

Update 2

For school governors and leaders

February 2018



Bishop
Otter
Academy
Trust

BOAT Launch

Welcome to our OFFICIAL LAUNCH edition of 'Update' – the regular newsletter for school governors and leaders from the Bishop Otter Academy Trust

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

Pipeline Schools

The Trust has two schools which are in the process of joining the Trust:

- St Clement CE Primary Academy (Free School)
- St Nicolas & St Mary CE Primary School, Shoreham-by-Sea

Join Us

A number of schools are considering joining BOAT in Brighton & Hove and beyond. This includes both Church of England and community schools. If you would like further information about the Trust, please contact David Etherton
detherton@stnm.org.uk

Welcome

Thank you to all those attending the launch of BOAT at the Shoreham Centre. We hope it will both inform and inspire as we look to the future!

For those who are unable to attend our launch event, our next Update will include a report on proceedings. This will be also be published on our website.



Governors vote to jump on board

The Trustees of Bishop Otter Academy Trust are delighted that, following a consultation, the governors of St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School, Shoreham, have passed a resolution to become an academy and join the Trust.

St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School's mission statement is '*Journey together, guided by God, to do the BEST we can*'. The school not only wants to 'journey together' with its parents and local community but within the broader context of a Multi Academy Trust. Its Christian values, which are at the heart of all that it does, are: *hope, respect, friendship, creativity and compassion*.

The school has grown from 1FE to 2FE over the last five years and has had major building works to accommodate the additional children. It has a pre-school, 'Little Fishes Nursery'. The school is currently graded 'good' by Ofsted and 'Outstanding' by SIAMS.

For more information about St Nicolas & St Mary, do visit their website:
<http://www.stnicolasmarty.w-sussex.sch.uk/>



Demand for pupil places still predicted to rise

West Sussex County Council has just published 'Planning School Places 2018' (link below) which includes pupil predictions for the coming years. WSCC plans rely on our new Free School, St Clement CE Primary Academy, to help meet the growing demand for pupil places in the Shoreham area. The LA states that, 'An increase in the pupil population...has led to an increasing demand for school places and this trend is predicted to continue for the foreseeable future.' This is due to population drift into the area and a considerable amount of housing development.

The St Clement steering group are continuing to work with the DfE/ESFA, local MP, LA and district council to secure a site for the new school and confirm the opening date, the earliest of which is September 2019.

Link: https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/10898/planning_school_places_2018.pdf

Bishop Otter Academy Trust

A Company Limited by Guarantee Registered No. (tbc) Email: c/o_office@stnm.org.uk Website: boat.academy
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Update *For school governors and leaders*



Called, Connected, Committed

Several heads and diocesan representatives attended the recent national conference of the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership (See <https://www.cefel.org.uk/>)

Key note speaker Amanda Spielman (Head of Ofsted) said we don't want 'hero heads' but schools working together in partnerships and MATs. She also said 'there cannot be a trade-off between ethos and outcomes'.

"We aim to develop inspirational leaders who are called, connected and committed to deliver the Church of England's vision for education"

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
**FOUNDATION FOR
EDUCATIONAL
LEADERSHIP**

The Bishop of Chelmsford talked about our vocation and 'calling' by Jesus who came to find us and show us what humanity looks like when we live in community with God. In one seminar there was a strong emphasis on the need for Quality First Teaching and, quite rightly, having high expectations for ALL pupils including EAL and SEND children – no excuses!

Community and Partnership – The value of 'koinonia'

Many church schools have key Christian values, such as creativity, thankfulness and hope, at the heart of all they do both within and beyond their school. The Christian Values website provide thoughtful information on a range of values including reverence, wisdom and **koinonia**.

The Trust believes that school communities have a fundamental part to play in the success of its academies. Likewise, school to school support and effective partnerships with other schools, trusts, teaching schools, universities, local authorities, churches, the diocese and other organisations is vital to the aims of the Trust.



We recognise the stimulus and learning that comes from engaging with a range of schools and we are open to learning from other organisations. The Trust will encourage its academies to look outwards as well as inwards for improvement support.

The concept of 'koinonia' is a central value for the Trust.

As an African proverb says,

'If you want to go fast, go alone.'

'If you want to go far, go together'.

The Christian Values website (<http://www.christianvalues4schools.org.uk>) states:

Koinonia means 'that which is in common' and is often translated as 'fellowship' or 'community'. Other translations might include 'union', 'partnership', or 'being yoked together'. A yoke is a shaped piece of wood that goes across the shoulders, often linking two animals. By combining their strength, it helps work to be done and burdens to be carried.

A central element of being a family is interdependence: all are needed and valued and each person is important to the whole. The same message is found in Paul's image of the Christian community as the body of Christ. Each member of the body shares the joys and sufferings of the others and each depends upon every else.

For the first Christians, this was expressed in a genuine common life with shared meals, shared possessions and practical support for the poor. The Christian church today continues to serve not only those within the Christian community but any who are in need.

Next Update? Suggestions welcome!

To subscribe to this circular, or to give suggestions for further topics, please email Wendy Cooke: wcooke@stnm.org.uk

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