

## Words from CEO

### Cidari Connect:



Please pray for all Year 11 students at St George's School – A Church of England Academy as they begin their GCSE exams. Students seemed very relaxed as they celebrated the start of the formal written GCSE Examinations with a special 'Breakfast' and assembly. We wish them well.



### Cidari Connect: Worshipping together

I was both humbled and inspired as members of the Cidari family came together on Wednesday morning to share in the holy Eucharist at Blackburn Cathedral. We are beginning to understand that we are one family. We challenge each other, and that is how we improve, but I know that at the heart of all that we do is our desire to do the very best for our children. Our Vision is "To provide high quality education for all our children based on Christian values and principles." and I thank everyone in the Cidari family for helping us to achieve our vision.

### Cidari Connect: Celebrating together

Staff and children across our family of Academies have been Celebrating Pentecost with some creative ideas for collective worship. St George's School held a kite festival inspired by the description of the Holy Spirit appearing to the first disciples like a rushing wind and tongues of fire. Meanwhile, children at St Barnabas Primary School – A Church of England Academy used a Coke and Mentos experiment to symbolise the holy spirit breathing energy and inspiration into all of us.

### Cidari Connect: Thank you

Feedback from Headteachers at the Headteachers' Network on Thursday highlighted the stress that children and staff had experienced due to the revised Key Stage 2 tests. However Headteachers praised the children for their resilience and thanked their staff for supporting the children to ensure that they were able to give of their best.

### Cidari Connect: Sharing Information - Risk protection arrangement (RPA) for academy trusts

The Department for Education (DfE) has published its [response to public consultation on the risk protection arrangement \(RPA\) for academy trusts](#) which concluded on 31 January 2016.

DfE has accepted all proposal and will:

- reduce the RPA general annual grant (GAG) deduction from £25 per pupil to £20 per pupil from September 2016
- scale-up RPA risk management audits currently discharged under a contract in place with Willis Ltd
- say more about risk management in the Academies Financial Handbook
- set a time limit on reimbursing academies for long-term insurance arrangements – the Education Funding Agency (EFA) will not meet claims relating to periods after 31 August 2017, 3 years from the start of the RPA
- reduce the period of notice RPA members must give before leaving the arrangement from 6 months to 3 months
- clarify arrangements for multi-academy trusts (MATs) joining the RPA where only some of their academies are able to join in the first instance
- clarify that principles contained in the membership rules for church academies apply equally to other faith and non-church bodies

clarify that the RPA will consider providing an indemnity to a member for claims that are normally dealt with on a 'claims occurring' basis under RPA

You can read [further information about the RPA](#) on GOV.UK. A copy of the FAQ's relating to the RPA are available through our website [here](#)

