

# Update



## For school governors and leaders

January 2018

### BOAT Launch Event

Governors and senior leaders from Brighton and Lewes schools are invited to BOAT's official launch:  
**6.30pm 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018**  
at The Shoreham Centre –  
Contact us for more info!

### BOAT Trustees

-  Jenny Barnard-Langston (Chair)
-  Christine Bartley
-  Matt Davis
-  Lesley Hurst
-  Martin Lloyd-Williams
-  Stephen Paynter
-  Vacancy

### Did you know?

4 out of 9 CofE church school governing bodies in Brighton and Hove have had presentations about BOAT.

### 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](mailto:detherton@stnm.org.uk)

### Welcome

Welcome to 'BOAT'. We are delighted to be launching this new educational project and want to tell you about the exciting and special opportunities being created and how you can become involved and help to shape the Trust at the beginning of this important journey for local schools and families.

If you would like to subscribe to this update for school governors and senior leaders, please email your contact details to [wcooke@stnm.org.uk](mailto:wcooke@stnm.org.uk)

### What is BOAT?

The Bishop Otter Academy Trust (BOAT) is a diocesan school-led Multi Academy Trust (MAT) that is being set up for schools that become academies in the greater Brighton and Lewes area. The Trust welcomes both Church of England and community schools. Schools that are considering becoming an academy are invited to approach the Trust for more information.

### Our Vision – Wisdom for Life

The Trust is aspirational for every child to achieve their potential and be equipped with 'Wisdom for Life'. We aim to be a mutually supportive community where we strive for transformational educational excellence through effective partnerships within and beyond the Trust. Our three core aims are:

- 1 Wisdom for Life
- 2 Educational Excellence
- 3 Community and Partnership

Wisdom  
for Life

### Trustees

A board of trustees (see right) has been appointed by the Diocese of Chichester Education Trust (DoCET). The trustees are accountable to the Secretary of State and have overall responsibility for Bishop Otter Academy Trust including:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the trust and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the Trust and making sure its money is well spent.

### Successful Free School bid – St Clement CE Primary Academy

St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School has successfully applied to the Department for Education to set up a new 'sister' primary school in Shoreham. The local population is increasing and the new 'Free School', which will be part of BOAT, aims to create more school places and meet the aspirations of local parents.



The Free School is named after St Clement, the patron saint of mariners – perfect for a school in a seaside town with a busy harbour. This nautical theme will be reflected in the school's curriculum and cross-curricular work. The St Clement core group are currently in discussions with the DfE about securing a suitable site for the new school.

Bishop Otter Academy Trust – 'Wisdom for Life'

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## Bishop Otter – A pioneer of education

Bishop Otter Academy Trust is named after William Otter, born 1768. Throughout his life Otter was passionate about education: He was a schoolmaster in Cornwall, a tutor at Cambridge and actively worked with Church schools in his parishes. In 1836 he was consecrated as Bishop of Chichester and three years later called a meeting in Lewes to inaugurate the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE). This included the proposal to set up a training school for teachers. Until his death in 1840 Bishop Otter worked tirelessly to create great schools, especially for ‘the poor’, and to promote good administration (or governance). He believed in the importance of good RE and strove for charity, unity and peace. His most quoted scripture seems to be ‘to love one another’.

## Academy Consultation

St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School (Shoreham) are currently consulting staff, parents and wider community about becoming an academy and joining BOAT. If you wish to make a comment or ask a question about this, please email the school: [office@stnm.org.uk](mailto:office@stnm.org.uk)



## What's next?

The Memorandum and Articles of Association (legal agreement) has been agreed by the Diocesan Board of Education, the Diocese of Chichester Education Trust and the DfE. Governors and school leaders from several Brighton and Hove schools have already participated in discussions about the Scheme of Delegation which will be published in due course. The official launch of BOAT will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

## Why join a Multi Academy Trust?

When the DfE asked school leaders why their governors had chosen to adopt a MAT structure, they said MATs: (See *The Multi-Academy Trusts: Good practice guidance and expectations for growth*, DfE, December 2016: [Click here](#))

Enabled governors and leaders to come together and take responsibility to provide better education in their community, rather than just in their individual schools, supported by a common ethos

Extended the reach of great leaders and governors – at all levels – to support and develop teachers across a wider group of schools

Made it easier for teachers to support each other across the group of schools by sharing, drawing on and learning from good practice, taking on increased responsibility for specialist subjects and acting as a coach and critical friend.

Facilitated the sharing of effective practice across a group of schools, so that when a particular approach has been shown to work, improving teaching and learning, it can be implemented across the MAT ethos

Generated economies of scale, enabling cost efficient commissioning and purchasing of goods and services, and/or facilitating the development of in-house services for schools across the MAT.

Ensured no school was left behind because the leader or chief executive of the MAT had the levers to secure improved performance of all the schools within the MAT, and were accountable for doing this.

Produced a pipeline of future leaders, by enabling a greater array of middle leadership positions.

Facilitated the recruitment and retention of staff, by giving leaders the ability to point to realistic career development paths and opportunities to specialise within a MAT

Bishop Otter Academy Trust – ‘Wisdom for Life’

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