

CEO Briefing Note for Schools and Governors: September 2016

Welcome back to school colleagues

I hope you had an enjoyable and restful summer break and have come back refreshed and motivated for what looks already to be an exciting and eventful year. This year begins with a couple of introductions to new partners and colleagues joining the Trust.

BDAT extends secondary school provision and establishes growth plan for 2016-17

After working in close collaboration with both schools throughout the last academic year, I am delighted to be able to confirm that both **Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College** and **Belle Vue Girls Academy** opened as BDAT academies on September 1st. On behalf of the Board and central team I would like to pass on a very warm welcome to all the staff in the school. We very much look forward to meeting and working with you over the coming months.



The latest two conversions complete the Trust's previously published ambition of growing our family of schools to nine open academies.

BDAT set an ambitious target to move from 3 open academies to 9 in 2015-16 believing two small clusters of 4-5 schools to be a manageable operational model. The Trust has no further secondary conversion plans at present although does envisage a small number of additional primaries joining throughout 2016-17 as part of a managed and phased growth plan

Most recently **St James Church of England primary school** was issued an Academy order to join BDAT and governors at **St Johns Church of England primary school** in Bierley have also taken a resolution to consult with the intention of conversion in this academic year.

To view our growth plan please visit <http://www.bdat-academies.org/about-us/introduction-to-bdat>

New faces join the BDAT education team from September

Further to my previous newsletter I am also very pleased to welcome the following new school leaders in to the Trust from September 2016:

- **John Parkin** has stepped up to Acting Head of Oxenhope Primary school.
- **Nicky White** joins the Trust as Head at Westminster primary.
- **Ann Morrill** joins the central primary team as Director of Teaching and Learning to work with the primary schools across the MAT.

In addition over the summer we also appointed a new Primary Executive Principal to work with St James and St Oswalds from January 2017. This will follow a similar model to the role of Jane Tiller who acts as secondary Executive Principal across Immanuel College, Bradford Forster and Buttershaw.

Save the date! Living our values

BDAT will be launching our new values to colleagues across the Trust in September. Invites have been issued to colleagues from each of the Governing Bodies and leadership teams in our schools. Please don't forget to RSVP. On the day you will be able to find out the latest news on the BDAT growth strategy, priorities for 2016-17 and get the latest national education updates.



Changes to Governance – Academy Transformation Boards

BDAT is trialling a new approach to local governance in two of our schools. The Academy Transformation Board (ATB) model has been developed to drive improvement at our most vulnerable schools through a lean, expert governing body supported by a wider stakeholder advisory group to retain parent, church and staff representation.

The main ATB meets monthly, and covers all aspects of education and business removing the need for additional school improvement or finance committees. We will keep you posted on developments

The restructure model is as follows:-

Academy Transformation Board (ATB)

- Up to 4 Trust appointed members
- Principal and Exec Principal (observer)
- Central Trust Education Advisor

Academy Advisory Group (AAG)

- Parent representation
- Staff representation
- Parish representation

New Safeguarding Reviews for all schools

Recognising the importance of safeguarding, compliance and the added responsibilities for the Academy Trust Board, BDAT have commissioned Navigate to conduct free safeguarding health checks for all schools in the Trust in 2016-17. Designed to be supportive, spot gaps and highlight best practice the checks will ensure school leaders, governors and Trustees have full assurance they are compliant and up to date in all areas of safeguarding. Peter Thompson will be in touch with all schools directly to discuss dates and visits.

All policies good to go

Finally as you will be aware BDAT has updated all HR policies and secured union agreement over the summer meaning we now have a complete portfolio of up to date policies to use. These will be provided to local governing bodies for information. Please can all schools ensure they use these from September 1st 2016.

Keep up with the latest news from BDAT: #WeAreBDAT