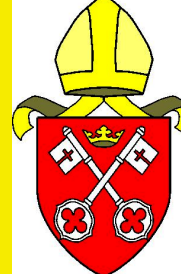




# Diocese of York Governors News



## A message from the Director of Education

Welcome to the first edition of Governor News from the Diocesan Education team. We plan to produce this twice a year to keep you abreast of developments in the fast moving world that is Education as we now know it! In future editions, we hope to include items written by you or on topics that you suggest. At the risk of overwhelming you, we have included a lot of background information with this first edition. We hope, though, that you will find it helpful and that whatever is not of immediate use to you can be kept together as a reference point to serve you as and when the need arises.



The other reference point is our website: [www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/your-schools/](http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/your-schools/). We are in the process of re-working the section for Governors to make this more user-friendly and to allow for the sorts of materials included with this newsletter to be posted accessibly. We always welcome comments and suggestions on what would help you to carry out your vital roles more effectively.

On behalf of the Diocesan Board of Education, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do to support our Church of England schools. Your role is essential in making them what they are. Being a governor has become increasingly demanding and time-consuming over the years, and we are grateful for the commitment you continue to show to the children and young people in your care. Please keep up the good work!

Canon Dr Ann Lees

## Church School Governor Forum

This term we are launching a new forum for ALL Governors of Church schools (not just Foundation Governors). The aim is to provide an opportunity for Governors within the diocesan family to discuss current issues following input from diocesan officers. The particular areas of focus for this forum will be: Clusters, collaborations and academies; and diocesan support for schools. Dates are as follows:

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – 6.30pm – 8.30pm - Methodist Chapel, Main Street, Tickton (with light refreshments)

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November – 4pm – 6pm - Bishopthorpe Palace, York (with cream tea)

A booking form is included within this newsletter. We hope to see many of you there!

### What's inside?

**Meet the  
Education team**

**SLA consultation**

**2011 celebrations**

**Governor training**

**Academies and  
collaborations**

## Meet the team

A small team of officers, some of them part-time, support the 127 Church of England schools across the large area of the Diocese (2,661 square miles in total!) The **Director (Ann Lees)** and **Assistant Director (Viv Todd)** are responsible for school organisational matters and liaison with Local Authorities, National Society and the Department for Education (DFE). They also represent the Diocese on a number of statutory bodies. Key aspects of their work are advising and assisting schools on matters relating to staffing, head teacher appointments, trusts, funding, governance and school development.

A team of **Education and School Development Advisers (Olivia Seymour, Liz Foster and Linda Hodson)** support schools in the areas of Religious Education, Collective Worship and the development of the Christian ethos, particularly in preparation for and following SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools). The **Administrator (Anita Ranyell)** and the **School Buildings Officer (Simon Quartermaine)** handle foundation governor appointments and the financial management of aided school building projects. However, the Board's officers take a team approach to supporting schools, their staff and governors. The whole team also works with clergy, parishes, deaneries and archdeaconries to support and promote ministry among children and young people.

## Keeping in touch

Our usual way of communicating with schools is via the **weekly Tuesday email**, which includes a variety of information that schools need to have. Some items – such as details of our Total Property Management scheme – are of particular interest to Governors, and we hope that schools pass the email on to you. If this is not the case, please ask them to!

We also produce, roughly every half term, more formal Bulletins, some general and some focussed on RE. Again we hope that schools forward these to Governors, but if you would like to receive them directly to your own inbox, please contact Anita.

## Training and events update

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Leadership Lunches - November 15<sup>th</sup> (Ingleby Barwick) 17<sup>th</sup> (Brayton) and 25<sup>th</sup> (Hull). The focus will be church-school links

Governor Forums – November 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tickton) and 10<sup>th</sup> (York)

SIAS briefing – Jan 10<sup>th</sup> (York)

Annual Conference – June 27<sup>th</sup>, York Racecourse

For more details please contact our administrator Anita Ranyell at [admin@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:admin@yorkdiocese.org) or go to [www.dioceseofyork.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk)

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# Working with schools - SLA

We are now coming to the end of the second two-year cycle of our current service level agreement, the main vehicle through which we support schools with their distinctive Christian character. Particularly in the light of all the changes that are currently happening in education, we are asking you to give us your views on the service that we offer before launching the updated version for 2012-14. A consultation form is included with this pack, and we would be grateful if you would take the time as Governors, together with your Headteacher if possible, to let us know your views by **1<sup>st</sup> November**.

## 2011 - It's a great year for Church Schools

We hope all Governors are aware that 2011 marks the bi-centenary of the founding of Church schools through the establishment in 1811 of the National Society. Schools have been marking the anniversary in various ways, the highlight for many being our gathering as a family of diocesan schools in York Minster on June 16<sup>th</sup>. A special bulletin has been produced about the celebrations, so do look out for this next week.



## Training Governors in Church Schools

**FREE online training modules for SLA member schools**



In partnership with Modern Governor and DBE Services, we are delighted to announce the launch of FREE access to an online module on being a Governor of a Church school. These modules are available to all SLA member schools, whether or not you are in a Local Authority that gives you access to Modern Governor. A flyer with instructions on how to register is enclosed – please note that you will need to choose **Diocese of York** where it asks you to pick the LA from the drop-down menu, and you will then be able to select your school. (If your school is not listed, please contact Viv Todd: [viv.todd@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:viv.todd@yorkdiocese.org) or 01904 699514). Access to the introductory module is also free.

### Foundation Governor Training

In the past, we have offered training for Foundation Governors annually at central locations in York and the East Riding in the Autumn term. However the low numbers attending last year have led us to question whether this training would be more effectively delivered locally in clusters of schools. If you would like to request training as a cluster, please contact Anita.

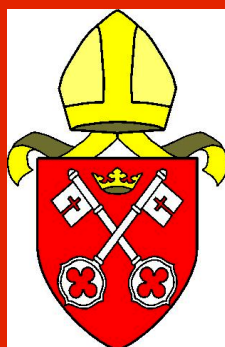
# Academies and collaborations update

The latest DfE news release on schools opting for academy status shows that 33% of all secondaries have already converted, with another 7% in process. Rather unexpectedly, one in seven primaries have already converted, with others in the pipeline. This suggests a process that is moving rather more quickly than had been foreseen. Your governing body may wish to consider the implications of this information when you next meet.

Whilst not actively promoting the transfer of our schools to academy status, the diocesan director, or a member of her team, will continue to provide support for schools that wish to pursue this route. A number of schools have already attended seminars provided by our specialist legal advisers on the benefits and pitfalls of Church schools converting to academy status. The item in the September bulletin by Ann Lees, Diocesan Director of Education, is reproduced for your guidance, and if you are considering such a move, please contact her at the earliest opportunity.

Whatever the future holds, working together is something all schools need to be doing! We recently produced a guidance document for schools looking to enter into collaborative arrangements, and this is also enclosed for your reference.

This News is being sent by post so that we know it reaches all Governing Bodies. However if you would like a copy electronically to forward to all Governors, please email [admin@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:admin@yorkdiocese.org) to request one.



Canon Dr Ann Lees: Diocesan Director of Education

Viv Todd: Assistant Diocesan Director of Education

Simon Quartermaine: School Buildings Officer

Anita Ranyell: Team Administrator & PA to the Diocesan Director of Education

Olivia Seymour: Education Adviser

Liz Foster: School Development Adviser

Linda Hodson: School Development Adviser

Dr Bob Duerden: Education Consultant