

CEO Briefing Note for Schools and Governors: April 2016

National News Highlights

New white paper announces all schools to become Academies and more education reform

Last month the DfE published an education white paper setting out significant changes for the education sector: **“Education Excellence Everywhere”**. The paper sets out the Governments vision for education for the next five years to 2020.

The paper came fast on the back of two other key national announcements:

- The statement set in the Budget on Wednesday announcing all schools will become academies by 2022 <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/budget-2016-george-osbornes-speech>
- The final approval of the [Education and Adoption Act](#), which received royal assent this week which takes that approach a step further, allowing quicker turn around to not just failing schools but those that have coasted over a period of time and failed to stretch pupils to reach their potential. It also gives Government the same powers to intervene in those academies which have, for whatever reason, fallen behind.

All of this means significant changes for schools and Trusts in the way we address collaboration and partnerships moving forward. Over the next few months the BDAT Board will be thinking hard about our future growth and how we sustain our support for the schools already in the Trust. We will of course keep you posted and involved in discussions.

If you have struggled to keep up with the change click on the following link for a summary of the changes already announced this year.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508422/DfE_Strategy_overview.pdf

The Diocese view on the future of academies

Hot on the heels of the White Paper, the **Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales** announced their response to the paper. Richard Noake, the Diocesan Director of Education, spoke of the Diocesan role in education and commitment to schooling before reinforcing *“Where some will philosophically disagree with the Government’s agenda in the mass roll out of the academy programme; it is now clear that this is the direction of travel and Church Schools across the Diocese need to look to what this means for them”*.

Richard then explained that *“The Diocesan Board of Education has been thinking through its strategy for ‘mass academisation’ and as I have been communicating to all schools since the start of the academic year, will be publishing a clear strategy, that allows all Church Schools to become academies, within a framework of safeguarding the character and ethos of Church Schools into the future. This means all Church Schools will be in Church Multi-Academy Trusts, either Diocesan Trusts, or, where schools have the capacity to do so, in a Church School-led Trust. Both have the Diocese at the heart of them, in terms of the Diocese being represented at Member and Trust Board level”*.

We expect further information on the Diocesan strategy shortly.

View from the Trust: New Chairs view on Bright but Changing Future

Speaking just three months after her appointment, **Tessa Mason** talks of her experience to date working with BDAT in the increasingly changing education landscape after the Education White Paper announcement that all schools should now consider academisation. To read Tessa's statement visit: <http://www.bdat-academies.org/news>

BDAT News

Growth

Trust to grow to 9 academies by September

From a Trust perspective we continue to grow both in terms of number of academies and central team in line with our planned trajectory at the start of the year. The Trust expects to now be up to nine schools by September, having received Academy Orders for **Westminster** and **Oxenhope** last month. Both schools look set to open as Academies on July 1st.

Westminster and Oxenhope are the 7th and 8th schools to gain academy orders within BDAT. They join our three other primary schools and two secondary schools who are already open Academies within the Trust. In addition, **Buttershaw** Business and Enterprise College received an academy order to convert earlier in the year and **Belle Vue Girls** Academy are currently in the process of applying to move from a standalone academy to open as a BDAT academy later this year.


Sixth form plans look a real possibility

In addition to the growth mentioned above, the BDAT board are in detailed discussions with **New College Pontefract** to open a sixth form college in Bradford. New College are an outstanding provider with colleges in Pontefract and Doncaster (opening in September 2017). They are looking to open a third and final college in Bradford as a new free school from September 2018/19. The BDAT Board are working with the College Board to understand how a partnership could work and add value to BDAT and our existing academies.

New staff for central BDAT office

BDAT are pleased to announce we have recruited two additional members of staff starting over the next few weeks to support the administration of business and finance operations. **Lisa Smith** will join on Monday 18th April as Trust Finance Officer and **Sam Rushworth** will join as Trust Business Officer on 25th April. Both staff members will help manage some of the work associated with the academy conversions, provide Trust support to the existing academy business managers in the schools and lead on areas of Trust consolidated services.

In addition **Helen Griffin** joined us as our Director of Secondary from April 1st. Helen will work roughly three days per week for BDAT providing Trust level QA of secondary education, standards and performance and direct support and challenge for our secondary academies.



Planned training and networking for Chairs and staff – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As a Trust, the BDAT Board recognise that our Chairs of Governors are one of BDATs strengths and anchors providing a link between what is happening in our Academies and the BDAT Board. We also recognise that Chairing is not a job without pressure. Government changes and the requirements on academies mean that the Chair role can be both a lonely role and an increasingly time consuming role. Following feedback and requests from a number of Chairs, we will be running a **Chairs working group** meeting termly, to provide updates on national education changes, legal governance requirements, support, training and networking opportunities. The first date is set for May 11th and we look forward to seeing representatives from most of our academies there.

We are also looking to run a **visioning event** for our school senior leaders, Board members and other interested representatives from Governing Bodies in June. Look out for more information following very soon.

Excellent SIAMs results across the Boards:

A huge congratulations to staff and governors at **Immanuel College, Westminster Primary, Oxenhope Primary and Christ Church Academy** who all received good or better judgements in their SIAMS inspections this term – fantastic news!!

And finally.....

- **Fusion** have been appointed as the new Trust HR provider from April 2016. This does mean we are having to refresh and rebrand some of our policies which are in PACT formats and have temporarily removed them from the website. If you need a policy please speak to Peter Thompson in the first instance.
- Congratulations are due to two of our schools for being recognised in this year's Telegraph and Argus Education awards. **St Oswalds** was shortlisted for the Community award and **Immanuel College** was shortlisted and won the Achievement award. Well done both schools.
- Finally we move office at the end of the month to:
2nd Floor, Jade Building, Albion Mills, Albion Road, Greengates, Bradford, BD10 9TQ

We will be having an opening visit next month. Phone numbers and emails will stay the same.

Keep up to date with the latest news and happenings across BDAT:

www.bdat-academies.org @wearebdat

If you have a story you would like to share send it to me direct: carol.dewhurst@bdat-academies.org