

Leading Our School



Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs)

June 2016

The current government's agenda is to promote academisation of schools. Although it has made a recent u-turn on this issue for schools currently judged as being good or outstanding, the reality is that several years down the line some schools, particularly smaller schools, will not necessarily be able to be financially viable as independent entities so schools will have to seek legal partnership agreements with other schools as part of multi-academy trusts. This is an issue that is being explored by many Hertfordshire schools at the present time. The governing body at

Bishop Wood may explore options for this at some time in the future, along with most of the other local schools. Schools are currently being encouraged to be proactive in doing the research to find the right partnership and to ensure that the MAT a school eventually joins contains schools with similar values. This would be a "permanent marriage" so it would be imprudent to rush into such a partnership. MATs have responsibilities which have previously been managed by Local Authorities (LAs) such as utilities contracts, catering, health and safety, risk

assessments and audits, legal services, procurement services and estate management.

There are advantages to MATs in terms of adding value but equally there are pitfalls and risks which would have to be explored before making such a momentous decision. Ideally a MAT would allow earned autonomy and individual character to be retained along with a set of ever present critical friends to support and challenge. It would add capacity and share good practice on a deeper level.

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Government agenda for academisation
- ✓ MATs being explored by many schools
- ✓ The right partnership is key
- ✓ MATs take on responsibilities previously held by LAs.
- ✓ Advantages, pitfalls and risks associated with MATs

Inside this issue:

Primary Languages	2
Computing curriculum	2
Sports Apprentice	2
Eco Schools Award	3
Standards Tracker	3
Thank you Assembly	3
Diocesan Director Visit	4

Classes for 2016-2017

After a great deal of thought and consideration the classes will be taught by the following teachers in September:

Mrs. Prescott/Sladden ⇨ Mrs. Ridgway
Miss Matthews ⇨ Mrs. Ing

Mrs. Ridgway ⇨ Mr. Hall
Mrs. Ing ⇨ Mrs. Birley
Mr. Hall ⇨ Miss Francis
Mrs. Swain ⇨ Mrs. Day/Reeve
Miss Francis ⇨ Mrs. Clark
Mrs. Day/Reeve ⇨ Mrs. McGhee.



The teachers look forward to working in partnership with you. The Welcome Evening for Years 3 and 4 is on Wednesday, 29th. June and the Welcome Evening for Years 5 and 6 will be scheduled for early September.

Primary Languages Quality Mark

Over the next year the plan is to achieve the Primary Languages Quality Mark. The point of this is to assess proficiency in the following areas:

Curriculum planning and design

There is curriculum planning in place for the whole of key stage 2 which shows clear continuity and progression year on year.

Achievement, assessment and reporting

There is an agreed framework which is used to assess a broad range of pupil performance across the language skill areas. Data is shared and used to improve performance.

School and subject leadership and management

The school has an appointed Languages Co-ordinator with a

published job description. The school has a policy for languages teaching and entitlement and the relevant documentation to evidence thorough curriculum planning and review is in place.

Wider opportunities including the international dimension.

The school is pro-active in making links to languages in a range of in-school events such as special assemblies or celebrations. The school holds the British Council International School Award Foundation Certificate.

Transition, continuity and progression

Assessment data for student achievement in languages is shared with the pupils' destination school. Teaching across key stage 2 provides a good foundation for study for key stage

3.)

Teachers and teaching and Learners and learning

Phonics

Teacher Target Language and resilience in language learning Language skills

Grammar

Independent learning strategies

Intercultural understanding

Literature and authentic texts)

Commitment to languages.

Exciting times ahead!



The Computing Curriculum

In the new school year, we will be following the Herts for Learning scheme in our Computing lessons. The scheme is written by the Herts for Learning Curriculum team to support the teaching of computing, including Computer Science, Information

Technology, Digital Literacy, and the safe and appropriate use of technology (eSafety). It fully meets the requirements of the 2014 Computing curriculum.

There are 12 units of work for Key Stage 2 so each year group will be focusing on a unit per term. This will be taught through cross-curricular learning, as well as during focused computing lessons. An overview of the units can be found on our website.

We would also like to express our grateful appreciation to our Bishop Wood Buddies who have worked so hard to raise funds to enable us to buy a significant

amount of new hardware to support the computing curriculum.



The Work of the Sports Apprentice

The last year has gone by so quickly. It is lovely to look back over everything and I would like to congratulate the pupils on a fantastic year.

Since joining the school I have aimed to share my love for sport with the hope that the pupils will enjoy it as much as I do. It is brilliant to see the children participating in a variety of sports both in and outside of school, whether that' is part of a team or an individual discipline. As a school we offer a huge variety of

clubs to meet everyone's needs such as lacrosse, football and cycling and there is always something on offer and this will continue next year. I have seen pupils have great success during lessons and in extra curriculum activities; highlights have included the monthly Magic Mile and numerous team victories. I am thrilled to say that I' will be remaining at Bishop Wood next year whilst studying at the University of Bedfordshire. After

the wonderful year I've had here there is no place I'd rather be. Next year I plan to offer an even wider range of clubs throughout the school day along with the P.E curriculum.

I would like to thank the staff for their support, with a special mention to Mr Hall for his role in mentoring me. Another thank you is to all the parents and carers who give up their time to help the school. We could not do it without you.

Mr. Ashton

Success with the Eco Schools Award

As you are already aware, Bishop Wood is a member of the Eco-Schools programme. The programme provides a framework to promote and develop sustainability throughout school. I am delighted to be able to report that we have recently achieved a Bronze Award which recognises our achievement in working towards a sustainable lifestyle.

This award could not have been achieved without the considerable support provided by the Eco-Committee and their willingness to attend numerous early morning meetings in 5DR as well as their enthusiasm to

volunteer to lead different aspects of the award programme. So my grateful thanks go to: Amber Webbley (3I), Tom Rycroft (3R), Taryn Schofield (4H), Nathan Townsend (4S) Amelie Langan (5F), Bea Hodgson and Eslah Stanley (5DR), Flora Smith (6M), Finlay Marshall (6C), Mr Bye, Mrs Manning, Mrs Matthews and Mrs Reeve. My thanks also to all Bishop Wood children for embracing everything we are trying to achieve.

Our next step will be to start working towards the Silver Award and will involve work in

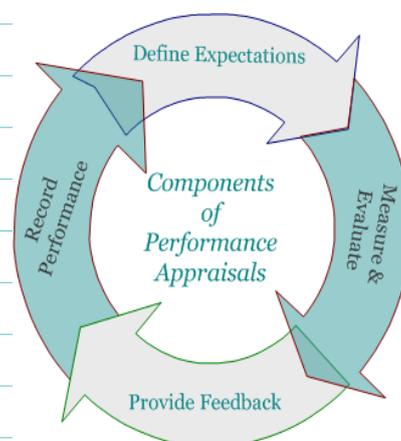
the following areas: Energy, Water, Biodiversity, School Grounds, Healthy Living, Transport, Litter, Waste and Global Citizenship.



Standards Tracker

In order to develop sophistication around staff performance and drive up teaching standards still further we have purchased "Standards Tracker" which is an electronic data management system. This can be used with all members of the staff at the school including office and facilities staff. It will enable us to identify areas for improvement at a glance; reduce paperwork and time; store everything in the same place at

the same time and track the improvement in teaching over time. We will be able to triangulate evidence from multiple sources and grade performance against relevant national standards. It will enable us to generate reports for OFSTED and governors on the quality of teaching and set appraisal objectives based on individual needs.



Thank You Assembly

We were delighted to welcome our families to the Thank You assembly earlier this month. Parents are the first and most important educators of their children and we just wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for the wonderful work you do in supporting the work of the Bishop Wood School community.

The assembly focused on

helping hands, and the idea of valuing our treasures. We also wanted to make special reference to our dads and our father figures as the celebration was close to Father's Day.

I will post the assembly script on the school website so that those parents who were unable to attend can read what was said.

A huge thank you to everyone.



