

Newsletter— 27th September 2017

Message from CEO

Although the Financial Notice to Improve was expected, it was only when we received it on Friday that the exact terms and conditions designed for Plymouth CAST became known. It is very clear that we shall have to act very swiftly as our action plan, which will set out the steps taken to address all the issues identified by the independent reviews of governance and financial management, pupil premium and safeguarding, needs to be submitted to the ESFA by 20th October. Our revised financial recovery plan needs to be written, and externally validated, before it is submitted to the ESFA by 17th November. We shall be communicating the next steps to you as soon as possible.

I am delighted that three co-opted directors have joined the board of CAST. They are Laura Sprackman, Terry Stockley and Graham Briscoe. They bring a wide range of experience and I'm sure they will be a great asset to the board.

I mentioned at our last conference at Exeter Racecourse that the RSC had recommended that an Enhanced Support Group be formed to provide advice and guidance to the board. The RSC recommended three of the members:

Alan Morris (who will chair the group); Carol Hannaford and Iain Grafton. Four members are directors of CAST – Fr Mark O'Keeffe, Maria Edwards, Andy Nicholls and Graham Briscoe. I will usually be in attendance. The first meeting was held in the afternoon of Friday 15th September and there will be fortnightly meetings on Fridays thereafter. I am sure that they will be very helpful, not least because Alan has already helped a trust facing similar problems to those we are experiencing.

And now onto something related to our core vision; I've received a pack of resources for harvest celebrations produced by CAFOD, which you may have received direct from their representative. If you want to access any of their materials please go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Harvest>



News from our Schools



Indoor Swimming Pool at St Mary's Penzance Re-opens

Demelza Bolton, Headteacher at St Mary's RC Primary School Penzance was delighted to be able to re-open the school's indoor heated swimming pool at St Mary's on Monday 25th September 2017 after three years of the pool being out of action. 'It has been a real community effort to get this pool open again', said the Head. 'I came to this school as a child, and can remember the pool being built and being opened for the first time'.

'The pool is a real asset to pupils at this school. We are the only primary school in Penzance with this facility, and opening the pool will enable us to provide all our pupils with swimming lessons, teaching them a 'skill for life'. Enquiries have already been made by other schools keen to hire the facilities to teach swimming their pupils, and a private swimming coach wants to hire out the pool three evenings a week to run lessons.

Parents and staff worked hard during school holidays to re-fiberglass the pool, and get it ready for use. One of the parents at the school who works as a teaching assistant and is also a swimming coach will now be spending part of her time running swimming lessons for pupils, and a meal time assistant who is a trained lifeguard now also has a dual role.

The school is planning to hold a formal opening in the next few weeks, and hope to invite a special guest, the 'mermaid of St Ives' to take part in the celebration, plus the local press.

'We are committed to enabling pupils in our school develop skills that will equip them for life'. Having a swimming pool on site provides our school with a unique opportunity to enhance learning opportunities for our pupils and young people in the wider community.



News and Events



General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The Data Protection Act will be replaced by the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) in May 2018. Plymouth CAST preparations for the new regulations are underway and further information will be provided to all CAST schools before the end of September. Introduction of the GDPR has already sparked lots of new business opportunities in the Schools sector and it is inevitable that schools will be approached with offers of external support. Please politely declined these offers, if necessary referring them to the Trust's Chief Operating Officer.

MAT Notice 2017-12 plus poster for your school has been issued and can be found on the CAST website http://www.plymouthcast.org.uk/web/plymouth_cast_policy/278257

School Improvement Meetings for Head Teachers

7 November - Central Area (St Nicholas School, Exeter)

8 November – West Area (St Austell Conference Centre, St Austell Business Park)

9 November – East Area (St Mary's Catholic First School, Dorchester)

*These meetings are half-day only
8.30am-1.00pm.*

Teachers Pension Queries

The Teachers Pension is moving toward digitizing the pension provision. Where possible please request teachers complete the online forms. These forms are then instantly sent through to the payroll provider for action. This will reduce the time taken to resolve issues and process changes on payroll.

RE Training Dates

RE Whole School INSET Days:

30 October	Central Schools
9 February 2018	Plymouth Schools
19 February 2018	Cornwall Schools

RE Leaders Meetings:

13 November	Central Area
14 November	West Area
15 November	East Area
21 November	Secondaries
11 June 2018	West Area
12 June 2018	Central Area
19 June 2018	Secondaries
20 June 2018	East Area

God Matters, Writers Group:

9-10 November	Meeting One
18-19 January 2018	Meeting Two
7-8 June 2018	Meeting Three

RE Leader & Heads of RE Annual Overnight Conference:

1 & 2 March 2018

News and Events



Catholic Induction for New Teachers to the Diocese Training Dates

6 November & 28 November	Central Area
29 November & 4 December	West Area
30 November & 6 December	East Area

Support Staff Training Dates

Administrator Network Meetings:

7 November - West Area (Town Council Rooms, Bodmin)

8 November – Central Area (St Boniface House, Ashburton)

14 November – East Area (St Mary's Catholic First School, Dorchester)

Items for the Agenda should be sent to Helen Moram by Friday 13th October.

Date of Next Newsletter – 11th October 2017

Please remember to email in items for inclusion in the newsletter so that we can share the Good News stories across the Trust. Articles should be emailed to Helen Moram at helen.moram@plymouthcast.org.uk

PWP Project Training for Central Schools:

PWP Big School Day	20 November
PWP Big School Day	24 November

2018

Team day, session two	2 February
PWP Big School Day	4 May
Team day, session three	5 June
Team day, session four	11 September
PWP Big School Day	9 November

2019

Team day, session five	28 February
Team day, session six	5 June

English INSET for West Area Schools:

3 November 2017

Annual Heads & Deputies Overnight Conference:

22 & 23 February 2018

All training dates can be found on the CAST Website in the calendar – bookings are also through the website.

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
Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) Members