

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER

2018



Chester Diocesan Academies Trust



Welcome to Brereton

We are delighted to welcome Brereton CE primary school who joined us on 1st March. We are very much looking forward to working with the staff, governors, children and parents.

Note from a Director

Andy Morris

I joined the board of directors for Chester Diocesan Academies Trust in May 2016, after meeting Jeff Turnbull while playing the drums in the band at the primary school's Big Sing at the Cathedral in March of that year. On learning that I was in business as a Chartered Accountant, he persuaded me that my skills could usefully be used by CDAT.

I have been in business as a Chartered Accountant for nearly 40 years. However, we have recently sold Bramwell Morris Chartered Accountants to hopefully move into semi-retirement. In my role on the board, therefore I am involved with the finances of CDAT, which has been an interesting 2 years seeking to assist in the rapid expansion of the Trust.

My experience hopefully is not just financial, I have served as a governor at Tattenhall Park Primary School and my wife Jo is a Primary School Teacher.

My vision is that as the trust expands, we can grow together as a family of schools, enabling the children to be given the best possible environment to learn and develop.

My assigned school, as a board member is Wybunbury Delves. On my recent visit at Easter I was able to see that vision being worked out, as I saw first hand what a happy atmosphere the school has, and how appreciative parents are of the hard work that is being done on a daily basis. Andy Morris

Staff news

We are sad to say good bye to a number of people this year.

First to leave us will be Adele Holt who has been working as finance officer for CDAT as well as undertaking her role with the DBE. She has provided incredible support for the business managers of our schools as well as supporting the Board in its work.

Adele is going back into the world of accountancy and we wish her well for the future.

Both Carolyn at Wybunbury Delves, and Sue at Brereton have announced their retirement from headship from September. They have been amazing headteachers and have created distinctive learning environments where children flourish. We have really appreciated the drive and enthusiasm of both Carolyn and Sue in the development of CDAT and they will be very much missed. We hope though, that they will still be involved in some way with CDAT and will keep in touch.

Fiona Rattigan, Vice Principal at St Matthew's, is also retiring. Fiona has been with CDAT from the beginning and been on the journey through some difficult times and also the joyous times including St Matthew's two successful inspections. Fiona's early year' expertise is second to none and I know that many schools have, and I'm sure will continue to, benefit greatly from this.

We wish them all every blessing.

We are delighted to welcome some new members of staff. Kathryn Chesters will be headteacher at Wybunbury Delves from September (she is currently deputy head and head of school for two days a week). Jonathan Drake has also been appointed as Vice Principal at St Matthew's,

We look forward to working with them in CDAT.

SIAMS update

The new framework has now been published and can be found here <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-school-inspections/new-siams> please do have a look at it and book on to the DBE sessions in June. We will run further training for CDAT schools.

A summary of some of the key points follows:

- It is clearly linked to the Church of England's vision for education.
- There is a clear focus on vision, how it connects to Christian values, how it is rooted in Biblical Theology and how it impacts every aspect of school.

Who are we? Why are we here? How then should we live?

The school's vision will be a central focus of the inspection.

- There is a single inspection question (7 strands lead to the judgement)

How effectively does the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, enable its pupils and adults to flourish?

The 7 strands that lead to the judgement are:

1. Vision and leadership
 2. Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
 3. Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy
 4. Community and Living Well Together
 5. Dignity and Respect
 6. The impact of Collective Worship
 7. The Effectiveness of Religious Education
- The expectation is that the school is a 'Good' school and the inspection process will confirm this. There would need to be clear evidence to start to look at other possible judgements such as Excellent, Requires Improvement or ineffective. 'Outstanding' has been replaced by 'Effective'.

The onus is on the school to demonstrate excellent practice starting with their self-evaluation. This must look very different across the breadth of schools (innovative and impactful).

- Relationships and wellbeing are central including relationships within the local community and the wider global context with a focus on inclusion and courageous advocacy.
- RE will be inspected in all schools, VA schools will receive a separate grade in the report.
- Collective worship will receive a separate grade in all schools.

Ofsted update

Ofsted have amended the timings of inspections by extending the usual timeframe within which good schools receive a short inspection from approximately 3 to 4 years.

They have also changed the re-inspection window for requires improvement, serious weakness and special measures schools to up to 30 months to allow schools time to effect improvement.

The latest handbook can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/699810/School_inspection_handbook_section_5.pdf

They have also published a new handbook for short monitoring and unannounced behaviour inspections which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handbook-for-short-monitoring-and-unannounced-behaviour-school-inspections>

School news

We would like to share news from our schools with you so if you have any events or activities that have taken place or are going to please do let us know and we will publicise them here and on our website.

For any contributions to future newsletters or clarification please contact
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