

Newsletter— Wednesday 24th January 2018

Message from CEO

Dear Colleagues

This being my first message to you in my role as Interim CEO, I would like to start by thanking you all for the hard work taking place out in our schools and the support received from the Local Governing Bodies and Interim Academy Boards.

I understand that these are difficult and challenging times, there is a lot that needs to be achieved in a very short period with several organisations watching our progress carefully and who we need to report to on a regular basis, the Regional School Commissioner's office and the Education and Skills Funding Agency to name two. I hope that with us all working together with the same goals across the Trust we will rise to these challenges.

I have met with almost all Head teachers and Finance Officers previously in my role as interim Chief Finance Officer, nevertheless I am looking forward to attending the Heads & Deputies conference at Exeter in February where I hope to be able to meet you all and we can discuss the current situation both financially and educationally in a more relaxed environment.

If you have any additional skills which you feel may be put to good use across the Trust or any ideas for positive change, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'K Cook'.

Dr Karen Cook
Interim CEO

Date of Next Newsletter – Wednesday 7th February 2018

Please remember to email in items for inclusive in the newsletter so that we can share the Good News stories across the Trust.

Articles for inclusion in newsletters should be emailed to Helen Moram at helen.moram@plymouthcast.org.uk

News from our Schools



Notre Dame School, Plymouth—Award Evening

At Notre Dame, Senior Students have the opportunity to lead many events throughout the year. Awards evening is definitely the highlight of the year. After introducing the different prizes we then invite students to receive their awards. Our guest speaker Kevin Duggan spoke about the work of his sister with Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and Lagi Tuima one of our former sixth formers shared with us her incredible journey from Notre Dame to the England rugby squad. Both were very inspirational speeches and it was so humbling to get to meet them.



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Barnstaple

Ollie Scones, a Year 5 pupil at Our Lady's Barnstaple, was a recipient of a Children's and Young People's Mental Health Award. This is a national award and acknowledges the personal journey Ollie has been on since he started our school in 2015.

Ollie joined us in a 'managed move'. He was not able to access his learning and his self-esteem was very low and ultimately he struggled to control his behaviour. Over the past two and a half years Ollie has transformed himself into a wonderful young man. He accesses 100% of his learning opportunities, his good behaviour is an example to all and he is well placed to leave Our Lady's ready for the next stage of his education.

This award is testament to the wonderful team of teachers and support staff who have worked with Ollie but ultimately it is a reflection of the effort he has put in to turn his life around.

We are all so very proud of him.



News from our Schools



St John's Catholic Primary and Pre-School, Tiverton

Reverse Advent

During Advent, pupils at St John's Primary in Tiverton bought in food and supplies to add to a class hamper. The hampers were then donated to CHAT, the Churches Housing Action Team, which helps people in need of food for many different reasons such as family breakdown, unexpected financial crisis, homelessness and health problems (mental & physical).



Epiphany Concert

St John's Starmakers joined the talented singers and musicians of St James' Roman Catholic Church, Tiverton for their annual Epiphany concert on Sunday January 14th to help raise funds for the building of a new parish church and the children's choice of Young MINDS.



News and Events



ACCE Silver Jubilee

This year ACCE is celebrating its Silver Jubilee, serving chaplains in primary and secondary education since 1993.

Don't miss out on our 25th anniversary conference, Theme: Blessed are you, Conference date: 11-13 June, 2018, Venue: Hinsley Hall, Leeds, Cost: still only £300

Feedback from last year's conference . . . "Thank you for a great conference. Each year you provide me with an excellent CPD opportunity to learn, to reflect, and to pray." "This was a truly excellent conference that has refreshed me and re-affirmed my role in school in so many ways."

Please make a note of the date, further details to follow.



Future Events

NQT Training Day. Tuesday 6th February 2018 at St Boniface House.
Booking deadline 6pm 30.01.2018.

Special training for all Newly Qualified Teachers. We still have spaces available. Live booking link available via website calendar.

RE Leaders Conference. Friday 2nd March 2018 at the Sidmouth Harbour Hotel.
Booking deadline 6pm Thursday 15 February 2018.

For all RE Leaders, Leaders of RE and Chaplains of both Plymouth CAST and Diocesan Schools. Live booking link available via website calendar.

Governor Briefings for Plymouth (Monday 12th March), Exeter (Tuesday 13th March) and Dorchester (Wednesday 14th March). Booking deadline midday Monday 6th March 2018.

Please hold the dates –details to be confirmed very shortly - booking links will appear on the website calendar on Friday 26th January.

GDPR Conference. Tuesday 13th March 2018 at Exeter Racecourse.
Booking deadline midday 05.02.2018.

This is important training to address the GDPR which comes into force on 25 May 2018. This governs how we obtain, process and store personal information on behalf of pupils, parents and suppliers. Attendance is required by each School Nominated Data Protection Controller. This is also relevant to the Administrator/ School Business Manager if not the DPC.

News and Events



Specialist Training for Headteachers of “Ofsted Rated RI Schools” (Tuesday 8th May 2018) and “Ofsted Rated Good Schools” (Wednesday 9th May 2018). Both days are to be held at St Boniface House. Booking deadline midday 12.05.2018.

It is very important that Head Teachers attend this relevant training. Please book early.

Please book your place via the Website calendar <http://www.plymouthcast.org.uk/web/calendar>

If you have any queries regarding any of the above events, please contact Debbie Beech on events@plymouthcast.org.uk or telephone 01364 645401

Trust and Central Team Staffing News

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Trustees of Plymouth CAST are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Raymond Friel as the new Chief Executive of Plymouth CAST. Raymond will be joining the Trust in July 2018 following a successful appointment leading the Catholic Independent Schools Conference and brings with him a wealth of experience from his career in the wider education sector. Dr Karen Cook, the current Director of Finance for Plymouth CAST, will fulfil the role of interim Chief Executive until July.

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

It is with regret that as Interim CEO, I have accepted Marcus Taylor, Chief Operations Officer resignation. I am sure that you will be keen to join me in thanking Marcus for his tireless work over the last 12 months and wish him and his family the very best for the future.

Marcus will be leaving us at the end of February and we will now be considering options for the replacement of this post, both in the immediate and longer term.

EVENTS COORDINATOR

Debbie Beech has resigned and will finish on 16th February. Debbie is moving to work for the Safeguarding Team within Plymouth Diocesan. Her contribution to the administration team at St Boniface House will be greatly missed and we wish her well in her new job.

FINANCE MANAGER

Paul Jones has resigned following a period of absence and will officially leave the Trust on 31st January. We wish him and his family all the best for the future.