

Words from CEO

Nicky Morgan's White Paper, 'Educational Excellence Everywhere' published on 17th March 2016. Makes clear the Government's intention that every school will become an academy by 2020.

A summary of the paper can be found at <https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/schools-white-paper-your-a-glance-guide>



Cidari Connect - Worshipping together

To celebrate the beginning of the new term we will be hosting a Cidari Eucharist for members of the Cidari family at 8.10am on Thursday 28th April 2016 at Blackburn Cathedral. Further details will be sent to you next week.

Cidari Connect - A growing family

Our new Head of Finance, Sally Little joined the Central Team on Monday. Sally comes with a wealth of experience in the Finance Sector and is hoping to be approved as a school governor shortly. Sally is looking forward to meeting Headteachers and School Business Managers next week.

Matt McIver's secondment has been extended until the end of the summer term.

We said "Goodbye" to Noel Sheehan, our 'Interim' Head of Finance. Noel has done a brilliant job during the last three months and said, "This has been one of the best 'interim' jobs I've ever had". I would like to thank Noel for all that he has done to support the team and our academies. He will be missed.

We have decided to delay the recruitment of a substantive Headteacher at St Luke and St Philip's and are pleased that Sam O'Connell will continue to fulfil the role of Acting Head. We will aim to have a substantive Head in post for January 2017.

Congratulations to Graham Ball who takes up his position as English Lead for Key Stage 2 at Darwen St Barnabas' Primary School – A Church of England Academy from the 25th April. Graham is currently working at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School. We are looking forward to welcoming into the Cidari family.

Cidari Connect - Good Governance

Members of the Cidari Executive had an extremely positive meeting with the Board of Directors on Tuesday, 15th March.

The Cidari Connect: 3 year Business Plan was approved as were Cidari's HR policies. These policies have been shared with all the trade union representatives and will be rolled out to our academies after Easter. Our HR provider, SAS will provide training for Headteachers and governors in the summer term to assist in their implementation.

Academy Improvement

Budget Announcement

As you will know from the statement from the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Wednesday the DfE will accelerate the Academy Programme. There is expected to be a White Paper speech by Nicky Morgan by the end of the week that will crystallise the DfE thinking on the 4th stage of academy conversion. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-35814215>

What is of interest is the reference to the document 'Primary Focus – The next stage of improvement for primary schools in England'. This 53 page document by the think tank Policy Exchange sets out a lot of the critical thinking that will go into future legislation and DfE policy up to and beyond 2020.

HR, Marketing and Communications

Cidari Connect: CIF Bids

We are awaiting updates regarding CIF bids. The EFA timescales stated March as the date of notification for successful projects.

Cidari Connect: School Business Managers' Network – 23rd March 2016

Next week's School Business Managers' Network will be a workshop on Budget processes followed by an introduction to the SBM Professional Standards.

Cidari Connect: Marketing and Branding

We have continued to work with a number of our academies on branding and image with new signage developed and ready for installation at several locations including a future rebrand of one of our academies.

We have developed a suit of marketing materials to support the Trust in its engagement of potential Academies. These include a Conversion Journey brochure, Tri-Fold Information Leaflet and A4 introduction sheet. These materials are being shared at upcoming network meetings.

