

## CEO Briefing Note for Schools and Governors: April 2017

### National News Highlights

#### Apprenticeship levy now in force.

From April 2017 the way apprenticeships are funded is changing as part of a series of wider reforms to the apprenticeship system in England. Employers with a pay bill of more than £3m (so including BDAT) will be required to pay an [apprenticeship levy](#) of 0.5% of our total staff pay bill.

In England employers who pay the levy will then be able to access funding for apprenticeship training and assessment via a new Digital Apprenticeship Service. Available funding can be used to meet the cost of apprenticeship training and assessment against an approved apprenticeship framework or standard. **This can be for both existing employees as well as new starters.**

#### Apprenticeship roles available

Apprenticeships are available in many job roles within schools, including teaching assistants, business administration, management, science and ICT technicians. Early work on developing a **Teacher apprenticeship** standard is also underway, led by a group of schools coordinated by the Teaching Schools Council. You can find more information on apprenticeships available here: <https://www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships>

**Watch out for more information coming soon on how as a Trust we are looking to maximise the use of the apprentices.**



#### Bradford designated a DFE funding area....

Bradford is set to benefit in a share of £72 million funding after being chosen as an Opportunity Area by Education Secretary Justine Greening. The district is one-of twelve areas across the country which will be given extra support to promote social mobility through schools. Funding will be aimed at helping young people from nursery through to starting their first job. For more information visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-announces-6-new-opportunity-areas>

#### ....And new funding round now open

And linked to the Opportunity Areas Greening has also opened the first round of bidding for Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund aimed at the 12 Opportunity Areas. The funding will support high-quality professional development for teachers and school leaders in areas of the country and the schools that need it most.

Once the bids close in early May there should be more information available on what opportunities are available to support our CPD & teacher and leadership development for our schools in Bradford.

### And at last some clarity on GCSE Grade Boundaries for this summer

The government has abandoned its plan to make a grade 5 the new “good” GCSE pass grade.

In 2015, the government announced the new grade 5 – due to be awarded for the first time this summer – would be the new “good pass” level. It said the grade would be set at a standard comparable to that “aimed for by pupils in top-performing countries such as Finland, Canada, the Netherlands and Switzerland”.

However, the Education Secretary now announced **that a grade 4 will now be considered “a standard pass”, while grade 5 will be called a “strong pass”**. The proportion of pupils passing at both grades or above will be reported in school performance tables. The grade 5 “strong pass” will be the benchmark in the government’s new EBacc accountability measure.

In a letter to education committee chair Neil Carmichael, Greening said she was “determined to continue to raise standards” and would include the new “strong pass” as an accountability measure for schools. However, Greening also said she wanted to reassure schools that a grade 4 was a “credible achievement” and one that “should be valued as a passport to future study and employment”.

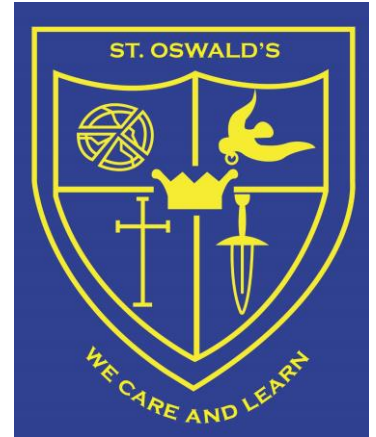
The change comes almost two years after *Schools Week* exclusively revealed the designation of a grade 5 as a “good pass” would mean that around one in five pupils who previously passed their GCSEs would no longer do so.

#### **Double congratulations to staff and students at East Morton Primary**

Staff and pupils at East Morton have double the reason to celebrate after receiving two very positive inspection reports in quick succession this term – an outstanding SIAMS and good OFSTED. Katie Savage, Head at East Morton said “as a school community we are delighted the outcomes of both inspections, and noted with pleasure the fact that the reports celebrate our school’s distinctiveness, ethos, vision and values which have been central to our continued success”.



Meanwhile **St Oswald's** also had its first monitoring visit since its OFSTED judgement last summer. While still requiring special measures, the inspector deemed that leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures and the speed of improvements are now gathering pace. Improvements in attendance were particularly noted which has been an historic area of significant challenge. The school will continue to receive termly monitoring visits.



### Movers and shakers

We are delighted to have filled all our current leadership positions for September.

- **John Parkin has been appointed as Headteacher at Oxenhope Primary with immediate effect.**
- **Gillian Wilson has been appointed as Head of School at St Oswalds and will join us from Easter.**

Congratulation and good luck to both John and Gill and to **Wendy Adeniji** who also takes up her post as substantive Head of School at Bradford Forster Academy after Easter.

We are also really pleased to have extended our governance team this term to include **Sharon Oxtoby** who has joined us full time and will clerk Westminster, Oxenhope, BFA, Belle Vue and Christ Church; **Julia Bateman** who will clerk Immanuel and Buttershaw and **Joanne Horsman** who will clerk St Philips and provide additional cover. **Vicky Bray** will continue to clerk for the Board, ensure cross Trust governance compliance, support new schools joining, and continue to clerk for St James and St Oswalds.

### St Johns and Woodlands CE recieve Diocese approval to join BDAT

In March 2017, staff and governors from BDAT, St Johns and Woodlands CE attended the Diocese Board of Education to request permission for both schools to convert to join BDAT as part of a South Bradford primary cluster.... And both gained approval to join.

We are now working with both schools and with East Morton to secure DFE Academy Orders to join BDAT later in the year.

Clayton St Johns CE Academy will also join BDAT in the Autumn having been issued an academy order earlier in the year.



Finally please can all **Chairs of Governors, Heads, Central staff and Trustees** hold **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September from 16.00-18.30** in your diaries for the next **BDAT Leadership Conference "Building on Trust"**.

This short networking event will be a chance to come together, reflect on our growth, celebrate our successes and look forward to the future

Official invites and more detail will follow shortly.