounted for 36.6 per cent of all absence compared to 37.4 per cent in 2014/15. Longer term, there has been a decrease in the proportion of absence that persistent absentees account for – down from 43.3 per cent in 2011/12.

Family holidays (authorised and unauthorised) accounted for 8.2 per cent of all absences in 2015/16 compared to 7.5 per cent in 2014/15.

Among ethnic groups, the highest overall absence rates were seen for Traveller of Irish Heritage and Gypsy/Roma pupil enrolments who had rates of 17.9 per cent and 12.7 per cent respectively. Enrolments of a Chinese and Black African ethnicity had the lowest overall absence rate of any ethnic groups, at 2.4 per cent and 3.0 per cent respectively, a substantially lower rate than the national average of 4.6 per cent.

2. **Free Safeguarding Training**

Interested in receiving free Safeguarding training? Please support Safeguarding in the Diocese. You can register to access [free online EDUCARE Safeguarding training](#) by emailing safeguarding@prcdtr.org.uk with your name, school and role.

Once registered you will have instant access to all seven modules of the E-Learning programme and print out your own Certificates of completion.

3. **Website Update**

The new Website is now live <http://www.plymouthcast.org.uk/web> and information will continue to be added. Currently access to standard templates is not available, therefore

please email Helen Moram on helen.moram@plymouthcast.org.uk if you require any of the standard templates. Please bear with us whilst we continue to enhance the website. If you have any suggestions with regard to future content, please let Helen know.

4. **Event Dates**

Finance Budget Seminars:

Central Area	-	Tuesday 25 th April at St Boniface House, Buckfast
East Area	-	Wednesday 26 th April at Sir John Colefox Academy
West Area	-	Thursday 27 th April at St Boniface College, Plymouth

Governor Support Programme: Health & Safety

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

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

5. **Group Deals**

The following Group Deals have been signed:

Facilities Management

The deal with Torbay Economic Development Company (TEDC) Ltd (formerly known as TDA) has commenced and they now replace Strictly Education. A 'MAT Notice' was issued on 18 April concerning this. All works should be referred to propertyserviceshelpdesk@tedcltd.com. Any schools with a very good local arrangements should inform TED who may adopt the local provider as an approved provider. This is likely to be useful and keep costs down for remote sites.

Recruitment

Trust Wide subscription for all schools with the Times Educational Supplement (TES) Recruitment for unlimited adverts on their 'Silver' level subscription. This excludes leadership positions because we would always want to advertise those more widely. Schools already subscribing to TES should have their contracts cancelled and rolled up. For further details please contact Diana Taylor (diana.taylor@plymouthcast.org.uk) at CAST. *This will be paid for out of new top slice with no recharge to schools.*

The Key

Trust Wide subscription for all schools and governors with The Key. Schools already subscribing to The Key should have their contracts refunded. If your school has not been contacted by The Key by the end of April, please inform that support office by emailing admin@plymouthcast.org.uk. *This will be paid for out of new top slice with no recharge to schools.*

Signage

10% discount at School Signs <http://www.schoolsigns-uk.co.uk/> if you identify yourself as a Plymouth CAST school at sales@schoolsigns-uk.co.uk. *Schools should then refer orders to the buildings committee for possible payment under capital and works budget.*

Deals in the Pipeline (but not confirmed)

Websites: Roll up of all e-school websites to one cheaper contract.

Print: Managed print service with Xerox.

Stationary: Office Supplies contract with ESPO Framework providers.

Safeguarding: Central contract with CPOMS.

Health and Safety: Trust wide rollout of single system for monitoring and training (two preferred bidders – one of which already in use by 15 of our schools).

Catering: New contracts for 2 Cornwall and 2 Devon schools for 1 Sep 2017.

6. EFA Condition Data Collection Surveys

Reminder of the EFA Condition Data Collection Surveys. This is a 3 year project to assess national school estate conditions. Schools may therefore be contacted to host a half day visit (visual only – no testing or entering voids). At least 35 days notice will be given. Please notify your area adviser if you get a call so we can inform the Diocese who are our Landlord. This initiative is simply a survey; not an inspection – no judgement or grading. Further information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/condition-data-collection-programme-information-and-guidance>

7. Date of Next Newsletter: 3rd May 2017



Marcus Taylor
Chief Operating Officer
for and on behalf of the
Senior Management Team

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	Waiting publication

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	Waiting publication
Sacred Heart, Paignton	Good
St John's, Tiverton	Waiting publication
St John's, Dartmouth	Waiting publication

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	Waiting publication