

# Update 4



Bishop  
Otter  
Academy  
Trust

For school governors and leaders

April 2018

## Join Us

If you are interested in joining BOAT to build a faith community of schools or would like further information about the Trust please email:

[david.etherton@boat.academy](mailto:david.etherton@boat.academy)

## British Values?

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these.

Galatians 5:22-23

## Website – now launched



[www.boat.academy](http://www.boat.academy)

## What is BOAT?

The Bishop Otter Academy Trust (BOAT) is a diocesan school-led Multi Academy Trust (MAT) for schools that become academies in the greater Brighton and Lewes area.

## Welcome

Welcome to our latest Bishop Otter Academy Trust (BOAT) update. This update seeks to keep school governors and leaders informed about the development of the Trust. For previous 'Updates' please visit the news section of our website: [www.boat.academy](http://www.boat.academy)

## Incorporated!

Bishop Otter Academy Trust has now been officially incorporated and can be found on the website of Companies House. Further information about the trust will be uploaded to Companies House in due course.

**Date of incorporation**  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
**Company Number**  
11307754

## Gubernator

Mark Craig, educational trainer, spoke at the recent Diocesan Headteachers' Conference on the subject of 'Gubernator' which is the Latin for 'Helmsman' and root word for 'Governor'. He said that the role of 'gubernator', is to watch the horizon, not what is three feet in front of us. It is about looking for icebergs, not seaweed. Our horizon is about 'educating children well'. He outlined three important qualities of effective leadership:

- 1) Valuing Wisdom
- 2) Using Experience
- 3) Prizing insight

**gubernator**  
*noun* gu·ber·na·tor \-,nātə(r)\

Mark spoke to delegates about our 'British Values' and the 'Fruits of the Spirit' (see left). He also stressed the importance of schools and MATs spending locally and seeking to benefit the local community and economy.

Many of the themes presented by Mark chimed with the Trust's core aims of *Wisdom for life, Educational Excellence and Community & Partnerships*. The overall theme of 'gubernator' is particularly fitting – BOAT seeks strong helmsman! Many schools are facing short term 'seaweed' problems regarding workload, finance and staff recruitment. The Trust seeks to work with 'gubernators' to tackle the long term 'iceberg' challenges such as raising Christian leaders, succession planning and protecting our distinctiveness as church schools.

## St Clement CE Primary Academy Update

The DfE are actively evaluating possible sites in the Shoreham area for our new 'Free School', St Clement CE Primary Academy. The local authority are relying on the project to meet the growing demand for places in the area. Now that BOAT is incorporated, the DfE will release an initial grant of £30,000 towards pre-opening costs.



The number of CE church school places in Shoreham has doubled in recent years as St Nicolas and St Mary's has expanded from a 1FE to 2FE (Forms of Entry). Once St Clement's is full, this will double again to over 800 children. As Revd Ann Waizeneker and Headteacher David Etherton reflected just before their Easter service at St Mary de Haura: *It's a wonderful problem – to have so many children attending church!*

Bishop Otter Academy Trust

# Update *For school governors and leaders*



## Wisdom for Life

Revd Martin Lloyd-Williams, Archdeacon of Brighton and Lewes and BOAT Trustee speaking at the launch of the Bishop Otter Academy Trust

**What is 'wisdom for life'?** It is wisdom from belonging and from knowing that you are beloved; the wisdom that comes from being set free; to explore meaning and to think through some of the really important questions in life: Who am I? Why am I here? What do I desire and so therefore how will I live? Those are the

'giving children that ability... to swim against the tide if necessary'

questions. Wisdom that comes from valuing reflection, giving children that ability to stop, to pause to reflect, to stand back from the crowd, to swim against the tide if necessary. That's where it is from and it leads to peace, it leads to good relationships, it's something that leads to creativity and it leads to growth. It is a gift: scripture tells us wisdom is ultimately a gift. In

that sense it's not something that can be acquired. In a way what it does is tell us that part of the point of education, and this might sound a bit bonkers or controversial, is actually about preparing people to die. Because it is actually right from the word go, enabling people to know how best to live so that life in all its fullness can be received, not just grasped.

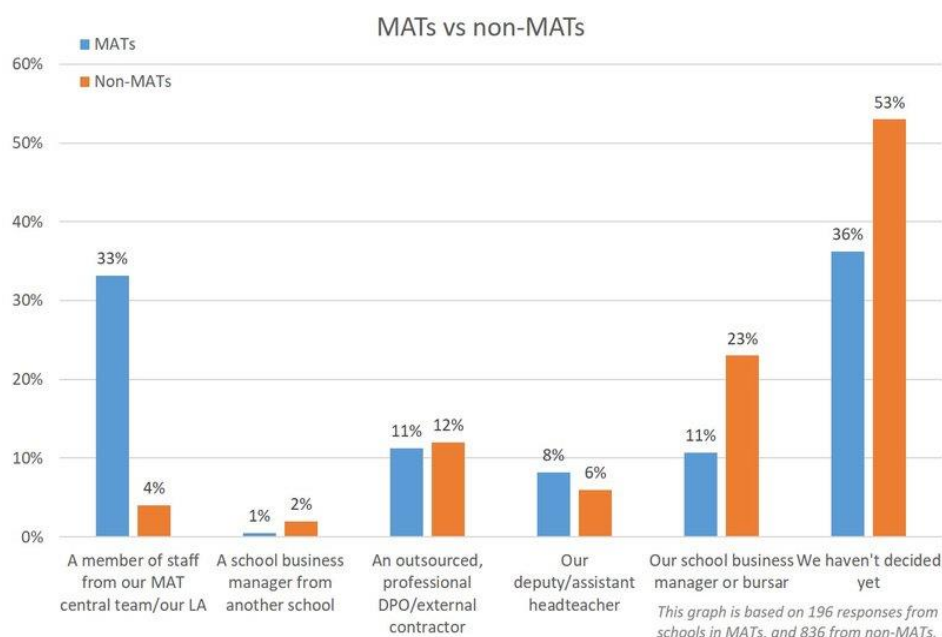
'enabling children to grow in wisdom'

TS Elliott said, "Where is the knowledge that is lost in information and where is the wisdom that is lost in knowledge?" And I think that in our information dominated, saturated age, it is so easy for us to lose knowledge and even easier for us to lose wisdom. And so part of what we're all about, what we are really committed to as Trustees of the Bishop Otter Academy Trust, is enabling children to grow in wisdom as a platform for the whole of their lives, a platform to give them hope and aspiration to enable them to achieve their potential, to enable them to become really fruitful members of society.

So let me finish my short bit with another story. I heard on the radio this story told about Spike Milligan. Apparently a friend of his had lost their dog and so he said why don't you put something in the personal columns of the local paper to see if anyone can help find your dog so he did and he put, 'Here boy'! Sometimes we need wisdom! Sometimes we simply realise our need for wisdom. It is one of our fundamental planks of what the Bishop Otter Academy Trust is all about.

## GDPR who is your Data Protection Officer?

A survey by 'The Key' (March 2018) found that schools in MATs are 17% more likely to have a DPO lined up than their maintained peers, and those DPOs are most likely to be drawn from the central trust team. They state, 'It looks like MATs are tackling the GDPR from the top, and not leaving it up to their individual schools' and 'It doesn't look like much DPO support is coming from local authorities, who historically may have offered a DPO as a central service'. One advantage of being part of a MAT is that schools can focus more on children whilst the Trust covers much of the statutory requirements.



## Invitation to be a Pioneer!

Schools at the BOAT launch that are considering becoming part of the new Academy Trust will have the opportunity to pioneer the faith community of schools in the area. The governors of St Nicolas and St Mary's CE Primary School have resolved to become an academy and join BOAT.

The decision to join BOAT is a governor decision. The Chair of BOAT, Jenny Barnard-Langston, is willing to speak with Boards as they consider the invitation to join the Trust. If you are interested please contact the clerk at:

[office@boat.academy](mailto:office@boat.academy)

Bishop Otter Academy Trust

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