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## Children, Schools and Young People Team



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# The Diocese of Canterbury Children, Schools and Young People Framework Quarterly Update



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### Our Vision

To ensure that every child and young person in the Diocese is at the heart of mission, having the opportunity of a life-enhancing encounter with the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ; that they reach their God-given potential and are an integral part of church life.

### In this issue

- Our new Multi-Academy Trust - Frequently Asked Questions
- Services through the ethos School Improvement Company
- Who to contact - introducing the Children, Schools and Young People team

## Frequently Asked Questions - Our Multi-Academy Trust

### **You are setting up a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) - why?**

We believe that a MAT is a model which can unleash potential. Our MAT is also intended to bring schools into a closer relationship with the Diocese of Canterbury, building partnerships that enrich communities and promoting an approach underpinned by Christian values. Moreover it will be able to incorporate community schools as well as Voluntary Aided (VA) and Voluntary Controlled (VC), underneath a VA governance model.

We believe that a MAT will:

- deliver positive, immediate support and interventions for members through our own expertise, increasing capacity and established consultant partners, as well as wider regional connections
- enhance learning and teaching by engaging in collaborative pedagogical projects, action research and professional development with the Faculty of Education at Canterbury Christ Church University
- encourage and nurture the dissemination of good practice and promote mutual accountability
- enable focused, effective local governance
- secure options for centralised functions and economies of scale

### **How will the MAT be organised?**

Within the MAT all academies will be governed by one Trust (the Members) and a board of Directors, supported by diocesan officers. The Members are the Bishop of Dover, the Diocesan Board of Education and Canterbury Christ Church University. Initially the Director of Education will act as Chief Executive Officer.

The MAT holds ultimate responsibility for all decisions regarding the running of the individual academies, however in practice it will delegate the majority of these decisions to local governing bodies to enable more focused local control, though it remains legally responsible for standards across all academies in the trust.

### **What is distinctive about its provision?**

The MAT aims to serve children and young people in ways that relate to their humanity in all its fullness, equipping them in asking questions in a complex world, encouraging openmindedness and an exploration of truth. Member academies will operate for the benefit of the whole community, acknowledging and confronting their responsibility to safeguard the vulnerable and reach those marginalised by society. The MAT will wholeheartedly support teachers and school leaders in their vocation, well-being and professional development. Provision will stem from our Christian principles, which will inform our relationships and the development of policy and curriculum advice as well as leadership and succession planning strategies.

### **What about the directors of the MAT?**

Directors are:

- responsible at a strategic level for the MAT as a whole and therefore the academies within it
- accountable to the Secretary of State for the performance of each academy
- accountable to others for the MAT's performance as a company and charity
- responsible for ensuring the Local Governing Bodies consist of competent and committed individuals who are able to manage the tasks and responsibilities delegated to them in running the academies on a day-to-day basis

## Frequently Asked Questions - Our Multi-Academy Trust

### **Who are the directors of the MAT and what is their experience?**

The directors work across a range of contexts and bring exceptional gifts and experience in business and education. They are:

- Rev. John Richardson (Chair)
- John McParland (Principal, The John Wallis Academy)
- Tracy Luke (Principal, Folkestone School for Girls)
- Dr. John Moss (Dean of Education, Canterbury Christ Church University)
- Jo Hygate (Executive Headteacher, Kingsdown and Ringwould and Temple Ewell CE Primary Schools)
- Dr. Richard Maloney (Chief Executive, St. Bede's School Trust)
- Steve Evans (Owner, Oakwood Homes)

### **What is the function of the Local Governing Body (LGB)?**

- The LGB operates in line with the Scheme of Delegation for the individual academy
- It oversees the day-to-day running of its academy, dealing with the management and organisation in line with any agreed development plan
- The LGB is responsible for reviewing performance in relation to curriculum targets and the implementation of Directors' decisions and policies

### **What is the purpose of a Scheme of Delegation?**

- The Scheme is an agreement made between the MAT and LGB setting out how the LGB should operate in practice
- It governs and regulates delegated power and authority from MAT directors to the LGB for each academy. The level of delegation relating to responsibilities can vary and be varied over time as appropriate; in our MAT delegation will be strongly linked to performance, so successful academies will have greater autonomy
- There is no need for approval from the Department for Education or Secretary of State

### **How do we find out more?**

*We would be delighted to discuss your school's needs and aspirations in more detail. The first step is to invite Quentin Roper (Director of Education) and Simon Foulkes (Assistant Director of Education, School Organisation) to speak to strategic leaders including the Headteacher and Governing Body. See back page for contact details.*