

PLYMOUTH CAST NEWSLETTER – 22 March 2017

Dear Heads, Governors, Staff and Volunteers,

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

1. An update on CEO Recruitment.
 2. Feedback from the Leadership Conference
 3. Update on OFSTED Inspections
 4. Keyham Barton – English Update
 5. Year 7 Literacy & Numeracy catch-up premium
 6. Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Barnstaple – HMI Letter
 7. Supporting parents to understand the risk of the Internet
 8. Request for Audit & Risk Committee member
 9. Female Genital Mutilation: Recognising and Preventing
 10. New Statutory Framework for EYFS
 11. Bomb Threat – St Mary's Falmouth
 12. Date of Next Newsletter: 5th April 2017
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1. Recruitment for the post of Plymouth CAST CEO is now in its second stage following the closing date on 14 March. The CAST Board will invite shortlisted candidates to interviews on 27 and 28 March. On the 27th March there will be an opportunity for Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors to meet candidates at a buffet supper at Exeter Racecourse starting at 5.30pm. Details of how to attend have already been promulgated by email.
 2. The Plymouth CAST Leadership conference took place on 14 March. Some schools were unable to attend due to Ofsted and other commitments but a .zip file of all delegate packs has been emailed to all schools. Please inform CAST Office Manager if you have not received yours. This conference was an opportunity for the Chairman and Diocesan Schools Commissioner who is also the interim CEO to update staff on progress with our Ofsted action plan and introduce concepts for developing the organisation of CAST. A series of sub-committees, with teacher, governor and staff involvement will be formed over the coming months.
 3. The latest school inspection update from [Ofsted is available here](#). It includes clarifications on inspection arrangements for academy converter schools, how central MAT staff should appear in the SCR and guidance on how inspectors should be interpreting recent data.

4. Keyham Barton – Year 2 Class English Update

Year 2 class were doing cross curricular topic entitled 'What do you know about where you live?' As a part of our work we investigated Plymouth author Simon James. His books became the stimulus for our literacy lessons with Simon's work really capturing the children's imaginations. To finish our work, Year 2 wrote letters to Simon telling him how much they loved reading the books and asked him some questions. The children were delighted with the very personal reply they were sent. It also caused great excitement with our parents when it appeared on the school Facebook page. To our surprise Simon also sent the class an exclusive preview of his new book which is out in November.



5. Year 7 Literacy & Numeracy catch-up premium

The Department for Education (DfE) and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) have published (2 March) updated guidance on the Year 7 literacy and numeracy catch-up premium, which provides links to the allocations and conditions of grant for the 2016 to 2017 academic year.

Further details can be found: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/year-7-literacy-and-numeracy-catch-up-premium-guide-for-schools>

6. Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Barnstaple – HMI Letter

Following on from the school's recent Ofsted Inspection, a letter was received from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector stating that although the overall judge was requires improvement, Leadership and management were judged to be good and that the plans in place to make rapid improvement were effective. Some of the initiatives have not been in place long enough to have the desired effect on improving teaching and raising standards, however there is a clear understanding of what is required. The Head teacher has inspired a culture in which staff work effectively as a team and pupils are nurtured.

7. Supporting parents to understand the risk of the Internet

A significant concern that a lot schools are facing is how many parents appear to have lack of understanding about keeping children safe online. Schools try to engage parents in raising awareness, but it is often a hard task.

Some schools are using their own social media approaches to help with this. Twitter has particular value in easily sharing useful links with parents. Other schools have developed specific areas of their website for safeguarding.

Useful resources to share with parents are the guides from 'Think U Know' and the NSPCC: [How to...guides \(Think U Know\)](#) and [Your guide to the social networks your kids use \(NSPCC\)](#)

Vodafone have been particularly supportive of parents with the 'Digital Parenting' magazine they have produced for five years now. The magazine is available as a downloadable pdf, and a hard copy which schools can obtain for free here: [Order hard copies.](#)

8. Request for Audit & Risk Committee member

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"

9. Many of you have looked for good free training on FGM and this link below has been recommended: [Female Genital Mutilation: Recognising and Preventing](#)

10. New Statutory Framework for EYFS

The new statutory framework for EYFS comes into force from April 3rd 2017. The link to the documents is [here](#). A summary of changes can be found [here](#).

11. Bomb Threat – St Mary’s Falmouth

At approximately 8:35am on the morning of the 8th March as the children were arriving for school, the office received a telephone call saying there was a bomb on the premises. It was a woman’s voice with a foreign accent. They repeated many times that there was a bomb, before ending the call. The office staff did have a list of questions to ask near the phone in the event of a bomb threat (Form 5474), but in the heat of the moment didn’t refer to these questions.

The school’s emergency evacuation procedures were then initiated and the police were called. A team of officers arrived at approximately 8:55am and asked a number of questions including whether there were any signs of a break in. They then searched the outdoor buildings, bins etc. When they were satisfied that the call was a hoax, staff and pupils returned to their classes.

The police initially advised that the decision to evacuate was down to the school and then later advised not to evacuate. Children were informed in an age appropriate way later in the day about the reason for evacuation and parents were informed by satchel post at the end of the day. Having a very clear and well-rehearsed evacuation plan, resulted in a calm outcome with minimum panic or stress. Learning from this experience, office staff will refer to Form 5474, ‘Actions to be taken on receipt of a bomb threat’.

The Police Press Office released information about the number of bomb hoax calls to school across the country, so immediately the media were calling the school for comments.

Attached is some guidance from the police if this happens in your school and please make sure you contact the central team.

12. Date of Next Newsletter: 5 April 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 |

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 | Awaiting publication |
| Sacred Heart, Paignton | Waiting publication |

West

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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 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 |