



19<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Colleagues,

### **Education Commission Update**

After the meetings during the first term, I thought it would be useful to bring everyone up to date on the developments across the Education Commission and Schools as we move into the new term.

The reporting requirements of the Commission have been re-aligned now that Canon Victor has settled into his new role as Episcopal Vicar of Education.

The Education Committee is now restructured to fit the diocesan reporting requirements of the archdiocese and within the requirements of the charity commission.

We are all grateful to those who served on the committee. There are now 3 sub committees;

1) Property, dealing mainly with School Condition Allocations of capital grants in VA schools and prioritisation of works, new school's buildings and asset strategy. Nominations are requested for a primary and a secondary headteacher to serve on this committee for 2 years.

2) CAT Oversight Group deals with new proposed CATs and existing CATs holding them to account for the development and compliance as Catholic MATs. The group comprises senior staff of the diocese responsible to the Archbishop and Diocesan Trustee for their specialist area e.g., Diocesan property manager

3) School place Planning. This is in the process of being established to help support schools and make recommendations to the Education committee relating to pupil places and admissions. There is an urgent need for this work as recent coverage of the places and funding crisis in LAs in London in the press has highlighted.

The Commission is also in the process of establishing primary and secondary headteacher advisory boards. Ways of working with governors will be announced in due course. Nominations are invited by the end of this month.

With regard to the CAT oversight group, they have now accepted and approved 3 further CATs to be established across the diocese proving the 5-6 proposed in the summer by the trustee. In addition to SELCAT and KCSP these are;

- a). Christ the Redeemer CAT covering Kingston, Richmond and Wandsworth
- b) Name to be agreed CAT Sutton, Merton and Lambeth areas
- c) Name to be agreed for a CAT covering Lewisham and the remaining South London area



alongside SELCAT.

These three are now working with the diocese to gain DfE approval from the Regional Director. Both SELCAT and KCSP held a joint members meeting in January attended by the Archbishop. The members were all extremely pleased with the work being carried out and being planned within the 2 CATs. SELCAT now comprises 10 schools and will continue to expand across the South East London area. KCSP will also look to working with Medway schools as the number of pupils there did not support a separate MAT. In all cases the use of LA names is to identify a general area and not to be a rigid boundary. It is acknowledged that some schools close to a boundary may have a reason why it makes sense to join one CAT and not another. If you have any questions or are interested in contacting these groups please email our project manager Penny, [pennypemberton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:pennypemberton@rcaos.org.uk) who will assist you.

Discussions are starting with the sixth form colleges about the options available to them to become academies and a possible sixth form trust. I have been meeting with the religious orders to ensure our academy legal documentation serves their and archdiocesan requirements where needed in CATs. The Archdiocese is fully supportive of keeping the local family of schools together.

We are not rushing the conversions as it is more important that the decisions are fully considered. I do however urge all schools to ensure that they are part of the conversations that are moving this agenda forward. This is still the direction for schools and SATs in the archdiocese, contrary to some interpretations it did not cease with the change to the White paper.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Penny.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AM Cox'.

**Angela Cox**  
**Interim Director of Education**