
PLYMOUTH CAST NEWSLETTER – 5 April 2017

Dear Heads, Governors, Staff and Volunteers,

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

1. Recruitment of Plymouth CAST CEO
2. St Catherine's Kindergarten, Colehill
3. JCC Member takes on London Marathon
4. TES Online Job Portal
5. Plymouth CAST Website
6. Date of Next Newsletter: 19th April 2017

1. Interviews took place on 27th and 28th March for the post of Plymouth CAST CEO, unfortunately, whilst each of the candidates had great strengths in different areas they each had significant weaknesses too. The Board have therefore taken the decision not to appoint any of the candidates. The Board are now consulting on next steps. Mrs Kate Griffin remains interim CEO and Diocesan Schools Commissioner.
2. St Catherine's Kindergarten, Colehill.

On 12th April 2016 St Catherine's Kindergarten in Colehill officially merged with St Catherine's Catholic Primary School. The Kindergarten had functioned as an independent, committee run pre-school for over 30 years and had enjoyed a good relationship with the school.

I have been the leader of the Kindergarten for 18 months and as it is now almost a year on since the merger, I felt it would be a good time to reflect on how the year has been.



We have an excellent working relationship with the Early Years & KS1 Leader. She is our first point of contact for any problems or issues that arise within the working day, and she is always approachable.



The Kindergarten & Reception class are in adjoining classrooms with double doors between them – this makes free-flow sessions a simple option. This week we have held our first free-flow session of the transition period. The children from both classes played together across the 2 classrooms. The Kindergarten children benefitted from spending time with school staff and it was a pleasure for the Kindergarten staff to spend time with the children that had moved up from us last September.

Our Kindergarten is almost full to capacity, with waiting lists for some sessions and more children on the register than ever before! We are happy to be a part of the school and look forward to the next 12 months being equally successful. **Mrs Cath Parslow** – Kindergarten Leader.

3. Trevor Cope, member of the JCC Committee is running the London Marathon to raise money for McMillan. If you would like to donate, Trevor's fundraising page address is <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/trevor-cope-VMLM2017-295766>

4. TES Online Job Portal for CAST schools has gone live!

We are pleased to announce that CAST support now has a licence agreement with TES Online, which allows all CAST schools to advertise for teachers and support staff nationally online. The first advertisements for schools went live yesterday! The licence allows all schools to advertise teaching and support staff vacancies at Silver level, and is in place until September 2019. There is no limit on the number of advertisements that can be placed. The good news is that this allows CAST schools to reach a wider audience. Previously, the cost of advertising in this way would have been prohibitive for most schools.

How can my school post a job on TES?

If your school has a teaching or support staff vacancy, please contact Diana Taylor, Recruitment and Development Coordinator, at diana.taylor@plymouthcast.org.uk. Diana will e-mail you a CAST School Vacancy form to complete and return. The CSV form will ask you to give basic details needed to create the advertisement. If you have text that you wish to be included in your advertisement, this should be included in the form.

Once the CSV form has been returned to diana.taylor@plymouthcast.org.uk, the vacancy can be created on TES portal. CAST has developed generic Job Description and Person Specification for all roles, so there is no need for your school to create your own documents. If you wish to see a preview of these documents, you can request to see a preview of these before they go live.

Once the vacancy is posted on TES and goes live, applicants can download documents from the TES portal that relate to the job they want to apply for, and apply for the vacancies they are interested in. We have opted to use the TES online application form, as candidates that have registered their details on TES previously are able to 'pre-populate' the form with their personal details, so only need to add a personal statement. This makes the process of applying for jobs much easier for candidates. The TES application form is formatted clearly, making the shortlisting task easier. For Primary Schools across CAST, applicants will return their completed application forms to careers@plymouthcast.org.uk. Application forms will then be immediately forwarded to the relevant Headteacher and Administrator. Secondary Schools will receive and manage their applications directly.

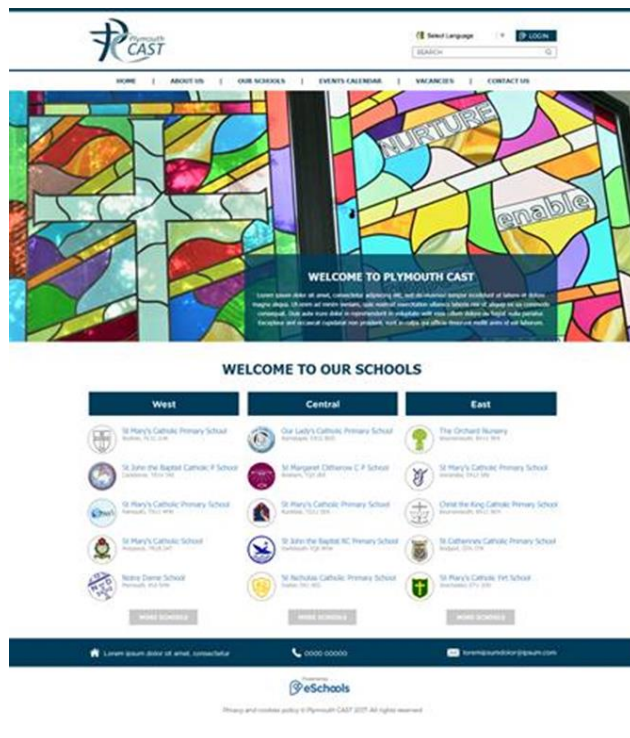
5. Plymouth CAST Website

Following the Ofsted review of the Trust, one of the points raised was the lack of a compliant website, therefore work has been taking place to build a new Trust website.

It is anticipated that Phase 1 of the new website will go live on Friday 7th April 2017, which will include information for the public and staff required by legislation.

In Phase 2, the secure area for Directors, Head Teachers, Clerks and Administrators will be established to enable the Trust to share documents, policies, templates and best practice guidance.

Training organised centrally will be listed and administrators will be able to booked places for colleagues via the website.



6. Date of Next Newsletter: 19 April 2017

Marcus Taylor
Chief Operating Officer

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