



4th March 2024

Dear Colleagues

Diocesan Education Service

Following the restructure of the Diocesan Education Service, I am pleased that staff are settling into their new roles and the service is in a better position to support a fully academised education provision across the diocese. There remains one post to fill, which is the second Trust Relationship Officer to work alongside Daniel Coleman. This role is to support the Catholic Academy Trusts in their development acting as a point of contact for their queries co-ordinating events with the diocese and regional director and planning AGMs. It will also support those schools still to move into one of the five CATs. Please share the vacancy which is suitable for those with senior educational leadership experience, an understanding of academies and who are practising Catholics. The salary is competitive for the role. Anyone wanting more details are welcome to contact me for a recruitment pack or a discussion at angelacox@rcaos.org.uk

The Archbishop has been very clear in his letters to governing bodies of the direction he wants all schools including single academy trusts to move in, as soon as possible. It is the duty of all governing bodies to understand the grounds on which they signed up to be a governor to fulfil the Archbishop's wishes for Catholic education across the diocese. Myself, Penny Pemberton Project Manager, Colette Doran Hannon, our new Director of Academies are willing to attend governing body meetings of schools yet to engage or needing to understand more about joining a CAT. If you want a visit please contact Donna Gray donnagrays@rcaos.org.uk in the first instance for this and any general enquiries.

The over provision of school places in London continues to be a difficult situation. We are constantly reviewing what is happening and this year the London Councils report an additional impact in Year 7 numbers falling. Academies cannot be closed by local authorities and we continue to intervene where there are LA proposals regarding continuance of our schools. There are only a few schools that did not follow our revised admissions guidance and consult on using the certificate of practice or removing it altogether to allow maximum numbers of admissions. The adjudicator has now commented very positively on that guidance. I urge governing bodies who have not given it due regard to make plans to do so for next year.



Finally, following on from the past few years and bringing diocesan schools into alignment with other dioceses, the Contribution Scheme will increase to £8 per pupil for 24/25 education financial year followed by £10 in the next period 25/26. Invoices will be sent to schools, and CATs at the beginning of April.

I hope your school is planning to join our diocesan wide Rosary on 7th May, please ensure you have registered for the event via our website <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/et/>

We keep all schools in our prayers especially those experiencing difficulties at this time, through illness and bereavement.

Best wishes

Angela Cox
Director of Education